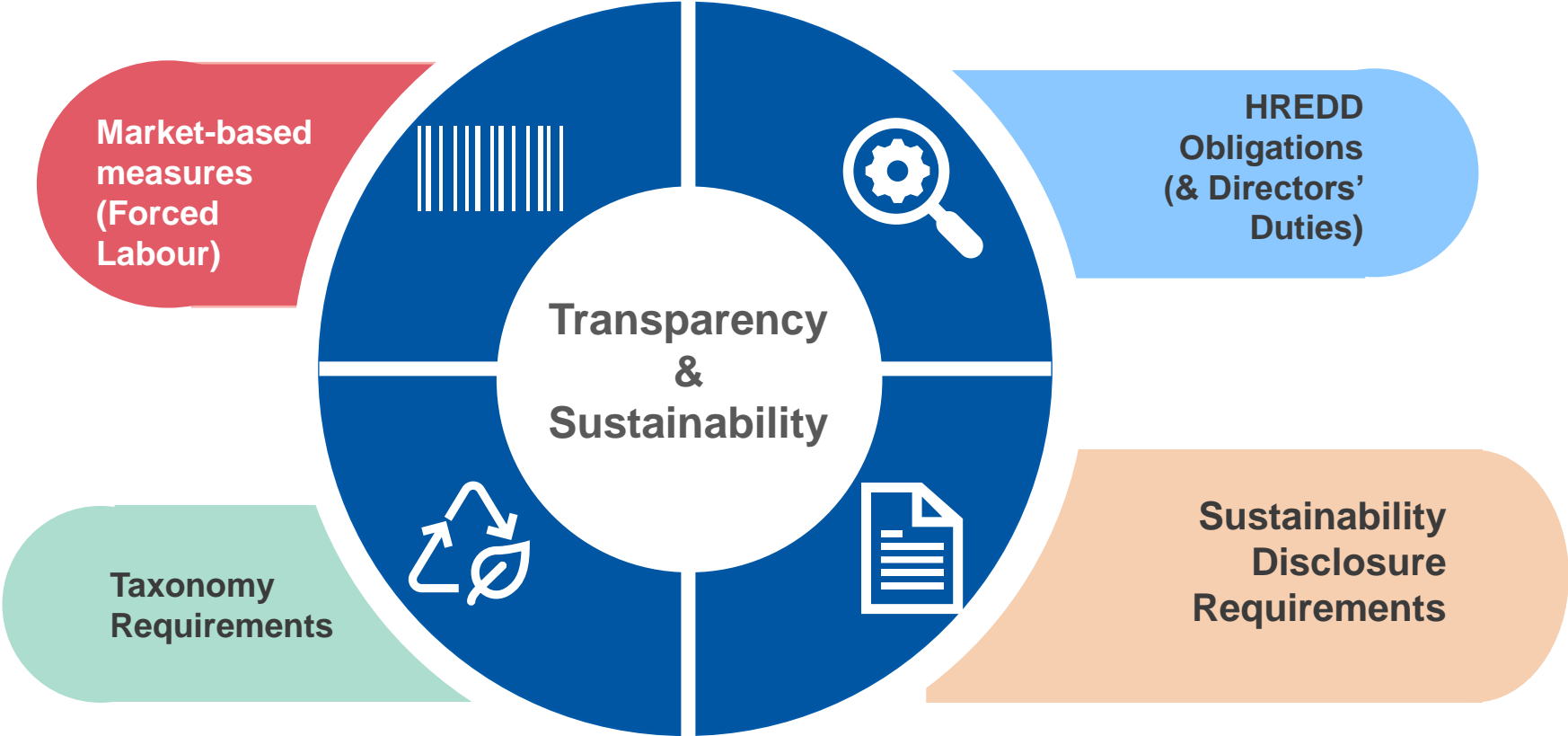


A woman wearing a wide-brimmed hat and a light-colored shirt is working in a field of cotton plants. She is reaching out towards the plants, which are covered in green and red cotton bolls. The background shows more cotton plants and a clear sky. The image has a blue tint.

# Forced Labour & Turkmen Cotton

# The EU Policy Architecture



# The Context

- amfori has been made aware of a potential risk of **forced labour** in members' supply chains when sourcing from **Turkey, Bangladesh and India**
- Through discussion with NGO Anti-Slavery International, we were alerted to the fact that some members might be **directly** or **indirectly** linked to forced labour practices in cotton originating from Turkmenistan

