UN environment programme | finance initiative

Principles for Responsible Banking

Banks play a key role in society. As financial intermediaries, it is our purpose to help develop sustainable economies and to empower people to build better futures. Banking is based on the trust our customers and wider society put in us to serve their best interests and to act responsibly.

Our success and ability to remain profitable and relevant is intrinsically dependent on the long-term prosperity of the societies we serve. We believe that only in an inclusive society founded on human dignity, equality and the sustainable use of natural resources, can our clients and customers and, in turn, our businesses thrive.

We therefore want to take a leadership role and use our products, services and relationships to support and accelerate the fundamental changes in our economies and lifestyles necessary to achieve shared prosperity for both current and future generations.

We therefore commit to the ambitions set out in the following Principles:[1]

1. Alignment

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.

2. Impact & Target Setting

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.

3. Clients & Customers

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.

4. Stakeholders

We will proactively and responsibly consult, engage and partner with relevant stakeholders to achieve society's goals.

5. Governance & Culture

We will implement our commitment to these Principles through effective governance and a culture of responsible banking.

6. Transparency & Accountability

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.

Bank Name
Name of CEO (or CEO-Equivalent)
Date:

Further Official Principles for Responsible Banking Framework Documents:

- PRB Implementation Journey and
- PRB Progress Statement

1 The Principles for Responsible Banking shall not be interpreted in any way as conflicting with any legal or contractual obligations of the signatory banks. Any such legal or contractual obligations shall take precedence over these Principles. Nothing in these Principles, express or implied, is intended to or shall create or grant any right or any cause of action to, by or for any person.