

# Regulation database methodology

November 2025

In previous versions, PRI's regulation database clearly demonstrated that sustainable finance policies and regulations had [been adopted worldwide](#) and could be considered mainstream. Since our 2024 update, we have moved our focus from counting how many pieces of legislation there are, to understanding the comprehensiveness of policy reform across markets.

The latest update in 2025/2026, conducted with support from Canbury Insights Limited, takes a deep dive of sustainable finance policies and regulations<sup>1</sup> from the 15 markets. It does not include sectoral policies and subnational policies.

## ENTRIES

The regulation database groups entries by the following categories:

### Markets

US, Canada, UK, EU (EU-level policies and regulations), Switzerland, China, HK SAR, Japan, Australia, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, India, South Korea, and Singapore.

### Policy categories

- National transition/sustainable investment strategy
- Investor sustainability responsibilities, including financial conduct regulations and prudential regulations
- Corporate sustainability responsibilities
- Investor sustainability disclosure requirements
- Corporate sustainability disclosure and accounting standards
- Regulatory framework for stewardship, including regulations governing investor rights and duties to conduct stewardship, such as voting, engagement, filing shareholder resolutions, and collaborative engagements.
- Transition plan requirements
- Human rights and environmental due diligence
- Regulations of sustainable financial products and instruments
- Service provider sustainability responsibilities
- Sustainability classification instruments and standards

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<sup>1</sup> For detailed description of the policy tools captured in the regulation database, please see PRI, [Sustainable Investment Policy Toolkit \(Part 1\)](#)

### **Issuing Department**

Government, council, or body that issued the regulation.

### **Implementation approach**

Mandatory, comply or explain or voluntary basis.

### **Issuance & update years**

Year of original issuance, and year of latest update where applicable.

### **Review status and risks**

Whether the policy is issued or under review and if it is at risk.

### **Policy Target**

The parties that the regulation is regulating: AOs, IMs, SPs, Corporates, Other

### **Inclusion criteria**

Thresholds for policy application such as ownership structure, legal entity status, revenue, turnover, balance sheet, employee count, sustainability goals.

### **Asset class focus**

Listed equity, Fixed income, private equity, Real Estate, Infrastructure, hedge funds, Forestry, Farmland, Other (open text box), NA.

### **Issue Focus**

Environment, Climate, Nature, Social and / or Governance.

### **Policy Approach & Explanation**

The approach of the regulation and why this regulation fits the approach category chosen.

#### ■ Managing risk exposure

Requiring and supporting financial institutions to address exposure to sustainability-related risks (including both idiosyncratic and system-level risks). This approach sees sustainability-related risks as exogenous to the financial sector. Financial regulation aims to ensure the prudence of individual financial institutions and the financial system by limiting the risk exposure to an appropriate level.

#### ■ Tackling drivers

Requiring and supporting financial institutions to tackle drivers of sustainability-related risks, particularly system-level risks. This approach recognizes the interactions between the ecosystem, the macroeconomy and the financial system. The financial sector and financial regulations have a role in shaping sustainability-related risks. This approach

recognizes that mitigating system-level risks cannot be achieved by diversification and instead requires a proactive approach to tackle the underlying drivers.

- Supporting transition

Supporting the government to drive the economy-wide transition towards a sustainable future. This approach recognizes that the financial sector alone cannot tackle system-level sustainability-related risks, and a whole-of-government approach is needed. This approach identifies a need for strong cooperation between financial authorities and other government departments to enhance policy consistency and take concerted actions to align capital allocation and stewardship with pathways towards sustainability goals.

## **DATA COLLECTION & PROCESSING**

For each country, relevant policies were identified through a combination of manual internet searches, search-enabled large language models (LLMs), and analyst expertise. Each policy underwent a manual check to confirm source documentation, ensure relevance, remove duplicates, and verify the latest updates.

The regulation database tracks sustainable finance policies and regulations across 15 major markets. It contains entries grouped by market, policy category, issuance and update years, review status, policy targets, coverage, implementation approach, issue focus, issuing department, asset class, and policy approach. Its purpose is to provide a comprehensive overview of policy reform, focusing on the depth and breadth of sustainable finance regulations rather than just counting legislation.