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

**37<sup>th</sup> SESSION  
2 – 6 November 2020**

Friday, 6 November 2020

**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**

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# World Benchmarking Alliance

# Benchmarking for a better world

## Accountability, influence and leadership



- 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.
- 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.
- 5 'keystone' principles for SDG2000 selection: dominate and control production, connect and influence supply-chain and governance processes and global operational footprint.
- Benchmarks provide investors, governments, civil society, individuals and companies with the information they need to drive change and create accountability.



# 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