

# Standard Convergence Initiative (SCI)

Measuring convergence with ITC's Standards Map  
25 Feb 2022 | OECD Forum Side Session



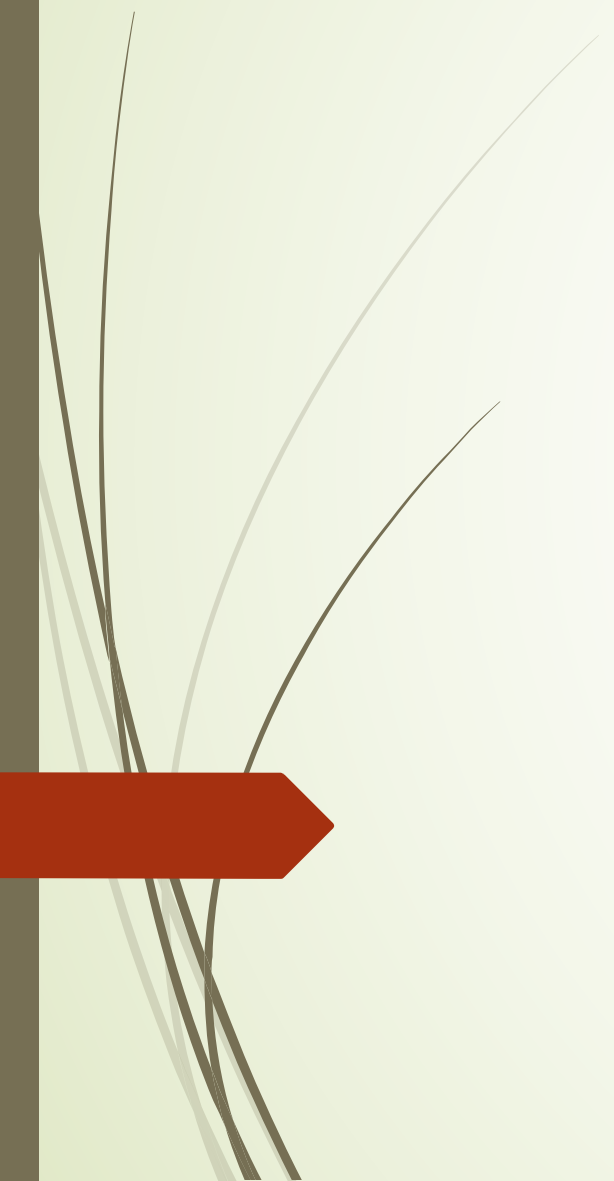
In collaboration with





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# Introduction & background



# What is the SCI?

- ▶ An initiative of the International Apparel Federation (IAF) & the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF)
- ▶ Aimed at reducing audit and standard fatigue in the Garment and Footwear Sector

In order to:

- ▶ Reduce compliance costs to industry
- ▶ Redirect freed-up resources toward improving working conditions

While...

