



ESG Corporate Rating Survey

Summary of Results

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Contents

Overview of Process and Responses	5
Table 1. Number and Category of Respondents.....	6
Table 2. Overview of Respondents by Identified Geographic Area of Focus.....	7
Table 3. Overview of Respondents by Geographic Base.....	7
Table 4. Overview of Respondents' Reported Asset and Organization Sizes	8
Table 5. ISS ESG Corporate Rating Familiarity.....	8
Key findings	9
Summary of Responses	10
1. International Normative Frameworks and Voluntary Disclosure Standards	10
Figure 1. Investor Respondents' Consideration of International Normative Frameworks and Voluntary Disclosure Standards.....	11
Figure 2. Non-Investor Respondents' Consideration of International Normative Frameworks and Voluntary Disclosure Standards	12
2. Regulation	13
Taxonomy Regulations	13
Figure 3. Investor Respondents Assessment of Regulatory Regimes' Relevance to Informing and/or Enhancing the ESG CR Methodology	13
Figure 4. Non-Investor Respondents' Assessment of Regulatory Regimes' Relevance to Informing and/or Enhancing the ESG CR Methodology.....	14
Disclosure Regulations	14
Figure 5. Investor Respondents' Assessment of Disclosure Regulations' Relevance to Informing and/or Enhancing the ESG CR Methodology.....	15
Figure 6. Non-Investor Respondents' Assessment of Disclosure Regulations' Relevance to Informing and/or Enhancing the ESG CR Methodology	16
3. Materiality, Risk, and Impact	16
Figure 7. Investor Respondents' Assessment of Relevance of ESG Ratings Reflecting Materiality Approaches.....	17
Table 6. Europe-Based Investor Respondents' Assessment of Relevance of ESG Ratings Reflecting Materiality Approaches	17
Table 7. North America-Based Investor Respondents' Assessment of Relevance of ESG Ratings Reflecting Materiality Approaches.....	18

Figure 8. Non-Investor Respondents' Assessment of Relevance of ESG Ratings Reflecting Materiality Approaches	19
4. ESG Corporate Rating Use Cases	19
Investor Use Cases	19
Figure 9. Investor Respondents' Assessment of ESG CR Results' Relevance for Various Investor Use Cases.....	20
Table 8. Percentage of Investor Respondents Finding Investor Use Cases 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'	20
Corporate Use Cases	21
Figure 10. Non-Investor Respondents' Assessment of ESG CR Results' Relevance for Various Corporate Use Cases.....	21
Table 9. Percentage of Non-Investor Respondents Finding Corporate Use Cases 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'	22
5. Rating Measurements and Outputs	22
Figure 11. Investor Respondents' Assessments of the Usefulness of Varying CR Measurements and Outputs	23
Figure 12. Non-Investor Respondents' Assessments of the Usefulness of Varying CR Measurements and Outputs	24
6. Sustainability Topics	24
Consumer Products and Services Sector	26
Table 10. Top 5 Sustainability Topics in the Consumer Products and Services Sector* 26	
Energy, Materials, and Utilities Sector.....	27
Table 11. Top 5 Sustainability Topics in the Energy, Materials, and Utilities Sector* ...	27
Financials & Real Estate Sector.....	27
Table 12. Top 5 Sustainability Topics in the Financials & Real Estate Sector*	27
Health Care Sector	28
Table 13. Top 5 Sustainability Topics in the Health Care Sector*	28
Industrials Sector	28
Table 14. Top 5 Sustainability Topics in the Industrials Sector*	28
Technology, Media, and Telecommunications Sector	29
Table 15. Top 5 Sustainability Topics in the Technology, Media, and Telecommunications Sector*	29

7. Dialogue with Issuers	29
Figure 13. Investor Respondents' Assessment of Relevance of the Following Aspects of the Issuer Dialogue	30
Figure 14. Non-Investor Respondents' Assessment of Relevance of the Following Aspects of the Issuer Dialogue	30
8. Governance Pillar	31
Figure 15. Investor respondents' Assigned Importance for the Following Objectives to Strengthen Governance Assessments	31
Figure 16. Non-Investor Respondent's Assigned Importance for the Following Objectives to Strengthen Governance Assessments	32

Overview of Process and Responses

This report summarizes findings of ISS ESG's inaugural ESG Corporate Rating Survey, which was undertaken between September 25 and October 20, 2023. This section provides background on the survey process and responses received, including classification of respondents by demographic criteria such as organizational category, geography, and size.

A total of 511 responses were received, including 90 from institutional investors or consultants to institutional investors and 421 by non-investor respondents. Anonymous responses, which lacked names, organizational affiliation, and/or email addresses, or responses provided through (what appeared to be) invalid email addresses were not accepted. Additionally, multiple responses received from the same respondent were not accepted.

