

UNLOCKING ESG FOR BOARDS

FROM STRATEGY TO DISCLOSURE

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The Impact of ESG on Investing



Sarah Keyes

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We cannot really look at one ESG factor in isolation.

The vast majority of assets that are utilizing a responsible investing or sustainable investing approach are using an ESG integration strategy.

The role of ESG integration strategies is to identify, assess, and mitigate ESG risks and opportunities within an investment portfolio.

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Since the pandemic hit in 2020, we've seen exponential growth and attention in terms of investor interest, responsible investing, and the ESG risks and opportunities of investments before they allocate capital.

The Impact of ESG on Investing

Regulations within the MENA region & Nigeria



Dr. Ashraf Gamal El Din

In the MENA region, companies have been reacting voluntarily, with many due to regulatory pressures. Region regulators are also putting emphasis on the ESG issues. GCC countries, which have been known to actually export capital and invest in other countries, are also trying to attract investors to come to the region.



Tinuade Awe, ACIS

In Nigeria there has been some regulatory activity. For example, NGX has sustainability disclosure guidelines that were issued in 2019. The SEC, last year (2021) in November, issued guidelines on sustainability for the banking sector in Nigeria – sustainable banking principles.

Integrating ESG into Strategy



Alejandra Medina

We have certainly many areas discussing how to improve the disclosure from companies. You can have ESG rating companies, you can have investors demanding the information, but if the disclosure from companies doesn't improve or only the ones who adhere to a standard are good, this makes it very difficult to read what is disclosed by companies.



Dr. Ashraf Gamal El Din

Reporting is really quite important in the process. You start from the top — board of directors, management. Your strategy and your reporting have to be aligned with the ESG and you have to select global reporting standards so that people can benchmark you against other peers in the same industry, and in other regions as well.

ESG Disclosures (Regulations and Frameworks)



Alejandra Medina

Different regulators are adhering to different standards, some of them are mixing the standards, some are building their own local standards. We need a bit more guidance on what standard we should use.



Tinuade Awe, ACIS

As a regulator of market in Nigeria, I realized that it's not that companies don't really want to deal with ESG issues, there is a capacity problem and a knowledge gap.



Dr. Ashraf Gamal El Din

One of the key elements we have to work on is capacity building and creating real awareness, even among regulators, because I've seen regulators in the region who issued codes and guidelines that people don't understand properly.

ESG and Digitisation



Lau Shih Hor

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There are four imperatives in starting the ESG digitisation journey:

- 1. Automate** data collection and workflow
- 2. Validate** the digitized data
- 3. Mitigate** progress by giving ownership to key personnel
- 4. Navigate** through this continual journey

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We need to manage all these changes to inculcate, to promote ownership. The whole sustainability is about change, and change comes about when we are taking ownership.



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