

Investor initiatives and collaborations

2023



Investor initiatives and collaborations

Handelsbanken Fonder actively participates in investor networks and collaborations. Participating in collaborative initiatives is one way for us to help our industry, the asset management industry, develop its sustainability efforts. Participating in networks is also important for the fund company's own learnings and development.

Among the latest networks and investor initiatives that Handelsbanken Fonder has joined are Nature Action 100, Investor Initiative on Hazardous Chemicals and Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty.

Handelsbanken Fonder also regularly supports investor appeals aimed at companies or other decision-makers, urging them to raise their sustainability ambitions in various ways. During 2023, the fund company supported appeals in areas such as climate and human rights. Here, we present some of the initiatives and collaborations that Handelsbanken Fonder supported and participated in in 2023.

About risk

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Investor initiatives and collaborations that Handelsbanken Fonder supported and participated in during 2023

Advance **S**

Advance Advance is a collaborative initiative from PRI, where institutional investors work together to take action on human rights and social issues. The initiative offers a strategy, support and substantial opportunities for investors to conduct collaborative, targeted engagement dialogues with companies in mining and renewable energy. During 2023, we participated in dialogues with other investors on overview and improvement issues in the mining industry regarding human rights and working conditions.

[Advance](#)

Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty **E**

Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty – convened by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation and WWF – brings together companies, NGOs and financial institutions committed to supporting the development of a legally binding UN treaty to end plastic pollution. The vision is a circular economy in which plastic never becomes waste or pollution, and instead, the value of products and materials is retained in the economy. Handelsbanken Fonder was the first Swedish financial player to join the coalition, and its work will continue until the treaty is adopted.

[Business Coalition for a Global Plastics Treaty](#)

Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) **E**

CDP is an independent, international not-for-profit organisation striving for increased transparency and dialogue on companies' environmental impact – and for the information about this impact being made available to investors. Handelsbanken Fonder takes part in CDP's annual Non-Disclosure Campaign, which aims to boost companies' transparency around climate change, deforestation and water security, and a CDP campaign that encourages companies to set and report Science-Based Targets for emission reductions in order to reach net zero by 2050.

[CDP](#)

- E** = Environment
- S** = Social
- G** = Governance
- I** = Impact

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Climate Action 100+

Climate Action 100+ is a global collaborative initiative that aims to ensure that the world's largest corporate greenhouse gas emitters take responsibility and necessary action on climate change.

[Climate Action 100+](#)

ESG 4Real

ESG4Real is a non-commercial project started by Bantorget Förvaltning in Sweden together with the trade union FNV in the Netherlands in 2015. ESG4Real aims to help asset owners ensure that their capital is invested according to a minimum standard of responsible investment. During 2022 and 2023, Handelsbanken Fonder underwent a review and was in 2023 certified by ESG4Real.

[ESG4Real \(in Swedish\)](#)

FAIRR Animal Pharmaceuticals Engagement

The WHO has identified resistance to antibiotics – antimicrobial resistance (AMR) – as one of the ten greatest global health threats facing humanity. This means that it is imperative that antibiotics are used responsibly and sparingly. The engagement calls for increased transparency on companies' AMR strategy, i.e., how they manufacture, market and sell antimicrobials, and what AMR mitigation strategies they have in place. The investor collaboration is aimed at seven of the world's largest animal pharmaceutical companies.

[FAIRR](#)

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FAIRR Protein Diversification Engagement

In order to supply the world's population with protein, alternative protein sources are a necessity, especially increased access to more plant-based products. This initiative calls on companies to support the transition to a more plant-based diet by, among other things, integrating protein diversification into climate strategies, improving nutritional and sustainability attributes, and engaging consumers.

FAIRR

FAIRR Restaurant Antibiotics Engagement

Increased antibiotic resistance is a severe problem and risks creating a situation without effective antibiotics, both for humans and animals. Many fast-food chains have some sort of antibiotic policy in place for chicken, but lack policies for other sources of protein, such as eggs, steak, and pork. This collaboration on antibiotic resistance in livestock production is aimed specifically at the fast-food industry. It aims to, through dialogues, encourage clearer and more comprehensive policies regarding the use of antibiotics in the animal protein supply chain. The dialogues include demands to phase out antibiotics as prophylaxis and other routine use – all to reduce the risks of antibiotic resistance.

FAIRR

FAIRR Seafood Traceability

Seafood is one of the world's most traded and vulnerable commodities, mainly due to overfishing, and global demand for seafood is expected to double by 2050. Traceability – tracing a product from the point of production (in the case of seafood, from the vessel or farm) all the way through the supply chain – is crucial for companies to address ESG risks. To ensure that seafood traceability is aligned with the best practice, FAIRR has launched an investor collaboration for dialogue with a core group of seven seafood companies with support from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US), UNEP FI's Sustainable Blue Economy Finance Initiative, the World Benchmarking Alliance (WBA) and Planet Tracker.

