



UNEP
FINANCE
INITIATIVE

PRINCIPLES FOR
RESPONSIBLE
BANKING

Civil Society Advisory Body Call for Applications

October 2020

Contents

Overview	1
About UNEP FI & The Principles for Responsible Banking	2
UNEP FI	2
Principles for Responsible Banking	2
Application & selection process.....	4
Application process	4
Elegibility criteria	4
Application form.....	5
i. Organisation information.....	5
ii. Position-specific questions	8
iii. Contact details	10

Overview

UNEP FI and the Principles for Responsible Banking

The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is the partnership between the United Nations and the global financial sector. UNEP FI has developed of the three key global sustainability frameworks for the financial industry: the Principles for Responsible Investment (2006), the Principles for Sustainable Insurance (2012) and the Principles for Responsible Banking (2019).

The Principles for Responsible Banking are the global framework aligning banks' strategies and practices with the vision society has set out for its future in the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement. With over 190 Signatories, the Principles are now being implemented by over 40% of the global banking sector.

What is the Civil Society Advisory Body?

The Civil Society Advisory Body puts Signatory's commitment to "proactively and responsibly consult, engage and partner with relevant stakeholders to achieve society's goals" into practice at the collective level. It is a key mechanism to hold the community of Signatory banks accountable and ensure that they deliver on their commitments with ambition.

Becoming a member of the Civil Society Advisory Body does not require, or signify, an endorsement of the Principles for Responsible Banking by the Civil Society Organization.

What is the role of the Civil Society Advisory Body?

Members of this Body will contribute to and support the effective implementation of the Principles for Responsible Banking through engaging meaningfully with the community of Signatory banks and the UNEP FI Banking Board, providing inputs into regular progress evaluations and advice on strategy and framework revisions.

For the detailed role and responsibilities of the Civil Society Advisory Body, please refer to Section 3.1 of [UNEP FI Banking Governance Framework](#).

What types of organisations will be represented?

The Civil Society Advisory Body is composed of a diverse range of stakeholders from around the world and designed to provide a range of expertise to support the implementation of the Principles for Responsible Banking. It will be composed of 12 organisations representing a range of geographies, subject matters and key stakeholder perspectives. The Civil Society Advisory Body provides a forum for the member organisations to become involved in the global conversation around sustainable banking.

For detailed information on the composition of the Civil Society Advisory Body, please refer to section 3.2 of [UNEP FI Banking Governance Framework](#).

What is expected from Civil Society Advisory Body Members?

The Civil Society Advisory Body is expected to meet in person once a year and virtually at least once a year with a) the Banking Board, b) the Implementation Leads Group and c) Signatory Banks. Travel cost (economy class) and accommodation for attending in-person meetings can be reimbursed for one representative from each Civil Society organization.

The positions are available for a two-year term spanning from March 2021 to February 2023. Following the end of their term, organisations may re-apply to serve multiple consecutive terms.

For detailed information on the meetings and the nature of inputs, please refer to section 3.3 of [UNEP FI Banking Governance Framework](#).

How can my organisation apply for the Civil Society Advisory Body?

In order to apply for the Civil Society Advisory Body, please complete and return the application form on page 4 to Oualid Rokneddine (oualid.rokneddine@un.org) by latest **December 15, 2020**.

Please carefully review section 3 of [UNEP FI Banking Governance Framework](#), which provides detailed information on the mandate, composition and expectations of the Civil Society Advisory Body.

In case you have any questions or would like to organize a call with the UNEP FI Secretariat, please contact Oualid Rokneddine (oualid.rokneddine@un.org).

About UNEP FI & The Principles for Responsible Banking

UNEP FI

The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), founded in 1992, is a partnership between UNEP and a network of financial institutions from across the globe, to steward the integration of sustainability issues into decision-making across the banking, insurance and investment industries. UNEP FI's vision is to create a financial sector that positively impacts and serves people and planet. Sustainability integration has been articulated in global frameworks developed by UNEP FI—the Principles for Responsible Investment (2006), the Principles for Sustainable Insurance (2012) and the Principles for Responsible Banking (2019) which align the

finance sector with the priorities defined by the United Nations such as the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement.

