

2023 Year in Review

In 2023, we actively promoted responsible investment and business conduct aligned with international human rights standards in collaboration with investors, civil society, and multi-stakeholder partners.



**INVESTOR ALLIANCE
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**
AN INITIATIVE OF ICCR



Leveraging Investor Voices across Human Rights Fora in Support of the UN Guiding Principles

We supported investors' active participation in diverse fora focused on accelerating progress in rights respecting investment and business activities at conferences, workshops, and events, hosted or organized by the UN, EU, U.S. government, and nongovernmental stakeholders.

During the [12th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights](#), Investor Alliance staff along with 30+ investors participated in multiple UN Forum panels and side events that we co-organized with civil society and intergovernmental partners, fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships to support the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

At [RightsCon 2023](#), we showcased the significance of investor action and leverage in holding technology companies accountable for their digital rights responsibilities in an increasingly complex technological landscape with online and offline human rights impacts.

Aligning ESG Investing with the UNGPs and Human Rights Standards

Recognizing the gap between human rights standards, ESG ratings, and investment approaches, we provided resources to investors on corporate human rights performance through collaboration with benchmarking initiatives, investor engagements with ESG data advisors and proxy advisors, and coordinated corporate dialogues on human rights performance.

We also supported the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights on their [Investors, ESG, and Human Rights](#) report through written input and by convening two investor consultations, attended by 30+ institutional investors, to provide diverse perspectives on human rights-based investment approaches and addressing the global impact of the ESG backlash on investor action.

Elevating Investor Impact in Advocating for Human Rights in Conflict-Affected and High-Risk Areas (CAHRAs)

Responding to increasing geopolitical crises, we launched a project on investor engagement in CAHRAs with Heartland Initiative and PeaceNexus, supporting 20+ investors to engage technology and renewable energy companies on their heightened human rights due diligence (hHRDD) processes and to develop recommended good practices as guidance.

We supported investor capacity building on CAHRA risks through training with the UN Development Programme as well as collaborating on tools like [The Business of Leaving](#) report with B4Ukraine, the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre,

170+

Companies engaged on digital rights, Uyghur forced labor, CAHRA, and high-risk sectors.

240+

Investor members across 23 countries representing 14.3 trillion in assets.

255+

Investors signed 4 statements on forced labor & AI regulation, banks' respect for rights, & hHRDD in Iran.

10+

Webinars on human rights benchmarking, human rights impacts of technology and business in CAHRAs & Uyghur Region.



and the Kyiv School of Economics, which tackled the complexities of responsible exit from Russia, while balancing human rights and humanitarian law considerations, and the [Investor ESG Guide on Private Security and Human Rights](#) with the International Code of Conduct Association, which focuses on

conducting targeted human rights due diligence on companies that contract private security providers in complex operating environments.

Supporting Investors in Operationalizing Human Rights Due Diligence through Stakeholder Engagement

We continued to strengthen our commitment to “ground-truthing” ensuring that our expectations of companies align with those of impacted rights-holders - by building bridges between investors and civil society. Through a multi-stakeholder workshop, investors, human rights experts, researchers, and CSOs representing the impacted Uyghur community discussed investment solutions and approaches to address Uyghur forced labor risk central for the transition to solar energy/EV batteries. This collaborative approach supports ongoing efforts to enforce the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act and forced labor legislation globally. In addition, our [investor statement](#) supported the European Commission to prohibit products made with forced labor from entering the EU.

Supporting Smart Regulatory Measures on Responsible Artificial Intelligence (AI)

When the AI discourse exploded with the launch of generative AI tools, we continued to build out our existing [engagement with technology companies](#) to address their accountability for human rights impacts arising from the development and deployment of AI. We coordinated initiatives to urge policy makers to regulate for responsible AI through investor support for the [EU Artificial Intelligence Act](#) and our [submission](#) to the U.S. Telecommunications and Information Administration highlighting the need for mandatory human rights due diligence to address risks posed by AI.

Agility.

Our rapid response enables investors to maximize their collective impact with both companies and policymakers on urgent and emergent human rights issues.

Ground-truthing.

We ensure that our engagements on business and human rights concerns are informed by the perspectives of impacted rights-holders.

Rigor.

Our engagements are held to the highest international business and human rights standards, including the UNGPs and OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises, to assess, disclose, and drive responsible business and investor conduct.

We invite you to join us!

Membership in the Investor Alliance is currently free and open to all institutional investors. To learn more about membership, please read our [membership principles](#), contact Rebecca DeWinter-Schmitt at rdewinter@iccr.org and visit our website at www.investorsforhumanrights.org.

The Investor Alliance for Human Rights is an initiative of the [Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility \(ICCR\)](#).



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