- ▶ Maintaining quality and integrity of compliance mechanisms

# Why has the SCI been developed?

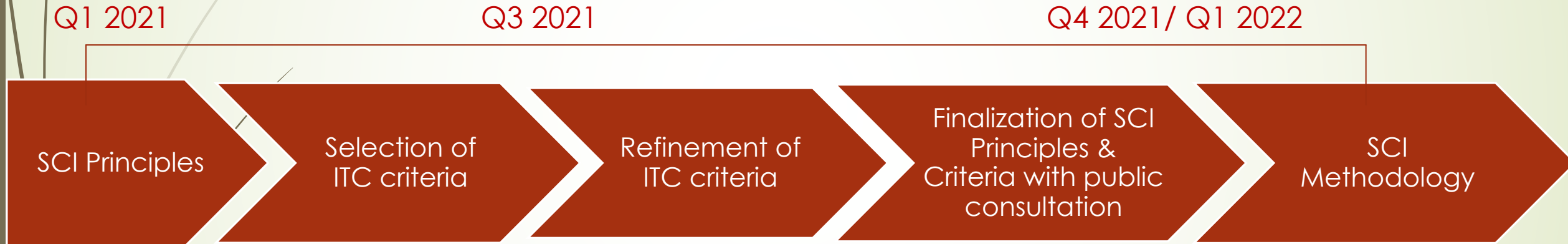
- ▶ Too many duplicative and unnecessary audits
  - ▶ The Corona-pandemic highlighted necessity to act
- 
- ▶ To reduce audit and standard fatigue it is necessary to align standards
    - ▶ **Across criteria where convergence is feasible, such as:**
      - ▶ Oversight methodologies (consistency across Conformity Assessment Bodies)
      - ▶ Quality assurance (audit processes and requirements)
      - ▶ International labour standards (e.g. ILO Fundamental Conventions)
      - ▶ Compliance with national laws and regulations (e.g. health and safety)
      - ▶ Multi-stakeholder collaborations (openness/ inclusiveness of standard)
      - ▶ Mutual recognitions (recognition of other standards or initiatives)
  - ▶ Promote standards that show propensity for convergence
    - ▶ Leads to greater alignment/ harmonization of standards and audit/ oversight processes



# How does the SCI work?

- ▶ SCI has developed **four principles for identifying a standard body's level of preparedness for convergence across social requirements**
  - ▶ For each principle, **a set of measurable ITC criteria that best represent the SCI principles was selected**
  - ▶ Any standard housed in the ITC Standards Map can be assessed against the SCI criteria to determine the level of preparedness of that standard toward convergence
  - ▶ **If a standard body addresses most or all the selected criteria, then the standard illustrates a propensity for convergence**
- ▶ Principles and associated criteria will be housed within the ITC database and posted on ITMF/IAF's project website  
[www.standard-convergence-initiative.org](http://www.standard-convergence-initiative.org)

