

# Standard Convergence Initiative (SCI)

Standards convergence? An update  
from ITC Standards Map

13 February 2022



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# Introduction & background

# What is the SCI?

An initiative of the International Apparel Federation (IAF) & the International Textile Manufacturers Federation (ITMF)

- Aimed at reducing audit and standard fatigue in the Garment and Footwear Sector

In order to:

- Reduce compliance costs to industry
  - Redirect freed-up resources toward improving working conditions
- While...
- Maintaining quality and integrity of compliance mechanisms

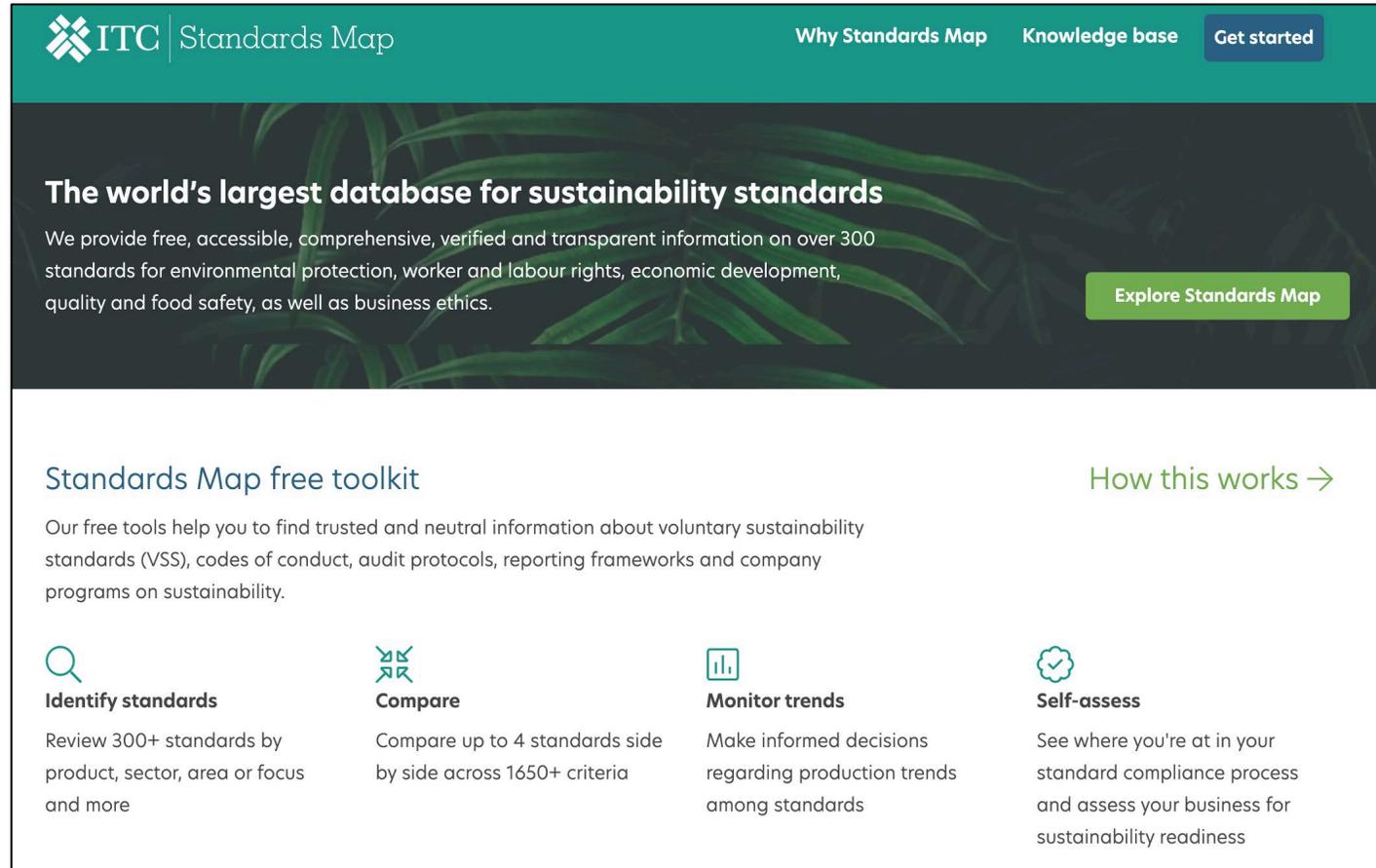
# What is the SCI?

