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ESRS for Non-EU Groups
NESRS S3
AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

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Objective

1. The objective of this Standard is to specify disclosure requirements which will enable **users** of the **sustainability report** to understand material impacts on **affected communities** connected with the undertaking's own operations and value chain, including through its products or services, as well as through its **business relationships**, including:
 - (a) how the undertaking affects communities, in areas where impacts are most likely to be present and severe, in terms of material positive and negative actual or potential impacts;
 - (b) any **actions** taken, and the result of such actions, to prevent, mitigate or remediate actual or potential negative impacts; the nature, type and extent of the undertaking's material risks and opportunities related to its impacts on **affected communities**, and how the undertaking manages them; and
 - (c) Deleted
2. In order to meet the objective, this Standard requires an explanation of the general approach the undertaking takes to identify and manage any material actual and potential impacts on **affected communities** in relation to:
 - (a) communities' economic, social and cultural rights (for example, adequate housing, adequate food, water and sanitation, land-related and security-related impacts);
 - (b) communities' civil and political rights (for example, freedom of expression, freedom of assembly, impacts on human rights defenders); and
 - (c) particular rights of **indigenous peoples** (for example, free, prior and informed consent, self-determination, cultural rights).

Interaction with other NESRS

4. This standard applies when material impacts on **affected communities** have been identified through the **materiality** assessment process laid out in NESRS 2 *General disclosures*.
5. This Standard shall be read in conjunction with NESRS 1 *General requirements*, and NESRS 2, as well as the NESRS S1 *Own workforce*, NESRS S2 *Workers in the value chain* and NESRS S4 *Consumers and end-users*.

Disclosure Requirements

NESRS 2 General disclosures

6. The requirements of this section should be read in conjunction with the disclosures required by NESRS 2 on Strategy (SBM). The resulting disclosures shall be presented alongside the disclosures required by NESRS 2, except for SBM-3 *Material impacts and their interaction with strategy and business model*, for which the undertaking has an option to present the disclosures alongside the topical disclosure.

Strategy

Disclosure Requirement related to NESRS 2 SBM-2 – Interests and views of stakeholders

7. When responding to NESRS 2 SBM-2, paragraph 43, the undertaking shall disclose how the views, interests, and rights of **affected communities**, including respect for their human rights (and their rights as **indigenous peoples**, where applicable), inform its strategy and business model. **Affected communities** are a key group of affected **stakeholders**.

Disclosure Requirement related to NESRS 2 SBM-3 – Material impacts and their interaction with strategy and business model

8. When responding to NESRS 2 SBM-3 paragraph 48, the undertaking shall disclose:
- (a) whether and how actual and potential impacts on **affected communities** as identified in NESRS 2 IM-1 *Description of the processes to identify and assess material impacts, risks and opportunities*: (i) originate from or are connected to the undertaking's strategy and business models, and (ii) inform and contribute to adapting the undertaking's strategy and business model.
 - (b) Deleted
9. When fulfilling the requirements of paragraph 48, the undertaking shall disclose whether all **affected communities** who are likely to be materially impacted by the undertaking, including impacts that are connected with the undertaking's own operations and **value chain**, including through its products or services, as well as through its **business relationships**, are included in the scope of its disclosure under NESRS 2. In addition, the undertaking shall provide the following information:
- (a) a brief description of the types of communities subject to material impacts by its own operations or through its upstream and downstream value chain, and specify whether they are:
 - i. communities living or working around the undertaking's operating **sites**, factories, facilities or other physical operations, or more remote communities affected by activities at those sites (for example by downstream water **pollution**);
 - ii. communities along the undertaking's value chain (for example, those affected by the operations of **suppliers'** facilities or by the activities of logistics or distribution providers);
 - iii. communities at one or both endpoints of the value chain (for example, at the point of extraction of metals or minerals or harvesting of commodities, or communities around **waste** or **recycling** sites);
 - iv. communities of **indigenous peoples**.
 - (b) in the case of material negative impacts, whether they are either (i) widespread or systemic in contexts where the undertaking operates or has sourcing or other business relationships (for example, marginalised populations suffering impacts on their health and quality of life in a highly industrialised area), or (ii) related to individual **incidents** in the undertaking's own operations (e.g., a toxic **waste** spill affecting a community's access to clean drinking water) or in a specific business relationship (e.g., a peaceful protest by communities against business operations that was met with a violent response from the undertaking's security services). This includes consideration of impacts on affected communities that may arise from the transition to greener and climate- neutral operations. Potential impacts include impacts associated with

innovation and restructuring, closure of mines, increased mining of minerals needed for the transition to a sustainable economy and solar panel production;