# SCI actionable timeline



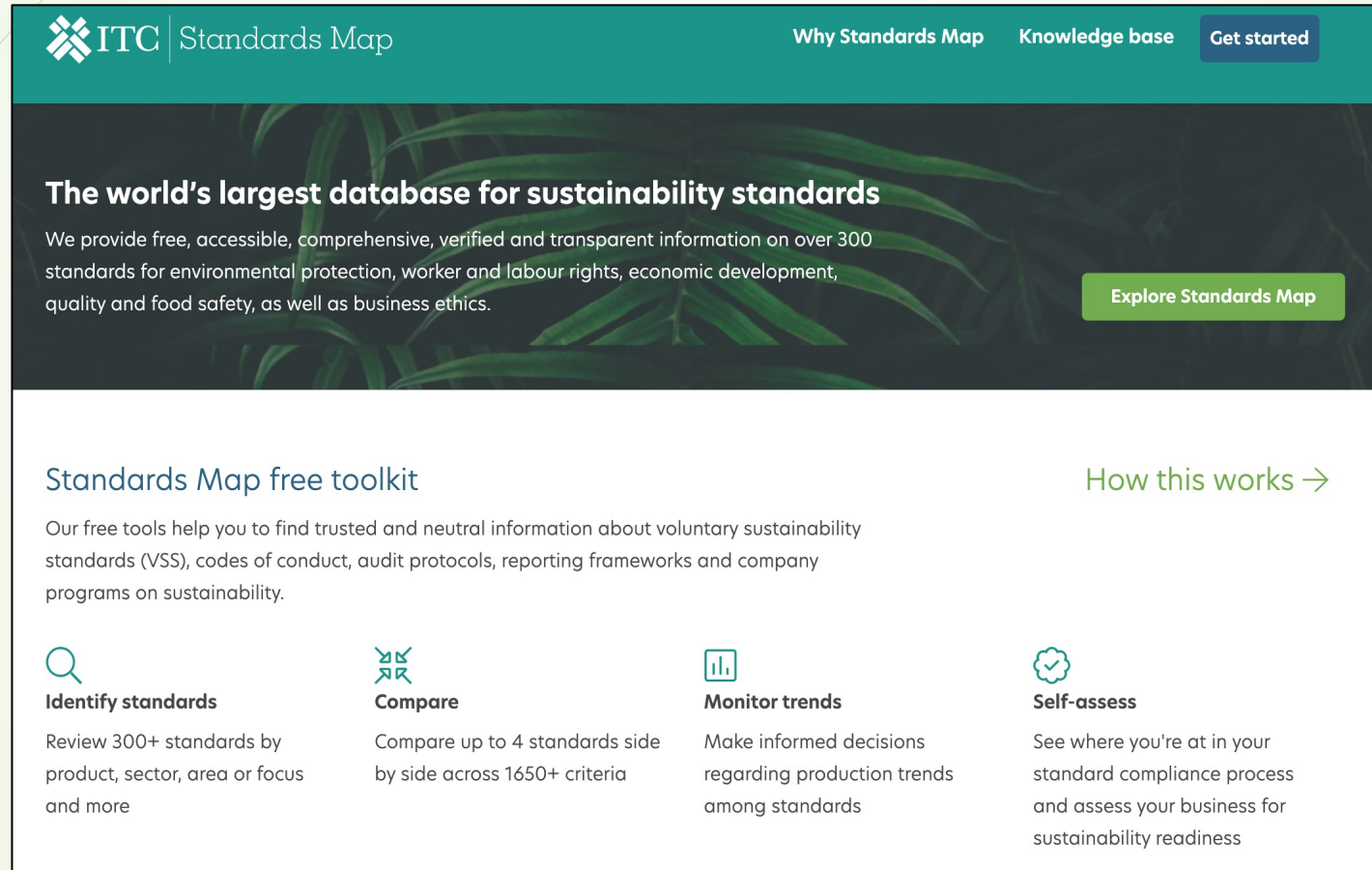




# ITC Standards Map



# ITC Standards Map



The screenshot shows the homepage of the ITC Standards Map website. The header is teal with the ITC logo and 'Standards Map' text on the left, and navigation links 'Why Standards Map', 'Knowledge base', and a 'Get started' button on the right. The main content area has a dark background with green foliage. It features a headline 'The world's largest database for sustainability standards', a descriptive paragraph, and an 'Explore Standards Map' button. Below this, there's a section for 'Standards Map free toolkit' with a description and a 'How this works' link. The toolkit is divided into four columns: 'Identify standards', 'Compare', 'Monitor trends', and 'Self-assess', each with an icon and a brief description.

**ITC Standards Map** Why Standards Map Knowledge base [Get started](#)

## The world's largest database for sustainability standards





We provide free, accessible, comprehensive, verified and transparent information on over 300 standards for environmental protection, worker and labour rights, economic development, quality and food safety, as well as business ethics.

[Explore Standards Map](#)

### Standards Map free toolkit









Our free tools help you to find trusted and neutral information about voluntary sustainability standards (VSS), codes of conduct, audit protocols, reporting frameworks and company programs on sustainability.

#### How this works →

 <b>Identify standards</b> Review 300+ standards by product, sector, area or focus and more	 <b>Compare</b> Compare up to 4 standards side by side across 1650+ criteria	 <b>Monitor trends</b> Make informed decisions regarding production trends among standards	 <b>Self-assess</b> See where you're at in your standard compliance process and assess your business for sustainability readiness
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<https://www.standardsmap.org/en/home>

# Standards Map Criteria: requirements

<b>Environment</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	 Time to comply	 Criticality	Explicit	More information / Notes
<b>Social</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	 Time to comply	 Criticality	Explicit	More information / Notes
<b>Human Rights</b> <input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Labour rights</b> <input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Local communities</b> <input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Management and Ethics</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	 Time to comply	 Criticality	Explicit	More information / Notes
<b>Quality</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	 Time to comply	 Criticality	Explicit	More information / Notes

Standards are assessed based on the number of criteria referenced in the Standards Map database that are addressed by the standard's requirements.

