# Principles for Responsible Investment

# **GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Approved by the PRI Board in September 2023

# **1. CONSTITUTION**

- 1.1 The PRI Association Board (the Board) has established a committee of the Board, known as the Governance Committee, with terms of reference as set out below.
- 1.2 The Articles of Association of PRI Association (the Articles) state that Directors may: (i) constitute committees to facilitate the workings of the Board; and (ii) may, if they choose, delegate any of their powers to those committees on the basis set out in the Articles.
- 1.3 All committees constituted in accordance with Articles must follow procedures which are based as far as they are applicable on those provisions of the Articles which govern the taking of decisions by the Directors.
- 1.4 The terms of reference of, and any delegation of executive power by the Board to, a committee must be recorded in the Board's minutes.
- 1.5 The Directors may revoke or alter a delegation in whole or part, or alter its terms and conditions.
- 1.6 As instructed by the Articles Directors must specify in writing the terms of reference (including such conditions as they see fit) of each committee in accordance with the Articles.
- 1.7 No rule, policy or terms of reference will be inconsistent with anything contained in the Articles, but in the event of any inconsistency, the Articles will prevail.

# 2. PURPOSE

- 2.1 The Board committee's purpose is to provide guidance to the Executive and make recommendations to the Board as necessary on:
- 2.1.1 the Board and company's governance, including guidelines, policies and practices;
- 2.1.2 the PRI Board's effectiveness, including skills, diversity and expertise;
- 2.1.3 the PRI Board elections;
- 2.1.4 signatory categorisation; and
- 2.1.5 signatory accountability and any other issues around signatory status.
- 2.2 The committee's responsibility and authority covers the entire PRI Association, any subsidiary companies and any joint ventures that may be entered into.

### 3. DUTIES, PRI GOVERNANCE

- 3.1 The Board is responsible for oversight of good governance including decisions related to the Board Code of Ethics and Conduct, and ethical issues in general related to the Company.
- 3.2 The role of the committee includes but is not limited to providing guidance and recommendations, as necessary, to the Executive and Board on:
- 3.2.1 the Board and company governance, including guidelines, policies and practices;
- 3.2.2 governance framework for strategic collaborations that the PRI might enter into;
- 3.2.3 the Board Code of Ethics and Conduct this includes evaluating potential conflicts of interest where it is requested to do so by the Board, Executive or signatories and advising whether an 'interest' requires registration, reviewing suspected breaches of the Code of Ethics and Conduct referred to the committee (by a PRI employee, Director, UN partner or signatory)



before making a recommendation to the Board on possible sanctions and acting as a point of contact for signatories or stakeholders.

3.3 The role of the committee does not extend to operational governance within the Executive. The CEO is responsible for the leadership and management of operational and administrative functions.

# 4. DUTIES, PRI BOARD EFFECTIVENESS, INCLUDING SKILLS, DIVERSITY AND EXPERTISE

- 4.1 The role of the committee is to provide guidance and recommendations to the Board on the measures to promote a Board with the appropriate skills, diversity and expertise for the Board as a whole to carry out its duties effectively. This may include:
- 4.1.1 coordinating the Board self-assessment and external independent review processes including recommending any changes;
- 4.1.2 at the direction of the board evaluating and making recommendations to the Board on committee functionality, composition and structure to ensure that the Board is effectively supported by committees;
- 4.1.3 evaluating and keeping under review the composition of the Board, including the balance of skills, knowledge, experience and diversity of the Board (and the changes likely to be necessary for the future);
- 4.1.4 making recommendations to the Board, on the basis of the results of the Board assessment, on the programme for Board learning and development;
- 4.1.5 oversight of the Board induction process;
- 4.1.6 utilising the annual Board assessment results to identify key skills or experience gaps and making recommendations to the Board on skills and experience requested in the election notice for potential candidates and / or ask signatories to reflect upon the identified key skills or experience gaps when considering the election candidates;
- 4.1.7 making recommendations to the Board on any additional eligibility requirements for candidates wishing to stand for election as Directors with a view to setting high leadership standards and enhancing the collective skills and / or experience and / or diversity of the Board
- 4.1.8 identifying diversity gaps and recommending to the Board that the PRI asks signatories to consider diversity when voting for candidates.