- SCI has developed **four principles for assessing a standard level of preparedness for convergence across social requirements**
  - For each principle, **a set of measurable ITC Standards Map criteria that best represent the SCI principles has been selected**
  - Any standard can be assessed against the SCI criteria to determine the level of preparedness of that standard toward convergence
  - **If a standard body addresses most or all the selected criteria, then the standard illustrates a propensity for convergence**
- Principles and associated criteria can be found on SCI website [www.standard-convergence-initiative.org](http://www.standard-convergence-initiative.org)



# ITC Standards Map

# ITC Standards Map



The screenshot shows the homepage of the ITC Standards Map website. The header is teal with the ITC logo and 'Standards Map' text on the left, and navigation links 'Why Standards Map', 'Knowledge base', and a 'Get started' button on the right. The main content area has a dark background with green foliage. It features a headline 'The world's largest database for sustainability standards', a descriptive paragraph, and an 'Explore Standards Map' button. Below this is a section titled 'Standards Map free toolkit' with a sub-header 'How this works →'. The toolkit section contains four columns, each with an icon, a title, and a brief description of a tool.

**ITC Standards Map** Why Standards Map Knowledge base [Get started](#)

## The world's largest database for sustainability standards

We provide free, accessible, comprehensive, verified and transparent information on over 300 standards for environmental protection, worker and labour rights, economic development, quality and food safety, as well as business ethics.

[Explore Standards Map](#)

### Standards Map free toolkit

How this works →

Our free tools help you to find trusted and neutral information about voluntary sustainability standards (VSS), codes of conduct, audit protocols, reporting frameworks and company programs on sustainability.



#### Identify standards

Review 300+ standards by product, sector, area or focus and more



#### Compare

Compare up to 4 standards side by side across 1650+ criteria



#### Monitor trends

Make informed decisions regarding production trends among standards



#### Self-assess

See where you're at in your standard compliance process and assess your business for sustainability readiness

<https://www.standardsmap.org/>

# Standards Map Criteria: requirements

<b>Environment</b> 	 Time to comply	 Criticality	Explicit	More information / Notes
<b>Social</b> 	 Time to comply	 Criticality	Explicit	More information / Notes
<b>Human Rights</b> 				
<b>Labour rights</b> 				
<b>Local communities</b> 				
<b>Management and Ethics</b> 	 Time to comply	 Criticality	Explicit	More information / Notes
<b>Quality</b> 	 Time to comply	 Criticality	Explicit	More information / Notes

# Social criteria coverage in Standards Map: an example

<b>Social</b> 	 <b>Time to comply</b>	 <b>Criticality</b>	<b>Explicit</b>	<b>More information / Notes</b>
<b>Labour rights</b> 				
<a href="#">Criteria on working conditions overarching principles</a>	<a href="#">Immediate</a>	<a href="#">Major</a>	<a href="#">yes</a>	<b>Excerpt</b> WORKPLACE CODE PROVISION: Employers shall provide a safe and healthy workplac... <a href="#">More Info</a> 
<a href="#">Criteria on existence of publicly available policy defining workers' rights</a>	<a href="#">Immediate</a>	<a href="#">Major</a>	<a href="#">yes</a>	<b>Excerpt</b> ER.1.1 Employers shall have in place written policies and practices and maintain prope... <a href="#">More Info</a> 

# Standards Map Criteria: Operational requirements

The screenshot shows the 'Overview' tab of the Standards Map Criteria: Operational requirements page. The navigation bar includes 'Overview', 'Requirements', 'How to comply', 'Governance', and 'Resources'. The 'Overview' section contains the following text:

*The standard owner shows **independence** from its certificate holders. Supply chains actors, NGOs or civil society **do not participate** in the standard's decisions.*

*The standard is revised, through a **private consultation***

**Annual report:**  
Yes

**Documents and policies:**  
Yes

The 'Details' section lists three criteria with expandable buttons (indicated by a red circle in the image):

