Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on International Standards of Accounting and Reporting (ISAR)

36th SESSION

30 October – 1 November 2019 Room XIX, Palais des Nations, Geneva

Wednesday, 30 October 2019 Morning Session

High-Level panel Impact of sustainability and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development on financial and non-financial enterprise reporting

Presented by

Mario Abela Director, Redefining Value World Business Council for Sustainable Development

This material has been reproduced in the language and form as it was provided. The views expressed are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of UNCTAD.





WBCSD ISAR 36 Session

Oct 2019

Rapidly changing context





Business as usual is...







We need to transform towards sustainable capitalism



Disclosures

FUTURE OF CAPITALS

Cost of capital

RV's focus to date has been on creating solutions



Business decision-making

We aim to *improve internal processes* to incorporate hidden costs and benefits as they relate to environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues

Projects:

- Enterprise Risk Management
- Governance & Internal Oversight
- Assess & Manage Performance (upcoming):
 - Measurement & Valuation
 - Integrated Performance Management



External disclosure

We help companies *communicate decision-useful information* on growth prospects, risks and how both are managed for a more accurate valuation by market participants

Projects:

- <u>Reporting matters</u>
- The Reporting Exchange
- Purpose-driven Disclosure
- <u>Assurance & Internal Controls</u>
- <u>TCFD Preparer Forums</u>



Investor decision-making

We help companies *demonstrate the investment case* for inclusive, sustainable business practices to their internal teams and external stakeholders, help them take advantage of emerging financing mechanisms, and mobilize their own investments

Project:

Aligning Retirement Assets



The global risk landscape is shifting

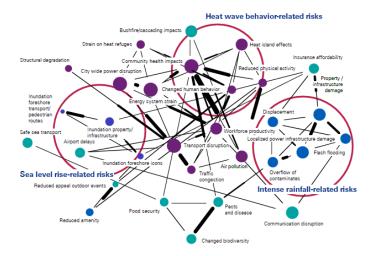
Over the past decade, the focus of top risk impacts and likelihood has moved toward Environmental

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
5 Global Risks: likelihood	Asset price collapse										Extreme weather events
	Slowing Chinese economy (<6%)										Failure of climate-change mitigation and adaptation
	Chronic disease										Natural disasters
	Global governance gaps										Data fraud or theft
Top	Retrenchment from globalization										Cyberattacks
5 Global Risks: impact	Asset price collapse										Weapons of mass destruction
	Retrenchment from globalization (developed)										Failure of climate-change mitigation and adaptation
	Oil and gas price spike										Extreme weather events
	Chronic disease										Water crises
Тор	Fiscal crises									Natural disasters	
	Economic Environm	nental	ental Geopolitical		Sc	cietal	Technological		al		Source: WEF 2019



How companies are **implementing**? Dynamic Risk Assessment

- We are seeing more sophisticated approaches to assessing risks
- We are working with a KPMG to on a pilot study for member firms
- Applied in the Food & Agriculture sector to assess ESG and climate risks



The thickness of the connecting lines in the diagram illustrates the strength of the connections between the individual risks.²

²Graphic adapted from: <u>RPS (2016)</u> City of Sydney Climate Risk and Adaptation: Project Report

Source: Understanding social and environmental risk, kpmg.com/sustainability

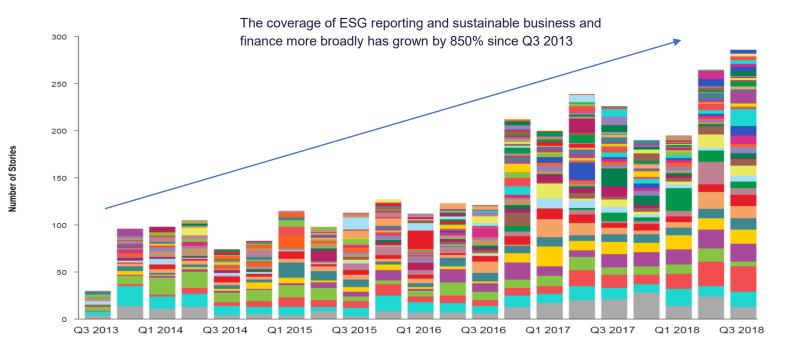




Better data, more useful information



The conversation around ESG reporting and business and investor decision-making has exploded



Source (both graphics): Quid, text analysis 2013-2018 ("ESG" OR "sustainable" OR "sustainability" OR "responsible") AND ("business" OR "finance" OR "investing" OR "investment") OR (" council" OR "coalition" OR "forum" OR "group")

9

Guidance on Improving quality of ESG data

We developed the guidance to

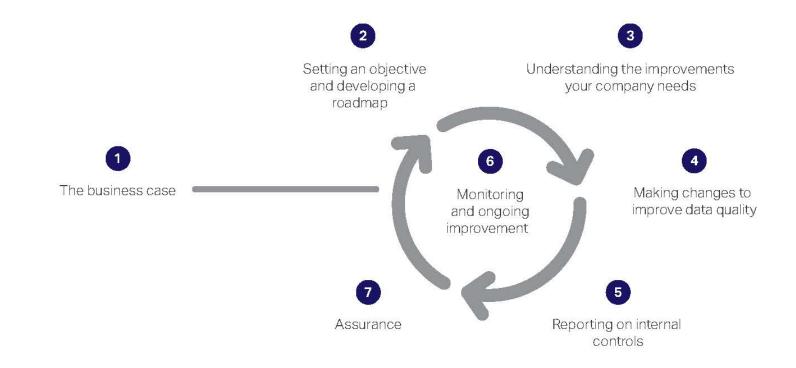
- help companies produce investment grade ESG data by supporting robust control activities improving the process of data collection, analysis and reporting.
- support better decision-making and to facilitate better communication between companies and investors.



