

## 12 Annex 12: Alignment with WBCSD Chemical Sector Project

The Chemical Sector group 'Reaching full Potential' (RfP) of the World Business Council for Sustainable development (WBCSD) started to develop guidance documentation for assessing "social impacts in the life cycle of a product" for chemical products in 2014.

This initiative came after the development of the guidance for environmental life cycle assessments for the Chemical Sector (2013). Social impacts are recognized as an emerging topic for chemical companies. Chemical products can make a significant difference in the social performance of many end-user goods along the life cycle. The objective of the WBCSD Chemical Sector guidance is to provide consistent and credible qualitative assessment and communication on social impact, social benefit and the value of chemical products in their application. The guidance aims to provide the credible foundations that will be used for a qualitative assessment of chemical products and the development of complementary methodologies, enabling the comparison of products' social performance within the whole chemical sector in the future. The publication, expected at the end of 2015, will reflect the ambition of the chemical sector to improve and facilitate social impact assessments and decision-making for companies along the value chain.

From the start of the WBCSD project, the Roundtable and WBCSD project teams cooperated to align as much as possible. The WBCSD project team used as starting points the framework and definitions published by the Roundtable for Product Social Metrics and the UNEP SETAC Guidelines for Social Life Cycle Assessment of Products and Associated Works (UNEP SETAC, 2009).

The elaboration of the WBCSD guidance document highlighted critical gaps in terms of development of reference scales for advanced indicators, aggregation or weighting methodologies and data availability, which need further methodological development and data gathering efforts. Filling these gaps will allow the industry to go further in its sustainability measurement. By supporting these activities from different sectors, it will be possible to generate meaningful data sets and information for the sustainability assessment of chemical products. Close collaboration between the companies of the Roundtable for Product Social Metrics and the WBCSD chemical sector companies improved both guiding documents and will solve some of the critical gaps in the future.

The scales-based approach proposed in the WBCSD and the evaluation method has been strongly inspired by the Handbook for Product Social Impact Assessment 2.0. The two methodologies assessed the same general topics, where the WBCSD guidance covers additional aspects specifically important for the chemical sector. The interaction of the two groups is clearly visible in the scales-based approach proposed in this handbook, where three social topics were adjusted to make them consistent with the respective performance indicators and reference scales proposed by the WBCSD guidelines.

Table 19: topics covered in the methodologies

	Roundtable Handbook		WBCSD Chemicals Guidelines
Workers	Health and safety	-----	Workers' occupational health risks
			Management of workers' individual health
			Safety management system for workers
	Wages		Fair wages
	Social benefits		Social/employer security and benefits
	Working hours		Appropriate working hours
	Child labour		No child labour
	Forced labour		No forced labor, human trafficking and slavery
	Discrimination		No discrimination
	Freedom of association and collective bargaining		Freedom of association, collective bargaining and labor relations
	Employment relationship		
			Management of re-organization
	Training and education		Skills, knowledge and employability
	Work-life balance		
Job satisfaction and engagement	Job satisfaction		
Consumers	Health and safety	-----	Healthy & safe products
	Experienced well-being		Consumer product experience
			Direct impact to basic needs
Local communities		-----	Promotion of skills & knowledge
	Health and safety		Healthy & safe living conditions
	Access to tangible resources		Access to basic needs for human right dignity
			Access to basic needs for sustainable development
	Local capacity building		Indigenous' rights
	Community engagement		Promotion of skills and knowledge
			Developing relationship with local communities
			Nuisance reduction
	Employment		Job creation