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Principles for
Responsible Banking

Responsible Banking Progress Statement

DZ BANK AG



Summary template

DZ Bank AG 2025

Principle 1: Alignment	Principle 2: Impact & Target Setting	Principle 3: Clients & Customers
<p>DZ BANK AG's sustainability strategy is based on the goals of the Paris Agreement on climate change and the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Additionally, the sustainability strategy is aligned with national and international frameworks. DZ BANK AG set Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) targets that are an integral part of its corporate strategy and performance assessment including those of the Board of Managing Directors. DZ BANK AG developed its SDG classification and technology mapping methodologies to add further impetus to its sustainability efforts and allow the bank to better understand its own impacts on the SDGs.</p> <p>DZ BANK AG is aligned with frameworks such as the United Nations Global Compact and integrates the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on climate change into its strategy by making voluntary commitments and participating in relevant initiatives. Since 2022, the sustainability strategy has been further strengthened by the "Advancing Sustainability" program, which integrates sustainability into DZ BANK AG's strategic and operational areas.</p>	<p>DZ BANK AG conducted an analysis of significant impacts in 2020 in accordance with the PRB requirements. As a result, the goal to expand financing for renewable energies was established and put into action. To be able to measure its business activities in quantifiable terms, DZ BANK AG developed its own individual assessment methodology based on the SDGs in 2020. This process is referred to as the SDG classification. DZ BANK's SDG classification analyses the positive and adverse impacts on the 17 SDGs of business activities such as lending. Following the implementation of the CSRD in the 2024 reporting year, a double materiality assessment was carried out for the DZ BANK banking group using the SDG classification for its impact analysis. Currently, 63% of DZ BANK AG's portfolio yields at least one positive SDG contribution.</p> <p>DZ BANK AG sets a wide range of ESG targets. These include sector-specific decarbonization targets of the DZ BANK banking group (e.g. reducing physical emissions intensity in the energy sector to 78.38 kg CO₂eq/MWh by 2030), increasing positive SDG contributions to 2/3 of the business portfolio by 2026, increasing the volume of financing for renewable energies to EUR 7.1 billion by 2026, achieving long-term employee satisfaction of >70%.</p>	<p>DZ BANK AG uses a range of dialogue formats to share ideas and information on sustainability with its customers, such as an annual sustainability conference for cooperative banks, the Central Advisory Council of the DZ BANK banking group and an annual Sustainability Day for institutional and corporate customers. Sustainability aspects are integrated into dialogues with customers in various ways. For example, a discussion guideline has been developed for customer relationship managers, utilizing the results of the SDG classification. In addition, DZ BANK AG developed and implemented a mandatory training program on sustainability for all employees in 2023. DZ BANK AG offers customers interested in achieving more sustainability a wide range of ESG products, including green bonds, social and sustainability bonds, ESG-linked promissory notes and ESG-linked loans. At DZ BANK AG, loan applications are systematically assessed based on relevant sustainability criteria as part of the credit process which includes the exclusion criteria and sector principles and sustainability checklist. Moreover, DZ BANK AG uses the RepRisk DZ BANK ESG checklist, which is based on the ten principles of the UN Global Compact, and the ESG credit risk score. The checklist and the credit risk score were developed in 2023 and have been in use since</p>

		<p>then.</p> <p>Overall, this ensures that the financing of particularly damaging and non-sustainable economic activities is prevented from the outset.</p>
<p>Links & references</p> <p>Sustainability Report</p> <p>Strategy and business model – p. 206ff</p> <p>Sustainability Website</p> <p>Positionpaper Climate and Environment</p> <p>UN PRB Index 2023 – p.207ff</p>	<p>Links & references</p> <p>Sustainability Report</p> <p>Materiality assessment – p.212ff</p> <p>ESG-Goals</p> <p>SDG Classification</p> <p>Positionpaper Climate and Environment</p> <p>Factsheet Sustainability</p> <p>UN PRB Index 2023 – p.209ff</p>	<p>Links & references</p> <p>Sustainability Report</p> <p>Strategy and business model - p.206ff</p> <p>Customer focus – p.312</p> <p>Exclusion Criteria and Sector Principles</p> <p>Sustainability Website</p> <p>Nachhaltigkeitscommitment ggü. Kunden</p> <p>UN PRB Index 2023 – p.215</p>

Principle 4: Stakeholders	Principle 5: Governance & Culture	Principle 6: Transparency & Accountability
<p>DZ BANK AG actively seeks dialogue with its stakeholders to identify their requirements, expectations, and suggestions. Important stakeholders for DZ BANK AG include representatives of companies and organizations that influence or are affected by DZ BANK AG's activities in economic, environmental, or social terms. They include shareholders, retail and business customers, employees, institutional investors, service providers and suppliers, representatives from academia and politics, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), rating agencies, media representatives, and the public. DZ BANK AG maintains key memberships in the fields of science and sustainability and plays an active role in numerous initiatives and associations, which are listed on its website.</p> <p>DZ BANK AG conducts stakeholder surveys at regular intervals in connection with its materiality assessment. The key issues addressed by stakeholders are addressed in the Sustainability Report.</p>	<p>DZ BANK AG implements the Principles for Responsible Banking through a clear governance structure: Responsibility for sustainability lies with the Chief Executive Officer and Employee Relations Director. Climate related and environmental risks are overseen by the members of the Board of Managing Directors responsible for risk control and risk management. Sustainability management lies within the Strategy and Group Development division. This division acts as a driving force and central coordination point for a range of tasks such as: further development of DZ BANK AG's sustainability strategy, governance for sustainability issues, representing interests through dialogue with relevant stakeholders and internal and external sustainability reporting.</p> <p>The implementation of sustainability issues in the financing business and in banking operations is the responsibility of the respective market units and corporate functions. Cross-divisional sustainability activities at DZ BANK AG are managed through the "Advancing Sustainability" program.</p> <p>Accountability is ensured through sustainability key performance indicators which are frequently reported to the Board of Managing Directors and Supervisory Board. Further, DZ BANK AG promotes a culture of responsible banking through additional training of the Board of Managing Directors and Supervisory Board.</p> <p>DZ BANK AG's commitment to the ten principles of the UN Global Compact is embedded in its Code of Conduct.</p> <p>DZ BANK AG's remuneration system is designed to support its sustainability-oriented culture and</p>	<p>Since 2008, DZ BANK AG published an annual sustainability report. The non-financial statement (NFRD) of the DZ BANK banking group, which was required by law for the first time for the 2017 fiscal year, has since been audited annually by an auditing company ("limited assurance").</p> <p>In 2025, the DZ BANK banking group published its first sustainability report in accordance with the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS), which was fully audited by an auditing company ("limited assurance").</p>

	<p>strategy.</p> <p>At the Board of Managing Directors level, 25 percent of the targets are based on sustainability criteria. These targets cascade down to lower organizational levels.</p>	
<p>Links & references</p> <p>Sustainability Report</p> <p>Engaging with the DZ Bank Group's stakeholders – p.213ff</p> <p>Voluntary Commitments</p> <p>UN PRB Index 2023 – p.216</p>	<p>Links & references</p> <p>Sustainability Report</p> <p>ESG Governance – p.202ff</p> <p>Governance – p.324ff</p> <p>Code of Conduct</p> <p>Remuneration Policy – p.10f</p> <p>UN PRB Index 2023 – p.217ff</p>	<p>Links & references</p> <p>Sustainability Report</p> <p>Annual Report 2024</p> <p>Independent auditor's report – p. 759</p> <p>UN PRB Index 2023 – p.207ff</p>

