SAVE THE DATE
PANEL DISCUSSION

Khadi Goes Global

EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTION AND CONSUMPTION

11 March 2019
1130-1245 hrs
Conference Room 11
UNHQ

RSVP: india@un.int
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“If we have khadi spirit in us, then we would surround ourselves in simplicity in every walk of life” – Mahatma Gandhi

Khadi is a handspun hand-woven natural-fiber fabric from India.

It was the symbol of self-reliance and dignity of work in India’s quest for freedom from colonial rule led by Mahatma Gandhi, whose 150th Birth Anniversary is being celebrated this year.

Even today khadi is much more than a fabric – it is an exquisite blending of sustainable production and consumption with women’s empowerment and poverty alleviation at the grass roots level. Women’s agency and entrepreneurship are at the heart of this project, which is supported through microfinance, self-help groups and social protection measures.

Revival and outreach of khadi, linking it with global demand for apparel and accessories has engendered a range of new opportunities for farmers, weavers, ginners, spinners, dyers and other artisans in rural India. This has particularly benefited women artisans and their families by providing them with income security and social recognition.

Today, khadi weaves home-based income generation and decent work opportunities for women with zero carbon-footprints, based on Mahatma Gandhi’s principle of ‘development for all’ (Sarvodaya) through empowerment of the ‘weakest in the society’ (Antyodaya).

The panel discussion on “Khadi Goes Global” seeks to shine light on this unique model of women’s economic empowerment in rural India and the pivotal role of partnership between government agencies, private sector and civil society in this context.

All India Women’s Education Fund Association (AIWEFA), a civil society organization working in this area, will share their experiences from grassroots level. Speakers from Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises of India, Khadi Village and Industries Commission of India, the women wing of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and industry (FICCI) will also inform the discussion.