

UNEP

REMARKS AT THE ZWD HIGH-LEVEL NEW YORK EVENT

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Disposable textiles and fast fashion are fuelling a growing environmental crisis.

Land, rivers, and oceans are becoming more polluted from cheap, easily discarded items.

And, according to UNEP data, the textile value chain is responsible for up to an estimated [8% of global carbon emissions](#).

If this cycle of overproduction and waste continues unchecked, millions of tonnes of textiles will continue to be discarded every year.

But change is possible.

Consumers can buy only what they need and, if they can afford to, prioritize quality long-lasting clothes.

Industry can strive to design affordable clothes that are durable, recyclable and safe.

Governments can launch measures that help circular businesses to be more competitive.

Cities can back local solutions like clothing banks.

We extend our deep appreciation to the Republic of Türkiye for the continued, ambitious leadership in advancing the zero-waste agenda. My thanks also to Her Excellency, First Lady Erdoğan, for elevating this challenge to a global stage.

We look forward to strengthening our collaboration with Türkiye, as well as all countries and partners, to secure a more sustainable, waste-free future.

On this International Zero Waste Day, let us all strive to reduce our fashion footprint.

Thank you.