

FRANCOPHONE REFERENCE GROUP: TERMS OF REFERENCE

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A. BACKGROUND

The PRI is the largest responsible investment organisation in the world. The PRI’s signatory base is unique in both its scale and diversity. It now has signatories in more than 80 countries, with different regulations and cultures. This scale and diversity offer the opportunity to collaborate and to influence widely, drawing on the vast knowledge base of the PRI’s network of signatories and stakeholders. This also means that there is a need to bring the PRI ever closer to signatories in their markets, with the aims to tailor resources, personalise and localise content and enhance user journeys and experiences.

The PRI [Francophone Programme](#), established in 2017, aims at promoting responsible investment within French-speaking countries, particularly among asset owners, by producing key PRI material in French and by organising activities specifically for its French-speaking signatories.

In 2018, the PRI established a Francophonie Advisory Committee or “Comité consultatif de la Francophonie” to help guide the PRI by providing strategic guidance on the effective prioritisation and delivery of the Francophone Programme, subject to the limitations imposed by PRI’s budget and other resource constraints. The term of the Francophonie Advisory Committee ended on 30 September 2021.

Under the strategic guidance of the Francophonie Advisory Committee, the Francophone Programme has delivered a variety of tools and events that promote responsible investment amongst French-speaking PRI signatories as well as French-speaking markets.

B. OBJECTIVES

In order to promote inclusivity as well as further support and raise awareness about the activities of the Francophone Programme, the PRI is now establishing a Francophone Reference Group.

A PRI Reference Group allows for information sharing and exchange with individuals that work within signatory organisations with specific interest, expertise, and roles. Reference Groups were established so that the PRI can keep the group informed, exchange information and use the members as a reference point. This type of PRI signatory group is particularly fit for purpose in this context to maximise:

- PRI engagement with its Francophone signatory base,
- The breadth of input from signatories,
- Increase adoption of more varied and flexible approaches to connecting with signatories
- And accommodate projected signatory growth over the next years.

The purpose of this group is for French-speaking PRI signatories to share developments, suggestions and questions on the PRI activities in general and in Francophone regions, as well as to ensure that the PRI’s [Francophone Programme](#) activities support the promotion of responsible investment amongst French-speaking PRI signatories as well as French-speaking markets.

C. MEMBERS

These terms of reference apply to the Francophone Reference Group, which is a group of French-speaking, responsible investment professionals committed to supporting the provision of the Francophone Programme referred to above.

Members of the Francophone Reference Group may be invited by the PRI or may request to join by emailing francophonie@unpri.org.

Members are welcome to join provided they meet the following criteria:

- Is a PRI signatory (asset owner, investment manager or service provider);
- Native or fluent French speaker from a country in which French is widely spoken,
- Proactive interest in promoting responsible investment in Francophone countries and regions; and

Members join the group in their capacity as representatives of their signatory organisation. There is no limit to the number of signatories that can join the Reference Group, however, a maximum of two members can join per organisation.

D. RESPONSIBILITIES

PRI Executive

The PRI plays an active role in leading and coordinating the Francophone Reference Group and commits to:

- Provide expertise from either internal or external sources, convening, and facilitating regular meetings of the group. The frequency of the calls will be based on updates to share related to the Francophone Programme;

Francophone Reference Group members

Proactive participation from all members is necessary for an effective signatory group. The PRI has the authority to remove signatory participants that do not abide by the agreed Terms of Reference.

Indicative responsibilities include:

- Joining calls to share information and providing views on relevant issues. The frequency of the calls will be based on updates to share related to the Francophone Programme;
- Being available for consultation with the PRI in relation to the development and progress of the PRI Francophone Programme's work (for example relating to content for translations, Francophone events, etc); and

All members are welcome to undertake additional work, for example, drafting documents if their schedules enable them to do so.

PRI Board Oversight

The PRI Board oversees the constructive relationship between the Executive and Signatories as well as acting as a final point of escalation on matters related to the Executive's work to drive signatory implementation of the Principles, including ESG incorporation, active ownership, collaboration and reporting. The Board has oversight of the terms of reference for all advisory committees and working groups but note this group does not have formal representation on the Board.

E. CODE OF CONDUCT, CONFIDENTIALITY, AND PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS PROTOCOL

The PRI will provide these Terms of Reference on the PRI website and can provide the names of members of the Francophone Reference Group on request.

Conduct

Signatories must refrain from using signatory forums (including the Francophone Reference Group) for explicit commercial purposes and should focus on furthering the goals and objectives as defined above. Reference Group members should treat their colleagues and PRI staff with courtesy and respect. Failure to meet these requirements may also lead the signatory being removed from the committee.

Confidentiality

The PRI may record Reference Group's calls for internal purposes (i.e., note taking). Recordings are not circulated externally, including to members of groups, as they are presumed to be confidential and sharing them could increase the risk that discussions inadvertently appear in the public domain. Where recordings of group discussions are taken, PRI staff will state at the start of the call that the call is being recorded for note-taking purposes. Call recordings will be deleted within 1 year. Where external experts present to groups on a particular topic, with their prior permission a webinar or audio recording may be taken and shared publicly and /or with investors as a resource.

Communication

The PRI is empowered to reference feedback received from the Francophone Reference Group in general terms and given the terms of confidentiality, will not attribute comments to specific members without prior consent.

F. CONTACT

If you are interested in understanding more about the Francophone Reference Group, please contact francophonie@unpri.org.