

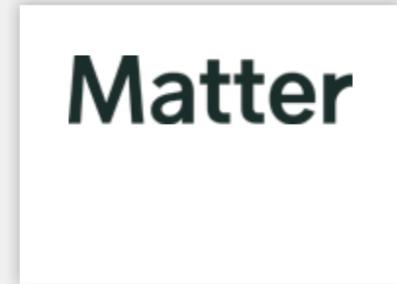


# Stories of WBA's Alliance

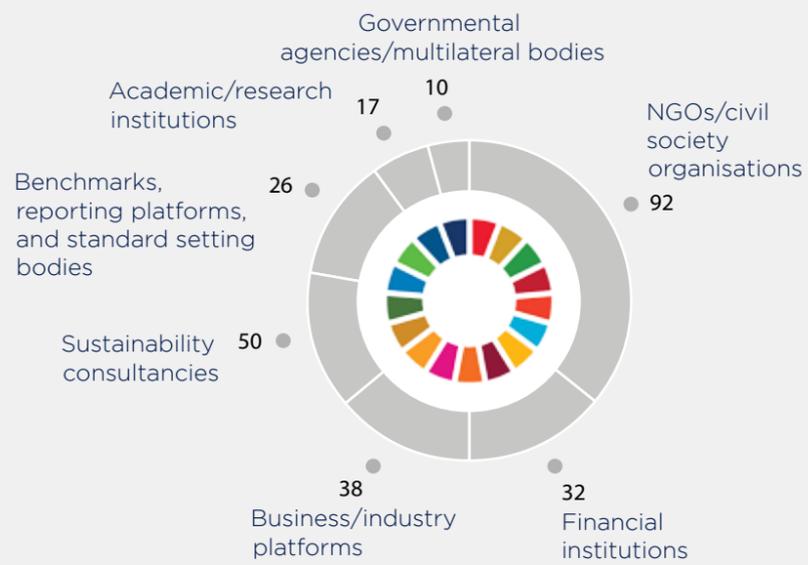
## About the Alliance

WBA Allies represent organisations working at global, regional, and local levels to shape the private sector's contributions to achieving the SDGs. Echoing the true spirit of SDG17 - Partnerships for the Goals - our Allies represent diverse constituencies committed to benchmarks, cross-sector partnerships, and collective action as critical drivers of systemic progress towards the SDGs.

This book chronicles the stories of six Allies from various stakeholder groups. Read about how these organisations are actively creating impact on-ground in many regions across the world and contributing to the SDG movement.



**Division of stakeholder groups of Allies:**



# Alliance in Action

## Unpacking the work experience of women in the garment industry

### Facts and figures

 **Name of the organisation:**  
Good Business Lab

 **Location:**  
India, USA, Colombia

 **Mission:**  
To build the business case for worker wellbeing through rigorous research

 **Stakeholder group:**  
Academic/research institution

#### SDGs in focus:



**1** “We humanised reporting by collecting **personal stories from female workers** on their experience at the workplace.”

We conducted extensive interviews with 26 female workers from 12 factories across India to understand their experience of using grievance redressal mechanisms, accessing workplace health facilities, and opportunities for job growth and skilling. Insights from this qualitative study were included in the [2021 WBA Gender Benchmark](#).

**2** “Together with WBA, we are committed to making **research insights accessible at global, regional and local forums.**”

We have contributed panellists to events including the ‘2021 UN South Asia Forum on Business and Human Rights’ and the ‘WBA Gender Benchmark Launch’ to share our research insights, and participate in conversations with thought leaders and the development community.

**3** “We want to **convert insights into action** to improve the everyday lives of workers.”

Actioning insights to develop scalable worker wellbeing interventions is at the heart of our mission at Good Business Lab. Through the WBA Ally network, we look forward to collaborating with organisations from across the globe to share best practices, lessons learned from our initiatives, and refine our collective efforts to drive maximum real-world impact.

Aligning worker wellbeing and business interests



# Shaping perspectives on civic space and civil society contributions

## 1 “Highlighting the **importance of civic space and civil society action** to achieve the SDGs.”

Through events facilitated by WBA at global forums like HLPF and the SDG Action Zone (viewed live by 16,500 people globally), CIVICUS speakers have brought insights around the barriers to collaboration, needs for increased action and accountability, and opportunities for progress around issues of human rights, civic space, governance, and beyond, from a civil society perspective.

