



Accelerating Kenya's Local Textile and Apparel Manufacturing in the Context of Second-Hand Clothing Economy

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The development of the cotton-textile-apparel sub-sector is vital for Kenya as a step towards industrialization. The Medium-Term Plan IV (MTP IV) 2023-2027 of the Kenya Vision 2030 aims at enhancing local cotton production by organizing farmers into cooperatives, distributing certified cotton seeds, providing subsidized fertilizer, and supporting financial inclusion in the textile value chain. This policy brief focuses on accelerating Kenya's local textile and apparel manufacturing in the context of secondhand clothing economy. Key recommendations include:

- (i) Prioritize investment in domestic cotton and apparel manufacturing through improved seed technology, subsidized fertilizer, and farmer cooperatives to reduce dependency on imported second-hand clothing.
- (ii) Collaborate with stakeholders to address electricity costs for textile manufacturers and consider power generation by textile manufacturers on a net metering basis to bolster local production.
- (iii) Negotiate for the renewal of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) to consider phasing out third-country fabric in favour of local fabric.
- (iv) Establish a national criterion to differentiate between used textiles and waste, alongside providing incentives for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs) to engage in recycling initiatives, therefore supporting a circular economy and expanding employment opportunities in the country.