- (c) in the case of material positive impacts, a brief description of the activities that result in the positive impacts (for example, capacity-building to support more and new forms of local livelihoods) and the types of communities that are positively affected or could be positively affected; the undertaking may also disclose whether the positive impacts occur in specific countries or regions; and

- (d) Deleted

10. In describing the main types of communities who are or could be negatively affected, based on the **materiality** assessment set out in Disclosure Requirement NESRS 2 IM-1, the undertaking shall disclose whether and how it has developed an understanding of how **affected communities** with particular characteristics or those living in particular contexts, or those undertaking particular activities may be at greater risk of harm.

Deleted

Impact management

Disclosure Requirement S3-1 – Policies related to affected communities

12. **The undertaking shall describe its policies adopted to manage its material impacts on affected communities.**
13. The objective of this Disclosure Requirement is to enable an understanding of the extent to which the undertaking has policies that address the identification, assessment, management and/or **remediation** of material impacts on **affected communities** specifically.
14. The disclosure required by paragraph 12 shall contain the information on the undertaking's policies to manage its material impacts related to **affected communities** in accordance with NESRS 2 MDR-P *Policies adopted to manage material sustainability matters*. In addition, the undertaking shall specify if such policies cover specific affected communities or all affected communities.
15. The undertaking shall disclose any particular **policy** provisions for preventing and addressing impacts on **indigenous peoples**.
16. The undertaking shall describe its human rights **policy** commitments¹ that are relevant to affected communities, including those processes and mechanisms to monitor compliance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work or OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. In its disclosure it shall focus on those matters that are material in relation to², as well as its general approach to:
 - (a) respect for the human rights of communities, and **indigenous peoples** specifically;
 - (b) engagement with affected communities; and
 - (c) measures to provide and/or enable **remedy** for human rights impacts.
17. The undertaking shall disclose whether and how its policies with regard to **affected communities** are aligned with internationally recognised standards relevant to communities and

¹ This information supports the information needs of financial market participants subject to Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 because it is derived from an additional indicator related to principal adverse impacts as set out by indicator #9 in Table III of Annex I of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1288 with regard to disclosure rules on sustainable investments ("Lack of a human rights policy").

² This information supports the information needs of financial market participants subject to Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 because it is derived from a mandatory indicator related to principal adverse impacts as set out by indicator #11 in Table I of Annex I of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1288 with regard to disclosure rules on sustainable investments ("Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises").

indigenous peoples specifically, including the United Nations (UN) Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The undertaking shall also disclose the extent to which cases of non-respect of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work or OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises that involve affected communities have been reported in its own operations or in its upstream and downstream **value chain** and, if applicable, an indication of the nature of such cases³.

18. The **policy** may take the form of a stand-alone policy regarding communities or be included in a broader document such as a code of ethics or a general sustainability policy that has already been disclosed by the undertaking as part of another NESRS. In those cases, the undertaking shall provide an accurate cross-reference to identify the aspects of the policy that satisfy the requirements of this Disclosure Requirement.

Disclosure Requirement S3-2 – Processes for engaging with affected communities about impacts

