

THE REPORTING AND ASSURANCE FRAMEWORKS INITIATIVE (RAFI)

February 2014: Next Steps For The Project, Based On Consultations To Date

In January 2014, RAFI issued the summary reports of its 2013 expert consultations in London, New York and Jakarta as well as reports of its CSO consultations in Jakarta and multi-stakeholder workshops in Bangkok and Medellin. Through these meetings, the Project Team consulted with over 150 individuals from business, civil society, governments as well as legal, assurance, academic and other expert backgrounds, in addition to a wide range of bilateral consultations with individuals and organizations since June 2013. In February it published the project team's [key take-aways](#) from those consultations, which will guide the project's direction in 2014.¹ All documents are posted on the project's portal.² This note sets out the concrete next steps envisaged by the project team for the first half of 2014.

1. The project team will conduct a range of further **desk-based and interview-based research**. The research will focus on:

- Reviewing how current company reporting maps against the UN Guiding Principles (UNGPs).
- Examining in greater detail how a reporting framework based on the UNGPs could dovetail with G4 and IIRC.
- Exploring further with organisations developing reporting indicators or guidelines for specific sectors or issues what learning this offers for RAFI.
- Interviewing a range of experts from different stakeholder backgrounds to identify the types of question that in their experience elicit meaningful information with regard to companies' efforts to meet their responsibility to respect human rights.

The team will issue a summary report of the research into existing company reporting. Other research may lead to additional stand-alone outputs, and will help inform the drafting of the reporting framework in due course.

2. The project team will produce the following **additional public documents** as a basis for stakeholder consultations in April to June 2014:

¹ <http://hrrca.org/system/files/RAFIConsultations2013Takeaways.pdf>

² <http://www.hrrca.org/business-and-human-rights>

- A draft outline construct for the reporting framework, together with some illustrative questions and indicators, as the basis for a further round of stakeholder consultations.
- A background paper reviewing the range of current approaches to audit/assurance, including the lessons for developing assurance for human rights reporting, as a basis for further stakeholder discussion on the planned assurance framework.

3. The project team will continue a process of extensive and inclusive **outreach and consultation**, involving the full range of relevant stakeholder groups, to solicit inputs and shape the project's evolution. Specifically, the project team will:

- Continue to consult bilaterally with a broad range of experts, organisations, networks and other interested stakeholders
- Conduct a second round of expert multi-stakeholder consultations in London, New York and Jakarta between April and June 2014
- Conduct additional in-person consultations with local CSOs, government representatives and companies in the ASEAN region in June 2014.
- Regularly brief the project's Eminent Persons Group and hold calls or in-person meetings at least quarterly to gain their inputs on the appropriate direction of the project
- Continue its collaboration with the GRI to seek to ensure that the language of the RAFI frameworks dovetails to the greatest extent possible, and with due regard to RAFI's consultative process, with the G4 reporting framework
- Regularly brief the UN Working Group on project developments and seek its feedback
- Continue to post all project documents on the project portal³, with contact details for comments.
- Explore potential interest among companies in piloting the emerging reporting framework in part or in whole.

³ <http://www.hrrca.org/business-and-human-rights>