

ASSET OWNER TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR)

Revised 21st April 2021.

A. INTRODUCTION

The Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)'s signatories are its greatest strength. Being on top of the investment chain, Asset Owners particularly play a crucial role in accelerating responsible investment throughout PRI's signatory base and beyond. One priority of the PRI's [blueprint](#) is to empower asset owners as responsible investors, focusing on championing ESG incorporation throughout organisations, enabling asset owners to effectively oversee and monitor investment managers and establishing asset owners' responsibilities to their beneficiaries in extension to the traditional risk/return profile. The [Asset Owner work stream](#) has and will be a key strategic priority since its inauguration in January 2016 through 2027.

Advisory Committees provide opportunities for signatories to convene, share knowledge and collaborate on responsible investment. Through signatory groups, the PRI Executive (Executive) delivers practical tools, events and support on the implementation of the Six Principles on a global basis. The Asset Owner Technical Advisory Committee advises the Executive on the strategy and execution of the PRI Asset Owner work stream.

This ToR has been drafted in full accordance with the [PRI Rules for Advisory Committees and Working Groups](#) (approved by the PRI Board in June 2015).

B. OBJECTIVES

The objective of the work stream is to increase Asset Owner engagement on responsible investment. The Advisory Committee puts that objective into practice by enabling, supporting and facilitating PRI to:

- Provide tools and guides to enable Asset Owners to implement responsible investment policies;
- Create insight into the benefits and opportunities of ESG incorporation and stewardship for Asset Owners;
- Build outreach and engagement with industry stakeholders including industry associations, existing and potential PRI signatories;

These objectives have been proposed by the Executive and can be refined over time.

C. MEMBERS

TARGET COMPOSITION

- 1 Asset Owner PRI Signatory chair;
- 15-20 PRI Asset Owner Signatory members;
- A balanced geographical spread;
- A broad and diverse range of skills, backgrounds and expertise;
- Relative seniority within signatories' organisations;
- Demonstrated interest in the role Asset Owners play to accelerate responsible investment throughout global investment chains.

The composition of the Asset Owner Technical Advisory Committee can be found on the PRI [website](#).

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS

The Executive will publicise membership opportunities as they arise via relevant newsletters and the PRI website for a minimum of four weeks. The Executive will review all submitted applications. Final decisions on the Asset Owner Technical Advisory Committee composition are at the discretion of the Executive.

The balanced composition of the Asset Owner Technical Advisory Committee will be preserved to the greatest extent possible when replacing outgoing members.

Advisory Committee members are required to attend at least three Committee meetings a year, and are requested to attend all meetings of the Committee. The Executive has the discretion to accept two representatives from an organisation to sit on the Advisory Committee; in which case(s), dual representation should offer complementary strengths rather than duplication.

If a member steps down from the Advisory Committee during their tenure, they are welcome to appoint an appropriate replacement from their organisation (according to the criteria described above). If the replacing member does not demonstrate the required level of commitment and engagement, then the Executive may terminate that signatory's participation and invite other interested signatories to participate. The PRI Executive have discretion whether to accept a replacement from their organisation.

TENURE

- Members are appointed for a three calendar year term;
- Members have the option at the end of each year to step down;
- The Executive will review the Advisory Committee composition on an annual basis, with the aim of balancing continuity and change;
- The term of the Chair is typically between one and three years, and will be evaluated on an annual basis. The maximum tenure for a Chair is six years;

- The maximum tenure for a signatory organisation to sit on the Advisory Committee, is six consecutive years.

D. RESPONSIBILITIES

ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE

The Executive manages the productivity of the Advisory Committee and will assess the groups' objectives, work plan and composition on a regular basis.

The Executive commits to:

- Convening and administering Advisory Committee meetings;
- Keeping Advisory Committee members updated on Asset Owner work stream activities in between meetings whenever necessary;
- Developing the Asset Owner work stream plan for discussion by the Advisory Committee;
- Providing expertise required for Asset Owner work stream activities from either internal or external sources;
- Providing support in the form of background research and pitching material for Asset Owner Technical Advisory Committee members who are undertaking outreach and engagement activities on behalf of PRI;
- Coordinating communication on the activities of the Asset Owner work stream to signatories and PRI Board;
- Managing communication flows with PRI and its regional networks on Asset Owner work stream activities.

ROLE OF THE CHAIR

The Asset Owner Advisory Committee Chair commits to dedicating sufficient time and resources to fulfil Chairing responsibilities, which include, but are not limited to:

- Chairing meetings;
- Advising the Executive regarding relevant Asset Owner insights;
- Providing the Executive with guidance and working with the Executive to provide leadership to the Advisory Committee as needed.

ROLE OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Asset Owner Technical Advisory Committee members are expected to act in an advisory role to the Executive on the work stream strategy and activity. Members of the Advisory Committee agree to commit sufficient time to participating, promoting and overseeing the Asset Owner work stream.

Typical responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- A minimum of three Advisory Committee meetings/conference calls per year, between one and two hours duration per meeting/call;
- Regular guidance/feedback to the Executive on relevant Asset Owner insights. This may include providing advice/feedback on outputs such as publications, toolkits and the work stream strategy;
- Outreach and engagement with peers on behalf of PRI. The Executive can provide support in the form of background research and pitching material.

All Advisory Committee members are welcome to undertake additional work in the context of the Asset Owner Technical Advisory Committee, such as drafting and reviewing working papers if their schedule enables to do so, in coordination with the Executive.

E. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The Executive will report to the committee on Asset Owner Technical Advisory Committee activities in preparation of committee meetings. Meeting minutes will be published to the group once approved by the Advisory Committee Chair. These Asset Owner Technical Advisory Committee Terms of Reference will be published on the PRI website.

F. MEETING PROCEDURES

An Advisory Committee meeting should proceed only if a majority of members can attend (in person and/or on the phone). Due to regional time differences, separate calls may be held with members unable to join the meetings.

G. CODE OF CONDUCT

- The proactive involvement of signatories is important to the success of the group. The Executive may terminate individual signatories' participation and invite other interested signatories to participate if the required level of commitment is not demonstrated;
- Signatories must refrain from using these forums for explicit commercial purposes and should focus on furthering the goals and objectives of the work programme. Failure to meet these requirements may also lead the Executive to terminate signatory participation;
- Advisory Committee members are welcome to advertise their participation in other forums such as LinkedIn/Twitter or equivalent.

H. CONTACT

For more information about the Asset Owner Technical Advisory Committee, please contact the PRI asset owner team at assetowners@unpri.org.