



# Weekly News email

8th August 2024

## Horizon scanning

**Australia** - 'The coral in the coalmine': Seas around Great Barrier Reef hottest in 400 years. New findings about record heat in the Coral Sea around the Great Barrier Reef add fuel to the debate about whether the natural wonder should be classed as endangered. Large chunks of the reef have now lost their colourful display due to coral bleaching events driven by climate change.

**China** - China has found a major gas field in the South China Sea, a discovery that could significantly influence the region's complex geopolitical landscape.

**France** - Greenwash Games? French public points finger at Coca-Cola over Olympics plastic waste. French environmental groups, however, have criticised what they called a “bizarre” and “surreal” sight at certain venues’ drinks stands run by the main sponsor, Coca-Cola. Servers can be seen filling plastic reusable, so-called “eco-cups” from 50cl plastic bottles, amassing sacks of empty bottles for recycling.

**France** - Olympic swimmers, some of the healthiest people on the planet, are turning to an unlikely, unscientific solution to ward off getting sick from competing in the polluted waters of the Seine in Paris: drinking cans of Coke.

**Japan** - Heatstroke kills more than 120 people in Tokyo during record temperatures

**India** - Rain-related disasters have killed more than 200 in a deadly week across Asia

**UK** - After the floods: 'A catastrophic year' on farms. Official surveys from the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board recently found the amount of wheat planted is 9% down, the lowest for 20 years. Oilseed Rape is 20% down. At the National Farmers' Union, they have reported their lowest ever farm confidence index, external. Some 65% of farmers say their incomes are down. 82% cited extreme weather as their biggest challenge.

**UK** - Three water companies facing £168m combined fine over sewage failings. It comes after an Ofwat investigation found the firms had "routinely released sewage into our rivers and seas, rather than ensuring that this only happens in exceptional circumstances as the law intends".

**UK** - Morrisons turns up freezer temperatures to cut emissions - but insists food safety won't suffer. The industry standard was set a century ago and has not been updated despite improvements in refrigeration technology, while the long-term cost savings will help keep down prices, says the chain. The grocery chain says the move is part of a trial to cut carbon emissions.

**UK** - 'I never expected this in the UK': modern slavery expert receives death threat. A leading modern slavery expert who pursues employers on behalf of exploited overseas workers, recovering thousands of pounds for them in the process, has received a threat on his life.

**UK** - Jobs market and pay growth are cooling off, large UK employers and recruiters warn. Survey reveals net fall in permanent jobs last month amid lengthening slowdown in employment market

**UK** - Ocado is testing offering everyday products such as pasta, rice and washing liquid in refillable packaging in a first by an online supermarket. The scheme will trial a reusable vessel that can take food or laundry products with no extra costs for customers.

**UK** - Large English vineyards mark boom year as output and investment soar. Though tiny compared with rivals, English wine trade is thriving as climate crisis fuels flood of new capital from investors. One of the drivers for growth has been the "improved growing conditions in the UK as a result of climate change,"

**USA** - Florida streets become rivers as Storm Debby moves north

**USA** - Harris helped pass one of the strongest climate laws. Her policies don't stop there. Two years ago, Kamala Harris cast the tie-breaking vote for the largest climate investment in American history. After decades of inaction, the US had finally passed a climate law – one of the strongest climate laws in the world.

## Human rights and ethical trade news

**IOM (International Organization for Migration) Safeguarding Next Generations: A Call to End Child Trafficking.** To mark World Day against Trafficking in Persons, the United Nations Network on Migration calls on States to intensify their efforts to prevent and combat child trafficking and to provide comprehensive protection and assistance to the children who fall victim to this crime.

**IOM – World Migration Report 2024** - In most discussions on migration, the starting point is usually numbers. Understanding changes in scale, emerging trends, and shifting demographics related to global social and economic transformations, such as migration, help us make sense of the changing world we live in and plan for the future. The current global estimate is that there were around 281 million international migrants in the world in 2020, which equates to 3.6 percent of the global population.

## Sustainability

**UNGC - Preparing for New Sustainability Reporting Regulations in the UK.** Over the past few years, sustainability reporting has increased its integration of ESG-related information into mainstream financial reporting. The mandatory European Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and the upcoming UK Sustainability Disclosure Standards will demand organisations to report alongside their financial disclosures, their risks and opportunities relating to sustainability matters, including their climate and social impact. UN Global Compact Network UK developed a report to help companies take practical steps to prepare for upcoming regulatory changes. It aims to demystify some of the concepts around reporting frameworks and upcoming regulation as well as help companies to engage with their value chain and realise strategic gains through their sustainability reporting.