19. **The undertaking shall disclose its general processes for engaging with affected communities and their representatives about actual and potential impacts on them.**
20. The objective of this Disclosure Requirement is to enable an understanding of whether and how the undertaking engages, as part of its ongoing due diligence process, with affected communities, their legitimate representatives, or with **credible proxies**, about material actual and potential positive and/or negative impacts that do or are likely to affect them, and whether and how perspectives of **affected communities** are taken into account in the decision-making processes of the undertaking.
21. The undertaking shall disclose whether and how the perspectives of **affected communities** inform its decisions or activities aimed at managing actual and potential impacts on communities. This shall include, where relevant, an explanation of:
- (a) whether engagement occurs with affected communities or their **legitimate representatives** directly, or with **credible proxies** that have insight into their situation;
 - (b) the stage(s) at which engagement occurs, the type of engagement, and the frequency of the engagement;
 - (c) the function and the most senior role within the undertaking that has operational responsibility for ensuring this engagement happens, and that the results inform the undertaking's approach;
 - (d) where applicable, how the undertaking assesses the effectiveness of its engagement with affected communities, including, where relevant, any agreements or outcomes that result.
22. Where applicable, the undertaking shall disclose the steps it takes to gain insight into the perspectives of **affected communities** that may be particularly vulnerable to impacts and/or marginalised, and into the perspective of specific groups within the affected communities, such as women and girls.
23. Where **affected communities** are **indigenous peoples**, the undertaking shall also disclose how it takes into account and ensures respect of their particular rights in its **stakeholder engagement** approach, including their right to **free, prior and informed consent** with regard to: (i) their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property; (ii) activities affecting their lands and territories; and (iii) legislative or administrative measures that affect them. In particular,

³ This information supports the information needs of: financial market participants subject to Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 because it is derived from a mandatory indicator related to principal adverse impacts as set out by indicator #10 in Table I of Annex I of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1288 with regard to disclosure rules on sustainable investments ("Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises"); and benchmark administrators to disclose ESG factors subject to Regulation (EU) 2020/1816 as set out by indicator "Number of benchmark constituents subject to social violations (absolute number and relative divided by all benchmark constituents), as referred to in international treaties and conventions, United Nations principles and, where applicable, national law" in section 1 and 2 of Annex II.

where engagement occurs with indigenous peoples, the undertaking shall also disclose whether and how **indigenous peoples** have been consulted on the mode and parameters of the engagement (for example, in designing the agenda, nature, and timeliness of the engagement).

24. If the undertaking cannot disclose the above required information because it has not adopted a general process to engage with affected communities, it shall disclose this to be the case. It may disclose a timeframe in which it aims to have such a process in place.

Disclosure Requirement S3-3 – Processes to remediate negative impacts and channels for affected communities to raise concerns

25. **The undertaking shall describe the processes it has in place to provide for or cooperate in the remediation of negative impacts on affected communities that the undertaking is connected with, as well as channels available to affected communities to raise concerns and have them addressed.**
26. The objective of this Disclosure Requirement is to enable an understanding of the formal means by which **affected communities** can make their concerns and needs known directly to the undertaking, and/or through which the undertaking supports the availability of such channels (for example, **grievance mechanisms**) by its business relationships, how follow up is performed with these communities regarding the issues raised, and the effectiveness of these channels.
27. The undertaking shall describe:
- (a) its general approach to and processes for providing or contributing to **remedy** where it has identified that it has caused or contributed to a material negative **impact** on affected communities, including whether and how the undertaking assesses that the remedy provided is effective;
 - (b) any specific channels it has in place for **affected communities** to raise their concerns or needs directly with the undertaking and have them addressed, including whether these are established by the undertaking itself and/or through participation in third-party mechanisms;
 - (c) its processes through which the undertaking supports the availability of such channels by its business relationships; and
 - (d) how it tracks and monitors issues raised and addressed, and how it ensures the effectiveness of the channels, including through involvement of **stakeholders** who are the intended **users** of those channels.
28. The undertaking shall disclose whether and how it assesses that **affected communities** are aware of and trust these structures or processes as a way to raise their concerns or needs and have them addressed. In addition, the undertaking shall disclose whether it has policies in place regarding the protection of individuals that use them against retaliation. If such information has been disclosed in accordance with NESRS G1-1, the undertaking may refer to that information.
29. If the undertaking cannot disclose the above required information because it has not adopted a channel for raising concerns and/or does not support the availability of such a channel by its business relationships, it shall disclose this to be the case. It may disclose a timeframe in which it aims to have such a channel or processes in place.