# Social criteria coverage in Standards Map: an example

<b>Social</b> 	 Time to comply	 Criticality	Explicit	More information / Notes
<b>Labour rights</b> 				
<a href="#">Criteria on working conditions overarching principles</a>	<a href="#">Immediate</a>	<a href="#">Major</a>	<a href="#">yes</a>	<b>Excerpt</b> WORKPLACE CODE PROVISION: Employers shall provide a safe and healthy workplac...  <a href="#">More Info</a> 
<a href="#">Criteria on existence of publicly available policy defining workers' rights</a>	<a href="#">Immediate</a>	<a href="#">Major</a>	<a href="#">yes</a>	<b>Excerpt</b> ER.1.1 Employers shall have in place written policies and practices and maintain prope...  <a href="#">More Info</a> 

# Standards Map Criteria: Operational

Overview Requirements How to comply **Governance** Resources

## Overview

The standard owner shows **independence** from its certificate holders. Supply chains actors, NGOs or civil society **do not participate** in the standard's decisions.

The standard is revised, through a **private consultation**

**Annual report:**  
Yes

**Documents and policies:**  
Yes

## Details

**Standard management**  
Click here to know who manages the standard and who participates in the decision making

**Transparency & Credibility**  
Click here to know if standard's policies, processes and documents are communicated

**Standard Setting**  
Click here to read about the standard setting process

Overview Requirements How to comply **Governance** Resources

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## Details

**Standard management**  
Click here to know who manages the standard and who participates in the decision making

**Independence** ✓  
Is the standard owner economically independent from the certificate holders?

**Participation** ✓  
Can stakeholders participate in the governance of the standard?

**Members** ✓  
Can members participate in the organisation of the standard? (for instance through a General Assembly)

**Control** ✓  
Does the standard owner carry out annual internal audits of its management system and operations?

**Employees** ✓  
Does the standard define publicly the members of its staff, and their responsibilities and roles?

**Decision-making** ✓  
Do the voting procedures of the top decision-making body ensure that there is a balanced representation of

# Standards Map Features

**ITC** Standards Map

Why Standards Map Knowledge base [Get started](#)

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How this works →

- Identify standards**  
Review 300+ standards by product, sector, area or focus and more
- Compare**  
Compare up to 4 standards side by side across 1650+ criteria
- Monitor trends**  
Make informed decisions regarding production trends among standards
- Self-assess**  
See where you're at in your standard compliance process and assess your business for sustainability readiness





# Purpose of this OECD Forum side session

- ▶ To present the SCI Principles & Criteria
  - ▶ To show how we selected the criteria from the ITC database
  - ▶ To explain the methodology used to compare standards against the SCI Principles & Criteria
  - ▶ To present preliminary findings
    - ▶ Assessment of six voluntary sustainability standards operating in the garment and footwear sector against the SCI Principles & Criteria
- 



# The SCI Principles & Criteria



# The SCI Principles & Types of Criteria

## Types of criteria:

- Accreditation body membership
- International accreditation
- Regional accreditation groups
- Independence of oversight
- Oversight audits
- Oversight complaints and appeals
- Oversight competency/ skills

## Principle 4:

Level of preparedness to integrate quality assurance oversight

## Convergence

## Principle 1:

Level of preparedness to harmonise standards

## Types of criteria:

- E&S management/ strategy/ objectives
- Stakeholder mapping/ engagement/ consultation
- Recognitions and accreditations
- Compliance with international norms/ best practices
- Equality/ inclusiveness
- Accessibility

## Principle 2:

Alignment with OECD Due Diligence Guidance and ILO Standards

## Types of criteria:

- Supply chain due diligence
- Human rights and workers' rights
- Legality of business operations (permits, land, wages)
- Grievance mechanisms
- Continuous improvement
- Ethics
- Impact assessments

