



16th
International
Fair Trade
Summit



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PRESS RELEASE

PIONEERS OF A SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY - FAIR TRADE ENTERPRISES IN BERLIN

Berlin/Culemborg, 17 August 2022 – Over 300 international guests are coming to attend the International Fair Trade Summit (IFTS) which will take place in Berlin from 23 to 26 August 2022. Organised by the World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) together with the Forum Fairer Handel (FFH), the Summit is the world's largest gathering of fair trade businesses, and organisations from around the world.

Summit participants will gather at Silent Green, a cultural quarter located in Berlin-Wedding.

The aim of the IFTS is to bring together the global community of fair trade enterprises with leaders of the ethical economy and representatives of like-minded social and ecological movements to work together on a sustainable economy and the urgently needed socio-ecological transformation. The patron of the IFTS is Federal Minister Svenja Schulze.

The Covid 19 pandemic, the climate crisis and, most recently, the effects of the war in Ukraine are exacerbating the economic pressure on producers and workers, especially in the Global South.

"We are very concerned that much of the conventional economy continues to exploit people and the environment for short-term profit and shareholder value," **says Roopa Mehta, President of WFTO.**

"At the same time, the global crises make it ever more drastically clear to us how interdependent we all are and how the current economic system is leading us to the abyss," **adds Andrea Fütterer, Chair of the Board of FFH.**

"We are looking forward to discussing "Fair (and Green) Trade, and other business models as being the only future-proof alternative to achieve Systemic Change with the Bolivian social and environmental activist Pablo Solón. Also, to explore how to strengthen the cross sectoral collaboration with the other activists like Morgan Ody of Via Campesina and Carla Reemtsma of Fridays for Future," **says Leida Rijnhout, Chief Executive of WFTO.**

"This summit will be unique! Because it is a conference, market place, meeting place and future workshop all in one," **adds Andrea.**

"More than ever, we need Fair Trade and a sustainable economic system," **says Roopa Mehta.**

Future workshop of fair trade invites exchange

The workshops at the summit were designed to spark deeper discussions with Fair Trade entrepreneurs, ethical leaders, professionals and activists. In addition to workshops on diverse future topics of the Fair Trade movement, there will be a sensational political action for a strong EU supply chain law, a Fair Fashion Expo and a Fair Trade Fair where WFTO members from all over the world will present their products and be available for talks.

In short, the International Fair Trade Summit will strengthen the political self-image of the movement, provide new impulses and create a spirit of optimism in order to further equip Fair Trade for future challenges..

WFTO members stand for a sustainable economy

The Fair Trade enterprises gathered in Berlin stand for a sustainable economy that is value based and environmentally friendly and increases solidarity instead of competition, exploitation and profit maximisation.

*"In Berlin, we are looking forward to an intensive exchange and networking with movements that are also committed to the urgently needed social-ecological transformation," explains the **President of WFTO**. "At the same time, IFTS in Berlin is a unique opportunity for Fair Trade enterprises to showcase the diversity of the solutions for a sustainable economy as well as the quality, innovation and beauty of their products."*

Service

Detailed information on the Summit programme is available [here](#).

Accreditation for the IFTS

You are a journalist, influencer or blogger and would like to be accredited for the IFTS. Please register [here](#) for your Special Pass. Your accreditation is only valid once we have confirmed it.

What can you expect at the IFTS?

The world's largest gathering of Fair Trade enterprises: Over 300 representatives* of the fair trade value chain will come together at the Berlin Summit.

The chance to meet a community of businesses that put people and the environment before profit: The IFTS offers the opportunity to get to know in depth a wide variety of businesses that put the credo "People and Planet before Profit" into practice and thus show what a sustainable economy could look like. Among the participants are sustainable fashion pioneers like Creative Handicrafts from India, Global Mamas from Ghana, Manos del Uruguay from Uruguay, and more. Fair Trade Enterprises working with refugees are also coming. This gathering is a chance to meet Fair Trade entrepreneurs who are leading innovations for people and the planet. Besides the Fashion Expo and Fair Trade Fair, there are special booths that showcase innovations and products: Beyond Beautiful collection, MADE51 showcasing refugee-made products and Small but Perfectly Formed project.

High-profile speakers from politics, sustainable business and civil society:

The international guest speakers at IFTS include MEP Bernd Lange, Bolivian social and environmental activist Pablo Solón, Manpreet Kalra, founder of the consultancy agency Art of Citizenry, Morgan Ody from Via Campesina and Carla Reemtsma from Fridays for Future. Detailed information on them and many other experts from Fair Trade and the ethical economy who will be speaking at the IFTS can be found [here](#).

Programme highlights of the IFTS:

Political action "Change the Chain":

Under the motto "Change the Chain - All Trade must be Fair", IFTS participants together with young Fair Trade activists as well as representatives of the Action Alliance Fair Trade Berlin will demonstrate for a strong EU supply chain law on 23 August from 13:30 to approx. 14:00. The sensational political action will start in front of the Representation of the European Commission (Unter den Linden 78), lead to the Brandenburg Gate and back again.

Fair Trade Fair

On 23 and 24 August at the Fair Trade Fair in Silent Green, you will have the chance to meet representatives of 33 Fair Trade Enterprises from the Global South. You will get an insight into their unique sustainable production methods and experience the variety of products of the organisations represented under the umbrella of WFTO, from fashion, jewellery and home decoration to food and beverages. For more information and to register for a free Special Pass to the Fair Trade Fair, click [here](#).

Fashion Expo

On 23 August from 19:30, fans of sustainable and fair fashion are cordially invited to the Fashion Expo in the concrete hall of the Silent Green. It will be opened by State Secretary Michael Biel as political representative of the Fashion City and Fair Trade Town Berlin. After a short discussion with representatives of the Fashion Revolution and WFTO producers, you will have the opportunity to admire looks lovingly selected by Studio MM4 from WFTO producers from the Middle East, Asia, Africa and Latin America, all of them fair, ecological and locally produced. Here, too, there will be the opportunity to talk to the producers and learn more about the production process, materials and the background of the respective initiative. You can also register for a free Special Pass for this part of the IFT [here](#).

Press contacts

Do you have questions, would you like to be accredited to IFTS or are you interested in interview partners? We look forward to your enquiries!

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Please formulate your question(s) to Mr. Sarcauga in English

About the World Fair Trade Organization

The World Fair Trade Organization (WFTO) is the global community and verifier of social enterprises that fully practice Fair Trade. We are a community of over 400 social enterprises and organisations spread in over 75 countries. WFTO members all exist to serve marginalised communities. To be a WFTO member, an enterprise or organisation must demonstrate they put people and planet first in everything they do. We are democratically run by our members, who are part of a broader community of over 1,000 social enterprises and 1,500 shops. We are their global community. Visit website www.wfto.com

About Forum Fairer Handel

The Forum Fairer Handel e.V. (FFH) is the association of Fair Trade in Germany. Its aim is to raise the profile of Fair Trade, to push through common demands vis-à-vis politics and trade and to achieve a stronger expansion of Fair Trade. The FFH sees itself as the political voice of the fair trade movement in Germany and advocates for changed rules for trade and agriculture worldwide. Every year, the FFH collects extensive data on Fair Trade turnover and sales volumes, on the basis of which current trends and developments in Fair Trade in Germany can be assessed. Once a year, the Forum Fairer Handel organises the Fair Week - the largest Fair Trade campaign week in Germany. The FFH is a member of WFTO. This also applies to the majority of its members. | www.forum-fairer-handel.de