

The Future of ESG Data 2021 – virtual conference – 5-6 October

Day one: 5th October

13:15(BST)/8:15am (EDT) Welcome and opening remarks

13:30 Day one Keynote Address

Ashley Ian Alder, CEO, Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) and Chair of the Board of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO)

13:50 Panel: The regulatory agenda – disclosure preparedness and global regulatory advances

- How can regulators and regulations keep up with rapidly changing ESG demands and data? How much should be left to market self-regulation?
- EU taxonomy, SFDR and SEC working group – how prepared are companies for new disclosure requirements? How have national regulations helped prepare some countries better than others?
- How could mandatory disclosure requirements affect companies in the US? Should future ESG disclosures to be made publicly or privately to the SEC? What are the liability complications of forward-looking metric disclosure?
- How will the EU sustainable finance action plan change the shape of ESG data?
- Global regulations – what approach are non-EU jurisdictions taking?
- Financial product breakdown – how do ESG disclosure regulation differ between different products?

Confirmed speakers:

Thomas Harding, Associate Vice President, Regulatory Solutions Product Development, ISS ESG

14:30 Presentation: Overview of global ESG disclosure regulations - with focus on the challenges and potential technological solutions to adhering to EU regulations

Victor Fernandez, Senior Product Manager for EU Regulatory Solutions, Clarity AI

14:50 Panel: The future of ESG data reporting and harmonising reporting frameworks

- What initiatives are attempting to harmonise frameworks? What progress is being made? Will there ever be a gold standard, or is this a pipe dream?
- What can we learn from the prototype climate standard?
- How would a global standard interact with jurisdictional regimes, such as the EU's?
- A lack of common denominators - How can ESG performance and impact across different sectors, metrics and companies be compared? How can the challenges of comparing environmental impacts with social impacts be overcome? Are universal, standardised metrics possible or even preferable?
- What role will broader metrics and the UN SDGs play in gauging and comparing ESG performance and impact?
- ESG performance data – should it be reported more frequently? Which data points and metrics would benefit from monthly, quarterly, or biannual reporting?
- Annual report integrations and framing ESG as pre financial rather than non-financial – what are the costs and benefits of integrated reporting? What will it mean for the role of auditors?

Confirmed speakers:

Eliza Mahdavy, Head of ESG Performance team, **EDF**

Megan Wallingford, Associate Director, Product Strategy and Development, **Sustainalytics**

Mardi McBrien, Managing Director, **Climate Disclosures Standards Board (CDSB)**

Alain Deckers, Director - Corporate reporting, audit and credit rating agencies, **DG FISMA, European Commission**

15:30 Speed networking

15:40 Keynote Interview: Allison Herren Lee, Commissioner, **The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)**

16:00 Panel: ESG and investment returns - incorporating ESG data into investment decisions

- How can identifying company ESG strategy and momentum help drive investment decisions and alpha?
- What solutions are there for quantifying and communicating the correlation between ESG performance and financial performance?
- The importance of intentionality and identifying material metrics – How can investors best align what they are trying to achieve with their investments and which ESG metrics to prioritise?
- What engagement routes are available to express expectations of ESG strategy and reporting? Which have proven to be the most effective?
- What factors must be considered when devising a data strategy? How can the resources required to build an internal database be compared to the challenges of buying reliable data?
- Integrating data scientists into investment teams – how can training, structures and integration be best handled? Does the structure of asset managers and competitive portfolio performance make it harder to integrate centralised data analysis?

Confirmed speakers:

Alexandra Mihailescu Cichon, Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing, **RepRisk**

Richard Burrett, Chief Sustainability Officer, **Earth Capital**

Eric Van Nostrand, Head of Research for Multi-Asset Strategies & Sustainable Investments, **BlackRock**

Julie Moret, Global Head of Sustainable Investing and Stewardship, **Northern Trust Asset Management** ****pending final confirmation****

16:40 Presentation: Spotlight on the TCFD

- What progress has been made?
- Is the TCFD the closest thing to a universally accepted standard?
- What challenges remain?
- Consultation results

17:00 Panel: Next frontiers – moving beyond climate metrics and considering how other environmental, social and governance data metrics will mature

- Going beyond operational ESG reporting - How can products, services, scope 3 emissions and supply chain ESG performance be better reported? What strategies are available to close the outsourcing of emissions and more accurately evaluate supply chain ESG data?
- What steps are being taken to improve asset location and ownership data? How could this affect the reporting and verification of ESG data?
- To what extent has Covid-19 stress tested and emphasised the importance of supply chain and governance variables? How will increased focus manifest in terms of expected governance and supply chain reporting?
- Social metrics – are they too qualitative to become quantitative? What further guidance can regulators provide for social metric reporting? How can materiality and the link between performance on social metrics and financial performance be tracked?
- How can mandatory human rights directive be best incorporated into ESG reporting?