## Principle 3:

Level of preparedness for sharing audits

## Types of criteria:

- Recognition and acceptance
- Audit transparency
- Audit access
- Auditor requirements
- Quality requirements/ accreditation
- Auditor assessment

There needs to be convergence across conformity assessment processes as well

# ITC Selected Criteria

## 1. Level of preparedness to harmonise standards

1	24072	Criteria on Environment and Social (E&S) Management Systems: general principles (Principle 1 & 2)
2	709021	Openness of participation in stakeholders consultations to all organizations who share the scheme's values and objectives (Principle 1 & 2)
3	10002	Recognitions & accreditation (Principle 1 & 2)
4	700124	Stakeholder participation (Principle 1 & 2)
6	709013	Existence of clear objectives (Principle 1 & 2)

## 2. Alignment with OECD due diligence guidance and ILO standards

1	24072	Criteria on Environment and Social (E&S) Management Systems: general principles (Principle 1 & 2)
2	709021	Openness of participation in stakeholders consultations to all organizations who share the scheme's values and objectives (Principle 1 & 2)
4	10700	Is the scheme system accessible to any interested producer/supplier? (Principle 1 & 2)
5	700416	Criteria on verification of mandatory certificates and permits related to water use
6	900023	Criteria on policies and procedures addressing human rights

## 3. Level of preparedness for sharing audits

2	800024	Criteria on transparency across types of information obtained during audit (discrepancies between the interviews and types of records)
3	800025	Criteria on audit access: general policy (auditor's freedom of access to facility grounds, workers, production areas)
4	800026	Criteria related to denial of audit access (auditor prevented from fulfilling full scope audit requirements)
5	2798	ISO/IEC 17021: 2006 Conformity Assessment bodies (CA) must meet specific quality requirements which are documented (e.g. ISO 65/17065)

## 4. Level of preparedness to integrate quality assurance oversight

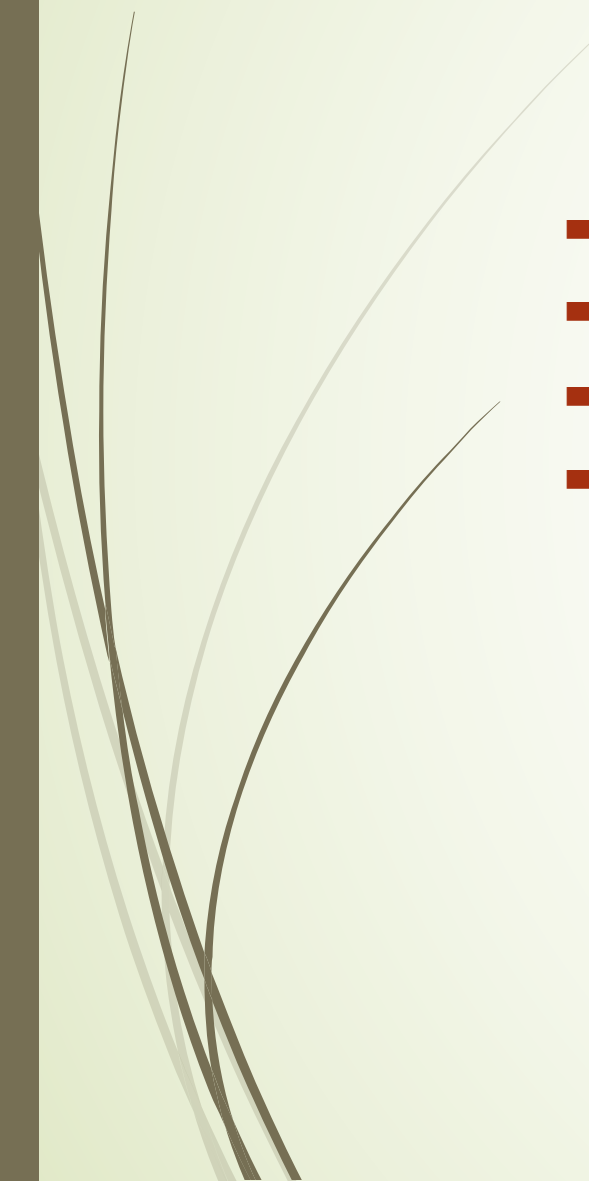
11	3986	Conformity Assessment body must meet specific quality requirements which are documented (e.g. ISO 65/17065)
12	700221	Personnel competencies [auditors of conformity assessment bodies]
13	700224	Personnel evaluation frequency [auditors of conformity assessment bodies]
14	700225	Personnel suspension [of CB auditors by oversight]

