Code of Conduct Task Force 4 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Report of the second meeting – 31 March 2021

The second meeting of Task Force 4 on the monitoring and evaluation framework concentrated on the current landscape of monitoring systems, accountability mechanisms and data collection efforts. Due to the dependency on outcomes from taskforces 1-3, the meeting was shortened, to allow for the set up of an additional meeting, and allowing further developments regarding the aspirational objectives and actions.

During the meeting, the <u>World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA)</u>, the <u>United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UNSDSN)</u>, the <u>Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)</u> and <u>the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)</u>, provided presentations to learn about various corporate sustainability frameworks and accountability mechanisms. It was noted that the initiatives focus on topics and themes, in large part similar to the proposed current pillars in the Code of Conduct for Responsible Business and Marketing Practices. It confirms the need for alignment and for exploring how these initiatives can potentially feed into, or support, the development of the monitoring and evaluation framework.

Further, a discussion took place on data collection efforts by members, and responses received on key questions in this regard. Although data is being collected that is (potentially) relevant for the code, these efforts are mainly done by organisations/entities with a dedicated mandate. Most of the associations do not collect data, being outside of their mandate and capacity. Considering these factors, it was again confirmed that the monitoring and evaluation framework, now to become part of the first component of the Code, needs to be concise and light-touch, allowing for corporations, big and small, to implement.

During the next meeting of task force 4, a conceptualization of the framework will be presented and discussed. Further questions have been shared with task force members, to inform these discussions. An extra meeting is foreseen on 29 April.