

## CSO-Investor Dialogue Table

### Principles of Engagement (ver 1)

The CSO-Investor Dialogue Table is intended to fill the trust gap between investors and CSOs, and to create an opportunity to co-create solutions to sustainable investment challenges that have vexed both sides. (See: <https://rightscolab.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/CSO-Investor-Dialogue-Table-Concept-note.pdf> ) In order to build an atmosphere of trust, participants are invited to come to the Dialogue Table in their individual rather than institutional capacity.

We will follow the [Chatham House Rule](#) of non-attribution of any statement to the individual who made that statement. In addition, CSO-Investor Dialogue Table Founding Members agree to the following principles as a basis for their participation in the Dialogue Table, and/or initiatives or projects that flow out of it:

1. We recognize and are committed to the value of a dialogue between civil society professionals and investment professionals. We recognize that while we may not always agree, we see value in finding solutions where we are able to find agreement. We are therefore committed to dialogue despite these disagreements or differences of opinion.
2. We acknowledge that we must develop strategies and systems for investments that respect human rights while returning a profit.
3. We are committed to a dialogue that seeks to improve and advance best practices and standards in investing that respect human rights. To this end, we will be guided by the leading standards and guidance: the OECD's [Guidance on Responsible Business in the Financial Sector](#) (including the [guidance for institutional investors](#) and the draft guidance on corporate lending and underwriting); the [IFC Performance Standards on Environmental and Social Responsibility](#); and recommendations for the application of the [UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights](#) (UNGPs) to the [Equator Principles](#) and to [tackling human slavery in supply chains](#).
4. We will seek to learn from and build upon current examples of good practice as well as broader initiatives that are underway.
5. We will seek to identify and recognize progress and improvements in investing that respect people and planet.
6. We endeavor to establish a “good faith” culture as part of our dialogue. We will seek a balance between transparency and confidentiality that recognizes and respects the commitments that CSO professionals have to assisting individuals and communities in preventing or stemming harm caused by investments, as well as the efforts of investors to conduct their work in a way that respects human rights.
7. We value the relationships that we are building through the Dialogue Table. Recognizing that a future problem could arise in a participant's work involving the institution of another participant, we commit to respectful engagement at all times, including outside of the Dialogue Table.