FAIRR

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FAIRR Sustainable Aquaculture ^E

Aquaculture is a rapidly growing food sector that can generate climate risks from the use of feed, which often has a high protein content. This investor collaboration is aimed at eight of the world's largest salmon companies with the aim of encouraging them to develop a strategic, science-based approach to better manage ESG risks associated with the sourcing of wild forage fish, fishmeal, fish oil and soy.

[FAIRR](#)

FAIRR Waste & Pollution Engagement ^E

Industrial livestock production generates more than three billion tonnes of waste, including manure and urine, per year. The waste has a major negative impact on the environment and on ecosystems.

This collaboration aims to improve both animal waste management and nutrient pollution by encouraging companies to use fertiliser in a sustainable way that adds nutrients without contaminating soil and water, in the long run reducing the need for fertilisers. The investor collaboration is aimed at ten of the world's largest pork and poultry producers as well as two agrochemical companies.

[FAIRR](#)

FAIRR Working Conditions ^S

The meat industry – a major contributor to the GDP of leading world economies – is dependent on labour-intensive value chains, which can lead to vulnerable and dangerous working conditions. Failing to protect workers in the industry can lead to labour shortages and material damage to food supply chains globally. This collaboration aims to combat labour risks in the global protein value chains by encouraging meat producers to enhance labour rights policies and management systems throughout the value chain, and in particular in the areas of health, safety, fair working conditions and trade union membership. The collaboration is aimed at six of the world's largest producers of animal protein.

[FAIRR](#)

Swedish Investment Fund Association



The Swedish Investment Fund Association is an industry organisation that works to promote a sound industry that operates in the best interest of the savers. The association monitors legislative work related to the fund industry and is a consultative body at both national and EU levels.

[Swedish Investment Fund Association](#)

Global Compact

The UN Global Compact is an initiative aimed at companies that advocates for ten principles based on international conventions. The principles, launched in 2000, include human rights, labour rights, the environment and anti-corruption.

[Global Compact](#)

Global Impact Investing Network, GIIN Impact

Global Impact Investing Network is a global network that convenes impact investors to facilitate the exchange of knowledge, methods and to develop tools for impact investing.

[Global Impact Investing Network](#)

Sustainable Value Creation

The project Sustainable Value Creation is a collaboration between some of the largest institutional investors in Sweden that aims to highlight the importance of companies having a structured process when dealing with sustainability issues. To encourage, support and follow up on companies' sustainability efforts, Sustainable Value Creation organises seminars and roundtable discussions.

[Sustainable Value Creation \(in Swedish\)](#)

IIGCC

The ambition of the Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC) is to support and enable investors to drive significant, real progress towards a net-zero, resilient future by 2030.

[IIGCC](#)

IHC - Investor Initiative on Hazardous Chemicals

This initiative is run by investors and coordinated by ChemSec, an organisation that conducts research, cross-border collaborations and has practical tools and databases for developing more progressive chemicals legislation for the transition to non-toxic alternatives. ChemSec also works to impact and improve the implementation of chemicals legislation, an area complicated by the fact that legislation differs globally. Effective regulation of hazardous chemicals is also a key driver of innovation towards new and safe substances. The IHC calls on the world's largest chemical producers to phase out the use of hazardous and persistent chemicals in order to transition to more non-toxic alternatives, and to increase their transparency through clearer reporting.

[ChemSec](#)

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Investor Alliance for Human Rights

The Investor Alliance for Human Rights is a membership-based, non-profit initiative focusing on the investor responsibility to respect human rights, corporate engagements that drive responsible business conduct in relation to human rights, and standard-setting activities that push for robust human rights policies. The initiative provides knowledge and support to investors, primarily by offering practical tools to investors, supporting direct engagement dialogues and coordinating engagements towards politicians and standardising bodies.

[Investor Alliance for Human Rights](#)

Investors Integrity Forum, IIF

Investors Integrity Forum is a forum for Swedish investors coordinated by Transparency International Sweden. IIF wants to highlight companies' efforts against corruption and in various ways encourage increased regulatory compliance. Corruption is a considerable challenge for many companies, especially those with global operations, as it jeopardises the companies' ability to create value and profitability, and thus worsens the financial returns. The network collaborates within the Swedish branch of the international organisation Transparency International.