https://www.wbcsd.org/Programs/Redefining-Value/External-Disclosure/Assurance-Internal-Controls/Resources/Guidance-on-improving-the-qualityof-ESG-information-for-decision-making



Guidance on improving the quality of ESG information





Reporting matters Key findings

Spanning 159 leading companies from 19 supersectors and 34 countries, this year's research points to continued progress in corporate environmental, social and governance (ESG) reporting and disclosure as well as a continued movement towards digital reporting.

Reporting is improving

88% of member companies in our benchmark have improved their
Overall scores since baseline year 2015;
38% have improved their Materiality score in this timespan.

2 The state of SDG reporting

95% of reports reviewed acknowledge the SDGs in some way; 86% prioritize specific SDGs and present some evidence of alignment and contribution.

The state of integrated reporting

39% of reports reviewed combine financial and non-financial information, up from 26% of our sample in 2015;
20% are self-declared integrated reports.

4 The state of GRI reporting

87% of reports reviewed reference the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI); of those, 77% claim to be in accordance at Core or Comprehensive level.

Governance is strengthening

37% of the 123 companies in our sample with ESG data on Bloomberg Terminals link sustainability performance and executive remuneration, broadly aligned with **39%** in our 2018 sample.

6

The future is digital

23% of reports reviewed provide a digital-first experience; 64% of members with an offline-first approach produce complementary online content (2017: 44%).



TCFD Preparer Forums

- Outputs from TCFD <u>Electric Utilities & Chemicals</u> Preparer Forums added to <u>Oil and Gas</u>, with a particular focus on scenarios, metrics & resilience.
- In October 2019 we convened with the <u>Japanese</u> <u>Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) the</u> <u>first-ever TCFD Summit</u>, providing an important forum for industrial and financial communities to come together to advance the TCFD's recommendations. Preparer Forums reference by Bank of England Governor Mark Carney.
- TCFD Preparer Forum work continues with Food, Agriculture & Forest Products and Construction & Building Materials. These reports will be published in Q1 2020. Also looking to establish Auto Preparer Forum.





TCFD progress & learnings

- Four fifths of the top 1100 G20 companies now disclosing climaterelated financial risks in line with some of the TCFD recommendations
- Three quarters of investors are now using TCFD disclosures when investing and the same percentage report a marked improvement in the quality of climate disclosures
- More needed to support quantity and quality of disclosure, decision-useful metrics and assessment of strategic resilience (these are focus areas for WBCSD Preparer Forums)



Recommendation	Recommended disclosure	Banking	Insurance	Energy	Materials & Buildings	Transport	Agri, Food & Forest	Tech & Media	Consumer Goods
Governance	a. Board Oversight	48%	29%	38%	37%	25%	22%	19%	29%
	b. Management's Role	54%	35%	32%	35%	18%	26%	17%	40%
Strategy	a. Risks and Opportunities	51%	39%	57%	50%	39%	40%	38%	50%
	b. Impact on Organisation	55%						050/	52%
	c. Resilience of the terry	20%	12%	13%	12%	5%	4%	2%	6%
Risk Management	a. Risk ID and Assessment Processes	52%	30%	38%	41%	23%	24%	24%	22%
	b. Risk Management Processes			72 /0	39%	17.70	2070		22%
	c. Integration in Averall Risk Managemen	32%	16%	21%	18%	11%	9%	17%	21%
Metrics and Targets	a. Climate-Related Metrics	51%	27%	49%	63%	36%	45%	37%	55%
	b. Scope 1,2,3 GHG Emissions	42%	22%	39%	41%	28%	26%	29%	38%
	c. Climate-Related Targets	50%	24%	45%	53%	32%	30%	24%	51%



Purpose-Driven Disclosure (PDD)

- The ESG Disclosure Handbook offers guidance and process to help companies navigate the many choices associated with ESG reporting.
- Consultation draft was published in October 2018.
- 200 individuals contributed, with comments from IFAC, IIRC, GRI, A4S, Deloitte, PwC among others.

The Reporting Exchange

- During 2019 we have expanded the data coverage to include 71 countries and >2,000 provisions.
- In April 2019, an Indicator library was included with over 1,400 ESG indicators mapped from nine prominent voluntary reporting frameworks to help companies navigate relevant ESG indicators.







Buyer's guide to assurance of non-financial information

In partnership with ICAEW we are working to produce a procurement guide for buyers of assurance to better understand the process, available options and questions to ask of assurance providers before commissioning an assurance engagement.

Assurance of non-financial information can take many forms, as a result there is often a misunderstanding between what companies (and users) expect from an assurance engagement and what is provided, this has created an expectation gap.







Lead. Transform. Succeed. 2018.