Confirmed speakers:

Keeran Gwilliam-Beeharee, Executive Director for Market Access, **V.E, Part of Moody's ESG Solutions**

Owen Hewlett, Chief Technical Officer, **Gold Standard**

Laura Hobbs, Responsible Investment Manager, **Brunel Pension Partnership**

Marcelo Jordan, Senior Portfolio Manager and ESG specialist, **World Bank Group Pensions**

17:40/12:40pm Closing remarks

Day two: October 6th

13:15 (BST)/8:15am (EDT) Welcome and opening remarks

13:30 Day two Keynote: ESG Ratings – constant evolution and increasing scrutiny

13:50 Panel: The future of ESG data - understanding ESG ratings and scores

- Do ESG rating firms need to be regulated?
- How could greater methodological transparency turn the low correlation in ESG ratings into a selling point for investors with specific investment and ESG performance goals?
- Too many questionnaires not enough engagement? How can ESG data companies liaise with corporations more effectively to produce more accurate results? Moving from the tick box to the meaningful – who defines the material metrics for each sector, country, region, company?
- Is the future of ESG data disclosed by companies or taken from other sources? What will it mean for data ownership? How can greater data transparency at a corporate disclosure level and ESG rating level be achieved?
- What solutions do ESG data providers have to fill ESG data gaps? Which metrics lend themselves to projections and which data gaps cannot be filled? How can transparency and big company bias be overcome and ensure a lack of data does not artificially deflate ESG ratings?
- How will consolidation of ESG data providers and integration with financial rating agencies and stock exchanges affect the market and data/ratings provided? How will ESG scores interact with credit scores in the future? What role will stock exchanges play in encouraging corporate ESG disclosure? What role could benchmark administrators play in ESG data and ratings?

Confirmed speakers:

Jonathan Scott Webb, Senior Data Scientist - Responsible Investing, **Nuveen**

Andreas Kusche, Investor Relations, **Daimler AG**

14:30 Case Study: AP Moller Maersk

Lene Bjørn Serpa, Head of Organisational Engagement and Reporting, **A.P. Moller-Maersk**

14:50 Panel: ESG data - moving beyond risks and making an impact

- How are perspectives on existing ESG data and reporting evolving from risk based to opportunity based? To what extent are ESG data points such as human capital being considered as an asset rather than cost?
What steps are being taken to map newer ESG performance indicators onto more traditional financial performance indicators? What does/will fiduciary duty require?
- How can ESG performance be better understood in terms of output, impact, and additionality? How can an increased awareness of local contexts and baselines improve the understanding of relative impact and absolute impact?
- Breaking the silos – the argument for merging impact and sustainability reporting and data - Should impact and double materiality be built into ESG ratings, or should they be separate?

- Double materiality – what strategies are there for apportioning ESG performance and impact across the supply chain and aggregate investor impact? Should regulators step in to better define double materiality and reporting practices?
- Additionality and asset management – how important is it to differentiate between investor impact and company impact?

Natalie Gartmann, ESG and Impact Manager, **Pegasus Capital Advisors**

Dr Rupini Deepa Rajagopalan, Head of ESG Office, Wealth and Asset Management, **Berenberg**

Aaron Pinnock, Impact Investment Analyst, **Church Commissioners for England**

15:30 Speed networking

15:40 Panel: Spotlight on the Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTI)

- What are the main challenges faced in setting science-based targets?
- How can SBTI better cover scope 3 and other supply chain reporting? How will SBTI interact with other reporting structures and disclosure requirements?

16:20 Panel: Forward looking metrics and judging transition

- Forward looking metrics, transition, and company strategy and targets – can it be a more accurate gauge of company ESG performance?
- How can a transition plan be quantified? What are the main challenges and opportunities of metrics such as planned CapEx and OpEx, board room sentiment and implicit messages? Is it currently possible to clearly track ROI on CapEx or OpEx focussed on improving ESG performance?
- How are targets, statements and projections being verified? Who is checking to see if targets are being hit or previous projections were accurate? What are the potential liability complications of forward-looking metric disclosure?
- To what extent can forward looking metrics help bridge the data gap in regions and industries with scarce ESG data and make them more comparable?
- How can momentum be tracked, and signals interpreted to determine a company on the brink of higher impact and ESG performance?
- What steps are being taken to factor climate risk into forward looking analysis?
- How can data be used to make proactive rather than reactive investments based on ESG data? How can new technologies help overcome the ESG data lag?

Confirmed speakers:

Danielle Brassel, Responsible Investment Analyst, **Zurich Insurance Group**

17:00 Technology showcase - CASE STUDIES

- What technology solutions exist for sifting through the noise of contradictory and disparate ESG data sets?
- How can technology help validate ESG data claims, impacts, or intentions? – satellite imagery and deforestation, on site tracking of facility emissions, mapping individual projects and assets against companywide reporting
- Blockchain in ESG reporting – what advantages can be gained from a transparent platform with auditable data trails?

- How is AI and NLP being utilised to gather unstructured data to fill ESG data gaps? How can insights and investment advantage be gleaned from unstructured data such as text and spoken word?

17:30/12:30pm Closing remarks and close of conference