

External Communication on Assessment Results 2026

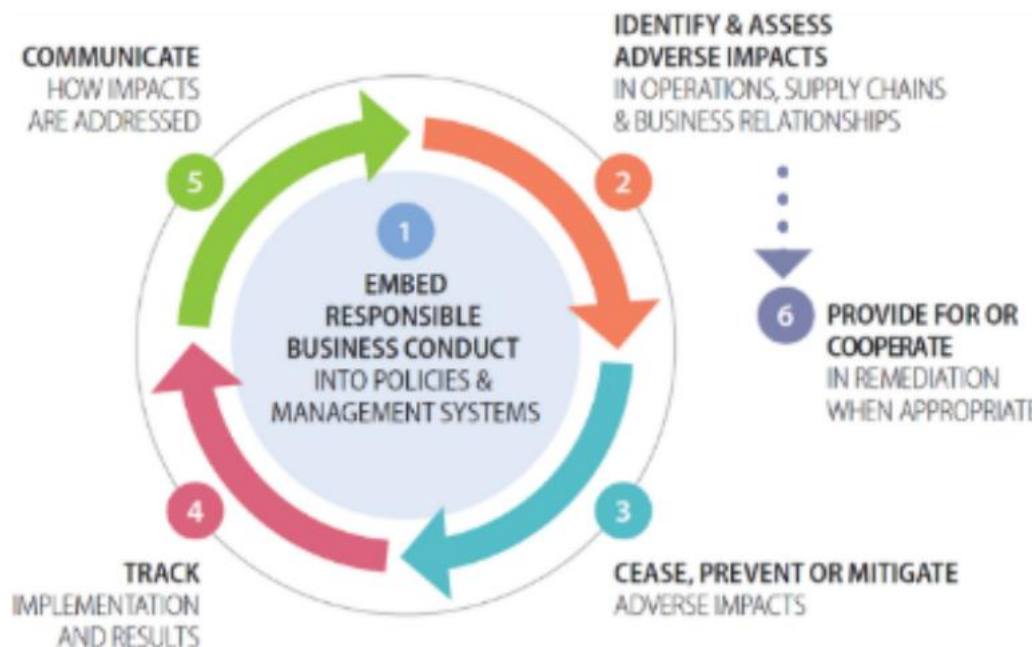
Renewable energy companies continue to strengthen responsible business conduct

Context:

By signing the International Responsible Business Conduct Agreement for the Renewable Energy Sector (hereinafter Agreement), the signatory companies commit to carry out risk-based due diligence as prescribed by the [OECD Due Diligence Guidance for Responsible Business Conduct](#).

The Secretariat of the Agreement checks on an annual basis how companies comply with this commitment. This is done through an assessment process. Parties of the Agreement have developed the [Due Diligence Assessment Framework](#) for this purpose, which is used by the Secretariat of the Agreement as a reference point when carrying out the assessment of companies¹.

During the assessment, companies are scored on how they implement the following six steps of due diligence cycle as prescribed in OECD Guidance:



Picture 1: 6 due diligence steps as prescribed in OECD Guidance

More information about the assessment process of the Agreement can be found [here](#).

Assessment results 2026:

Agreement Secretariat completed its 2026 progress assessment of participating companies. The assessment took place during April - July 2026. The results show different trajectories for wind and solar energy sector: wind sector is consolidating an already

relatively mature level of due diligence, while solar sector is rapidly catching up from a lower starting point. Both, however, are moving in a positive direction compared to the 2024 baseline assessment.

Wind sector

The wind sector has continued to mature in 2026. Its overall result increased from 67% in 2024 to 74% in 2026.

Table 1. Wind sector general results

	<i>General result</i>	<i>Step 1</i>	<i>Step 2</i>	<i>Step 3</i>	<i>Step 4</i>	<i>Step 5</i>	<i>Step 6</i>
Baseline assessment (2024)	67%	77%	64%	65%	64%	82%	54%
Progress assessment (2026)	74%	86%	74%	65%	69%	81%	63%
Growth (in percentage points)	+7	+9	+10	0	+5	-1	+9

Overall, the results show strong progress across most due diligence steps. Step 1 increased from 77% to 86%, while Step 2 increased from 64% to 74%, reflecting improvements in policies, management systems, and impact identification.

Step 5 remains one of the strongest areas, at 81%, despite a slight decline of one percentage point. This decline can be attributed to changes resulting from the omnibus legislation and the associated reduction in reporting.

Step 3 remained unchanged at 65% when comparing the overall sector results. This reflects, in part, changes in the composition of the companies covered by the assessment: many companies joined the Agreement during the past two years, while several others left. When the analysis is limited to companies that were covered in both 2024 and 2026, progress can also be observed for Step 3 (see table 2 below).

Step 6 improved significantly, from 54% to 63% (+9 percentage points). Nevertheless, it remains the weakest-performing area, particularly with regard to the accessibility and effectiveness of grievance and remedy mechanisms.

The comparison of companies that were assessed in both periods, without taking into account companies that joined later or left the Agreement, also provides a clearer picture of company-level progress.

