# PAN AFRICAN ASSOCIATION OF RECYCLING AND SECONDHAND TEXTILES (PARST)



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## 5.0 POLICY ON QUALITY ASSURANCE TOURS AND CERTIFICATION FOR SUPPLIER COUNTRIES

#### **5.1** Objective

To establish a standardized framework for assessing the quality of secondhand textiles and recycled materials sourced from supplier countries, ensuring compliance with environmental and ethical standards.

#### **5.2 Key Policy Provisions**

#### **5.1.1 Quality Inspection Tours:**

- 5.1.1.1 Conducted three times a year (March, June, November) to evaluate the quality and sustainability of textile shipments.
- 5.1.1.2 Assess compliance with international standards for textile reuse and recycling.
  - 5.1.1.3 Engage third-party auditors to ensure independent verification of quality and compliance standards.

#### **5.1.2** Supplier Certification Program:

- 5.1.2.1 Implementation of a certification system for suppliers who meet quality, sustainability, and ethical trade criteria.
- 5.1.2.2 Certified suppliers will be given priority for trade partnerships with PARST members.
- 5.1.2.3 Certification will be valid for a period of two years, subject to re-evaluation.

#### **5.1.3** Environmental Compliance Assessment:

- 5.1.3.1 Evaluation of supplier country practices in waste management, recycling efficiency, and sustainability initiatives.
- 5.1.3.2 Encourage the adoption of eco-friendly processing techniques.
- 5.1.3.3 Mandate adherence to international environmental standards such as ISO 14001.

#### **5.1.4** Training and Capacity Building:

- 5.1.4.1 Supplier workshops and training on quality control, sustainability best practices, and compliance with global textile recycling standards.
- 5.1.4.2 Development of digital learning resources and on-site training programs.
- 5.1.4.3 Establish partnerships with local industry experts to provide hands-on training.

#### **5.1.5** Data Monitoring and Reporting:

- 5.1.5.1 Annual reports on supplier country performance, highlighting compliance levels and areas of improvement.
- 5.1.5.2 Public disclosure of supplier certification status to enhance transparency in the supply chain.
- 5.1.5.3 Adoption of blockchain technology for improved tracking and verification of textile sources.

#### **5.1.6** Consumer and Market Transparency:

- 5.1.6.1 Implementation of labeling systems to inform buyers about the sustainability rating of suppliers.
- 5.1.6.2 Collaboration with consumer advocacy groups to

promote ethical purchasing decisions.

#### **5.1.7** Penalties and Compliance Enforcement:

5.1.7.1 Suppliers found to be non-compliant with set standards will face penalties, including suspension or revocation of certification.

- 5.1.7.2 Implementation of corrective action plans for suppliers failing initial compliance checks.
- 5.1.7.3 Establishment of a grievance redress mechanism for stakeholders to report non- compliance.

#### **5.3 Conclusion**

This policy ensures that secondhand textiles and recycled materials sourced from supplier countries align with industry best practices, fostering responsible trade and environmental sustainability.