### 5. DUTIES, PRI BOARD ELECTIONS

- 5.1 The role of the committee includes the oversight of the election (Annual, Mid-Term and Extraordinary) processes, including:
- 5.1.1 the notification and guidance to potential candidates and signatories on skills, diversity and experience requested or required on the Board generally and for specific Board elections.
- 5.1.2 the eligibility of candidates as set out in the Articles and any additional eligibility requirements.
- 5.1.3 the election timetable, communications, election campaigning, voting procedures and other election processes.
- 5.1.4 reporting to the Board after every election process, including an evaluation of the election process, reporting any complaints received and providing recommendations and guidance to the Board on how to improve the election process.
- 5.2 Outside of the defined election processes the committee will also:
- 5.2.1 oversee the maintenance of a 'registry of interest' of potential candidates that have declared an interest to the PRI in serving on the Board; and



5.2.2 facilitate proactive outreach to the signatory base, through local and regional networks, to familiarise potential candidates with the Board role and requirements.

# 6. DUTIES, SIGNATORY CATEGORISATION

- 6.1 Signatory categories are defined in the PRI Articles and supporting rules.
- 6.2 It is the ultimate decision of the Board to determine signatory status and which signatory category an organisation belongs to, according to the Articles and supporting rules.
- 6.3 The role of the committee, with regards to signatory status and categorisation, includes but is not limited to:
- 6.3.1 provide guidance to the Executive on the interpretation of the Articles and the supporting rules approved by the Board:
- 6.3.2 make recommendations to the Board on new precedents and / or items of significant risk;
- 6.3.3 seek the final decision of the Board on items that the committee is not in agreement or uncertain of;
- 6.3.4 recommend decisions to the Board that have been escalated via the signatory appeal process; and
- 6.3.5 review on an annual basis rules related to signatory categorisation and status.

# 7. DUTIES, SIGNATORY ACCOUNTABILITY - MINIMUM STANDARDS

- 7.1 The Board, by way of a majority vote of the Board, has the authority to delist a signatory if the Board believes the signatory has not made sufficient effort to meet the minimum requirements for commitment to the six Principles or if the Board believes the behaviour of the signatory puts the integrity of the initiative at risk.
- 7.2 The Board can delegate the investigation, recommendations and monitoring of any scenario within this policy to a committee or other suitable body. The Board can delegate the investigation, recommendations and monitoring of failure to meet minimum requirements to a Board committee and / or the Executive. The final decision to engage, monitor and or delist a signatory resides with the Board. The Board has oversight of the engagement process.
- 7.3 The Board has the authority to approve exceptions to the minimum requirements.
- 7.4 The role of the committee, with regards to signatory accountability minimum standards, includes but is not limited to:
- 7.4.1 recommend to the Board the engagement list of signatories that fail to meet the minimum requirements;
- 7.4.2 oversee the engagement process and progress;
- 7.4.3 recommend to the Board signatories to delist after or during the engagement period for insufficient effort to meet the minimum requirements;
- 7.4.4 recommend to the Board any exceptions to the minimum requirements and measures to ensure that the PRI is transparent about its decision-making;
- 7.4.5 recommend decisions to the Board that have been escalated via the signatory appeal process; and
- 7.4.6 review the minimum requirements periodically and recommend to the Board any revisions to the criteria, process, and any related rules

# 8. DUTIES, SIGNATORY ACCOUNTABILITY - INTEGRITY OF THE PRI INITIATIVE

8.1 The Board, by way of a majority vote of the Board, has the authority to delist a signatory if the Board believes the behaviour of the signatory puts the integrity of the initiative at risk.



- 8.2 The Board can delegate the investigation, recommendations and monitoring of any scenario within this policy to a committee or other suitable body.
- 8.3 The final decision(s) to engage, monitor and / or delist resides with the Board.
- 8.4 The role of the committee, with regards to signatory accountability integrity of the PRI initiative, includes but is not limited to:
- 8.4.1 investigate any signatory behaviour, escalated from the Executive or requested by the Board, that might put the integrity of the initiative at risk;
- 8.4.2 recommend to the Board a course of action, including but not limited to engagement, monitoring and / or delisting;
- 8.4.3 oversee the engagement process and progress if required; and
- 8.4.4 review the accountability criteria as required and recommend to the Board any revisions to the criteria, process, and any related rules.

