

ROUNDTABLE: BUILDING A TRUE VALUE FUTURE

The capitalism we need is one that rewards true value creation – not value extraction as today’s model does. A reinvented capitalism focused on true value would lead to a world in which more companies innovate in ways that contribute to a flourishing society, capital markets properly value and reward inclusive, sustainable business practices and, as a result, more capital is mobilized to deliver the SDGs and the transition to a 1.5°C world.

This session discussed the transformations necessary in capitalism to ensure businesses are rewarded for sustainable performance. Both through external speakers, and WBCSD members, participants gained a clearer understanding of the practical steps they can take to transform their businesses and ensure the capital markets reward their sustainable performance.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- The purpose of a firm should be to produce profitable solutions for problems faced by people and planet. Their purpose should not be to profit from producing problems. Metrics and monetization of business solutions needs to be thoughtfully determined. The strategy of a company and its key KPIs should follow this core purpose.
- Decision-useful sustainability information to facilitate communication between companies and key stakeholders should be applicable at the global level, comprehensive, connected to the broader corporate reporting system, able to accommodate industry specificity, and relevant to target audiences.
- There is a strong sustainable investment case and CFOs have the potential to oversee the true cost of the company accounting for environmental and social capitals, but further regulatory progress is needed to create the advancements that are needed.
- Investors are moving from a narrow objective of avoiding harm to conducting assessments of impact and aligning investments to broader societal objectives. The Sustainable Development Goals offer a framework for organizing these objectives.

WAY FORWARD

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More information

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