



**INVESTOR ALLIANCE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**

AN ICCR INITIATIVE

Table of Contents

I. INTRODUCTION	3
II. INVESTOR ALLIANCE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS PLATFORM	3
1. COLLECTIVE ACTION ON PRIORITY ISSUES	3
<i>Rapid-response</i>	4
<i>Campaigns</i>	4
2. MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT	5
3. HUMAN RIGHTS CRITERIA AND INVESTMENT DECISION-MAKING	6
III. ALLIANCE MEMBERSHIP	7
IV. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE	8
1. STEERING COMMITTEE	8
2. INVESTOR ALLIANCE ADVISORY GROUP	8
V. CONCLUSION	9

I. Introduction

Since the adoption of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in 2011, the corporate responsibility to respect human rights and remedy adverse impacts when they occur has been set in stone. Given the range of current threats to human rights domestically and globally, and the need to ensure greater accountability for corporate human rights abuses, coordinated investor action is needed to press companies to uphold their responsibility to respect human rights, and make sure state actors create environments that enable responsible business conduct.

To help meet this challenge, the Investor Alliance for Human Rights provides a constructive engagement platform for a variety of investors to increase their leverage and capacity on human rights and business risks through targeted action, multi-stakeholder engagement and education.

This document provides an overview of the components that make up the Alliance: collective action; multi-stakeholder engagement; and support for integration of human rights criteria into investment decision-making. It also summarizes what membership in the Alliance entails as well as its governance structure.

II. Investor Alliance for Human Rights Platform

The Alliance is made up of three components:

1. Collective action on priority issues

The Alliance provides investors with opportunities for collective action on priority human rights risks across sectors and throughout the value chain. The Alliance also convenes, informs, and activates investors to make a timely business case to corporate and state actors on human rights concerns, including through a rapid response function to ensure that the investor voice is clearly heard on urgent human rights and business issues.

The process for identifying potential human rights and business issues to be addressed includes:

- Ongoing research and mapping of issues and initiatives in the human rights and business field;
- Collaboration with non-profit organizations (NGOs), trade unions, community-led organizations and other stakeholders to identify emerging issues and gaps; and
- Investors raising issues for consideration.

The activities to address priority issues fall under two categories: rapid-response and campaigns. In both cases, criteria to help guide decision-making around which issues to work on have been developed. There is overlap in terms of criteria as well as in the activities of rapid-response and campaign efforts given the cross-cutting relevance of certain factors. For example, the business case for human rights is of central

importance. This implies assessing the degree of business proximity to the issue, as well as the risk to people, realizing that where risks to human rights are greatest, there is overlap with risk to business, including operational, reputational and legal risks.

Rapid-response

Rapid-response activities are time-sensitive investor initiatives that may target a range of stakeholders.

Criteria for choosing rapid –response issues	Rapid-response actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business case for addressing the issue • Degree of investor interest and consensus on the issue • Severity of human rights impact (for example, killings of human rights defenders) • Scale of human rights impact (for example, wages below the living wage) • Urgent human rights crisis with a compelling nexus to the investor community • Recent or upcoming changes to law, regulation, policy, budget, and judicial and non-judicial remedy mechanisms • Time-sensitive initiative by partner organization • Opportunity to gain visibility for the Alliance • Opportunity for positive impact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investors letters to business and states • Media outreach • Shareholder resolutions and proxy voting • Company dialogues • Meeting with state actors • Meeting with impacted communities and stakeholders to demonstrate interest of investor community

Campaigns

Throughout 2018, 2-3 campaign issues will be identified and relevant activities carried out.

Criteria for choosing priority issues	Campaign activities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business case • Scale of real and potential impacts • Severity of real and potential impacts • Added value of investor engagement/ Opportunity for positive impact • Investor interest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investor letters to business and states • Shareholder resolutions and proxy voting • Company dialogues • Convening multi-stakeholder roundtables. • Participating in multi-stakeholder initiatives with states and companies

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major emerging issue that presents human rights and business impacts (for example, artificial intelligence, future of work) • Current gaps in law, regulation, policy, judicial and non-judicial remedy • Opportunities for collaboration with other stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media outreach: Aim for 4-6 articles a year • Meeting state actors • Meeting with international and regional institutions
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2. Multi-stakeholder engagement

In order to maximize the impact of investor leverage on human rights risks, the Alliance will target and collaborate with a broad range of stakeholders:

Stakeholders	Activities
Business actors: companies, business associations and multi-stakeholder initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters raising concerns and targeted recommendations • Shareholder resolutions and proxy voting • Company dialogues • Multi-stakeholder roundtables hosted by the Alliance • Participation in multi-stakeholder initiatives with companies, for example, the Global Network Initiative (GNI), Leadership Group for Responsible Recruitment, Responsible Business Alliance on Responsible Labor Initiative, Bangladesh Accord for Fire and Building Safety
State actors: executive, legislature, judicial and multi-stakeholder initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letters raising concerns and targeted recommendations • Meetings with officials • Collaborating with partners on follow-up actions • Participating in high-level engagements, for example, congressional hearings where relevant • Participating in multi-stakeholder initiatives with states, for example, in National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights processes, Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, among others
International and regional Institutions: United Nations, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD),	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in relevant process and consultations regarding the development of standards and guidelines business

