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# Strategic plan for Sustainability and

# Technical Services Proposal

2021\_22

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# Approach

Development's key strategic factor is an excellent management of the human resources available. From this perspective, Granata Textile Service combines highly specialized skills in the field with a dynamic and flexible approach, carrying out professional textile consulting activities that offer a personalized and comprehensive services. Through a qualified network of professionals, our synergies allow us to achieve our mission with full satisfaction for the customer.

## Focus on the client

In addition to providing a high quality service, we do not neglect the importance of the relationship of trust with the customer. In fact, clients are cared for and assisted with particular attention to their individual needs. We share highly curated news of the textile field via special newsletters, and we provide the industry's daily news on our website.

We help companies in the fashion industry draw up sustainability reports **by referring to** the GRI international standards (Sustainability Reporting Standards) of the Global Sustainability Standards Board (GSSB).

Sustainability in the textile sector is a hot topic and has seen a strong evolution in recent years, perhaps even greater than the most optimistic expectations.

If we look at the phenomenon as a whole, the current state of affairs is not temporary, but a link in an evolutionary chain that has not yet ended, so understanding its roots and prospects may help to outline future scenarios.



# Sustainability: Strategy, Objectives and Action Plan

The path to improve and consolidate a company's sustainability profile must be based on a clear vision and a solid dedicated strategy, characterized by precise short, medium and long-term objectives. Starting from the information obtained through an initial Baseline Review, and through the mapping and involvement of stakeholders relevant to the organization, we are able to define strategies and draft customized action plans for companies with various degrees of experience in the field of sustainability.

The corporate sustainability strategy consists of a series of objectives and improvements within the various areas relevant to the company. Moreover, it is set in a specific context, based, on the one hand, on consistent integration with the company's business objectives, and on the other, on the precise assessment of the potential risks and opportunities that characterize the sector and the organization itself. Additionally, the strategy is aligned with the main national and international strategic references on sustainability, starting with the Goals of the UN 2030 Agenda (SDGs).

The activity of defining a sustainability strategy combines a phase of analysis of the initial situation and of the current actions, with a moment of engagement of internal and external stakeholders through interaction and facilitation methodologies selected on the basis of specific objectives, and finally a phase of content drafting in continuous sharing with the company management. In the definition of the objectives, we develop specific sets of indicators / KPIs for monitoring and communicating sustainability performance related to the strategic targets set.

The development of a sustainability strategy is suitable for companies at the beginning of their corporate sustainability journey, as well as for more experienced companies, and is fundamental both for the development of specific actions and for reporting through the Sustainability Report.

For several years, we have been providing strategic and technical assistance to companies of various sizes in the fashion industry to develop sustainability projects, integrating ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) criteria and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as strategic and evaluation references, throughout the life cycle of policies, plans, projects, services, and with a multi-stakeholder approach.

We use a mix of management tools in line with the most up-to-date models and standards of Sustainability / CSR Management at an international level, in line with the BCorp approach, implementing the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and various ISO on sustainability.

### Working method

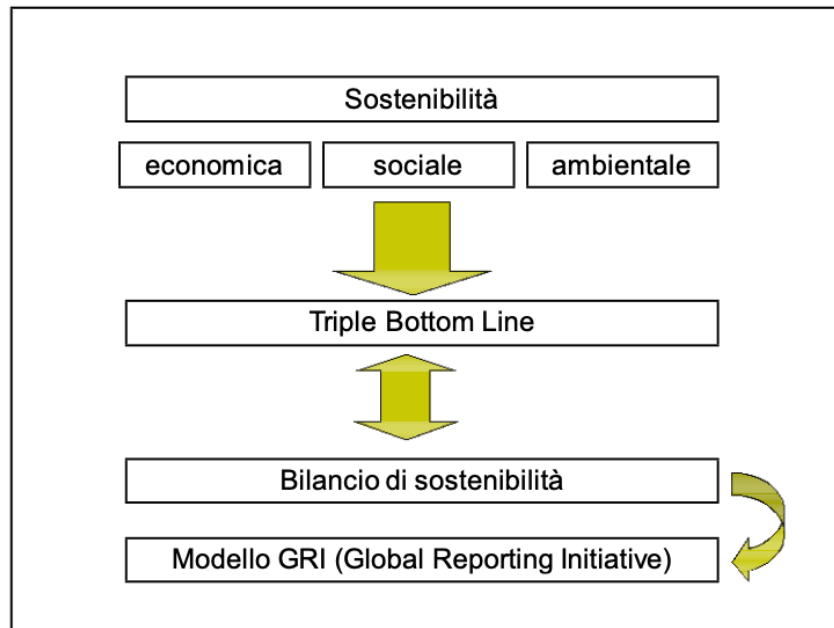
- ◆ We bring out the existing informal/formal sustainability value
- ◆ We identify priority areas for action by theme, as well as different use-case scenarios
- ◆ We align sustainability goals with corporate business objectives
- ◆ We integrate social and environmental criteria into the company's business strategies and define a gradual path of action
- ◆ We facilitate events that foster dialogue and the sharing of new ideas and solutions, improving trust, legitimacy and reputation
- ◆ We communicate corporate sustainability commitments with poise, information, and through international approaches



