Founding Declaration of the International Network for Silk

For five thousand years, silk—a magnificent fabric woven from fine yet resilient threads—has traversed mountains and seas, connecting production, trade, and cultural exchange across nations, and stands as a vivid testament to humanity's earliest endeavors toward globalization. From Chang'an to Rome, from overland routes to maritime routes, wherever the Silk Road reached, civilizations met and cooperation took root and grew.

Today, all founding members of the International Network for Silk gather in Hangzhou, China, renowned as the "Home of Silk", to solemnly proclaim the formal establishment of the International Network for Silk. Upholding the shared mission of "carrying forward the spirit of the Silk Road, leading industrial prosperity, and serving the well-being of humanity", we hereby solemnly pledge to the global silk industry to dedicate ourselves to the following objectives and activities:

I. Building a globally mutually-recognized standards system.

We shall develop and promote a globally mutually-recognized standards system for the silk industry, focusing on quality grading, testing and evaluation, green and low-carbon practices, product traceability, and quality certification, thereby formulating international norms across the full industrial chain, spanning mulberry cultivation and silkworm rearing, germplasm breeding, silk reeling and weaving, dyeing and finishing through to end-consumer products, elevating the quality standards and product credibility of the global silk industry, and ensuring that every silk thread follows a clear standard.

II. Promoting technological innovation and cross-disciplinary integration.

We shall actively promote the deep application of modern technology in the silk industry, drive the deep integration of artificial intelligence and biotechnology into the industrial chain, strengthen cross-disciplinary cooperation with the pharmaceutical, biological, and food sectors, and expand new applications of silk in healthcare, biomedicine, food science, modern agriculture, wellness consumption, and other sectors, thereby opening new growth space for the transformation and upgrading of the industry.

III. Enhancing the brand image of silk and promoting sustainable consumption.

We shall fully tap into the potential of the global market, promote the upgrading of mulberry and silk consumption toward diversification and high quality, lead the trend of sustainable consumption, and empower the development of global silk brands, making silk consumption a popular choice that combines texture, refined taste, and a sense of responsibility.

IV. Strengthening talent cultivation and the inheritance of crafts.

We shall build a global network for silk talent cultivation and cooperation, and support universities, research institutions, and the industry in jointly cultivating a new generation of silk practitioners. We shall promote the digital preservation of crafts and AI-enabled protection of intangible cultural heritage, and build platforms for young designers, artisans, and technical professionals to grow, and ensure that the millennia-old art of silk weaving is passed on from generation to generation.

V. Promoting silk culture and dialogue among civilizations.

We shall promote silk culture, strengthen international cultural exchanges and dialogue among civilizations, hold silk cultural exhibitions and exchange activities, promote the protection and innovation of traditional crafts, and guide silk culture to integrate into contemporary fashion and creativity, making silk a gentle unifying force bridging diverse civilizations.

VI. Promoting inclusive development and shared prosperity globally.

We shall actively support developing and least-developed countries and regions in developing their mulberry, silkworm, and silk industries, promote technological cooperation and capacity-building, and help them integrate into the global silk industrial and value chains and share development opportunities, and make greater contributions to the realization of the United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

VII. Building an international platform for exchange and coordination.

Leveraging major global silk-producing regions, industrial clusters, and university and research institutions, we shall establish institutionalized mechanisms for international dialogue and cooperation for the silk industry. We shall deepen industry-university-research-application integration as well as information sharing, and promote multilateral, bilateral, and subregional cooperation through international silk conferences, industrial forums, academic seminars, and other activities, thereby building a new pattern of coordinated governance for the global silk industry.

Silk once witnessed the first encounter of human civilizations; today, it shall continue to witness the building and deepening of a Community

with a Shared Future for Mankind. A single silk thread connects industries, cultures, and above all, the hearts of people. The establishment of the International Network for Silk marks that the global silk industry henceforth has a new shared banner, a new shared platform, and a new shared direction.

Let us take silk as the messenger and brocade as the bridge, march forward hand-in-hand, and contribute the enduring power of silk to a better life and sustainable development for all humanity.

Founders: All founding members of the International Network for Silk

Place of Founding: Hangzhou, China

Date of Founding: October, 2026