- Standard management**  
Click here to know who manages the standard and who participates in the decision making
- Transparency & Credibility**  
Click here to know if standard's policies, processes and documents are communicated
- Standard Setting**  
Click here to read about the standard setting process

The screenshot shows the 'Governance' tab of the Standards Map Criteria: Operational requirements page. The navigation bar includes 'Overview', 'Requirements', 'How to comply', 'Governance', and 'Resources'. The 'Overview' section contains the following text:

*The standard owner shows **independence** from its certificate holders. Supply chains actors, NGOs or civil society **do not participate** in the standard's decisions.*

*The standard is revised, through a **private consultation***

**Annual report:**  
Yes

**Documents and policies:**  
Yes

The 'Details' section lists five criteria, all of which are marked as 'Yes' with a checkmark:

- Standard management**  
Click here to know who manages the standard and who participates in the decision making
- Independence**  
Is the standard owner economically independent from the certificate holders? ✓
- Participation**  
Can stakeholders participate in the governance of the standard? ✓
- Members**  
Can members participate in the organisation of the standard? (for instance through a General Assembly) ✓
- Control**  
Does the standard owner carry out annual internal audits of its management system and operations? ✓
- Employees**  
Does the standard define publicly the members of its staff, and their responsibilities and roles? ✓
- Decision-making**  
Do the voting procedures of the top decision-making body ensure that there is a balanced representation of ✓



