ICGN Asset Owners Forum

Description and Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The ICGN Asset Owners Forum (AOF) is established as a dedicated platform for asset owner members to engage with one another as long-term, diversified, and often universal investors.

The Forum is not a policy-drafting body and does not replace or compete with ICGN's existing committees. Rather, it provides an additional opportunity for asset owners to:

- Share perspectives on systemic and cross-market governance risks
- Inform ICGN priority setting and policy direction
- Discuss emerging issues affecting long-term capital
- Strengthen dialogue within the global asset owner community

The Forum recognises that asset owners often approach governance and stewardship from a whole-portfolio perspective, with a focus on systemic resilience, market integrity, and long-term value creation.

2. Objectives

The Asset Owners Forum will:

1. **Provide Strategic Input**
   Offer feedback to the ICGN Board and Secretariat on strategic priorities, policy positioning, and emerging governance developments.
2. **Surface Systemic Issues**
   Identify cross-market and system-level risks relevant to diversified asset owners, including regulatory fragmentation, market functioning, stewardship effectiveness, and long-term capital allocation.
3. **Strengthen Global Dialogue**
   Facilitate peer exchange among asset owners across regions, recognising differences in mandates, regulatory environments, and beneficiary expectations.
4. **Enhance Policymaker Engagement (Optional Participation)**
   Create opportunities, where appropriate, for senior asset owner representatives to:
   - Participate in targeted policymaker roundtables

- Engage in strategic dialogues with policy makers, regulators and standard setters
- Voluntarily co-sign selected ICGN Asset Owner statements or letters

Participation in such activities will always be voluntary and at the discretion of each member.

5. **Support ICGN's Mission**
Reinforce ICGN's role as a global voice for long-term investors and its core principle that strong corporate governance is fundamental to sustainable economic growth and long-term value creation.

3. Scope

The Forum may discuss, but is not limited to:

- Global governance and stewardship policy developments
- Systemic and macro governance risks
- Market structure and investor rights
- Financial and Material Sustainability related reporting and assurance
- Stewardship effectiveness and engagement models
- Long-term capital allocation and fiduciary considerations

The Forum does not replace the work of ICGN policy committees or working groups. Any formal policy outputs remain subject to ICGN's established governance processes.

4. Convening at ICGN Events

To strengthen asset owner engagement and peer exchange, the secretariat may convene dedicated asset owner sessions alongside key ICGN events.

These sessions may include:

- Closed-door roundtables for asset owners
- Dialogues with invited policymakers or standard setters
- Peer discussions focused on systemic or whole-portfolio perspectives

Such sessions are intended to complement the broader conference agenda, provide space for candid discussion, and enhance the value of ICGN events for asset owner members.

5. Membership

- Participation is open to ICGN asset owner members in good standing.

- Members may nominate senior representatives (e.g., CIO, Head of Stewardship, Head of Responsible Investment, General Counsel, or equivalent).
- The Forum is intended to operate at a strategic level, encouraging participation by senior decision-makers where possible.

6. Format and Operation

- The Forum will meet twice per year, either virtually or in conjunction with ICGN conferences as a hybrid meeting where possible.
- Meetings may be held under Chatham House Rule unless otherwise agreed.
- Agendas will be developed by the Secretariat in consultation with participants.
- The Secretariat may provide high-level summary insights to the ICGN Board, while respecting confidentiality where appropriate.

The Forum will not have formal voting powers and will not issue independent public positions separate from ICGN.

7. Relationship with ICGN Governance Structures

- The Forum operates as an advisory platform.
- It complements, but does not duplicate, the work of ICGN's Global Policy Committee and other committees.
- Any proposed public statements, letters, or co-signing initiatives will be coordinated through the Secretariat and aligned with ICGN governance processes.

8. Voluntary Engagement in Public Policy

Where appropriate, the Forum may facilitate opportunities for:

- Senior asset owner participation in regulatory roundtables
- Strategic dialogues with global standard setters
- Voluntary co-signing of selected ICGN policy submissions

Such participation is entirely optional and does not create obligations for Forum members.

9. Review

The effectiveness and structure of the Asset Owners Forum will be reviewed after its first year of operation to ensure alignment with member expectations and ICGN's strategic objectives.