Disclosure Requirement S3-4 – Taking action on material impacts and effectiveness of those actions

30. **The undertaking shall disclose how it takes action to address material impacts on affected communities the effectiveness of those actions.**

31. The objective of this Disclosure Requirement is twofold. Firstly, it is to provide an understanding of any **actions** and initiatives through which the undertaking seeks to:
- (a) prevent, mitigate and remediate the negative material **impacts** on affected communities; and/or
 - (b) achieve positive material impacts for affected communities.
- The undertaking shall provide a summarised description of the action plans and resources to manage its material impacts related to affected communities as per *NESRS 2 MDR-A Actions and resources in relation to material sustainability matters*.
32. In relation to material impacts, the undertaking shall describe:
- (a) actions taken, planned or underway to prevent or mitigate material negative impacts on affected communities;
 - (b) whether and how it has taken action to provide or enable **remedy** in relation to an actual material impact;
 - (c) any additional **actions** or initiatives it has in place with the primary purpose of delivering positive impacts for affected communities; and
 - (d) how it tracks and assesses the effectiveness of these **actions** and initiatives in delivering intended outcomes for affected communities.
33. In relation to paragraph 29, the undertaking shall describe:
- (a) the processes through which it identifies what action is needed and appropriate in response to a particular actual or potential negative impact on affected communities;
 - (b) its approach to taking action in relation to specific material negative impacts on communities, including any action in relation to its own practices regarding land acquisition, planning and construction, operation or closure practices, as well as whether wider industry or collaborative action with other relevant parties will be required; and
 - (c) how it ensures that processes to provide or enable **remedy** in the event of material negative impacts are available and effective in their implementation and outcomes.
34. Paragraph 34 has been deleted
35. The undertaking shall disclose whether and how it takes action to avoid causing or contributing to material negative impacts on **affected communities** through its own practices, including, where relevant, in relation to planning, land acquisition and exploitation, finance, extraction or production of raw materials, use of natural resources, and management of environmental impacts. This may include disclosing what approach is taken when tensions arise between the prevention or mitigation of material negative impacts and other business pressures.
36. The undertaking shall also disclose whether severe human rights issues and **incidents** connected to **affected communities** have been reported and, if applicable, disclose these⁴.
37. When disclosing the information required under paragraph 31 (c), the undertaking shall consider NESRS 2 MDR-T *Tracking effectiveness of policies and actions through targets* if it evaluates the effectiveness of an action by setting a target.
38. The undertaking shall disclose what resources are allocated to the management of its material impacts, with information that enables **users** to gain an understanding of how the material impacts are managed.

⁴ This information supports the information needs of financial market participants subject to Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 because it is derived from an additional indicator related to principal adverse impacts as set out by indicator #14 in Table III of Annex I of Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1288 with regard to disclosure rules on sustainable investments (“Number of identified cases of severe human rights issues and incidents”).

Metrics and targets

Disclosure Requirement S3-5 – Targets related to managing material negative impacts, advancing positive impacts

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39. The undertaking shall disclose the time-bound and outcome-oriented targets it may have set related to:
- (a) reducing negative impacts on affected communities; and/or
 - (b) advancing positive impacts on affected communities; and/or
40. The objective of this Disclosure Requirement is to enable an understanding of the extent to which the undertaking is using time-bound and outcome-oriented **targets** to drive and measure its progress in addressing material negative impacts, and/or advancing positive impacts on affected communities.
41. The summarised description of the **targets** to manage its material impacts related to **affected communities** shall contain the information requirements defined in NESRS 2 MDR-T.
42. The undertaking shall disclose the process for setting the **targets**, including whether and how the undertaking engaged directly with affected communities, their legitimate representatives, or with **credible proxies** that have insight into their situation in:
- (a) setting any such targets;
 - (b) tracking the undertaking's performance against them; and
 - (c) identifying, any, lessons or improvements as a result of the undertaking's performance.

Appendix A: Application Requirements

This appendix is an integral part of the NESRS S3 *Affected communities*. It supports the application of the disclosure requirements set out in this standard and has the same authority as the other parts of the standard.

AR 1A When preparing the sustainability report under NESRS 1 paragraph 18B, the report shall include the related disclosures required under NESRS 2 paragraphs 65A, 69A and 79A.