<p>International Labour Organization (ILO), European Union, G-20, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), among others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in relevant processes, including in relation to UN Working Group on business and human rights, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and UN binding treaty discussions • Host side-events and hearings at relevant meetings, for example, at UN Forum and hearings with partners at Inter-American Commission on Human Rights
<p>Development banks: IFC, Inter-American Development Bank, among others</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actions aimed at improving bank standards
<p>NGOs, trade unions, community-based organizations, national human rights institutions, faith groups and academics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formalizing key partnerships, including through MoUs where needed • Quarterly meetings with partners to identify emerging issues, new tools and guidance, campaigns, gaps in human rights and business field • Develop joint products and tools (for example, guidance, publications, letters, and targeted research) based on the needs of the Alliance • Host webinars and/or meetings for Alliance with partners • Host side-event on Alliance with investors and partners, for example, at UN Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights, in addition to key investor conferences

3. Human rights criteria and investment decision-making

To support the integration of human rights criteria into investment decision-making it is necessary to provide investors with capacity and resources. The Alliance will:

- Launch a microsite on the Alliance. The microsite is geared, inter alia, to building the capacity of the Alliance on business and human rights;
- Disseminate to investors relevant tools and guidance, among other resources. For example, the UN Guiding Principles Reporting Framework (Shift), the Corporate Human Rights Benchmark, Human Rights Indicators for Business (DIHR) and Know The Chain;
- Include a Partners Page on the microsite to direct investors to their websites, resources, publications and guidance;
- Host periodic webinars on specific human rights and business issues. Guest speakers will be invited to participate;

- In the medium-term, develop a publication with guidance on:
 1. The investor case for human rights;
 2. Background: Human rights and business and policy coherence with other frameworks, for example, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, among others;
 3. Guidance:
 - Ensuring responsible business conduct: how investors can engage with companies on human rights due diligence and providing remedy with examples; and,
 - Creating an environment for responsible business conduct: how investors can engage with states to make sure they protect and remedy human rights with examples;
- Host side-events at key investor conferences.

III. Alliance Membership

Investors of all categories are encouraged to join and participate in the Alliance, including, but not limited to, asset managers, state pension funds, faith-based institutions, trade unions and family funds.

Membership in the Alliance is free of charge and provides members with:

- Multiple opportunities to participate in strategic investor actions geared to address human rights risks;
- Increased influence and impact through collective action with a broad range of investors and strategic partners;
- Opportunity for investors to bring their issues to the Alliance to increase their influence;
- Increased access to information on human rights risks and impacts to help shape investor decision-making, strategies and priorities for action on human rights;
- Regular updates and guidance regarding investor tools and guidance for more effective human rights engagements;
- Partnership with investors with long-term experience addressing human rights issues.

In a given year, Alliance members can expect to be involved in one or several Alliance initiatives, ranging from letter-writing on urgent human rights and business issues to presenting shareholder resolutions, voting proxies and participating in multi-stakeholder initiatives.

While the Alliance offers a collective action platform, rapid-response and campaign actions will only be carried out in the name of those investors involved in the activities, not on behalf of the Alliance as a whole.

To further support communication and involvement among Alliance members, a listserv has been created. Alliance members receive monthly newsletters with Alliance news, developments in the human rights and

business field, including new tools and guidance, as well as information on relevant events, among other things.

Investor can sign-up to join the Alliance [here](#).

IV. Governance Structure

1. Steering Committee

The Steering Committee will be made of 6-8 investors to help guide the activities of the Alliance in coordination with ICCR staff. Half of the members will be ICCR members, while the rest will be drawn from a diverse segment of the investor community, for example, public pension funds, labor union pension funds, asset managers. At least one member of the Steering Committee will be from the ICCR Board.

Roles and responsibilities

- Help the alliance prioritize rapid-response and campaign issues
- Advise on the Alliance’s strategy

Process

- Anticipate quarterly calls
- Decision-making via email

2. Investor Alliance Advisory Group

A human rights advisory group will be created and managed by ICCR to ensure effective and efficient coordination and collaboration with key external experts and partners. The members of the advisory group may be from:

- NGOs with human rights and business expertise from the global north and south
- Trade unions
- National human rights institutions
- Academia

Roles and responsibilities

- Help inform the Alliance of key developments in human rights and business
- Identify key opportunities for coordination and collaboration with the Alliance
- Support engagement of the Alliance with affective workers and communities

Process

- Quarterly calls
- TBD

V. Conclusion

By providing a platform for strategic investor action and multi-stakeholder engagement, the Alliance offers investors an opportunity to maximize their capacity and leverage to tackle new and ongoing threats to human rights, and ensure greater corporate respect for the rights of individuals and groups in the workplace, in communities, throughout the value chain and in society.

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