UNEP FI is one of the most established and respected sustainable finance organisations, and is also distinguished by being embedded in both the UN system and the financial sector. This positioning provides a non-competitive space to convene stakeholders and enables UNEP FI to provide a unique platform at the intersection between finance, science and policy.

Principles for Responsible Banking

Launched in September 2019, the Principles for Responsible Banking are a framework for ensuring that signatory banks' strategies and practices align with the vision society has set out for its future in the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Climate Agreement. The Principles provide the framework for a sustainable banking system and help the industry to demonstrate how it makes a positive contribution to society.

They embed sustainability at the strategic, portfolio and transactional levels, and across all business areas.

More than 190 banks have now joined this movement for change, leading the way towards a future in which the banking community makes the kind of positive contribution to people and the planet that society expects. These banks now represent more than 40% of the global banking industry.

 <p>PRINCIPLE 1: ALIGNMENT</p> <p>We will align our business strategy to be consistent with and contribute to individuals' needs and society's goals, as expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Climate Agreement and relevant national and regional frameworks.</p>	 <p>PRINCIPLE 2: IMPACT & TARGET SETTING</p> <p>We will continuously increase our positive impacts while reducing the negative impacts on, and managing the risks to, people and environment resulting from our activities, products and services. To this end, we will set and publish targets where we can have the most significant impacts.</p>	 <p>PRINCIPLE 3: CLIENTS & CUSTOMERS</p> <p>We will work responsibly with our clients and our customers to encourage sustainable practices and enable economic activities that create shared prosperity for current and future generations.</p>
 <p>PRINCIPLE 4: STAKEHOLDERS</p> <p>We will proactively and responsibly consult, engage and partner with relevant stakeholders to achieve society's goals.</p>	 <p>PRINCIPLE 5: GOVERNANCE & CULTURE</p> <p>We will implement our commitment to these Principles through effective governance and a culture of responsible banking.</p>	 <p>PRINCIPLE 6: TRANSPARENCY & ACCOUNTABILITY</p> <p>We will periodically review our individual and collective implementation of these Principles and be transparent about and accountable for our positive and negative impacts and our contribution to society's goals.</p>

Application and selection process

Application process

1. All completed applications should be sent to Oualid Rokneddine (oualid.rokneddine@un.org) by **15 December 2020**.
2. Once the application period is over, all received applications will be reviewed against the published criteria by the UNEP FI Secretariat and approved by the Banking Board.
3. Following the announcement of the results, the evaluation will be made publicly available on UNEP FI's website.

Eligibility criteria

Membership is on an institutional, not personal basis. However, it is expected that the institution is represented by a nominated individual (and one alternate) to ensure cohesion within the Group. As per the UNEP FI Banking Governance Framework, all aspiring Members of the Body should:

1. Ideally have previous experience with and institutional expertise regarding banking and specifically responsible banking issues and put forward a representative (and alternate) with a good understanding of banking-related issues.
2. Be able and willing to commit the necessary resources to fulfil the outlined role and responsibilities and to contribute effectively to the tasks of this Body.
3. Can read and communicate in English without a requirement for translation services and are able to put forward a representative (and alternate) that can participate effectively in meetings held in English.

In addition:

Members that represent regional perspectives:

1. Are able represent and provide insights on regional environmental and social challenges and priority issues, as a consequence of the nature of their organisation (e.g., membership organisations) or through relevant processes (e.g., consultation processes, research)
2. Be able and willing to provide a reasonably balanced view of the sustainable development issues in their region and refrain from promoting particular political views.

Members that represent relevant subject-matter expertise:

1. Are leading organisations in the respective field and recognized in their community for either their role in tackling the most relevant issues in their field or for their outstanding subject-matter expertise.
2. Are at least regional, ideally global in scope.
3. Are able and willing to provide a reasonably balanced and objective view of issues in their field and do not promote particular political or personal views.

Members that represent relevant to banking stakeholder groups:

1. Can demonstrate that through their governance, membership or other relevant characteristics their organisation is guided by the interest of the respective stakeholder group.
2. Are at least regional, ideally global in scope.