Objective

- AR 1. The overview of social and human rights matters provided in paragraph 2 is not meant to imply that all of these issues should be disclosed in each Disclosure Requirement in this Standard. Rather, it provides a list of matters that the undertaking shall consider in its **materiality** assessment (ref. to NESRS 1 chapter 3 *Double materiality as the basis for sustainability disclosures* and NESRS 2 IM-1) related to **affected communities** and, as appropriate, disclose as material impacts within the scope of this Standard.
- AR 2. In addition to the issues listed in paragraph 2, the undertaking may also consider disclosing information about other issues relevant to a material impact for a shorter period of time, for instance initiatives regarding the impacts on communities related to the undertaking's operations due to extreme and sudden weather conditions.

NESRS 2 General Disclosures

Strategy

Disclosure Requirement related to NESRS 2 SBM-2 – Interests and views of stakeholders

- AR 3. Disclosure Requirement NESRS 2 SBM-2 requires the undertaking to provide an understanding of if and how it considers the role that its strategy and **business model** may play in creating, exacerbating or mitigating significant material **impacts** on **affected communities**, and whether and how the business model and strategy are adapted to address such material impacts.
- AR 4. While **affected communities** may not be engaging with the undertaking at the level of its strategy or **business model**, their views can inform the undertaking's assessment of its strategy and business model. The undertaking may disclose the views of affected communities and affected communities' representatives.

Disclosure Requirement related to NESRS 2 SBM-3 - Material impacts and their interaction with strategy and business model

- AR 5. **Impacts** on **affected communities** can originate in the undertaking's strategy or **business model** in a number of different ways. For example, impacts may relate to the undertaking's value proposition (such as, construction or commencement of projects with timelines that do not allow sufficient time for consultation with groups affected by the projects), its **value chain** (for example, **land-use** in countries in which ownership is often contested or records are unreliable or in which land-users such as **indigenous peoples** are unrecognised), or its cost structure and the revenue model (such as, aggressive strategies to minimise taxation, particularly with respect to operations in developing countries).
- AR6A Another example of such impacts on affected communities is when the undertaking is moving into new geographies in pursuit of certain commodities and local communities are negatively affected. For example, where the undertaking's business model relies on intensive water extraction at its plants, to the extent that it affects access to water for local communities' consumption, hygiene and livelihoods. Or if securing future land concessions would harm local communities' rights and livelihoods

AR 7. Other examples of particular characteristics of **affected communities** that may be considered by the undertaking when responding to paragraph 10 may be an affected community that is physically or economically isolated and is particularly susceptible to introduced diseases or has limited access to social services and therefore relies on infrastructure set up by the undertaking. It may be because where land worked by women is purchased by the undertaking and payments go to male heads of households, women become further disenfranchised in the community. It may also be because the community is indigenous, and its members seek to exercise cultural or economic rights to the land owned or used by the undertaking – or by one of the entities with which it has a business relationship – in a context where their rights are not protected by the state. In addition, the undertaking shall consider whether different characteristics overlap. For example, characteristics such as ethnicity, socioeconomic status, migrant status and gender may create overlapping risks of harm for certain affected communities, or for distinct parts of those affected communities, since affected communities are often heterogeneous in nature.

AR 8A Additional example for impacts on affected communities could be where low likelihood but high impact events – for example a natural disaster - leads to a catastrophic industrial accident involving the undertaking's operations, resulting in severe harm to affected communities.

Paragraphs AR 6 and 8 have been deleted and paragraph AR 6A and AR 8A have been inserted.

Impact management

Disclosure Requirement S3-1 – Policies related to affected communities

AR 9. The description shall include the key information necessary to ensure a faithful representation of the policies in relation to **affected communities** and, therefore, the undertaking shall consider explanations of significant changes to the policies adopted during the reporting year (for example, new or additional approaches to engagement, due diligence and remedy).

AR 10. When disclosing the alignment of its policies with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, the undertaking shall consider that the Guiding Principles refer to the International Bill of Rights, which consists of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the two Covenants that implement it, as well as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the International Labour Organisation's Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples (ILO No. 169) and the core conventions that underpin it, and may disclose its alignment with these instruments.