## 2 “Mutual support to **amplify each other’s work** in the spirit of SDG17.”

As Allies, we have constantly found ways to mutually amplify each other’s work to our broader networks, internally or externally, through various means like social media, helping broaden civil society outreach on the ground for benchmarks, events and more. Recently, WBA hosted an internal brownbag on CIVICUS’s “2021 State of Civil Society Report” to encourage conversation around the role and responsibilities of businesses and investors interacting with the issues and concerns raised by civil society.

## 3 “Harnessing the **potential of partnerships** for just, equal and sustainable societies.”

We see significant potential in working with the 260+ global WBA Alliance in efforts to defend and expand space for civil society as a pathway to creating just, equal and sustainable societies. There are several opportunities to harness in enabling connections between our organisations on crucial areas such as civil society action for social transformation which puts people-power at its centre.

## Facts and figures



**Name of the organisation:**  
CIVICUS



**Location:**  
Headquartered in Johannesburg with UN liaison hubs in Geneva and New York, and members and partners across the globe



**Mission:**  
We’re a global civil society alliance dedicated to supporting civil society participation and defending civic freedoms



**Stakeholder group:**  
NGO/civil society organisation

### SDGs in focus:



To strengthen civil society and citizen action throughout the world



## Facts and figures

 **Name of the organisation:**  
Fidelity International

 **Location:**  
Over 25 countries; our largest offices are in London, Germany, Hong Kong and Shanghai

 **Mission:**  
With approximately \$780 billion in total assets under management, Fidelity International offers investment solutions to more than 2.5 million customers globally

 **Stakeholder group:**  
Financial institution

 **SDGs in focus:**  
As a global investment manager, our focus cuts across all SDGs

## Alliance in Action

# How benchmark data illuminates critical issues of digital ethics and inclusion

**1** “Conducted a **joint research workshop** to promote knowledge sharing on digital inclusion with over 20 analysts.”

Fidelity International and the WBA convened research analysts from both organisations to share knowledge and research approaches to various topics within digital inclusion. The conversation spurred lively discussion and enhanced the knowledge of both Fidelity’s and the WBA’s research teams, helping Fidelity to make better use of the WBA Digital Inclusion Benchmark data, whilst helping the WBA better understand how investors use the benchmark data.

**2** “Benchmark **data informs Fidelity’s 1:1 ESG engagements** with corporate investee companies.”

The WBA [DIB data](#) provides valuable information across IT sectors to help Fidelity International better engage with our investee companies on topics of digital inclusion. We actively ask tech companies about their practices in these areas, especially when WBA data have shown these practices to be lagging. Conversely, we applaud leaders for being role models in certain areas, and encourage them to continue to improve.

**3** “**Launching collective impact campaign** with other stakeholders to leverage benchmark data.”

Fidelity International is excited to work with other investors, with the support of the WBA and the DIB data, to engage collectively to promote digital inclusion. We look forward to being a lead investor on this campaign and bringing about improvements in this critically important and leading-edge area of sustainability, i.e., encouraging companies to do the right things in and for the digital economy.

Working together to build better financial futures



# Developing policy recommendations within the EU sustainable finance agenda

**1** “Following a co-hosted stakeholder roundtable, CDSB and WBA developed a set of **policy recommendations** for the EU.”

CDSB and WBA co-hosted a stakeholder roundtable on addressing systematic risk and encouraging sustainability transparency in the financial system. As a result of the discussions with representatives from the investor, regulatory, supervisory, reporting standards and civil society sector, we developed a set of policy recommendations for the EU sustainable finance agenda.

**2** “A **Sustainable Finance Working Group** that will be highly influential on the future NFRD negotiations and legislation.”

This working group operates as a direct interlocutor to the European Parliament’s Sustainable Finance intergroup. Chaired by Allies CDSB, Accountancy Europe, members include ACCA, Accountancy Europe, Association of German Banks (BdB), EFAMA, Frank Bold, IIGC, Schroders, ShareAction WWF and others.

**3** “Supporting the EU’s initiative with a **joint statement on sustainable corporate governance**.”

Together, as Allies, we welcomed the European Commission’s initiative to improve the regulatory framework on company law and corporate governance with a [joint statement](#) in June 2021.