For the majority of survey questions and topics, excluding questions on regulation (taxonomy and disclosure regulations) and sustainability topics, the answer rate from all participants stood at 80 percent or more. Throughout this report, answer rates are calculated using the percentage of valid responses received for each question within specific respondent categories. All percentages are rounded to the nearest integer for concise representation. In the survey itself, only the extreme ends (grades 1 and 5 of the grading scale) had been named. For ease of readability, all grades are named consistently throughout this report, as follows:

- 1 – not relevant/useful (same as in survey)
- 2 – of minor relevance/usefulness
- 3 – of medium relevance/usefulness
- 4 – of higher relevance/usefulness
- 5 – very relevant/useful (same as in survey).

Table 1. Number and Category of Respondents

Category of Respondent	Number of Respondents
“Investor” Total	90
Asset Manager	64
Asset Owner	24
Advisor to Institutional Investors	2
“Non-Investor” Total	421
Public Corporation	389
Public Corporation Board Director	3
Professional Services Firm	19
Academic	1
Not-for-Profit Organization	3
Other Non-Investors	6
Total Respondents	511

Table 1 shows that of the 90 investor-associated respondents, 71 percent are from asset managers, 27 percent are from asset owners, and 2 percent are from advisors to institutional investors.

Among the 421 non-investor responses, the predominant group are public corporations, constituting 93 percent of non-investor respondents. This group includes directors of public corporations, who accounted for approximately 1 percent of non-investor respondents. Professional services firms accounted for approximately 5 percent, while responses from academic and non-profit organizations constituted 1 percent. Responses from privately-held companies were grouped under other non-investor responses.

Table 2. Overview of Respondents by Identified Geographic Area of Focus.

Primary Geographic Area of Focus	% of Investor Respondents	% of Non-investor Respondents
Global	33%	34%
North America	9%	32%
Europe	42%	22%
Australia	10%	2%
Asia Pacific	6%	6%
Emerging Markets	0%	4%
Other	0%	0%

As Table 2 shows, 42 percent of investor respondents identified Europe as their primary geographic area of focus. The largest group among non-investor respondents, 34 percent, self-identified as having a 'global' area of focus. North America followed closely at 32 percent.

Table 3. Overview of Respondents by Geographic Base

Region Where Respondent Is Based*	% of Investor Respondents	% of Non-investor Respondents
North America	18%	53%
Europe	62%	34%
Australia	11%	2%
Asia Pacific	7%	6%
Emerging Markets	2%	5%

* Individual country responses were grouped into corresponding global regions.

Looking at the geographic base of respondents revealed that just under two-thirds of investor respondents identified their base as being in Europe, while more than half of non-investor respondents were based in North America (Table 3).

Table 4. Overview of Respondents’ Reported Asset and Organization Sizes

Asset/Organization Size	% of Investor Respondents	% of Non-investor Respondents
Under \$100 million	3%	1%
\$100 million - \$1 billion	16%	7%
\$1 billion - \$100 billion	59%	28%
Over \$100 billion	10%	2%
Not Applicable/ Disclosed	12%	63%

Table 4 shows the breakdown of investor respondents by the size of their organization’s equity assets under management or assets owned and non-investor respondents by the size of their organization’s market capitalization.

Table 5. ISS ESG Corporate Rating Familiarity

Familiarity with ISS ESG Corporate Rating	% of Investor Respondents	% of Non-investor Respondents
Not familiar	1%	4%
Somewhat familiar	30%	32%
Very familiar	69%	65%

Approximately two-thirds of investor and non-investor respondents expressed a high level of familiarity with the ISS [ESG Corporate Rating](#) solution (Table 5).

Key findings

Regulation, materiality, approach/output, thematic priorities, and quality are areas of high relevance to institutional investors.

Regulatory developments: Among regulatory regimes, global investor and non-investor respondents (57 percent and 43 percent respectively) assigned a very high degree of relevance to the EU Taxonomy for the ESG Corporate Rating methodology.

Rating Approach to Materiality: The implementation of a double materiality approach was assigned as being 'very relevant' or 'of higher relevance' both by investor and non-investor respondents (71 percent and 81 percent respectively).

Investor Approaches: (1) Most investor respondents identified ESG risk assessment as very relevant or of higher relevance, followed by reporting and sustainability impacts (83 percent, 79 percent, and 77 percent respectively). (2) Analyst Opinions, Absolute letter grades, Indicator-level assessment details, and ESG Performance Scores were considered the most useful ESG Corporate Rating measurements/outputs by investor respondents.

Thematic Priorities: Climate change was identified as the most relevant thematic topic across all sectors and flagged by both respondent categories (investor and non-investor respondents), followed by Audit & Risk Oversight (investor respondents) and Worker Health & Safety (non-investor respondents).

Quality and Timeliness: Robust issuer dialogue processes, characterized by the timeliness of reflecting new issuer disclosures in the ESG Corporate Rating, the opportunity for issuers to submit requests and information, and the accessibility and responsiveness of rating analysts, were assessed as very relevant by the majority of investors as well as non-investor respondents. With regard to Corporate Governance enhancements, 'consideration of market-specific governance risks', 'a more comprehensive assessment of governance risks', and 'balancing the weight of the governance pillar with the industry-specific environmental and social risk exposure' were prioritized over 'raising the weight of the governance pillar.'

