ACATIS

ACATIS FAIR VALUE SPECIAL

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Global Agenda 2030 - Quo vadis SDGs?

The United Nations' global 2030 Agenda was declared in 2015. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were supposed to be implemented within 15 years, in order to make the world a more sustainable place. There are eight years remaining to 2030, but so far the development of SDGs has been less than spectacular.

Assessments in a series of progress reports (e.g. Federal Department for Economic Cooperation and Development or the Bertelsmann Foundation), along with the SDG Index published by Cambridge University Press, confirm the general trend of lagging developments and large hurdles when it comes to achieving many of the SDGs. Moreover, it is noted that collecting the relevant indicators remains a real challenge due to a lack of data.

While the global community agreed on the SDGs in 2015 and all member states of the United Nations committed to join the fight for a better and more sustainable future and achieve the stated goals, it is not just governments that are called on to implement the required measures, but also all societal actors, including companies. As responsible actors in society, they can also set the right course and confirm that they are keeping an eye on the enormous challenges of our times and are acting responsibly in managing the resulting risks and opportunities. What is needed are contributions in the core business with a simultaneous effect on the SDGs, rather than feel-good measures.

Indeed, the measurement of contributions at the corporate level is not a trivial matter, also for ESG rating agencies. Because of the coverages of more than 10,000 companies that have to be investigated, it is not possible to take into account all of the impact dimensions on the SDGs. This requires a process of simplification - e.g. with regard to differentiating between the contributions that are generated in industrial nations, versus developing/emerging countries.

The sustainability approach for ACATIS Fair Value Investment AG considers the SDG contributions that are generated by the companies. Those revenues involving products/services that demonstrate a benefit for the sustainable transformation of society and that have a positive effect on achieving the SDGs are included. The targeted prevention of negative contributions to the SDGs is just as important as the targeted selection of optimally positioned companies. Accordingly, all companies engaged in business activities that are harmful to SDGs, e.g. fossil fuels or other business activities that have a negative impact on sustainability, or very negative incidents in the area of environment/climate/biodiversity, social and governance, are excluded during the first step.

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