

World Benchmarking Alliance Statement for 2022 ECOSOC Partnership Forum, February 2nd.

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Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of the World Benchmarking Alliance. Together with nearly 300 multi-stakeholder organisations, we are building a movement to incentivise corporate action on the SDGs.

We know that companies have a critical role in delivering the 2030 Agenda. After all, the world's largest companies are becoming more powerful and concentrated.

Some businesses are stepping up to the plate. We saw an unprecedented number of commitments made at COP26, including \$130 trillion USD pledged by GFANZ – a consortium of financial institutions.

This is welcome - if we are going to be successful at systemic transformation and put our planet and society on a truly sustainable path, substantial changes must be made to the way in which companies operate. But companies don't work in isolation - all stakeholders must work together as part of an ecosystem to move companies in this direction through the right incentives and policies.

Building back better means that companies need to move beyond commitments, towards action - and their stakeholders need to know how to hold them accountable. Transparent information on corporate performance is needed to create consistent, comparable, and actionable insights into impact. Because without accountability, talk is cheap.

The World Benchmarking Alliance assesses companies on their progress towards the SDGs through free, publicly available benchmarks. But our data is only as valuable as the actions they contribute to. That's why we're building a multi-stakeholder movement that enables a race to the top, incentivising leaders and holding laggards to account.

We need to build a mechanism for corporate accountability on sustainable development, so that together, we can hold companies accountable for their impacts on planet and people. We foresee that this will be a positive contribution to Our Common Agenda, providing space for radical and inclusive transformation.