



ESG Data and Rating Working Group Meeting 4 – 13 March 2023 – Public Minutes

Agenda item 1: Opening of Meeting

The Steering Committee (M&G, Moody's, LSEG and Slaughter & May) welcomed the attendees and outlined the agenda.

Agenda item 2: Recent national and global developments and DRWG engagement

The Steering Committee updated members on recent bilateral meetings with the EU Commission (DG FISMA) and HMT to discuss their respective consultations on ESG ratings regulation.

Members discussed other global developments on ESG Ratings and Data in both Singapore and India.

Agenda item 3: Subgroup updates

The subgroup coordinators provided an update on their progress to date on developing principles based on IOSCO Recommendations.

Subgroup 1 focuses on terminology and transparency and subgroup 2 focuses on governance, conflicts of interest and systems and controls.

Agenda item 4: Compliance Options

Slaughter & May presented an overview of “comply or explain” and “apply and explain” models for compliance. Members discussed the risks and opportunities of the two models and how this would support or hinder uptake of the voluntary code of conduct.

Agenda item 5: Outreach through roundtables and bilateral calls with providers

Members discussed the two roundtables due to be scheduled in April and May: one roundtable will involve users and the other will be with rated entities. The roundtables will provide an opportunity to raise questions, obtain further information and test sections of the Code.

The Secretariat will invite a broad range of stakeholders, including organisations that have previously expressed an interest in being involved in the DRWG work.

Agenda item 6: presentation on proxy voting/ESG rating agencies

Nestor Advisors presented their findings on research commissioned by the FRC on the impact of Proxy Agencies and ESG ratings providers.

Agenda Item 7: DRWG Members feedback

The Secretariat thanked members for providing constructive feedback and orally presented the findings of the members survey.

Date of next meeting: Monday 20 April 2023 2.00pm – 4.30pm

Attendance (in-person or virtually)

Attendance List
<p>Steering Committee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Angela Brown, Global Head of Products, Moody's ESG Solutions • Rob Marshall, Head of Sustainable Investing M&G • Nick Bonsall, Partner Financial Regulation Group, Slaughter and May • David Harris, Head of Sustainable Finance Strategic Initiatives, London Stock Exchange Group
<p>Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oliver Moullin, MD, Sustainable Finance - AFME • Robert Greenberg, Head of Sustainability Integration - Governance & Performance - Anglo-American • Stéphane Janin, Head of Global Regulatory Developments and Public Affairs - AXA IM • Andreas Giannopoulos, Director, Sustainability & ESG - Barclays • Priti Ravi, Director, Sustainable Investing - BlackRock (virtual) • Patricia Torres, Global Head of Sustainable Finance - Bloomberg • Christopher Rich, General Counsel - Financial Markets Standards Board (FMSB) • Carol Thomas, Head of Sustainability and Responsible Investment - The IA • Anthony Belcher, Head of Sustainable Finance - Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) • David Scalzetti, Senior Director of Regulatory Products - Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) (virtual) • Neil Acres, Global Head of Regulatory and Government Affairs - MSCI • Sindhu Krishna, Head of Sustainable Investments – Phoenix Group • Nicole Streuli, EVP Operations & Research - RepRisk • Arthur Carabia, Director ESG Policy Research - Sustainalytics (virtual) • Kushal Shah, Assistant VP, ESG Investment Strategy - State Street Global Advisors (virtual) • David Doyle, Head of Government Affairs and Public Policy - S&P Global • Kevin Gaffney, Director for Secondary Markets - UK Finance • Rene Van Merrienboer, Director of Sustainable Markets - UN PRI (virtual) • Robert Campbell, CFA, Responsible Investment Senior Financial Analyst – USSIM (virtual)
<p>Observers (all virtual except FCA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caspar Siegert, Harriet Richards - Bank of England • Sara Woodroffe (<i>virtual</i>), Dunvel Delias - FCA • Basia Armstrong - HMT • Raluca Tircoci, Jo-Anne Matear – IOSCO • Asaf Barouk, Emily Albertson - SEC • Theresa Jiang, Annabel Lim – MAS
<p>Guest speakers (virtual)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Hodge, Patrick McNamara – Nestor Advisors
<p>Secretariat</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simone Utermarck, Stanislav Egorov, Nicholas Pfaff (<i>virtual</i>) – ICMA • Gordon Mead, Corinna Williams, Madison McSweeney – IRSG
<p>Additional support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lucy Scaramuzza - Slaughter and May