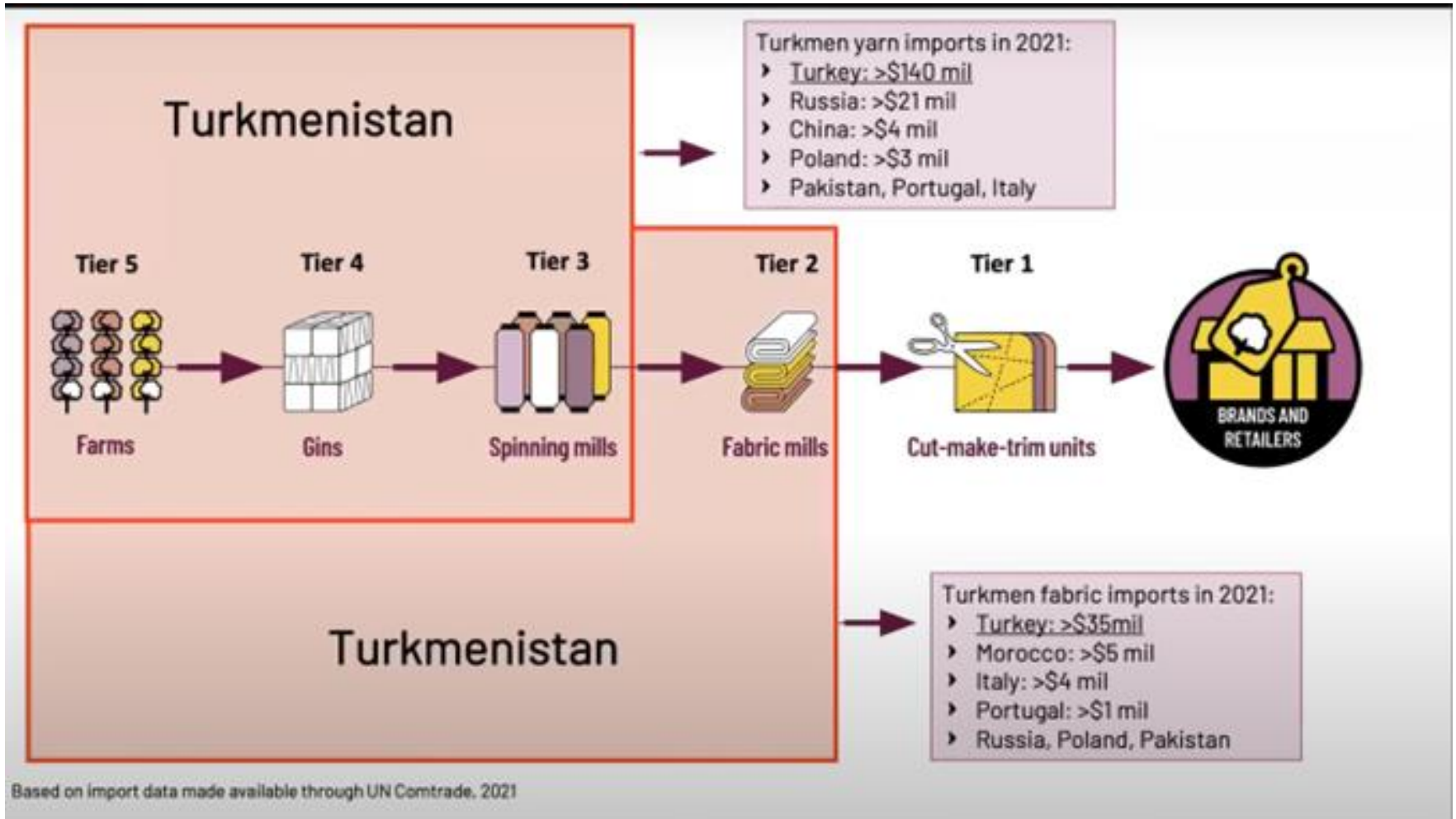
# What the Problem is (i)

- Research shows that [Turkmenistan](#) uses forced labour to **harvest cotton**
- Every year during the harvest, the Government forces tens of thousands of public sector workers to pick cotton in hazardous and unsanitary conditions
- Given the scale, those practices would mount to State-Imposed Forced Labour
- The Cotton Campaign has done [research](#) which shows that products containing forced labour Turkmen cotton are entering the global market (including the **EU**)

# What the Problem is (ii)

- Turkmen cotton is exported to another country to be made into fabric and then made into clothing
- The most common routes are **Türkiye, Bangladesh** and (via **Pakistan fabric producers**) **India**
- The clothing may be (legitimately) labelled "Made in Turkey (etc.)" - i.e., the forced labour element is "hidden".

# What the Problem is (iii)



\* 2023 OECD Garment & Footwear Forum side [session](#)

# Why this Matters

- amfori BSCI PA11 No Bonded, Forced Labour or Human Trafficking
- Emerging **forced labour and due diligence legislation** mandating companies to prevent, identify, manage and remediate HR and E risks in their supply chain
- (Soon) your customers might expect you to have visibility over your upstream business partners to avoid them being linked to forced labour practices via their supply chain

# What you Could do

- Understand your products: what are they made of? Which components? Which fabric?
- Map your supply chain as deeply as possible, ideally all the way up to the **raw material level**. This might be difficult, but best is to start sooner rather than later
- Raise awareness with your own suppliers and ask them to map their own supply chain further upstream
- Share the amfori BSCI CoC with your suppliers and raise awareness about FL risks
- Get in touch with amfori via your local network representative in case of further questions or should you have any specific requests for help

# Supply chain mapping