#### 9. DUTIES

- 9.1 The Board may request the committee to recommend the criteria and search process for a new Board Chair.
- 9.2 The committee will also consider other topics, as referred to it from time to time by the Board.

#### **10. COMPOSITION**

- 10.1The committee will comprise of PRI board directors and at least one Permanent UN advisor. The committee must include representatives from asset owner, investment manager and service provider signatories.
- 10.2There is to be a minimum of four and a maximum of six committee members at all times.
- 10.3Any Director standing for election must recuse themselves from discussions related to the elections.
- 10.4The PRI Board Chair cannot be a member of the committee.
- 10.5Committee members and the committee chair are appointed by the Board.

### 11. QUROUM

11.1 A quorum of the committee is set out in the table below:

Committee members	Quorum
3	2
4	3
5	3
6	4

#### **12. MEETING PROCEDURES**

- 12.1In the absence of the committee chair, the remaining members present can elect one of themselves to chair the meeting.
- 12.2Questions arising at any meeting must be determined by a majority of votes of the committee members present that are entitled to vote.
- 12.3In the case of an equality of votes, the chair of the committee will not have a second or casting vote but a decision on the relevant matter must be referred to the next available meeting of the Directors.



### **13. ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS**

- 13.1The expectation is that committee members attend all committee meetings, either in person or by virtually.
- 13.20ther Board Directors and Permanent UN Advisors have the right to attend the committee meetings.
- 13.3Permanent UN Advisors, members of the PRI Executive and any advisers appointed by the committee may attend any meeting of the committee if invited by the committee.
- 13.4The Chief Operating Officer is the Executive Team lead of the committee.
- 13.5The PRI Director of Governance, Risk and Compliance or their nominee is the secretary of the committee and will attend the meetings.

#### **14. FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS**

14.1 Meetings are to be held not less than twice annually and at such other times as required.

### **15. NOTICE OF MEETINGS**

- 15.1Meetings of the committee are called by the secretary of the committee at the request of the committee chair.
- 15.2Unless otherwise agreed, notice of each meeting confirming the venue, time and date together with an agenda of items to be discussed, are to be forwarded to each member of the committee, any other person required to attend, no later than five working days before the meeting. Supporting papers are to be sent to committee members and to other attendees as appropriate, at the same time.

### **16. MINUTES OF MEETINGS**

- 16.1The secretary of the committee will ensure that a formal record of committee proceedings and resolutions is maintained.
- 16.2Following approval of the minutes by the chair of the committee they are to be circulated to all members of the committee for final approval.

# **17. AUTHORITY**

- 17.1The committee is authorised by the Board to:
- 17.1.1 investigate, or cause to be investigated, any activity within its terms of reference and make any recommendations which it deems appropriate on any area where action or improvement is needed;
- 17.1.2 seek any information that it requires from any employee or Director of the Company in order to perform its duties and require all employees to co-operate with any request made by the committee;
- 17.1.3 obtain at the Company's expense, so long as resources permit, external legal or independent professional advice from such advisers as the committee select, who may at the invitation of the committee attend meetings as necessary;
- 17.1.4 meet for despatch of its business, adjourn and otherwise regulate its meetings as it sees fit including approving items of business by the written resolution procedure set out in the Articles; and
- 17.1.5 delegate any of its duties as is appropriate to such persons or person as it thinks fit.



#### 18. REVIEW

- 18.1 The committee will conduct an annual review of its performance, ensure that it is provided with sufficient resources to undertake its duties and recommend any changes it considers necessary to the Board for approval.
- 18.2 These terms of reference will be reviewed and, where necessary updated, at least once a year.

## **19. REPORTING PROCEDURES**

- 19.1The committee chair is responsible for reporting to the Board the activities of the committee at the next available Board meeting, either verbally or in writing, or earlier if required. The approved minutes of all meetings and resolutions of the committee are to be circulated in a timely manner to the Board after every meeting. The secretary will retain copies of the minutes and the papers.
- 19.1The committee terms of reference, including any duties delegated by the Board, will be disclosed on the PRI website.
- 19.2The Board will provide an annual report to signatories on the committee's activities, including any recommendations made, the number of meetings and attendance by each committee member.

19.3.

Version No.	Approved by	Owner	Date approved	Date last updated	Review date	Review frequency	Next review date
1.03	PRI Board	Chief Operating Officer	September 2023	September 2023	September 2023	Every year	September 2024

