

Prioritizing ESG in the Boardroom



From a global pandemic to widespread social unrest and crippling cyber-attacks, the events of the past year introduced new risks and exposed weaknesses in corporations across the globe. Women Corporate Directors launched a pulse study to better understand how these events are reshaping boardroom discussions, finding an overwhelming number of companies are rethinking how they address stakeholder interests.



98%

of directors reported reassessing how to address stakeholder interests



Of the 98% of directors

who stated their companies are reassessing stakeholder interests:

- **73%** stated the most important reason to focus on ESG issues is its importance to long-term performance and value creation
- **40%** ranked employee health & safety as the highest ESG priority in boardroom discussions, followed by DE&I at 29% and cybersecurity at 21%
- **54%** are confident their company's management team understands the business implications of ESG
- More than **80%** said it is very important to align strategy and business practices with stakeholder interests to create sustainable, long-term value

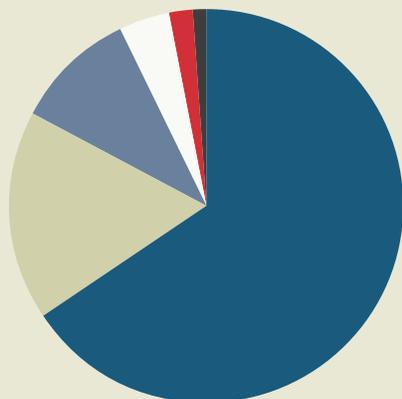
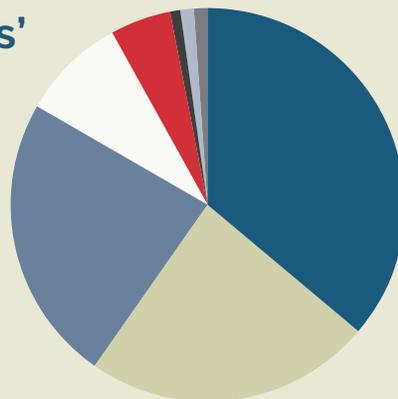
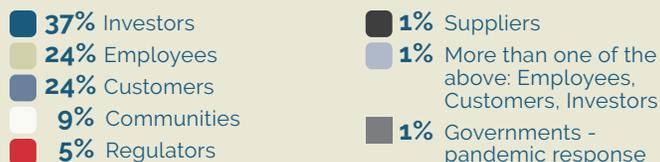
More than 96%

of directors believe that having diverse views in your boardroom impacts how a company addresses ESG issues to a great extent



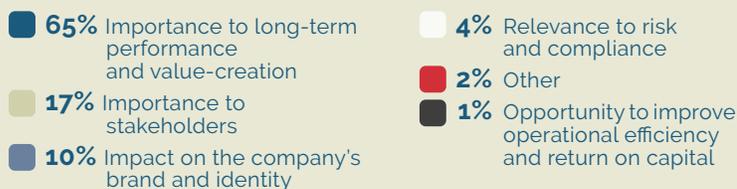
Over the past year, which stakeholders' views have been most prominent in boardroom discussions?

163 Responses- 3 Empty



From your board's perspective, what are the most important reasons to focus on ESG issues?

163 Responses- 3 Empty



Within the past year, to what extent has your company reassessed how it addresses the interests of stakeholders?

163 Responses- 3 Empty



How confident are you that your company's management team understands the implications of ESG for the business?

163 Responses- 3 Empty



Over the past year, which ESG views were the highest priority in boardroom discussions?

162 Responses- 4 Empty



How satisfied are you that your board has the diversity of experiences and skills sets – including perspectives and worldviews – to effectively address ESG issues?

163 Responses- 3 Empty



To what extent do you think diverse views in your boardroom impacts how your company addresses ESG issues?

163 Responses- 3 Empty



To create sustainable long-term value, how important is it for your company to align its strategy and business practices with the interests of key stakeholders?

163 Responses- 3 Empty



In your view, how important is it for CEOs to take a stand on ESG topics?

163 Responses- 3 Empty

