

Session 1

Capitalizing on Change: Investors Addressing Modern Slavery

November 28

09:40 – 10:45

There is limited information on the role of capital market actors in addressing modern slavery in their value chains. With the global aim to eradicate modern slavery by 2030 (SDG target 8.7), understanding their role is crucial for effective and sustainable solutions. This panel discussion will highlight research conducted by FAST, the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, and the UK Modern Slavery and Human Rights Policy Evidence Centre (Modern Slavery PEC) which explored investors' strategies, practices, and leverage to address social risks. Panelists will offer good practice examples on how they are concretely addressing modern slavery risks as well as the challenges they face in doing so. The panel will also discuss how collaborative investor engagement and multi-stakeholder initiatives may help move the needle forward, and the enabling environment needed to assist investors in addressing modern slavery.

Moderator

Anna Bulzomi, Senior Manager, ESG Team, PwC Europe

Anna Bulzomi is a human rights lawyer specialized in business, investment, and human rights, and Senior Manager in PwC's Sustainability Practice. In her role, Anna supports European and global investors in the implementation of human rights due diligence throughout their portfolios and value chains – from policy-setting and due diligence processes to meaningful reporting. Prior to joining PwC in the Netherlands, Anna advised the OECD investment division and the World Bank on the implementation of the OECD Guidelines in Sub-Saharan Africa's extractive sector.

Panelists

Hilkka Komulainen, Head of Responsible Investment Strategy, Aegon UK

Hilkka Komulainen is Head of Responsible Investment Strategy at Aegon and leads the company's workplace and retail investment business. Hilkka has extensive experience in responsible investment, sustainability, and policy issues, having worked at UN Principles for Responsible Investment, EY, the OECD, and the United Nations. Most recently, she oversaw the integration of ESG into the investment strategy at IH International Advisors, part of the investment group Interogo Holding AG. Hilkka is an active participant in industry dialogue and is a member of the DWP Taskforce on Social Factors, the Net Zero Asset Owner Alliance Engagement track, and the TISA Responsible and Sustainable Investment Committee.

James Corah, Head of Sustainability, CCLA Investment Management

James Corah is Head of Sustainability for CCLA Investment Management. He is responsible for CCLA's approach to sustainable investing. This includes CCLA's work to deliver real and lasting change through active stewardship, integrating ESG factors into CCLA investment processes, and ensuring CCLA portfolios are aligned with the values and mission of their clients. Since joining in 2010, he has earned recognition for his outstanding contribution to sustainable investment, including at the 2023 Investment Week Awards. James was named one of Financial News' 40 Rising Stars of Asset Management in Europe in 2020.

David Sturmes-Verbeek, Fair Cobalt Alliance and Co-founder and Director of Fundraising and Business Innovation at The Impact Facility

David Sturmes-Verbeek is Director of Fundraising and Innovation at The Impact Facility. In this role, he leverages his expertise in value chain development and resource governance to attract investment for artisanal and small-scale (ASM) gold and cobalt mining in East and Central Africa. He played a key role in launching the Fair Cobalt Alliance, a platform supporting ASM communities in the Democratic Republic of Congo. David's engagement with various stakeholders has informed studies on ASM market inclusion, access to finance, gold aggregation logistics, digital traceability solutions, and requirements for ASM-centric financial products.

Richard Kooloos, Global Head of Social Impact and Human Rights, ABN AMRO

Richard Kooloos is Global Head of Social Impact and Human Rights at ABN AMRO and Chairman of the Cambridge Institute for Sustainable Leadership Banking Environment Initiative. He previously served as CEO of ABN AMRO Greenbank, a subsidiary of ABN AMRO which solely financed green initiatives. He is actively involved in various supervisory board positions in green start-ups and serves on the boards of organizations like VBDO and Global Compact Netherlands.

Resources

- [Opportunities for Businesses to Promote Child Rights in Cobalt Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining](#) (Save the Children and The Centre for Child Rights and Business)
- [The Role of the Dutch Finance Sector in Improving Children's Rights in Cobalt Artisanal and Small-Scale Mining](#) (Save the Children)
- [SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth](#) (United Nations)
- [Accelerating Change: The Potential of Capital Market Actors in Addressing Modern Slavery](#) (FAST and Modern Slavery PEC)
- [Artificial Intelligence: Addressing or Distorting the Modern Slavery Challenge?](#) (FAST, CCLA, and Modern Slavery PEC)
- [Fighting Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking Social Impact Certificate](#) (FAST and ACAMS)
- [Find It, Fix It, Prevent It Modern Slavery Report 2023](#) (CCLA)
- The CCLA Find It, Fix It, Prevent It Benchmark Report to be released on November 20.
- [Footsteps Forward: Investors Against Slavery and Trafficking Asia Pacific Annual Report 2021-2022](#) (IAST-APAC).