7. The launch event also showcased technological innovations, including: a new ICAC

Photo Contest (sponsored by ICAC and Cotton Incorporated): Prize winners from four categories ("From the field", "To the fibre", Made with cotton" and "Women in cotton") were awarded

4. UNCTAD **M** Value addition for a resilient cotton sector in Africa

Moderator	Ms. Elke Hortmeyer, Director, Bremen Cotton Exchange
<u>Speakers</u>	Ms. Dorothy Tembo, Deputy Executive Director, ITC;
	Mr. Marco Mtunga, President, African Cotton Association/Director-General, Tanzania Cotton Board;
	Mr. Joseph Nkole, Chief Executive Officer, Mumbwa Ginnery Limited/Chairman, Cotton Association of Zambia;
	Mr. Christian Schindler, Director-General, International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF);
	Mr. Sidahmed Alphadi Seidnaly, alia ALPHADI, Fashion Designer, Niger.

Summary

6. UNIDO Session: Key innovation themes for a sustainable, competitive and efficient cotton-textile industry

Moderator	Ms. Piera Francesca Solinas (UNIDO)
Speakers	Mr. Marco Marzoli, Filmar group;
	Mr. Mohamed Negm, Cotton research institute, Egypt;
	Mr. Cristian Locatelli, Camozzi group;
	Mr. Heinz Zeller, Hugo Boss;
	Ms. Natalia Papu Carrone, Circle economy;
	Mr. Cristian Locatelli, Camozzi group.
Summary	The primary objective of the side event was to shed light on the innovation and technology drivers that are shaping the development for a competitive and sustainable cotton-textile industry. Specific focus was given to how companies in the sector can counterbalance the adverse effects that automation can cause with regards to employment, especially in developing countries.
	The panel also depicted key market trends and consumers patterns that are affecting fashion-textile industry and illustrate to which extent innovation and technology can help to effectively and sustainably respond to consumers demands.
	Examples of recycling and upcycling in textile were presented and discussed.
	Transparency and traceability of supply chains was also discussed as a current priority for the industry to increase effective and sustainable management of value chains: manufacturers are often unable to "tell the story" behind their goods and how their goods are produced and move down the value chain into retail outlets.

7. ICAC Session: Plotting the future path for cotton

Moderator	Mr. Allan McClay, CEO of Better Cotton Initiative (BCI)
<u>Speakers</u>	Ms. Cecilia Brannsten, Environmental Sustainability Manager, H&M Group;
	Ms. Anita Chester, Head of Sustainable Raw Materials, C&A Foundation;
	Mr. J. Berrye Worsham, CEO, Cotton Incorporated;
	Mr. Mark Jarvis, Managing Director, World Textile Information Network (WTIN);
	Mr. YC Man, Head of Cotton Operations, Esquel Group;
	Ms. Lacy Vardeman, Partner with Vardeman Farms, Texas.

Summary

Industry experts from the cotton and textile supply chain discussed how the future of cotton will be impacted by many factors beyond the farm, and even beyond the supply chain. The challenges of sustainability — in all aspects, including social, economic and environmental future — will require innovative new solutions that take advantage of cutting-edge technologies to tackle:

Climate change; Population growth; Least developed countries; Consumer preferences and activism;

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