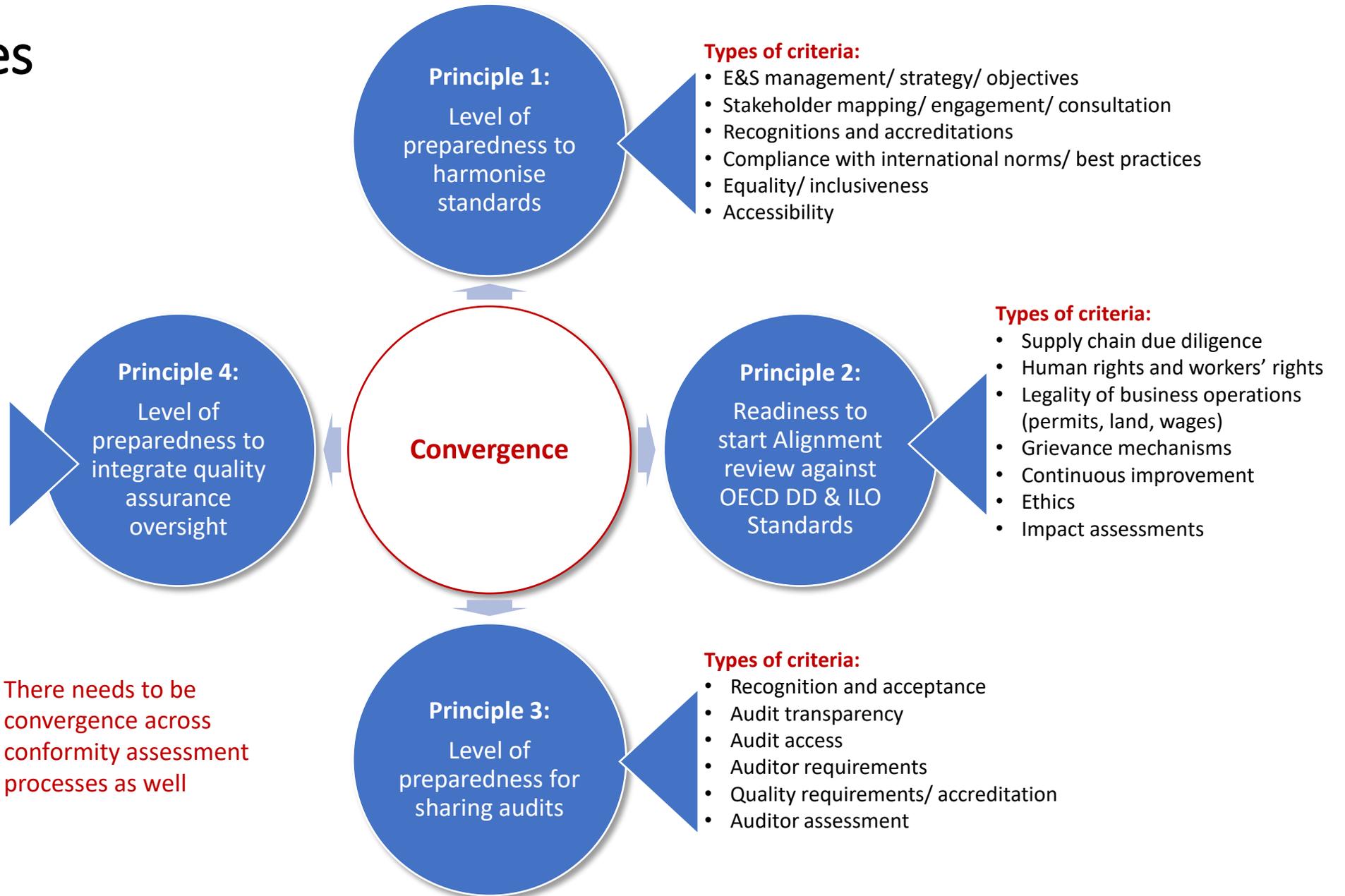
# The SCI Principles & Criteria

# SCI Principles & Criteria

## Types of criteria:

- Accreditation body membership
- International accreditation
- Regional accreditation groups
- Independence of oversight
- Oversight audits
- Oversight complaints and appeals
- Oversight competency/ skills

There needs to be convergence across conformity assessment processes as well





Preliminary findings (Feb. 2022)

# Standards' preparedness for convergence: A comparison of 6 standards (February 2022)

<b>Standard</b>	<b>Principle 1</b> Level of preparedness to harmonise standards	<b>Principle 2</b> Readiness to start Alignment review against OECD DD & ILO Standards	<b>Principle 3</b> Level of preparedness for sharing audits	<b>Principle 4</b> Level of preparedness to integrate quality assurance oversight
<b>amfori BSCI</b>	88%	83%	90%	67%
<b>Fair Labor Association (FLA)</b>	52%	58%	70%	60%
<b>Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)</b>	70%	81%	60%	76%
<b>Made in Green by Oeko-Tex</b>	50%	76%	80%	71%
<b>SA8000</b>	68%	78%	70%	92%
<b>WRAP</b>	89%	72%	70%	76%



Updated analysis (Feb. 2023)

# Standards' preparedness for convergence: A comparison of standards (February 2023)

Standard	Principle 1	Principle 2	Principle 3	Principle 4
	Level of preparedness to harmonise standards	Readiness to start alignment review against OECD DD & ILO Standards	Level of preparedness for sharing audits	Level of preparedness to integrate quality assurance oversight
amfori BSCI	92%	89%	90%	79%
Fair Labor Association (FLA)	75%	73%	82%	70%
Global Organic Textile Standard (GOTS)	80%	81%	71%	82%
Made in Green by Oeko-Tex	79%	85%	90%	83%
SA8000	78%	92%	80%	94%
WRAP	93%	82%	80%	84%
Initiative for Compliance and Sustainability (ICS)	89%	92%	83%	81%
Fair Wear Foundation	77%	88%	87%	81%
Textile Exchange GRS	73%	79%	80%	71%

- Improved by at least 5 % since 2022
- Status quo (no worse nor better by 5%) since 2022
- Worsened by at least 5 % since 2022

# Conclusions

- ITC has facilitated the process of assessing standards against SCI principles and criteria
- The comparison informs a standard's level of preparedness for:
  1. Harmonization of standard content
  2. Alignment with existing international standards and guidelines
  3. Sharing audit outcomes
  4. Integration of oversight processes
- Standards assessments show a slight improvement from February 2022 to February 2023 with a higher propensity for convergence

# Proposed next steps

1. Stakeholder feedback based on OECD Forum Side Session
2. IAF/ ITMF to address all stakeholders feedback (e.g. potential update of SCI principles and criteria)
3. IAF / ITMF to encourage standards to build on the good efforts and augment their propensity to converge
4. IAF/ ITMF to promote standards illustrating high level of preparedness for convergence
5. Continued dialogue and action toward convergence across standards operating in the textile and garment sector



# Thank you!

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