Application form

i. Organisation information

Profile		
Name	<input type="text"/>	
Please choose the institutional category below which best represents your organisation. Please choose only one category		
<input type="checkbox"/> Industry association or federation	<input type="checkbox"/> International Organisation	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership/Network supervisory organisation
<input type="checkbox"/> Foundation	<input type="checkbox"/> Employees/Trade Union	<input type="checkbox"/> Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO)
<input type="checkbox"/> University, Think Tank or Research center	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>

Your organisation's thematic/activity focus (please tick all applicable boxes)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Climate	<input type="checkbox"/> Biodiversity & Ecosystems	<input type="checkbox"/> Poverty & Social issues
<input type="checkbox"/> Human Rights & Gender	<input type="checkbox"/> Transparency & Accountability	<input type="checkbox"/> Retail & SME Banking Clients
<input type="checkbox"/> Banking Employees	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	<input type="text"/>

Geographic scope

Please indicate the geographic scope of your members' activities. Please tick all applicable boxes.

International

Regional

National

Other (please specify)

Regional scope (please tick all applicable boxes)

Africa &
Middle East

Asia Pacific

Europe

Latin America &
Caribbean

North America

In which countries does your organisation operate? Please list all.

Please provide a description of your organisation and its primary activities (up to 300 words).

Please provide a description of your institutional expertise and experience in banking, responsible banking and sustainable finance. (up to 300 words).

ii. Position-specific questions

Please indicate which position your institution is applying for (up to two positions).

Geographical Representation

- Position 1 : North America Position 2 : Latin America Position 3 : Europe
- Position 4 : Africa & Middle East Position 5: Asia-Pacific

Subject-matter expertise representation

- Position 6 : Climate Position 7 : Biodiversity & Ecosystems Position 8: Human Rights & Gender
- Position 9 : Poverty & Social Issues Position 10: Transparency & Accountability

Stakeholder representation

- Position 11 : Retail & SME clients Position 12 : Employees

If your institution is applying to represent a geography, please respond to the following questions:

Please describe in what capacity your institution is able represent and provide insights on regional environmental and social challenges and priority issues, as a consequence of the nature of your organisation (e.g., membership organisations) or through relevant processes (e.g., consultation processes, research) (up to 300 words).

Please describe any affiliations your institution may have with political, ethnic, or other entities or groups guided by particular interests (up to 150 words).

If your institution is applying to represent a subject-matter, please respond to the following questions:

Please describe your institution's subject expertise in the field of the position you are applying for and your role in tackling relevant issues in this field (up to 300 words).

Please describe any affiliations your institution may have with political, ethnic, or other entities or groups guided by particular interests (up to 150 words).

If your institution is applying to represent a stakeholder group, please respond to the following question:

Please describe how your institution's governance, membership or other relevant organisational characteristics enable you to represent the interests of your stakeholder group (up to 300 words).

iii. Contact details

Head Office Address			
Street			
City		Province/ State	
Post/Zip Code		Country	
Website			
Representative: contact details of the nominated individual who will represent your institution on the Body			
Title (Mr/Ms/Dr)		<input type="checkbox"/> Tick the box if address same as head office address	
First name		Street	
Last name		City	
Role		Province/ State	
Email		Post/Zip Code	
Phone		Country	
Please describe the nominated representative's experience with banking-related issues (up to 100 words).			
Please confirm that the nominated representative:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	is able and willing to commit the necessary time and resources to fulfil the outlined role and responsibilities and to contribute effectively to the tasks of this Body.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	can read and communicate in English without a requirement for translation services and can participate effectively in meetings held in English.		

Alternate contact details of the nominated alternate individual who will represent your institution on the Body			
Title (Mr/Ms/Dr)		<input type="checkbox"/> Tick the box if address same as head office address	
First name		Street	
Last name		City	
Role		Province/ State	
Email		Post/Zip Code	
Phone		Country	
Please describe the nominated alternate's experience with banking-related issues (up to 100 words).			
Please confirm that the nominated representative:			
<input type="checkbox"/>	is able and willing to commit the necessary time and resources to fulfil the outlined role and responsibilities and to contribute effectively to the tasks of this Body.		
<input type="checkbox"/>	can read and communicate in English without a requirement for translation services and can participate effectively in meetings held in English.		

SIGNATURE (HEAD OF ORGANISATION)

DATE



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UNEP Finance Initiative

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