## Resources / Reports/Blogs/Films

**European Migration Network** - [Labour market integration of beneficiaries of temporary protection from Ukraine](#). May 2024

**Unseen - [The price we don't pay: modern slavery in UK agriculture](#)**. In this first part of the series, "The Price We Don't Pay," we explore how exploitation has taken root under the Seasonal Worker Visa Scheme and how Unseen is working towards a fairer farming system. [Are you empowering Seasonal workers to have a voice? pdf](#)

**Unseen - [The price we don't pay: modern slavery in food manufacturing](#)**. The UK food and drinks industry is a giant, but what about the people behind it? In the second of the Price, We Don't Pay blog series; we explore modern slavery in food manufacturing and how small gaps in due diligence can leave workers vulnerable, and then how businesses can strengthen their practices. [Common Blind Spots pdf](#)

**Human Rights and Climate Change** – [Elisa Morgera \(UN special reporter on climate and human rights\) speaks at Human Rights Council in July #HRC56](#). This 9-minute video on YouTube covers her report./.

**'What Fuels Fashion?'** [is a single-issue, special edition of our annual Fashion Transparency Index. We have reviewed 250 of the world's largest fashion brands and retailers and ranked them according to their level of disclosure on climate and energy-related data in their own operations but primarily in their supply chains. Download report](#)

**SER - CSRD:** [EU sustainability reporting. From 2024, companies in the EU will be required to report on their sustainability performance.](#) This has a significant impact on many companies, including those that do not directly fall under it. What does the CSRD entail, who is subject to it, and how can you deal with it?

**Working Group on Responsible Purchasing Practices** - [Building resilience in supply chains through responsible purchasing practices](#). The Working Group on Responsible Purchasing Practices (RPP) collaborates to promote progress on RPP in the garment industry, using the Common Framework on Responsible Purchasing Practices as a reference point. Website with resources and case studies.

## Events and webinars

### **FNET/ETI are co-hosting an online seminar on Myanmar Migrant Worker Risks.**

This shared learning Opportunity will discuss how the landscape change has impacted Risks for Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand. We will hear insights from speakers on the ground; share Guidance and Tools to help businesses in their due diligence and how to support those affected.

This 90minute session on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 09.00UK time is for members of ETI and FBET and their supply chain partners.

Contact [admin@foodnetworkforethicaltrade.com](mailto:admin@foodnetworkforethicaltrade.com) for a link to the online seminar.

**RSPO (Roundtable for Sustainable Palm Oil)** - Stakeholder Consultation: Revised RSPO Principles and Criteria and RSPO Independent Smallholder Standard and RSPO Certification Systems.

Please feel free to register your interest in any of the in-person consultation workshops and online webinars listed below. Participation is strictly for confirmed registered participants. [Use this link to check the dates and register.](#)

**Effective Human Rights Due Diligence in Supply Chains** - Stronger Together [training](#)  
1<sup>st</sup> October – Online

In the ever-changing landscape of global supply chains, staying on top of evolving regulations is critical for businesses committed to responsible practices.

**Global Compact Network UK**

Annual Summit: Bridging the Ambition to Action Gap

1st October 2024 | London Guildhall and online

**IHRB (Institute for Human Rights & Business) – Responsible Business in Uncertain Times** – Geneva - 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 9-5pm (CET). Register your interest and scan the code below.

The poster is divided into two main sections. The left section has a background of a cloudy sky and contains the following text: 'RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS IN UNCERTAIN TIMES' (with 'UNCERTAIN' in red), 'STRENGTHENING CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AMIDST WIDENING GLOBAL CONFLICTS', '9 OCTOBER 2024 / 9AM - 5PM (CET)', 'INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE RED CROSS, GENEVA', a QR code, and 'REGISTER YOUR INTEREST'. The IHRB logo is at the bottom. The right section has a dark background with a red 'SAVE THE DATE' banner at the top. It lists 'FEATURED SPEAKERS INCLUDE:' followed by three speakers: MARGOT WALLSTRÖM (Chair, IHRB International Advisory Council; Former Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Sweden), GILLES CARBONNIER (Vice President, International Committee of the Red Cross/Crescent), and MIKE DAVIS (CEO, Global Witness). Each speaker has a small portrait photo.