AR 11. The undertaking may provide an illustration of the types of communication of its policies to those individuals, group of individuals or entities for whom they are relevant, either because they are expected to implement them (for example, the undertaking's **employees**, contractors and **suppliers**), or because they have a direct interest in their implementation (for example, own workers, investors). It may disclose communication tools and channels (for example, flyers, newsletters, dedicated websites, social media, face to face interactions, workers' representatives), aimed at ensuring that the **policy** is accessible and that different audiences understand its implications. The undertaking may also explain how it identifies and removes potential barriers for dissemination, such as through translation into relevant languages or the use of graphic depictions.

AR 12. When disclosing severe human rights issues and **incidents** connected to affected communities, the undertaking shall consider any legal disputes related to land rights and to the **free, prior and informed consent** of **indigenous peoples**.

Disclosure Requirement S3-2 – Processes for engaging with affected communities about impacts

- AR 13. Explanations of how the undertaking takes into account and ensures respect of the right of indigenous peoples to **free, prior and informed consent** may include information about processes to consult with indigenous peoples to obtain such consent. The undertaking shall consider how the consultation includes a good faith negotiation with affected **indigenous peoples** to obtain their free, prior and informed consent where the undertaking affects the lands, territories or resources that indigenous peoples customarily own, occupy or otherwise use; or relocates them from land or territories subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; or affects or exploits their cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property.
- AR 14. When describing which function or role has operational responsibility for such engagement and/or ultimate accountability, the undertaking may disclose whether this is a dedicated role or function or part of a broader role or function, and whether any capacity building activities have been offered to support the staff to undertake engagement. If it cannot identify such a position or function, it may state that this is the case. This disclosure could also be fulfilled by making reference to information disclosed according to NESRS 2 GOV-1 *The role of the administrative, management and supervisory bodies*.
- AR 15. When preparing the disclosures described in paragraph 20 b) and c), the following illustrations may be considered:
- (a) examples of stages at which engagement occurs are i) determining the approach to mitigation and ii) evaluating the effectiveness of mitigation;
 - (b) for type of engagement, these could be participation, consultation and/or information;
 - (c) for the frequency of the engagement, information may be provided on whether engagement occurs on a regular basis, at certain points in a project or business process; and
 - (d) for the role with operational responsibility, whether the undertaking requires relevant staff to have certain skills, or whether it provides **training** or capacity building to relevant staff to undertake engagement. In the case of material impacts, risks and opportunities related to **indigenous peoples**, this includes training on indigenous people's rights, including on free, prior and informed consent.
- AR 16. To illustrate how the perspectives of communities have informed specific decisions or activities of the undertaking, the undertaking may provide examples from the current reporting period.

Disclosure Requirement S3-3 – Processes to remediate negative impacts and channels for affected communities to raise concerns

- AR 17. In fulfilling the requirements set out by Disclosure Requirement NESRS S3-3, the undertaking may be guided by the content of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises focused on **remediation** and **grievance mechanisms**.
- AR 18. Channels for raising concerns or needs, include **grievance mechanisms**, hotlines, dialogue processes or other means through which **affected communities** or their **legitimate representatives** can raise concerns about impacts or explain needs that they would like the undertaking to address. This could include channels provided by the undertaking directly, in addition to any other mechanisms the undertaking may use to gain insight into the management of impacts on communities, such as compliance audits. Where the undertaking is relying solely on information about the existence of such channels provided by its **business relationships** to answer this requirement, it may state that.
- AR 19. To provide greater insight into the information covered in NESRS S3-3, the undertaking may explain whether and how communities that may be affected are able to access channels at the level of the undertaking they are affected by, in relation to each material impact. Relevant insights include information on whether **affected communities** can access channels in a

language they understand, and whether they have been consulted in the design of such channels.

