



# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE.

- ✓ The importance of sustainability reporting
- ✓ The Global Reporting Initiative
- ✓ Benefits of Reporting
- ✓ Conclusion

## ESG & Governance *With Fidi.*

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*“The fact that ESG ratings are being widely publicised – solicited and unsolicited – goes to show that ESG reporting is core to doing business and cannot be overlooked”.*

- The CEO of Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE),  
Thapelo Tsheole

### THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

Sustainable development, defined as

‘development which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’ is now a central concern in the business world. Through their activities and business relationships, companies and organizations have a significant impact on the economy, the environment, and society at large.

Essentially, companies and organizations possess the power to shape global development positively or negatively, particularly in the context of sustainable development.

### THE GLOBAL REPORTING INITIATIVE--PAVING THE WAY FOR SUSTAINABILITY REPORTING

Recognizing the growing importance of organizations' contributions to sustainable development, investors are increasingly eager to understand these efforts. This demand prompted the creation of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI), a global standard for sustainability reporting.

Developed collaboratively by organizations and investors, the GRI provides practical guidelines and reporting tools to assess an organization's economic, environmental, and social performance.

The GRI stands out as an ideal reporting standard as it reflects the consensus of investors and stakeholders on crucial information for understanding an organization's impact on the environment and society. By adhering to GRI standards, organizations provide investors with credible, transparent, and independent information enhancing their reputation and competitiveness on a global scale.

### BENEFITS OF REPORTING

Participating in sustainability reporting offers numerous benefits for organizations. It



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directly improves access to capital, profitability, growth, compliance and risk management, corporate reputation and branding, investor relations and engagement and overall performance management.

Investors, now more than ever, value organizations that actively contribute to sustainable development.

## **THE BOTSWANA STOCK EXCHANGE'S LEADERSHIP IN ESG REPORTING**

Leading institutional investors, governmental regulators and development organizations around the world have embraced and adopted the Global Reporting Initiative. The Botswana Stock Exchange (BSE) serves as an example of a proactive institution.

In 2018, the BSE became the third stock exchange in Africa to publish a Guide for Listed Companies on Reporting ESG Information to Investors. Collaborating with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the BSE outlines ESG practices among listed companies, providing guidelines to enhance consistency and depth in corporate sustainability reporting.

## **CONCLUSION**

Sustainable development requires organizations to adopt practices aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals. The ultimate goal should be integrating environmental, social, and governance policies and practices into an organization's strategy and daily operations to ensure long-term value for stakeholders.

If you have interest in an in-depth discussion on this subject matter or any ESG and Governance issues, feel free to contact us at [info@gobhozalegalpractice.co.bw](mailto:info@gobhozalegalpractice.co.bw)

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