

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

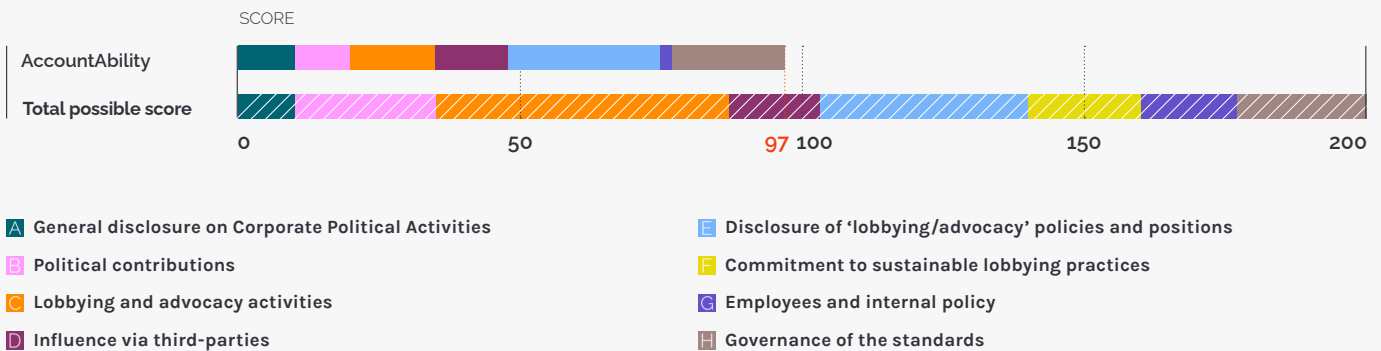


Rank 7 /26

Tracker Rank and Score for AccountAbility

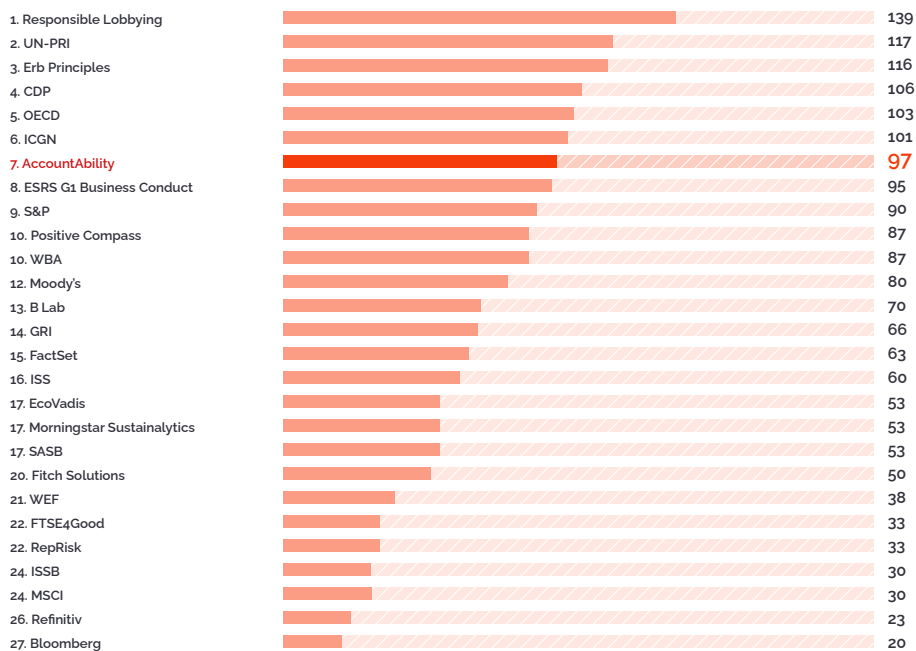
The score is out of a total of 200 and the rank describes the standards position in the 27 standards assessed by the Tracker.

Category scores of AccountAbility



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

Rank and scores for all standards



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.¹

Score 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. Even though the standard was published in 2005, reconvening stakeholders to update the standard would be an important valuable step, given market developments since this time. The updating process could draw on lessons from the standards and methodologies reviewed in the The Good Lobby Tracker to provide a current reference point for all market actors. In particular, 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 and market expectations.

Endnotes

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

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