We help companies in the fashion industry draw up sustainability reports through the use of the international GRIs (Sustainability Reporting Standards) of the GSSB.

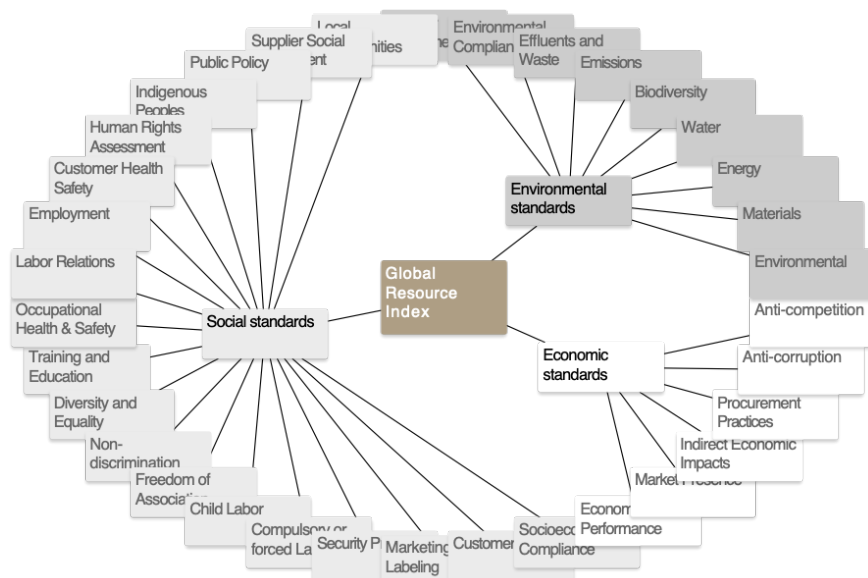
The Sustainability Report (a type of non-financial reporting) is a report published by a company, which illustrates its economic, environmental and social impact as related to its activities. It presents the values of the organization, its *governance* model and the link between its strategy, risks and policies and its long-term commitment to sustainability.

Through it, both positive and negative performance as well as the company's sustainability impact is communicated. It provides a timely, complete and transparent picture of the complex interdependence between economic, social and environmental factors typical of the context in which the company operates.



In essence, the Sustainability Report is therefore a document that describes not only the *performance* of a company but also the way in which its most important sustainability aspects are managed. The aspects that are considered important, in terms of values, principles, *policy*, and management systems, by both the company itself and its main *stakeholders*. Meanwhile, it also offers a prospective view of future commitments and objectives towards sustainable development.

The GRI Standards provide a reporting framework for organizations. They consist of universal standards together with three industry-specific three specific for the economic, environmental and social spheres, as shown in the diagram below:



Reports will be drafted according to the following:

- ◆ Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector

- ◆ Reports will be aligned with:
  - ◆ Regulation (EU) 2021/1119 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 June 2021 establishing the framework for achieving climate neutrality and amending Regulations (EC) No 401/2009 and (EU) 2018/1999 ('European Climate Law')
  - ◆ Directive 2014/95/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 22 October 2014 amending Directive 2013/34/EU as regards disclosure of non-financial and diversity information by certain large undertakings and groups

◆

For the experimentation of new models of corporate and territorial welfare, we build strategic and operational partnerships between companies of various sizes and sectors, public entities and non-profit organizations.

We identify the needs of companies and employees. Through a 'zero miles' approach, we facilitate the demand-supply intersection of corporate-territorial welfare services. Moreover, we develop co-designed services, employee engagement programs, multi-stakeholder networks, research, and service evaluation surveys.

#### **Services and activities**

- ◆ Realization of survey of employees' welfare needs
- ◆ Baseline review and benchmarking of the company's corporate welfare initiatives
- ◆ Coordination and facilitation of multi-stakeholder networks for corporate and territorial welfare
- ◆ Facilitation of partnerships between private, public and non-profit entities to develop welfare services
- ◆ Drafting of guides and operating manuals to support corporate welfare actions
- ◆ Definition of sustainable work-life balancing plans
- ◆ Employee engagement events and projects

# Technical Services

The significant strength of our technical consultancy remains that of intervening with solutions that are **technologically and organically simple, effective, fast and flexible** and these, perhaps, are the 'magic words' that have always identified us and distinguished us from other services and consulting firms.