- AR 20. Third party mechanisms could include those operated by the government, NGOs, industry associations and other collaborative initiatives. The undertaking may disclose whether these are accessible to all **affected communities** who may be potentially or actually materially impacted by the undertaking, or individuals or organisations acting on their behalf or who are otherwise in a position to be aware of negative impacts.
- AR 21. In relation to the protection of individuals that use the mechanisms against retaliation, the undertaking may describe whether it treats grievances confidentially and with respect to the rights of privacy and data protection; and whether to the mechanisms can be used anonymously (for example, through representation by a third party).
- AR 22. When disclosing processes related to providing and enabling **remedy** for **indigenous peoples**, relevant information includes whether and how the undertaking has considered their customs, traditions, rules and legal systems.
- AR 23. In disclosing whether and how the undertaking knows that **affected communities** are aware of and trust any of these channels, the undertaking may provide relevant and reliable data about the effectiveness of these channels from the perspective of affected communities themselves. Examples of sources of information are surveys of community members that have used such channels and their levels of satisfaction with the process and outcomes.
- AR 24. In describing the effectiveness of channels for **affected communities** to raise concerns, the undertaking may be guided by the following questions, based on the “effectiveness criteria for non- judicial **grievance mechanisms**”, as laid out in the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, in particular Principle 31. The below considerations may be applied on an individual channel basis or for the collective system of channels:
- (a) do the channels hold legitimacy by providing appropriate accountability for their fair conduct and building stakeholder trust?
 - (b) are the channels known and accessible to stakeholders?
 - (c) do the channels have clear and known procedures, set timeframes and clarity on the processes?
 - (d) do the channels ensure reasonable access to sources of information, advice and expertise?
 - (e) do the channels offer transparency by providing sufficient information both to complainants and, where applicable, to meet any public interest at stake?
 - (f) do the outcomes achieved through the channels accord with internationally recognised human rights?
 - (g) does the undertaking identify insights from the channels that support continuous learning in both improving the channels and preventing future impacts?
 - (h) does the undertaking focus on dialogue with complainants as the means to reach agreed solutions, rather than seeking to unilaterally determine the outcome?

Disclosure Requirement S3-4 – Taking action on material impacts on affected communities and effectiveness of those actions

- AR 25. It may take time to understand negative impacts and how the undertaking may be involved with them through its value chain, as well as to identify appropriate responses and put them into practice. Therefore, the undertaking shall consider:
- (a) its general and specific approaches to addressing material negative impacts;

- (b) its social investment or other **development** programmes aimed at contributing to additional material positive impacts;
- (c) how far it has progressed in its efforts during the reporting period; and
- (d) its aims for continued improvement.

AR 26. Appropriate action can vary according to whether the undertaking causes or contributes to a material impact, or whether the material impact is directly linked to its own operations, products or services through a business relationship.

AR 27. Given that material negative impacts affecting communities that have occurred during the reporting period may also be linked to entities or operations outside its direct control, the undertaking may disclose whether and how it seeks to use its leverage in its business **relationships** to manage those impacts. This may include using commercial **leverage** (for example, enforcing contractual requirements with business relationships or implementing incentives), other forms of leverage within the relationship (such as providing **training** or capacity-building on the rights of indigenous peoples to entities with which the undertaking has a business relationships) or collaborative leverage with peers or other actors (such as initiatives aimed at minimising security-related impacts on communities or participating in company-community partnerships).

AR 28. Impacts on communities may stem from environmental matters which are disclosed by the undertaking under the NESRS E1 to E5. Examples include:

- (a) NESRS E1 *Climate Change*: The implementation of **climate change mitigation** plans may require the undertaking to invest in **renewable energy** projects that may affect the lands, territories and **natural resources** of **indigenous peoples**. If the undertaking does not consult with the affected indigenous peoples, it could negatively impact the affected communities' right to **free, prior and informed consent**;
- (b) NESRS E2 *Pollution*: The undertaking may negatively impact **affected communities** by failing to protect them from **pollution** from a particular production facility that causes them health-related issues;
- (c) NESRS E3 *Water and marine sources*: The undertaking may negatively impact the access to clean drinking water of communities when withdrawing water in water stressed areas;
- (d) NESRS E4 *Biodiversity and ecosystems*: The undertaking may negatively affect the livelihood of local farmers through operations that contaminate **soil**. Additional examples include the sealing of land through building new infrastructure, which can eradicate plant species that are critical for, for example, local **biodiversity** or to filter water for communities; or the introduction of **invasive species** (whether plants or animals) that can impact **ecosystems** and cause subsequent harm;
- (e) NESRS E5 *Resource use and circular economy*: The undertaking may negatively impact the lives of communities by affecting their health through the mismanagement of **hazardous waste**.

Where the connection between environmental impacts and local communities is addressed in the disclosures within the Disclosure Requirements NESRS E1-E5, the undertaking may cross-reference to those and clearly identify such disclosures.

