

Trusted Technology and Data

The importance of digital connectivity, along with the flow of and access to information is vital to support a global community that can contribute to inclusive growth, prosperity and promote sustainable development. Over the last 12 months, we've seen the financial and legal fallout of several failed digital currency firms, the rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML), a battle for chip and semiconductor dominance along with the emergence of the metaverse. The UK government, EU and SEC amongst others have introduced new legislation and guidance related to digital technologies and services. We are witnessing an evolving landscape regarding technology and data. There are various challenges and opportunities posed by this digital age and the significance of accessing information, the implications of shutdowns, censorship and use of technology with socio-economic implications is under constant scrutiny.

Engagement approach

We encourage companies where Trusted Technology and Data is a material issue to:

Technology and data risks

- ◆ Identify and report on how the company is managing ESG and financial risks that may arise from their provision of, or use of, technology and data (including bias and misinformation).

Security and protection

- ◆ Take steps to protect cyber security, including within cyber supply chains.
- ◆ Integrate effective protection, security and prevention strategies into technology and data-related policies.
- ◆ Carry out an independent review and verification of technology and data-related policies.
- ◆ Adopt international standards regarding information security, cybersecurity and privacy protection e.g. ISO/IEC 27001.

Privacy and digital rights

- ◆ Educate employees and users regarding data collection, storage, processing and dissemination.
- ◆ Safeguard data and user rights to privacy, and carry out enhance due diligence on any business model or operations carrying a risk of rights infringement.
- ◆ Take steps to uphold, protect and respect human rights within a digital environment e.g. by implementing an independent and expert-driven committee to protect digital human rights in both real and digital environments.

Technology and data solutions

- ◆ Identify opportunities for technology and data solutions that address environmental and social practices.

Voting implications

Ever increasing global use of technology and data has created challenges from a socio-economic and ethical perspective. We will support proposals that request greater transparency of the management of information and disinformation, along with enhanced insights into the use of artificial intelligence (AI) and algorithmic systems. This can include but isn't limited to business operations, intellectual property and financial results.

Please see our Global Voting Guidelines on the page 'Policies and Disclosures' of our public website for further details.

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