

## UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

On 25th September 2015, member countries of the United Nations adopted a set of goals to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all as part of a new sustainable development agenda. Each goal has specific targets to be achieved by 2030.

The concept of Sustainable Development provides a comprehensive definition of development as it links ecological services and quality of life with economic growth. The 17 SDGs provide a common language and measurement framework to achieve sustainable development.

Please see how certification to GOTS helps ensure compliance with each of the 17 goals.

[www.global-standard.org](http://www.global-standard.org)

# Why GOTS?



**GOTS CERTIFICATION HELPS  
OBTAIN LEADERSHIP POSITION  
with regard to the UN Sustainable  
Development Goals (SDGs)**



➔ **NO POVERTY:** GOTS mandates fair remuneration for workers. The wages must meet basic needs and to provide some discretionary income. In addition, there must be no deductions from wages used as a disciplinary measure.



➔ **ZERO HUNGER:** Crop rotation is mandatory in organic farming. Therefore, the farmers engaged in cultivating organic fibres also grow organic food as a part of rotation, contributing to food security and reduction in hunger.



➔ **GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING:** Organic farming is practised without use of hazardous pesticides or synthetic fertilisers, hence reducing farmers' exposure to harmful chemicals, and the pollution of air and water from these sources. For processing stages, GOTS mandates that working conditions must be safe and hygienic.



➔ **QUALITY EDUCATION:** When textile workers get a decent income, they can send their children to school. The ban on child labour in GOTS leads to more opportunities for children to get an education.



➔ **GENDER EQUALITY:** For all textile processing stages, GOTS mandates that no discrimination is practised, whether based on gender, marital status, sexual orientation, etc.



➔ **CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION:** GOTS mandates that potable drinking water and access to clean toilets must be provided at the workplace, and also at staff accommodation, wherever this is provided by the employer.



➔ **AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY:** GOTS mandates that data on source of energy and consumption per kilogram of textile output must be maintained. The companies are also expected to provide training to staff on energy conservation.



➔ **DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH:** With increasing demand for sustainable clothing, companies engaged in eco-friendly processing get more work. Therefore, there is economic benefit for participating companies as a result of more orders, the premium on organic products and preferred supplier status from buyers for organic textiles.



➔ **INDUSTRY, INNOVATION & INFRASTRUCTURE:** GOTS prohibits harmful and hazardous processing methods, driving Industry to innovate alternate non-hazardous and sustainable techniques. GOTS certification helps market entry. It also improves the prospects for enterprises in less developed countries, leading to improved industrial performance.



➔ **REDUCED INEQUALITIES:** GOTS mandates that no discrimination is practised in hiring, compensation, etc., based on race, caste, religion, gender, marital status or for any other reason.



➔ **SUSTAINABLE CITIES & COMMUNITIES:** Decent earnings and absence of hazardous chemicals lead to better health and enhances harmony with nature. Limited overtime at the workplace provides more time with families and hence builds stronger communities.



➔ **RESPONSIBLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION:** GOTS certified textiles consist of at least 70% certified organic fibres/ raw materials. Strict environmental and social criteria in processing lead to responsible production. GOTS itself is a tool to internalize external costs so that the real price is paid for a product. Simultaneously, GOTS helps sustainable public procurement and promotes consumer awareness about sustainability.



➔ **CLIMATE ACTION:** GOTS mandates that local legal norms for air emissions, waste water and sludge disposal must be followed. It prohibits on-site waste burning or uncontrolled land-filling of waste. In organic farming, the soil serves as a sink for atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. Thus GOTS significantly contributes to the reduction of the total global emissions through carbon sequestration.



➔ **LIFE BELOW WATER:** GOTS prohibits the use of harmful chemicals. In addition GOTS mandates that wastewater must be treated before discharge. There are strict norms for pH, temperature, organic content and oxygen demand of the wastewater being discharged by certified facilities. With the strongest restriction on AOX GOTS prevents toxic effects and thus secures aquatic life.



➔ **LIFE ON LAND:** GOTS mandates the use of certified organic fibre. Research by Textile Exchange shows that organic cotton cultivation leads to reduced soil degradation. GOTS mandates the use of sustainably certified or recycled paper for packing GOTS goods. Organic farming helps to maintain biodiversity.



➔ **PEACE, JUSTICE & STRONG INSTITUTIONS:** Violence and physical punishment is prohibited in GOTS certified facilities. Corruption, extortion & bribery are also prohibited as part of GOTS 'Ethical Business Behaviour'. Participatory decision making is encouraged and the right to collective bargaining is respected. GOTS certified facilities have non-discriminatory rules & policies.



➔ **PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS:** GOTS itself is a result of harmonization and continues to evolve in partnership. We work with stakeholder organisations representing organic farming, textile and chemical industry, also labour interests, retailers and consumers, as well as with other standards organisations, NGOs and governments.