

## External Communication on Monitoring Results 2025

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### **IRBC Agreement for the Renewable Energy Sector has conducted annual assessment of its signatory companies**

#### **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.

It should be noted that companies participating in the Agreement may choose the sectoral (wind and/or solar) and geographical (national/international) scope of their due diligence commitment arising from the Agreement. The assessment done by the Agreement then focuses on the activities fallen within the scope indicated by the company at the start of their membership. You can see full list of companies and their chosen scope [here](#).

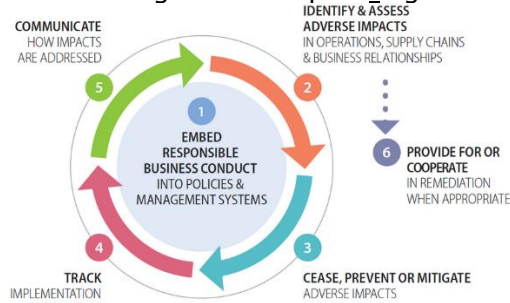
The assessment process consists of 3 stages:

- Companies complete an online self-assessment due diligence questionnaire. The answers to the questionnaire are subsequently assessed and validated by the Secretariat. Companies receive scores, which are confidential.
- Companies develop and share their individual company due diligence action plans with the Secretariat. These action plans contain concrete steps which companies commit to undertake in order to improve their scores. The action plans are confidential as well.
- Assessment conversations are held between the Secretariat and relevant functions of the company (where relevant with sustainability, procurement, supply chain, management etc.). The goal of the meeting is to discuss the current due diligence process and assessment results of the given company and provide concrete advice as way forward.

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

1. Embedding responsible business conduct into policies and management systems
2. Identifying and assessing adverse impacts in operations, supply chains and business relationships
3. Ceasing, preventing or mitigating adverse impacts
4. Tracking implementation and results

5. Communicating how impacts are addressed
6. Providing for or cooperating in remediation, when appropriate



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

The first assessment of companies (baseline assessment) within the Agreement was carried out during March – July 2024. The goal of the baseline assessment was to measure where companies stood when they started with the Agreement. The second assessment (progress assessment) was carried out during March – July 2025. The goal of the second assessment was to measure how much progress companies had made with regards to implementation of the six due diligence steps outlined in the OECD Guidance in the last year.

### Results of the progress assessment:

Building on the 2024 baseline, the 2025 review finds that signatory companies are strengthening policies, processes, and practices. The assessment highlights broader adoption of risk-based due diligence, more systematic tracking of actions, and improved external communication on impacts. These improvements are visible in both sectors, with the solar segment showing particularly notable maturation from its starting point last year.

### Wind sector:

Table 1. Wind sector general results

	General result	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6
Assessment results from 2024 (baseline assessment)	67%	77%	64%	65%	64%	82%	54%
Assessment results from 2025 (progress assessment)	71%	83%	70%	68%	65%	89%	57%
Growth (in percentage points)	+4% pt	+6% pt	+6% pt	+3% pt	+1% pt	+7% pt	+3% pt

Wind sector recorded positive growth across nearly all due diligence steps, averaging around **4 percentage points**. Compared to the solar sector, this growth appears more moderate—reflecting the fact that the wind sector already started from a relatively advanced position. This translates into smaller, yet steadier, improvements year-on-year.

The strongest progress was observed in **Step 5 (communication)**, largely driven by preparations for upcoming sustainability legislation. The least progress was noted in **Step 4 (tracking effectiveness)**, where companies continue to face challenges in identifying suitable KPIs to measure the effectiveness of their due diligence efforts—particularly in capturing impacts across the value chain.

**Solar sector:**

Table 2. Solar sector general results

	General	Step 1	Step 2	Step 3	Step 4	Step 5	Step 6
Assessment results from 2024 (baseline assessment)	36%	45%	41%	40%	31%	32%	23%
Assessment results from 2025 (progress assessment)	55%	66%	58%	55%	51%	52%	35%
Growth (in percentage points)	+19% pt	+21% pt	+17% pt	+15% pt	+20% pt	+20% pt	+12% pt

Overall, the solar sector made **substantial progress** compared to the baseline year. This is largely because many companies were at the early stages of their due diligence journey, where significant improvements can be achieved by establishing basic systems and processes. In the coming years, this rapid growth is expected to level off into more gradual progress.

The strongest improvements were observed in **Step 1 (embedding due diligence in policies and management systems)**. Similar to the wind sector, this progress is partly explained by the use of tools developed within the Agreement and the knowledge shared through sector-wide sessions on renewable energy supply chain risks. As a result, companies are devoting more attention to these issues and are increasingly monitoring their own activities. For larger solar companies, the CSRD has also been a key driver, supporting the development of more comprehensive due diligence risk assessments and contributing to higher scores.

**Step 6** remains the most difficult for the solar sector, as companies are still focused on establishing the earlier steps of the due diligence process. Progress in this area is expected to follow once more mature systems are in place.

## Key takeaways:

- **Progress across both sectors.** Companies in both wind and solar energy have strengthened their due diligence practices, showing measurable improvements since the baseline assessment. During the assessment process companies from both sectors acknowledged that participation in the IRBC Agreement had helped them in achieving the progress.
- **Legislation as a driver.** Upcoming sustainability legislation has helped focus attention on responsible business conduct (RBC) across organisations, leading to greater allocation of resources and capacity. IRBC Agreement have supported companies in preparing for implementation of this legislation.
- **Value of collective learning.** The knowledge, expertise, and tools developed under the Agreement are actively supporting progress. Companies report that monitoring their performance is valuable and that shared resources and peer learning accelerate implementation of due diligence.
- **Remaining gaps.** Despite overall progress, challenges remain. Companies need to further strengthen access to remedy, ensure meaningful stakeholder engagement, and improve identification and tracking of impacts across their value chain. Many also highlight the need for practical tools and arguments to build buy-in internally and with business partners, and to better understand the limitations of certification schemes.

## Next steps

- **Targeted support 2026.** The Secretariat and Agreement partners will focus their support on the remaining gaps identified in the assessment and mentioned above, through tailored sessions, collective projects, and sector-wide initiatives.
- **Company action plans.** Each participating company has submitted an action plan detailing how it will improve performance in the coming year. Implementation will be monitored throughout 2025.
- **Ongoing monitoring.** The next assessment, scheduled for early 2026, will measure progress against 2025 results and review implementation of company action plans.

## About the IRBC Agreement for the Renewable Energy Sector

The IRBC Agreement for the Renewable Energy Sector brings together companies and industry associations in wind and solar energy, civil society organisations, trade unions, knowledge institutions and government together to advance responsible business conduct across global value chains. Signatory companies commit to conduct risk-based due diligence undergo annual assessment and collaborate to address shared challenges.