LIAISON DELEGATE MEETING

wbcsd

BREAKOUT SESSION:

The S in ESG: accelerating the transition to meaningful social disclosure

EQUITY ACTION

ACTION: Companies should prepare to meet the expectations of investors, policymakers and standard-setters with the S in ESG increasingly on their agendas.

SESSION OVERVIEW

Investor and broader stakeholder interest in the S in ESG is evolving and growing rapidly, however corporate disclosure and associated standards when it comes to the reporting of social issues lags significantly behind that of environmental and governance issues.

Recent analysis from the World Benchmarking Alliance shows that out of the World's 1,000 most influential companies only 1% are adequately demonstrating socially responsible business conduct through their disclosure.

The key issues on what companies should be reporting, the gaps and challenges that companies currently face and the solutions that will help pave the way toward social disclosure that more adequately paints a picture of corporate performance, were shared.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

A wide range of stakeholders are recognizing the systemic risk posed by inequality and have mounting expectations when it comes to the role of business in addressing this risk.

- At present there is an absence of a clearly defined universal action agenda for business when it comes to social performance, as well as a fragmented disclosure landscape WBCSD is working to address this through the Business Commission to Tackle Inequality.
- Companies are currently disclosing only a fraction of the information needed for investors and other stakeholders to genuinely understand and assess their social performance.
- Data collection and disclosure is a key driver of enhanced performance.
- The S in ESG is increasingly on the agenda of investors, policymakers and standard-setters, and companies should be preparing themselves to meet these expectations.

GET IN TOUCH

To learn more about WBCSD's work on equity, including the Business Commission on Tackling Inequality, please contact: James Gomme, Director, Equity Action, WBCSD