AR 29. When the undertaking discloses its participation in an industry or multi-stakeholder initiative as part of its **actions** to address material negative impacts, the undertaking may disclose how the initiative, and its own involvement, is aiming to address the material impact concerned. It may disclose under NESRS S3-5 the relevant **targets** set by the initiative and progress towards them.

AR 30. When disclosing whether and how the undertaking considers actual and potential impacts on **affected communities** in decisions to terminate **business relationships** and whether and

how it seeks to address any negative impacts that may result from termination, the undertaking may include examples.

- AR 31. In disclosing how it tracks the effectiveness of **actions** to manage material impacts during the reporting period, the undertaking may disclose any lessons learned from the previous and current reporting periods.
- AR 32. Processes used to track the effectiveness of **actions** can include internal or external auditing or verification, court proceedings and/or related court decisions, impact assessments, measurement systems, stakeholder feedback, **grievance mechanisms**, external performance ratings, and benchmarking.
- AR 33. Reporting on effectiveness is aimed at enabling the understanding of the links between **actions** taken by an undertaking and the effective management of impacts.
- AR 34. With regard to initiatives or processes whose primary aim is to deliver positive impacts for affected communities that are based on affected communities' needs, and with regard to progress in the implementation of such initiatives or processes, the undertaking may disclose:
- (a) information about whether and how **affected communities** and **legitimate representatives** or their **credible proxies** play a role in decisions regarding the design and implementation of these investments or programmes; and
 - (b) information about the intended or achieved positive outcomes for **affected communities** of these investments or programmes.
 - (c) an explanation of the approximate scope of **affected communities** covered by the described social investment or **development** programmes, and, where applicable, the rationale for why selected communities were chosen for a given social investment or development programme's implementation.
- AR 35. The undertaking may disclose whether any initiatives or processes whose primary aim is to deliver positive impacts for **affected communities** are designed also to support the achievement of one or more of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). For example, through a commitment to advance UN SDG 5 to "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" the undertaking may be taking thoughtful measures to include women in the consultation process with an affected community to meet standards of effective **stakeholder engagement**, which can help empower the women in the process itself, but potentially also in their daily lives.
- AR 36. When disclosing the intended or achieved positive outcomes of its **actions** for **affected communities** a distinction is to be made between evidence of certain activities having occurred (for example, that x number of women community members have been provided with **training** on how to become local **suppliers** to the undertaking) from evidence of actual outcomes for affected communities (for example, that x women community members have set up small businesses and have had their contracts with the undertaking renewed year-on year).
- AR 37. When disclosing whether initiatives or processes also play a role in mitigating material negative impacts, the undertaking may for example consider programmes that aim to improve local infrastructure surrounding an undertaking's operations, such as improvements in roads leading to a reduction in the number of severe traffic accidents involving community members.
- AR 38 to AR 42 have been deleted.
- AR 43. When disclosing the resources allocated to the management of material impacts, the undertaking may disclose which internal functions are involved in managing the impacts and what types of action they take to address negative and advance positive impacts.

Metrics and targets

Disclosure Requirement S3-5 – Targets related to managing material negative impacts, advancing positive impacts

AR 44. When disclosing information about **targets** in accordance with paragraph 38, the undertaking may disclose:

- (a) the intended outcomes to be achieved in the lives of affected communities, being as specific as possible;
- (b) the stability of the **targets** over time in terms of definitions and methodologies to enable comparability over time;
- (c) the standards or commitments which the targets are based on (for instance codes of conduct, sourcing policies, global frameworks or industry codes).

AR 45 has been deleted.

AR 46. The undertaking may also distinguish between short-, medium- and long-term **targets** covering the same **policy** commitment. For example, the undertaking may have as a main objective to employ community members at a local mining **site**, with the long-term goal of staffing 100% locally by 2025, and with the short-term objective of adding x percent of local **employees** every year up and until 2025.

AR 47. When modifying or replacing a target in the reporting period, the undertaking may explain the change by linking it to significant changes in the business model or to broader changes in the accepted standard or legislation from which the target is derived to provide contextual information as per NESRS 2 BP-2 *Disclosures in relation to specific circumstances*.