### Selected ITC criteria

- Based on the types of criteria that apply to each Principle, the ITC Standards Map database was gleaned for the most appropriate criteria that best speak to each SCI Principle.
- Number of criteria vary depending on Principle; Principle 2 has the most criteria due to its broad applicability (all criteria related OECD Due Diligence and International Labour Standards)



# Public consultation

- ▶ IAF/ ITMF/ ITC conducted a workshop for stakeholders Q4 2021
  - ▶ Objectives/ processes were explained
  - ▶ SCI Principles & Criteria were presented
  - ▶ Stakeholders were invited to provide feedback
- 



# Methodology

# Methodology: Response weighting

## Response option weighting

- Criteria within Standards Map have different response options depending on the type of question.
- Some response options are yes/ no and others are multi-select
- Response options are also weighted
  - For example: yes = 100%, no = 0%
  - Multi-select drop in weighting as degree of intensity falls

		Weighting		
		High	Medium	Low
		100%	80%	50%
<b>1. Level of preparedness to harmonise standards</b>				
Criteria	Level of relevance	Response option	Description	NA
8 Stakeholder representation in standards decisions	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes	1
9 Frequency of standards revisions	Medium	Multi-Select	Annual, Every 2 years, Every 3 years, Every 5 years, Ad hoc basis	0.8, 0.67, 0.6, 0.4, 0.33, 0.2
11 Scheme is open to all applicants	Low	Yes/ No	Select for yes	1

Response Option	Weighting
Yes	1.0
Annual	0.8
Every 2 years	0.67
Every 3 years	0.6
Every 5 years	0.4
Ad hoc basis	0.33
No	0.2

Example: if a standard is revised annually it suggests an openness for improvement & adaptation. Annual is weighted at 100%; Ad hoc = 20%



# Methodology: Relevance weighting

## Criteria weighting

Each criteria has a relevance rating:  
**high, medium, low** – depending on how important criteria is in achieving convergence;  
Each relevance rating is weighted:  
High = 100%, Medium = 80%, Low = 50%

		Weighting	High	Medium	Low						
			100%	80%	50%						
<b>1. Level of preparedness to harmonise standards</b>						NA					
Criteria	Level of relevance	Response option	Description	1	0.8	0.67	0.6	0.4	0.33	0.2	
8 Stakeholder representation in standards decisions	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes	Yes							
9 Frequency of standards revisions	Medium	Multi-Select	Annual, Every 2 years, Every 3 years, Every 5 years, Ad hoc basis	Annual	Every 2 years	Every 3 years	Every 5 years	Ad hoc basis			
11 Scheme is open to all applicants	Low	Yes/ No	Select for yes	Yes							

# Methodology: Calculating scores

		Weighting	High	Medium	Low								
			100%	80%	50%	Step 2, relevance score is calculated							
<b>1. Level of preparedness to harmonise standards</b>						NA							
		Level of relevance	Response option	Description	1	0.8	0.67	0.6	0.4	0.33	0.2	Step 1, response options score calculated	
8	Stakeholder representation in standards decisions	High	Yes/ No	Select for yes									
9	Frequency of standards revisions	Medium	Multi-Select	Annual, Every 2 years, Every 3 years, Every 5 years, Ad hoc basis	Annual	Every 2 years	Every 3 years	Every 5 years	Ad hoc basis				

