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   Sommario/riassunto The clothing sector has traditionally been a gateway to export diversification and industrial development for low-income countries (LICs) due to its low fix costs, relatively simple technology, and labor-intensive nature. It has served to absorb large numbers of unskilled, and mostly female, workers and build capital and know-how for more technologically advanced activities within and across sectors. But the environment for global clothing trade has changed significantly which may condition the role the sector can play in promoting export diversification and industrial development in LICs toda