## Facts and figures



**Name of the organisation:**

CDSB



**Location:**

CDSB is a global organisation with main offices in London and Berlin



**Mission:**

CDSB is committed to advancing and aligning the global mainstream corporate reporting model to equate natural and social capital with financial capital



**Stakeholder group:**

Benchmarks, reporting, and standard setting body



**SDGs in focus:**

CDSB focuses on offering companies a framework for reporting environment and social-related information, therefore cross cutting across several SDGs

Harnessing the unique power of capital markets to change the global trajectory



## Facts and figures

 **Name of the organisation:**  
Global Child Forum

 **Location:**  
Stockholm, Sweden but with a global reach

 **Mission:**  
We aim to create a better world for children by focusing on the power of business to be a driver of change

 **Stakeholder group:**  
NGO/civil society organisation

 **SDGs in focus:**  
We focus on all of the SDGs as they all, directly or indirectly, impact the well-being of children

Global Child Forum conducts the world's largest benchmark on how business addresses children's rights



## Alliance in Action

# Drawing on the power of the Alliance to positively impact children's lives

### 1 “Global Child Forum **aligns its benchmarking universe** with WBA's SDG2000.”

In a bid to expand the reach and impact of Global Child Forum's corporate sector and children's rights benchmark, Global Child is aligning its [benchmark universe](#) with WBA's [SDG2000](#) list. With knowledge from our benchmark, we hope to mobilize companies by better equipping them to meet the demands of the financial investors, governments, civil society and the community in which they operate.

### 2 “Global Child Forum emphasizes role of private sector in **protecting children online**.”

Growing up online and using digital technologies offers limitless opportunities to all. Yet these opportunities also come with serious risks. With this context, the WBA, along with Global Child Forum, convened a virtual side event of the 47th session of the UN Human Rights Council which brought together global stakeholders to discuss the role of the private sector in protecting the rights of children online.

### 3 “Global Child Forum **launches the Business Academy** focusing on the Tech & Telecom sector.”

The Global Child Forum Business Academy is an exclusive training programme designed to equip companies with knowledge and tools to integrate a children's rights perspective into their operations. With the assistance of the WBA, we developed a targeted outreach to the companies most primed to participate. The programme will cover business-critical issues linking these to a children's rights perspective.

Alliance in Action

# How benchmarks make an integral part of Matter's 360-degree sustainability data

**1** “By incorporating WBA’s benchmarks on our platform, we set **investor expectations** on how companies should be performing.”

In an industry sorely lacking standards, WBA’s benchmarks are an invaluable tool to investors. We have worked with WBA to set thresholds for when a company should be flagged as outperforming or underperforming on a certain issue. Investors can rest in mind that the data they are receiving has been vetted and validated by experts from WBA.

**2** “With Matter, WBA’s benchmarks become part of a **larger ecosystem of how we understand company sustainability.**”

Our platform brings together insights from a broad spectrum of experts on how companies perform across a range of social and environmental issues. By incorporating the WBA’s benchmarks, we help contextualise them within a 360-degree view of company sustainability.

**3** “Matter’s digital platform helps **democratise and scale access** to the WBA’s benchmarks.”

Matter’s digital platform can be used by anyone who invests in listed companies. This means the opportunities to scale access to sustainability data, including the WBA’s benchmarks, are enormous. This contributes to our belief that everyone deserves access to the highest quality sustainability data possible.

## Facts and figures



**Name of the organisation:**

Matter



**Location:**

Copenhagen, with impact across global financial markets



**Mission:**

Matter exists to provide investors with the tools and the technology they need to channel investments into companies who have a proven positive impact on people and the planet



**Stakeholder group:**

Financial institution

**SDGs in focus:**



An alternative to ESG ratings, granular, disaggregated sustainability data for investors

**Matter**

## Join this global Alliance

We're focused on broadening the regional representation of our Alliance to build a truly global and inclusive movement. Each new Ally brings fresh energy and new perspectives to the challenges we collectively face. From its inception, WBA has understood that success rests on our ability to build a diverse and representative global network of stakeholders from the public, private, and civil society sectors.

Since the launch of our global consultation in September 2017, the Alliance has grown, as of mid-2021, to over 260 organisations. We look forward to continuing to grow and strengthen the Alliance as we work towards greater corporate transparency, leadership, and accountability on the SDGs.

### If you'd like to join us in our efforts, please reach out to:

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