Table 2. Average growth per company in wind sector (excluding first-time monitored companies and companies that have left the Agreement)

	<i>General result</i>	<i>Step 1</i>	<i>Step 2</i>	<i>Step 3</i>	<i>Step 4</i>	<i>Step 5</i>	<i>Step 6</i>
Growth between 2025 – 2026 (in percentage points)	+6	+5	+7	+4	+7	-3	+9
Growth between 2024 – 2026	+13	+13	+15	+14	+9	+4	+13

(in percentage points)							
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Solar sector

The solar sector has made particularly strong progress. Its overall result increased from 36% in 2024 to 65% in 2026, an improvement of 29 percentage points.

Table 3. Solar sector general results

	General	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6
Baseline assessment (2024)	36%	45%	41%	40%	31%	32%	23%
Progress assessment (2026)	65%	77%	67%	61%	62%	62%	48%
Growth (in percentage points)	+29	+32	+26	+21	+31	+30	+25

All six due diligence steps improved substantially. The strongest gains were recorded in Step 1 (+32 percentage points), Step 4 (+31 percentage points), and Step 5 (+30 percentage points). Step 3 (+21 percentage points) and Step 6 (+25 percentage points) recorded comparatively smaller increases, indicating that companies continue to face challenges in identifying and addressing actual and potential impacts and in providing access to effective remedy.

The results remain positive when the analysis is limited to companies that were part of the Agreement in both 2024 and 2026, excluding companies that joined the Agreement more recently or left during the period (see table 4). This comparison confirms that progress was observed among companies that participated throughout the assessment period and the results are not influenced by admission of more mature companies in the Agreement.

Table 4. Average growth per company in solar sector (excluding first-time monitored companies and companies that have left the Agreement)

	General result	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6
Growth between 2025 – 2026 (in percentage points)	+8	+9	+8	+7	+7	+8	+9
Growth between 2024 – 2026 (in percentage points)	+24	+29	+24	+21	+27	+23	+16

Where progress is strongest – and where further work is needed

The assessment shows that signatory companies have strengthened their policies and management systems, improved the identification and assessment of impacts, and made progress in tracking implementation and results. The Secretariat has collected examples of good practices observed among companies in the *Monitoring Good Practices* document, which is intended to provide inspiration and practical examples for companies and sectors.

Different yearly editions of this compilation can be accessed on the Agreement's website [here](#).

At the same time, the assessment indicates that the focus is increasingly shifting from establishing basic due diligence systems towards deeper and more effective implementation.

Across both sectors, the assessment points to three areas that will require continued attention:

- **Impacts deeper in the value chain:**

Companies need to strengthen their ability to identify, prevent and address impacts beyond their immediate business relationships.

To support this work, the IRBC Agreement will continue to collaborate with other multi-stakeholder and industry initiatives to strengthen leverage and address impacts deeper in the value chain. For example, the IRBC Agreement already collaborates with the German automotive and energy sector dialogues on issues including worker welfare and due diligence in high-risk countries.

The Agreement parties will also continue to address impacts deeper in the value chain through impact projects. Several current impact projects focus on key materials, including copper and lithium. While the impacts of these projects are still emerging, there are already concrete examples of progress. For instance, one of the mines participating in the Agreement's artisanal and small-scale copper project in Peru, funded by the European Partnership for Responsible Minerals, has been formalised. This represents a major milestone for the project and a tangible example of progress resulting from the project.

- **Effective remedy and grievance mechanisms:**

Companies need to further improve the accessibility and effectiveness of grievance and remedy processes and strengthen their alignment with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Although this remains one of the lowest-scoring due diligence steps, the assessment shows that Agreement companies have made considerable progress in this area over recent years.

Moving forward, the Agreement parties will focus on sharing good practices and discussing practical dilemmas within existing projects and sessions to identify ways to further strengthen grievance and remedy mechanisms.

- **From systems to impact:**

As policies, processes and management systems become more established, companies need to increasingly focus on demonstrating whether their due diligence activities are effective in preventing and addressing adverse impacts.

This means moving beyond demonstrating that policies and processes are in place towards assessing their implementation and outcomes, identifying what is working in practice, and adapting approaches where they are not delivering the intended results.

What is next:

The results underline the value of a collective approach to responsible business conduct. Participating companies can build on shared knowledge, practical tools and experience within the Agreement, while working collectively to address challenges that are difficult to tackle individually.

The 2026 assessment will inform the further development of the Agreement's collective due diligence support programme. The aggregated results, sector-wide gaps and observations from individual company assessments will help identify where collective guidance, knowledge-sharing and practical support can provide the greatest added value.

Overall, the assessment demonstrates that meaningful progress is possible when individual company action is combined with sector-wide collaboration. The next phase will build on this progress by strengthening implementation, extending due diligence further into supply chains, and supporting companies in ensuring that their responsible business conduct contributes to the prevention and effective addressing of adverse impacts on people and the environment.

About the International RBC Agreement for the Renewable Energy Sector:

The International RBC Agreement for the Renewable Energy Sector brings together companies, industry associations, civil society organisations, government and other stakeholders to advance responsible business conduct across renewable energy value chains. Participating companies commit to risk-based due diligence in line with the OECD Due Diligence Guidance and work collectively with other stakeholders to address shared challenges.