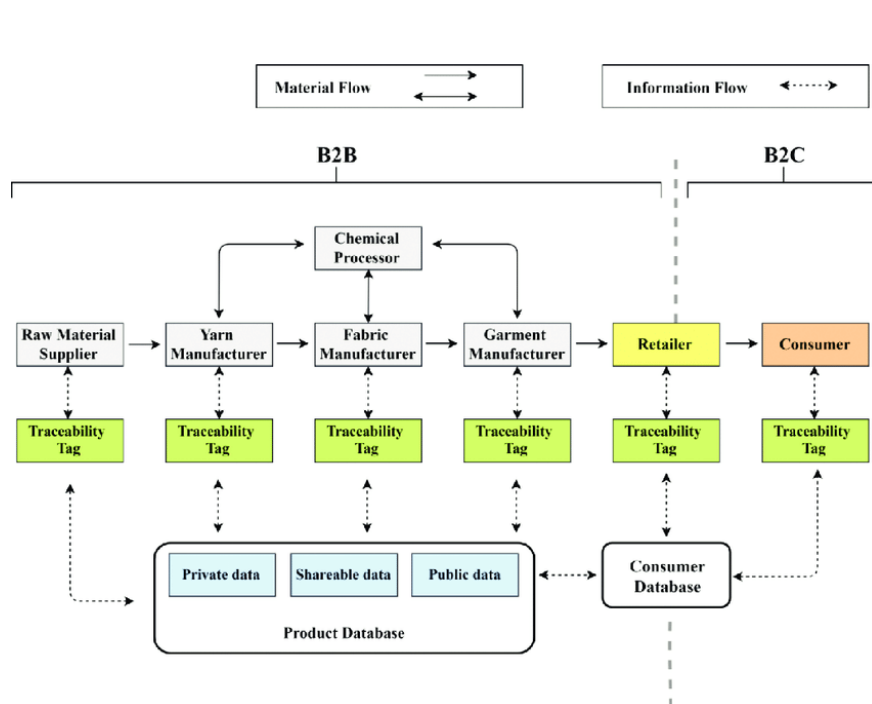
Having experienced the transformation of the design and industrialization of the clothing sector over the years, we have integrated into our modus operandi the concept of flexibility and tangibility that we all need to have today when dealing with any issue that is submitted to us.

**Activities of CQSS quality control, safety and sustainability of textile products.**



- ◆ Building and maintaining a high brand reputation, protect the brand and gain a competitive advantage in terms of safety and product quality standards
- ◆ Factory information, supply chain management and certification
- ◆ Product certifications, eco-toxicological, chemical and physical aspects in the Fashion System
- ◆ Ensure worldwide compliance with mandatory product compliance requirements
- ◆ Reduce business risks and protect the administration through co-responsibility procedures with Italian and foreign suppliers

- ◆ Illustrate the procedures for accessing international markets, meeting customer needs through:
  - REACH: European Union
  - SASO | COC: Saudi Arabia
  - CPSIA: United States of America
  - GB 18401: China
  - EEU: countries belonging to the EEU Union (Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Armenia and Kyrgyzstan)
  - Inspections of finished products' management and organization in Bangladesh, China, Vietnam and India by our certified employees



### Textile analysis (physical - chemical and eco-toxicological).

Dedicated technological textile lab and extensive professional experience to prevent or resolve disputes (civil lawsuits, criminal proceedings, commercial disputes, etc.) that are increasingly frequent between sellers and buyers. Technological tests and specific textile analysis according to the intended use.

### Creation of Minimum Corporate Standards

Drafting of purchase specifications taking into account the most recent EN, GB, and CPSIA and ISO Directives; drafting of minimum company standards, especially for the safety of clothing products and accessories. Granata & C. supports manufacturers, distributors and retailers with testing services for clothing, textiles and footwear. It provides technical support to companies in the textile clothing, fashion, plastic and metallic accessories, leather and leather goods, footwear sectors in identifying the mandatory requirements for exporting to the main foreign markets. Verification of product conformity and proper labeling are two essential requirements to be met in order to avoid damage to both the company's image and finances: this applies both to companies that export directly and to those upstream in the chain, which must meet the requirements of their clients.

