

THE DIRECTORS QUORUM

March 2025



SWIPE TO NEXT PAGE

WHAT'S MAKING ESG HEADLINES



Carbon Credits Trading – Exploring Landscape & Regime in Pakistan

Source: Karandaaz

Karandaaz Pakistan report, Carbon Credits Trading—Exploring Landscape and Regime in Pakistan, examines the country potential in the expanding global carbon market. It analyzes the current regulatory framework, market readiness, and opportunities for private sector involvement, providing a SWOT analysis of the evolving ecosystem. The report emphasizes that, with appropriate mechanisms, Pakistan can integrate into international carbon markets, attract investments, & drive sustainable economic growth.



Global Renewable Energy Investments Set to Double by 2030, Reveals SEB Green Bond Report

Source: ESG News

According to the SEB Green Bond Report, global investments in renewable energy are projected to double by 2030, reflecting a significant shift towards sustainable energy sources. This surge is driven by increased commitments from both public and private sectors to address climate change and transition to a low-carbon economy. The report highlights that such investments are essential to meet international climate targets and ensure a sustainable energy future.



EU Omnibus Simplification Explained: Key Takeaways for Businesses

Source: ESG News

The European Commission has unveiled two major legislative packages—Omnibus I and Omnibus II—aimed at reducing regulatory burdens, improving sustainability rules, and unlocking investment. Omnibus I focuses on reducing compliance costs for businesses by streamlining sustainability reporting obligations under the Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD) and delaying certain reporting requirements. Omnibus II further refines corporate due diligence processes, modifies EU taxonomy rules, and introduces measures to cut red tape for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Collectively, these initiatives are expected to simplify regulatory processes, reduce administrative costs, and enhance business competitiveness within.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN STORE



SECP Announces Mandatory Requirements for Non-Banking Microfinance Companies

Source: Securities & Exchange Commission of Pakistan

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has introduced mandatory requirements for non-banking microfinance companies (NBMFCs) to enhance consumer protection and financial inclusion. Key measures include reporting gender-disaggregated data through the SECP's ESG Sustain Portal, implementing consumer protection principles for transparent loan disclosures, & strengthening grievance redressal mechanisms. Additionally, SECP has mandated gender sensitization training for NBMFC staff to foster a more inclusive and supportive environment for female borrowers. These initiatives aim to promote fairness, transparency, & women's empowerment in the microfinance sector.



SECP Mandates Book-Entry Shares for newly incorporated unlisted Companies

Source: Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan

The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) has mandated that all newly incorporated unlisted companies issue and maintain shares exclusively in book-entry form, effective March 3, 2025. This initiative, aligned with Section 72 of the Companies Act, 2017, aims to enhance corporate governance, improve transparency, and eliminate risks associated with physical shares. SECP, in collaboration with the Central Depository, has introduced a seamless digital process for share issuance, including API integration, automated fee collection, and e-notifications. This transition marks a significant step toward digitalization and efficiency in Pakistan's corporate sector.



UK Corporate Governance Code 2024

Source: Financial Reporting Council

The UK Corporate Governance Code 2024, published in January 2024, introduces key revisions while maintaining the principles-based 'comply or explain' approach. Effective from January 1, 2025, the revised Code emphasizes board accountability for internal controls, streamlined governance reporting, and enhanced transparency for investors. Notably, Provision 29, which requires boards to issue a declaration on the effectiveness of internal controls, will apply from January 1, 2026. The Code applies to all listed commercial companies and closed-ended investment funds, reinforcing corporate responsibility, integrity, and sustainable governance practices.



IFC & PICG ESG Sustainability for Board Directors & Executives

In February 2025, the Pakistan Institute of Corporate Governance (PICG), in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), successfully conducted a workshop on Sustainability for Board Directors and Executives. This session provided participants with valuable insights into developing and implementing effective ESG strategies, fostering structured ESG integration, and enhancing corporate sustainability practices

Directors Training Program



In February 2025, PICG successfully conducted two Directors' Training Programs (DTP) one Online & one In-house, and a customized DTP for State Life Insurance Corporation. The programs were attended by C-suite executives, corporate governance professionals, and board directors. Designed in accordance with the SECP approved curriculum, these sessions provided participants with valuable insights & skills for effective corporate governance practices and board leadership.



Aminah Zaheer

Zoom user

Zoom user



Ramsha Farnukh



Shereen Rasheed



Waqas



Pakistan Institute of Corpo...



Rahema Hassan



Adnan Hameed



Sylvia John - ZVMG Ra...

Sexual Harassment in the Workplace

In February 2025, PICG successfully hosted an online workshop on Sexual Harassment in the Workplace. This program is designed to empower participants with the knowledge and tools necessary to address and prevent workplace harassment