Agenda item 5(a). Progress and challenges in Sustainable Development Goal data collection from companies towards the achievement of Goal 12.6.1, number of companies publishing sustainability reports

Presented by

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World Benchmarking Alliance
Benchmarks provide investors, governments, civil society, individuals and companies with the information they need to drive change and create accountability.

5 ‘keystone’ principles for SDG2000 selection: dominate and control production, connect and influence supply-chain and governance processes and global operational footprint.

Recognise the interconnected nature of the SDGs and requires active involvement of all stakeholders.

By 2023 WBA will publish a series of benchmarks assessing 2,000 companies’ disclosure, performance and impact on the SDGs.

Business is uniquely positioned to influence and drive the transformation to the achievement of the SDGs.

WBA develops free and publicly available benchmarks that measure and compare company performance on the SDGs.

Benchmarking for a better world
Accountability, influence and leadership
Importance of an effective reporting ecosystem

• Harmonise reporting processes through a transparent and multi-stakeholder led process to ensure disclosure recommendations are relevant, credible and consistent.

• Demonstrate corporate contribution or inaction on policy objectives and creating policy feedback loops to measure impact.

• Accountability mechanism to contribute to standardised and effective reporting ecosystem on EU sustainability priorities and challenges.

• COVID-19 pivot: ensuring business influence for good and contributing to resilient systems by aligning short-term economic interests with long-term needs.

• Help companies to measure what matters most to society and the planet, in support of the SDGs.
Key challenges

- Comparability, reliability, and consistency of information.
- Ensuring mandatory disclosure of the organisation’s material positive and negative non-financial impacts on the achievement of the SDGs.
- Clarifying definitions of non-financial performance by making more explicit linkages of disclosure data to corporate sustainability goals.
- Reinforcing the supply of non-financial information through greater harmonisation of data.

- Ensuring that recommended disclosures are appropriate and complete to improve credibility of disclosures.
- Pushing for non-financial disclosures that incorporate data on company impacts across their value chains, including at the supply chain and consumer levels.
- Clear reference to benchmarks as a tool for standardising disclosures based on impact-driven metrics.
- Ensuring the incorporation of the SDGs into business strategy and transparency in relation to risks, opportunities, and impacts.
Moving towards global alignment

- **Improving coherence in corporate reporting** - Working closely with a number of standard setters and forums such as the Impact Management Project and Structured Network.

- **Using the SDG framework** to capture reporting of companies ‘negative’ as well as ‘positive’ impacts is important to move sustainability from being seen by investors as purely a risk.

- **Using corporate performance and impact data** generated through the benchmarks to reinforce the need for certain policy interventions and spotlight areas for action and improvement.

- **Global coordination of non-financial reporting** through global principles, standards, measurement and reporting frameworks to incentivise sustainable finance.
A growing global alliance aimed at helping achieve the SDGs through corporate benchmarking

160 + Allies and growing