In order to meet market demand and the demands of consumers who are increasingly aware of product quality, our experts are able to provide:

- ◆ Textile clothing testing
- ◆ Tests on furnishing fabrics
- ◆ Footwear testing
- ◆ Tests on leather products
- ◆ Tests on accessories
- ◆ Tests on underwear and children's clothing
- ◆ Tests according to EN, ISO, CPSIA, GB, EAC, etc.
- ◆ Chemical testing

We perform testing according to various international requirements, including European standards (EN), GB standards issued by the Standardization Administration of China (SAC), China's National ISO and IEC Council, the American Association of Textile Chemists and Colorists (AATCC), ASTM International (ASTM), the American Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), including CPSIA, the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), and many others.

We offer a full range of testing, inspection and auditing solutions to help you meet increasingly stringent safety and quality regulations.

### **Qualitative and performance tests**

We work alongside manufacturers, agents, wholesalers and distributors to ensure that all products meet regulatory standards for quality and performance. We can carry out a wide range of tests on the different types of materials used in the manufacture of textiles, clothing and footwear. To ensure that these goods meet the specific quality standards that apply in different markets, we provide a wide range of quality and performance tests including:

### **Services for textiles and clothing**

- Color fastness
- Dimensional stability
- Print fastness
- Tensile, tear and seam resistance
- Testing of special properties such as smooth appearance
- Pilling resistance
- Abrasion resistance
- Care label verification, etc...

### **Services for leather and footwear**

- Color fastness
- Seam tensile strength and tear resistance
- Adhesive strength of entire footwear
- Full footwear flexion
- Water vapor permeability and coefficient
- Water resistance by bally and maser penetrometer
- Upper flexion by bally and vamp flexometer
- Sole flexion - benewart
- Sole abrasion - drum method
- Abrasion resistance - martindale
- Laces abrasion

### **Audit & Certification of Management Systems, together with a partner**

#### **Ensure consistent quality levels**

Achieving and maintaining high quality standards requires structured and consistent production processes. Whether you are a manufacturer, supplier or retailer, certification of management systems in accordance with international standards is essential for companies to demonstrate compliance with various global quality, environmental and social responsibility, and safety requirements. This demonstrates a commitment to continuous process improvement and provides customers with the necessary assurance that the products or services they use come from companies that support quality throughout the supply chain.

We offer consulting in order to guide factories to achieve the management standards set by international regulations, as well as to increase the value of the products or services offered, facilitating their entry into new markets. In addition, the adoption of systematic and efficient procedures demonstrates the company's commitment to high quality, environmental and social responsibility, as well as safety standards worldwide.

#### **Factory information and supply chain management**

- ◆ Quality Management Systems
  - ISO 9001
  - ISO 14001
  - RILA/BRC CP-3
- ◆ Environmental and energy management systems
  - ISO 14001
  - QC 080000
  - ISO 50001
- ◆ Ethical and social certification
  - SA8000®
  - Business Social Compliance Initiative (BSCI)
- ◆ Worldwide Responsible Accredited Production (WRAP)

Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI)  
Code of Conduct (CoC)

- ◆ Safety
  - OHSAS 18001
  - BS 8800
  - ISO 27001- Store quality
- ◆ Audits
  - Technical audits and evaluation of suppliers (local representatives and/or traders)

Clients and consumers demand assurance that the products they purchase are in line with the specific quality and performance characteristics required, and our inspection services provide valuable support in achieving this goal.

Assistance and training of CQS (Certification Quality Systems) technicians: they must be able to monitor the supply chain in every phase, from the supply of raw materials to the finished product, and the control of transport procedures from the pre-shipment phase to the point of sale.

- ◆ Quality inspections verify that products comply with design requirements; the inspector ascertains the quality and quantity of materials used, and checks that packaging conforms to customer requirements. Organize and monitor the production process, carrying out on-site inspections at production facilities and suppliers' facilities according to sampling procedures laid down in internal specifications.
- ◆
  - ◆ Initial Production Checks (IPC): to verify the quality of the product in the early stages of the production cycle
  - ◆ During Production Checks (DUPRO): these are carried out when the production cycle is about 30-40% complete and packaging procedures have begun
  - ◆ Final Random Inspections (FRI): detailed inspection of fully packaged products ready for shipment in accordance with internationally accepted practices for this type of procedure

In addition to checking the quality of raw materials and production processes, the transport of products to the customer must be monitored. The inspections cover the cleanliness and suitability of the containers, as well as the final inspection of the goods being shipped, to ensure their compliance with customer requirements.

Additional inspections can also be performed to check that products match the documents for quantity, size and color, which can help prevent shipping and delivery errors.

The final quality control takes place at the point of sale, where experts take random or pre-set samples from the shelves and perform toxicological and mechanical tests to verify that the products meet the requirements previously determined in the laboratories