**Step 1:** criteria is scored depending on its response weighting (e.g. Yes/ No, multi-select, etc.)

**Step 2:** the relevance score is calculated

- All "High relevance" criteria scores are added together then multiplied by High relevance weighting (100%) (scores remain the same)
- All "medium relevance" criteria scores are added together then multiplied by medium relevance weighting (80%) (scores are 80% of full strength)
- All "Low relevance" criteria scores are added together then multiplied by low relevance weighting (50%) (scores are halved)



# Methodology: Overall percentage assigned to each standard

		Weighting				
		High	Medium	Low		
		100%	80%	50%		
<b>1. Level of preparedness to harmonise standards</b>					● <b>78%</b>	● <b>78%</b>
		Level of relevance	Response option	Description	BSCI	WRAP
1	Criteria on Environment and Social (E&S) Management Systems: general principles (Principle 1 & 2)	High	Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended/ Not covered	<b>Degree of obligation:</b> Immediate, Within 1 year, Within 3 years, Within 5 years, Recommended <b>Degree of criticality:</b> Deal-breaker, Major, Minor, Optional	Within 1 year	Immediate

- Each standard is then assigned an overall percentage for that specific SCI Principle
- **Formula:**  $[(\text{sum of high relevance criteria scores} \times \text{high relevance weighting}) + (\text{sum of medium relevance criteria scores} \times \text{medium relevance weighting}) + (\text{sum of low relevance criteria scores} \times \text{low relevance weighting})]$  divided by the total number of scored criteria



# Preliminary findings

# Standards' preparedness for convergence: A comparison of 6 standards

Standard	Principle 1 Level of preparedness to harmonise standards	Principle 2 Alignment with OECD Due Diligence Guidance and ILO Standards	Principle 3 Level of preparedness for sharing audits	Principle 4 Level of preparedness to integrate quality assurance oversight
amfori BSCI	88%	83%	90%	67%
Fair Labor Association (FLA)	52%	58%	70%	60%
Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)	70%	81%	60%	76%
Made in Green by Oeko-Tex	50%	76%	80%	71%
SA8000	68%	78%	70%	92%
WRAP	89%	72%	70%	76%

Any standard in ITC Standards Map can be quickly and easily compared against the SCI criteria!

Colour	Level of preparedness for convergence
Green	Good preparedness to converge (70%-100%)
Orange	Some effort still required (50%-69%)
Red	Much effort required (0%-49%)



# Conclusion



- ▶ ITC has created an automatic tool for SCI comparison of any standard operating in the textile and footwear sector that is in ITC Standards Map
- ▶ The comparison informs a standard's level of preparedness for:
  1. Harmonization of standard content
  2. Alignment with existing international standards and guidelines
  3. Sharing audit outcomes
  4. Integration of oversight processes
- ▶ If a standard body addresses most or all the selected criteria, then the standard illustrates a propensity for convergence
- ▶ The aim is to promote standards illustrating a propensity for convergence
  - ▶ Hopefully leads to greater alignment/ harmonization of standards and audit/ oversight processes



# Next steps



1. Stakeholder feedback based on OECD Forum Side Session – 25/02/2022
2. IAF/ ITMF to address all stakeholder feedback
3. SCI Principles & Criteria / methodology finalized
4. ITC to house SCI Principles and Criteria in ITC Sustainability Map database
5. ITC to facilitate assessment of standards against the 4 SCI principles
6. Users can access ITC Sustainability Map to identify level of propensity for convergence across standards assessed
7. IAF/ ITMF to promote standards illustrating high level of preparedness for convergence
8. Continue dialogue and action toward convergence across standards operating in the textile and garment sector



# Thank you

## Contacts:

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