Scorecard

AccountAbility

Lobbying Health Check

About AccountAbility

COVERAGE OF COMPANIES
Global

LAUNCH DATE
2005

FOCUS
Responsible lobbying by companies

LINK:
https://unglobalcompact.org/library/254
AccountAbility Lobbying Health Check Score

Tracker Rank and Score for AccountAbility

The score is out of a total of 200 and the rank describes the standards position in the 26 standards assessed by the Tracker.

Category scores of AccountAbility

- General disclosure on Corporate Political Activities
- Political contributions
- Lobbying and advocacy activities
- Influence via third-parties

*Categories where the standard received no points do not appear in the colour-coded graph

Rank and scores for all standards

1. UN-PRI Investor Expectations 117
2. Responsible Lobbying Framework 106
3. OECD Principles 103
4. ICOr 101
5. AccountAbility 97
6. EFRAG 95
7. Positive Compass 87
8. Moody’s 80
9. S&P 80
10. World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) 76
11. Erb Principles 75
12. GRI 415 68
13. ISS ESG 53
14. CDP 53
15. Sustainalytics 46
16. Fitch 40
17. WEF Measuring Stakeholder Capitalism 38
18. FTSE4Good 31
19. MSCI 30
20. ISSB 30
21. B-Lab 30
22. Refinitiv 20
23. TCFD 12
24. EcoVadis 10
25. Bloomberg 10
26. RepRisk 10
Description

The AccountAbility ‘Six-Step Lobbying Health Check’ was launched in 2005 in collaboration with the United Nations Global Compact and supported by a number of companies, including Co-operative Financial Services, Gap Inc., Novo Nordisk, and Telefónica. The published responsible lobbying definitions and associated assessment tool are based on a series of convenings and interviews with businesses, lobbyists, civil society and public sector officials in North America, Europe, India and Brazil. The report examines issues around political lobbying and provides a framework which companies, including the 12,000+ signatories to the Global Compact and NGOs can use to assess the responsibility of their own lobbying activities and to identify areas for improvement.  

Summary

The AccountAbility and UN Global Compact Health Check receives a Tracker score of 97 out of 200. This strong score reflects the ambitious high-level principles in the checklist. The six steps in the Health Check process require companies to assess the alignment of their lobbying positions with their strategy, actions and values. Step two expects companies to evaluate the materiality of their lobbying activities in relation to the impact on the firm, but also on external stakeholders such as policymakers, investors, and civil society. This examination of corporate lobbying alignment receives points in Tracker Category B, ‘Political contributions. Importantly, the AccountAbility framework also expects companies to assess and understand who is acting or engaging in political activities on their behalf, such as individual external lobbyists and trade associations. This Health Check indicator scores points in Tracker Category D, ‘Influence via third parties.’ Additional indicators cover transparent reporting on lobbying conduct and the management systems and oversight mechanisms in place to ensure consistency and alignment of corporate political activities with public commitments.

Opportunities for improvement

The AccountAbility Health Check could be improved by the addition of more detailed questions in each of the Six-Steps. Updating the standard would help it to maintain relevance during almost two decades since its launch. This process could include a review of the 8 Tracker categories to add relevant areas of enquiry into an updated Health Check, adding more granular indicators as necessary to reflect changes in corporate political activities.

Endnotes

1 https://unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc