



AGENDA

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

The Evolution of Corporate Reporting for Integrated Performance

30th Round Table on Sustainable Development

25 June 2014

OECD Headquarters, Paris

Organised in partnership with the
World Business Council for Sustainable Development



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15:00* Conference Centre - Room CC13

PLENARY**

(see questions for discussion, attached)

18:30 Chateau - Roger Ockrent Room

APERITIF

19:45 Chateau - George Marshall Room

DINNER

Dinner Speaker: Mr. José Lopez
Executive Vice President Operations & Globe
Nestlé S.A.

* Please plan to arrive 15 minutes early in order to clear security and collect your badge.

** At the Chair's discretion, there will be a brief coffee break.

Questions for Discussion

The rate at which businesses are jumping on the non-financial reporting bandwagon has grown exponentially over the past decade. The year 2013 saw a significant evolution of corporate and non-financial reporting, with the launch of the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board in the US and the release of both the IIRC's International Integrated Reporting Framework and the Global Reporting Initiative's 4th Generation Sustainability Reporting Guidelines, not to mention not-for-profit sector initiatives on the valuation of externalities, stock exchange requirements and the emergence of regulation in some jurisdictions.

At the same time, the voluntary nature of disclosure standards, guidelines and frameworks means that businesses self-interpret what to disclose, leaving it nearly impossible to compare performance across sectors. Few businesses are able to confirm whether their disclosures beyond financial reports are truly influencing financial markets, where investment allocation decisions could drive sustainable development.

The importance of environmental, social and governance disclosures should however not be underestimated: they reflect internal processes and changes that can improve a company's strategy and its durability, as well as its contribution to public goods. Such behaviour is to be encouraged in the face of the short-termism of markets, as some investors are increasingly looking for financially robust and resilient companies, and society demands a better allocation of its capital resources.

Round Table participants are asked to consider the following questions:

- Are corporate disclosures on non-financial performance being made use of? If so, by whom and with what effects? If not, why? Does corporate reporting need to evolve in order to shift investment behaviour?
- Do we need a new definition of corporate performance? What would be the consequences for financial capital valuation methods and reporting?
- What role can governments and regulations play in an area where voluntary initiatives abound? What role can stock exchanges play?
- What information would motivate financial markets to become part of the leadership that will put us on a long-term sustainable trajectory? How can we overcome the "short-termism" in investment decision-making often identified as a critical barrier to addressing sustainability challenges? How can investments in sustainability be stimulated?