

Human Rights Community of Practice

Terms of Reference

1. Background and Context

As a UN agency, UNEP FI's mission is underpinned by our commitment to human rights. As such, UNEP FI is dedicated to ensuring that our members have the tools and resources they need to manage human rights-related sustainability risks as part of their overall ESG strategy.

Financial institutions (FIs), including banks and insurance companies, are expected to respect human rights within their own operations and business relationships including finance activities. The globally recognized and authoritative framework that describes these expectations is the UN [Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#): Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework (UNGPs).

Under the new PRB [Responsible Banking Journey](#), human rights are considered one of the four core priorities for responsible banking alongside climate, nature and biodiversity and healthy and inclusive economies. Banks following this journey are expected to align their strategy, assessment and action to the [UNGPs](#).

The Human Rights Community of Practice (CoP) is chaired by the UNEP FI Social and Human Rights Lead. It will serve as a platform to explore key human rights issues and facilitate peer exchange of best practices and challenges that financial institutions face while integrating, or striving to integrate, the UNGPs. The CoP will adopt a problem-solving approach, offering practitioners a safe space to discuss difficulties and identify potential solutions.

The space will also benefit from the involvement of external specialists who will contribute technical expertise and guidance through tailored tools, hands-on activities, and additional resources.

2. Composition and Responsibilities

All UNEP FI signatories are invited to join the Human Rights CoP. Members are asked to nominate one main organizational representative but are also invited to include other staff members in place of, or in addition to, the main contact person.

Key responsibilities and expectations are:

- CoP members will consistently attend the meetings.
- All CoP members will be given the opportunity to share their institution's progress and challenges relating to the integration of the UNGPs. Members will be invited to contribute to discussions to explore insights and solutions with a view to supporting each other to continue to make positive progress as part of the CoP's ongoing commitment to peer-led learning and capacity building.

- The CoP will be given the opportunity to provide strategic guidance to UNEP FI Human Rights related work to support successful project execution.

New members may be added at any point.

3. Meeting frequency

The Human Rights CoP will meet virtually on a quarterly basis.

Agenda and meeting materials are to be shared with all members prior to the meeting date. Notes of meetings are to be taken by UNEP FI staff and shared with all CoP members.

Meetings will not be recorded and will be conducted under Chatham House rules. With the consent of the members, some external parties' presentations may be recorded.

4. UNEP FI Contact information

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