[Investors Integrity Forum](#)

ISS Reactive Norm-based Engagement

Following up on incidents is an important way to exert influence as an owner. When speaking of reactive engagement, we are referring to dialogue that is conducted after an incident has occurred or after a serious deficiency has been identified. Reactive engagement activities are in most cases rooted in international norms, such as the UN Global Compact and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. The purpose of the engagement is to ensure that the companies rectify their shortcomings and to ensure that similar incidents do not occur again. Together with our supplier ISS and other investors, we participate in reactive norm-based dialogues concerning companies that have had incidents or deviations from current ESG standards.

[ISS](#)

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SIIA

The Swedish Institutional Investors Association, SIIA, is a non-profit association consisting of Swedish institutional investors intending to promote a sound development of self-regulation in the equity market. This is accomplished mainly by the association participating, in appropriate forms, in the Swedish equity market's self-regulatory body and, if necessary, appointing or nominating members of its boards, or by participating in other activities. The association is one of the principals of the Association for Generally Accepted Principles in the Securities Market, which operates through the self-regulatory bodies the Swedish Securities Council, Swedish Corporate Governance Board and Swedish Financial Reporting Board.

[Swedish Institutional Investors Association \(in Swedish\)](#)

Nature Action 100

Nature Action 100 is global investor initiative run by Ceres, IIGCC, Finance for Biodiversity and Planet Tracker. The ambition of the initiative is to influence the 100 companies in the world deemed to be most systemically important for reversing the trend of loss of nature and biodiversity by 2030.

[Nature Action 100](#)

Net Zero Asset Managers initiative



The Net Zero Asset Managers (NZAM) initiative consists of a group of international asset managers committed to supporting the goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 or sooner, in line with global efforts to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

[The Net Zero Asset Managers initiative](#)

PRI **E S G**

Principles for Responsible Investment, PRI, is a network of investors and service providers working together with the UN – through partnerships with the UNEP Finance Initiative and the UN Global Compact – to implement six Principles for Responsible Investment. The aim is to promote responsible behaviour among financial actors and promote increased transparency and awareness of ESG issues in the companies in which these actors invest.

[PRI](#)

Sustainalytics' Biodiversity & Natural Capital Impact Engagement

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Handelsbanken Fonder works together with other investors to support companies' efforts related to biodiversity and natural capital. This is accomplished through a collaboration with Sustainalytics and the aim is to bolster investors' opportunities to influence companies through dialogues. For example, this can concern supporting companies to follow best practices within the area, such as mapping and reporting in line with the Task Force on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD). The initiative is aimed at the entire value chain affecting biodiversity and natural capital, and so far, around fifty companies have been selected, ranging from financiers to food producers.

[Sustainalytics](#)

Sustainalytics' Modern Slavery **S**

Today, an estimated 40 million people are exposed to modern slavery, and several studies indicate that companies could do much more to improve in this area. Together with other investors, Handelsbanken Fonder participates in thematic engagement dialogues against modern slavery, and the engagement is driven by Sustainalytics. Efforts are focused on about 20 companies in the construction and apparel industries, whom we try to influence to adopt strategies for paying living wages, the right to union affiliation and fair procurement, and robust due-diligence processes to identify risks that extend back throughout the supply chain.

[Sustainalytics](#)

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Swedish Investors for Sustainable Development, SISD

E S G I

Swedish Investors for Sustainable Development, SISD, is a network that offers a platform for learning as well as exchange of knowledge and experience related to the 2030 Agenda. The network is aimed at Swedish institutional investors and the goal is to explore the role of investors from different approaches and perspectives, and to share ideas and inspiration for the way forward.

[Swedish Investors for Sustainable Development](#)

SWESIF **E S G**

Sweden's Sustainable Investment Forum, Swesif, is an independent, non-profit interest forum that aims to disseminate, drive and increase knowledge about investments for sustainable development.

[SWESIF](#)

The Swedish National Advisory Board for Impact Investing, NAB **I**

The Swedish National Advisory Board for Impact Investing, a non-profit association, is a platform for organisations from all sectors that want to contribute to the growth and development of the impact investing market in Sweden. Through knowledge dissemination, guidance and advocacy, the association aims to promote an increased flow of capital – both private and public – to organisations, investments and projects that create a real, positive and measurable impact on society's most pressing challenges.

[The Swedish National Advisory Board for Impact Investing](#)

Tobacco Free Portfolios **S**

Tobacco Free Portfolios is an initiative that advocates for more investors to pursue tobacco-free asset management, as the tobacco industry counteracts all the Sustainable Development Goals. Tobacco production is closely linked to negative environmental impacts such as deforestation and use of pesticides and toxins, human rights violations, health problems and child labour. Handelsbanken Fonder has excluded tobacco from its funds for many years and joined this initiative to further strengthen our position on the tobacco industry.

[Tobacco Free Portfolios](#)

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