



ICGN

International Corporate Governance Network

Inspiring good governance & stewardship

ICGN Launches Systemic Stewardship & Public Policy Advocacy Toolkit

For immediate release. London, United Kingdom: The International Corporate Governance Network (ICGN) has launched a Systemic Stewardship & Public Policy Advocacy Toolkit to support investors in enhancing their public policy advocacy activities, which are becoming a key pillar in stewardship.

Led by investors responsible for assets under management of around \$77 trillion, ICGN advances the highest standards of corporate governance and investor stewardship worldwide in pursuit of long-term value creation, contributing to sustainable economies, societies, and the environment.

The most typical forms of stewardship activity are company engagement and proxy voting; for many investors, extending systemic stewardship activities to include public policy will be a new approach. The Toolkit builds on best practice case studies to offer potential considerations for global investors wishing to incorporate public policy activities in their stewardship strategies. Our hope is that in the years to come, public policy advocacy will be used more strategically, effectively and positively. The Systemic Stewardship & Public Policy Advocacy Toolkit was written by ICGN's Global Stewardship Committee, with the initial draft by Caroline Escott, to identify the spectrum of stewardship approaches that are not just focused on the risks and returns of individual holdings but also consider systemic or 'beta' concerns such as the risks like climate change that are global in nature. Through a variety of systemic stewardship activities, investors are seeking long-term value creation for their beneficiaries more broadly.

Caroline Escott, Senior Investment Manager, Active Ownership, Railpen and lead author of the Toolkit said: "System-level issues, like climate change, labour rights or cybersecurity, need system-level solutions. Effecting positive policy change is key to tackling these kinds of topics and this means that investors should be considering public policy advocacy as a priority stewardship tool, alongside more traditional mechanisms such as company engagement and voting.

I was therefore delighted to work with the ICGN's Global Stewardship Committee to provide practical guidance for investors who are considering using public policy as part of their broader systemic stewardship approach. Our guidance offers tangible, step-by-step support to help investors think about how they can best achieve impact on the portfolio-wide issues which matter most."

ICGN's Senior Policy Manager, Carol Nolan Drake, said: "Investment institutions recognise that system-wide risks can and ought to be recognised, managed, mitigated or eliminated at least in part by national and international policy frameworks. For this reason, ICGN, as an investor-led organisation, advances the view that investors should consider enhancing their ability to influence public policy in ways that align with the best possible aggregate outcomes for their beneficiaries. This Toolkit provides investors, should they desire, with the opportunity to expand their systemic stewardship programs beyond company engagement and proxy voting to include positive contributions to the public policy debate, on legislation, regulation and other forms of standards-setting alongside ICGN's advocacy."

The [Public Policy Advocacy and Systemic Stewardship Toolkit](https://www.icgn.org/stewardship) is available, with other key stewardship resources, at www.icgn.org/stewardship

The [ICGN Global Stewardship Principles](#) provide an international framework for investors to implement their fiduciary obligations on behalf of clients and beneficiaries. The Principles are to be reviewed early next year, through an international consultation and drawing on innovations around the world.

ENDS

Note to Editors

About ICGN

Led by investors responsible for assets under management of around \$77 trillion, and bringing together companies and stakeholders, ICGN advances the highest standards of corporate governance and investor stewardship worldwide in pursuit of long-term value creation, contributing to healthy and sustainable economies, societies, and environment.

ICGN's comprehensive international work programme is based around three core objectives as follows:

- Influence: public policy and professional practice with global standards of corporate governance and investor stewardship.
- Convene: impactful global events to share knowledge, build networks and collaborate across capital markets.
- Inspire: governance and stewardship professionals with guidance and education for in-house policies, activities, strategies, and reporting.

Enquiries

For press enquiries, please contact Kate Webster:

E: kate.webster@icgn.org

T: +44 (0) 20 3838 4759