

ESG/ SDG Investment workshop at the Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) investment, or investments which promote environmental, social, and sound corporate governance is globally on the rise. The private sector has an important role to play in investing in areas that support the achievement of the SDGs by 2030. In line with this global trend, and the State of Kuwait's commitments towards agenda 2030, two days tailored technical training sessions on ESG-SDG investment, impact management and reporting were held during the period 29th – 30th of May, 2022 jointly conducted in partnership with the General Secretariat of the Supreme Council for Planning and Development (GSSCPD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and Kuwait Direct Investment Promotion Authority (KDIPA), and hosted at KDIPA's headquarters.



More than 60 participants benefited from the training sessions comprised of representatives from KDIPA

licensed companies, and KDIPA's accredited consulting and legal firms, as well as staff members from both KDIPA and GSSCPD.

The training sessions adopted an interactive method that provided the participants with clarity on different concepts around ESG and investing in SDG Impact Management Measures (IMM), by giving insights into the available standards, practices and tools that would enable SDG impact management, while ensuring investment returns. This in turn provided companies with a better understanding on social impact into business decision making and how SDG reporting fits into this process. Additionally, the participants were able to review the most relevant SDGs that pertain to companies and their respective sectors.



The workshop was carried out by technical advisors from the UNDP Headquarters, UNDP Regional Center and UNDP Business Call to Action Team.

BOURSA KUWAIT AND UNDP ORGANIZE WORKSHOP TO RAISE AWARENESS OF ESG PRINCIPLES AND SDGS

Keeping up with its commitment to supporting and promoting responsible, sustainable and impactful business practices, Bursa Kuwait partnered with the UNDP to organize a workshop aimed at creating awareness of the importance of integrating Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles and the Sustainability Development Goals (SDGs) into business operations. The ESG-SDG Impact

Sensitization Course was held at Bursa Kuwait's office on May 31 and June 1 and attended by over 40 senior management and decision makers from various Kuwaiti listed companies.



During the two-day workshop, UNDP experts delved deep into a wide range of topics and various aspects of ESG, sustainability, Impact Management and Measurement (IMM) and the SDGs. The instructors discussed the business case for more sustainable business models and explored how companies can integrate sustainability in their operation in Kuwait as well as ensuring competitiveness and sustainability at the same time. The speakers also highlighted the available standards, practices and tools for ensuring impactful implementation and reporting of ESG and SDG principles.

Commenting on the workshop, Mr. Naser Meshari Al Sanousi, Marketing and Communication Senior Director at Bursa Kuwait, said: "As we continue to strengthen our reputation as a model issuer and a socially and environmentally conscious company through responsible and sustainable business practices, we remain committed to supporting the companies listed in the Kuwaiti stock exchange in their ESG journey, signified by our long-term strategic partnership with the UNDP."

Al-Sanousi added: "As we encourage market participants towards more sustainable business operations and practices, it is critical to raise awareness and inform them about the most important ESG principles and practices, as well as explaining the benefits of embedding those principles and how they can help them become more efficient and impactful, adding not just to their bottom line,

but helping them fulfill their long-term business objectives."

The workshop comes as part of Bursa Kuwait's ongoing initiatives to promote Corporate Sustainability in the Kuwaiti capital market and encourage the adoption of best standards in ESG disclosure and reporting among listed companies. In addition to many webinars and workshops, the company published a comprehensive disclosure guide to support listed companies to report on ESG issues, and to meet the growing needs of various stakeholders, including investors, customers, suppliers, and regulators for transparent and regular information. Furthermore, the company published its annual Sustainability Report, detailing its accomplishments in CS during 2021, earlier this year.



Bursa Kuwait's Corporate Sustainability strategy stipulates ensuring initiatives apply and fall in line with the company's corporate social responsibility (CSR), industry best practice standards and investor expectations, creating strong and sustainable partnerships that ultimately achieve success and allow Bursa Kuwait to leverage the capabilities and strengths of other companies or organizations that have experience in different fields, and integrating sustainability efforts with the company culture, in order to achieve longevity and an ongoing impact that is carried on and instilled in the day-to-day operations of the stock exchange.

Contact Information:
Bashar Marafie, Team Leader -
Governance
bashar.marafie@undp.org



Empowered lives.
Resilient nations.