Summary of Responses

This report section summarizes each survey question and the responses to it and highlights the key findings, along with a breakdown of the responses by investor and non-investor respondents.

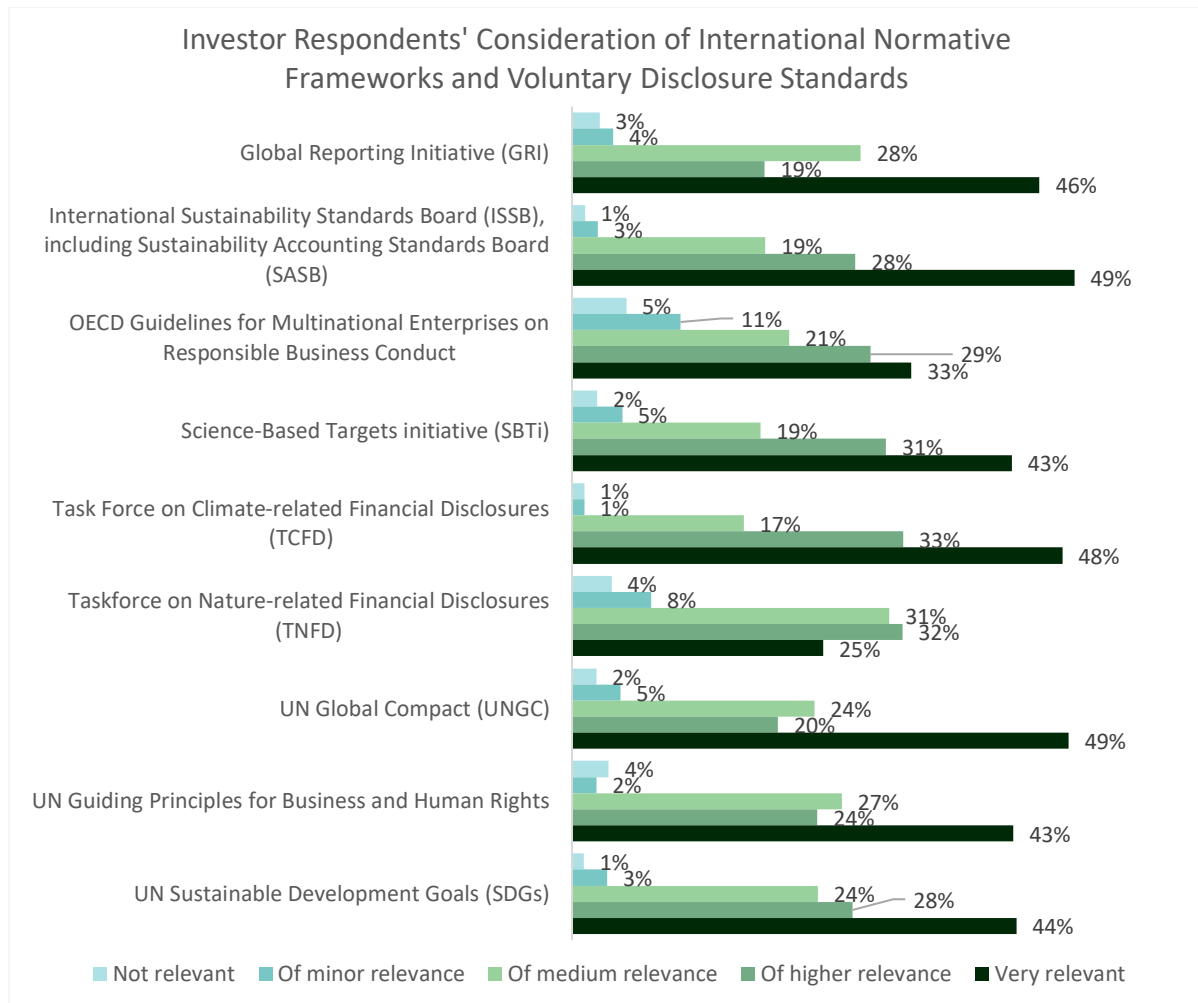
1. International Normative Frameworks and Voluntary Disclosure Standards

Nearly half of investor respondents identified the following frameworks and disclosures as being 'very relevant' for the ISS ESG Corporate Rating methodology and approach:

- UN Global Compact (UNGC) (49 percent)
- International Sustainability Standards Board (ISSB), including Sustainability Accounting Standards Board (SASB) (49 percent)
- Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) (48 percent)
- Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) (46 percent)
- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (44 percent)
- UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights (43 percent)
- Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) (43 percent)

The Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) was variously identified as 'of higher relevance' (32 percent) and 'of medium relevance' (31 percent). A quarter (25 percent) of respondents identified TNFD as 'very relevant.'

Figure 1. Investor Respondents' Consideration of International Normative Frameworks and Voluntary Disclosure Standards



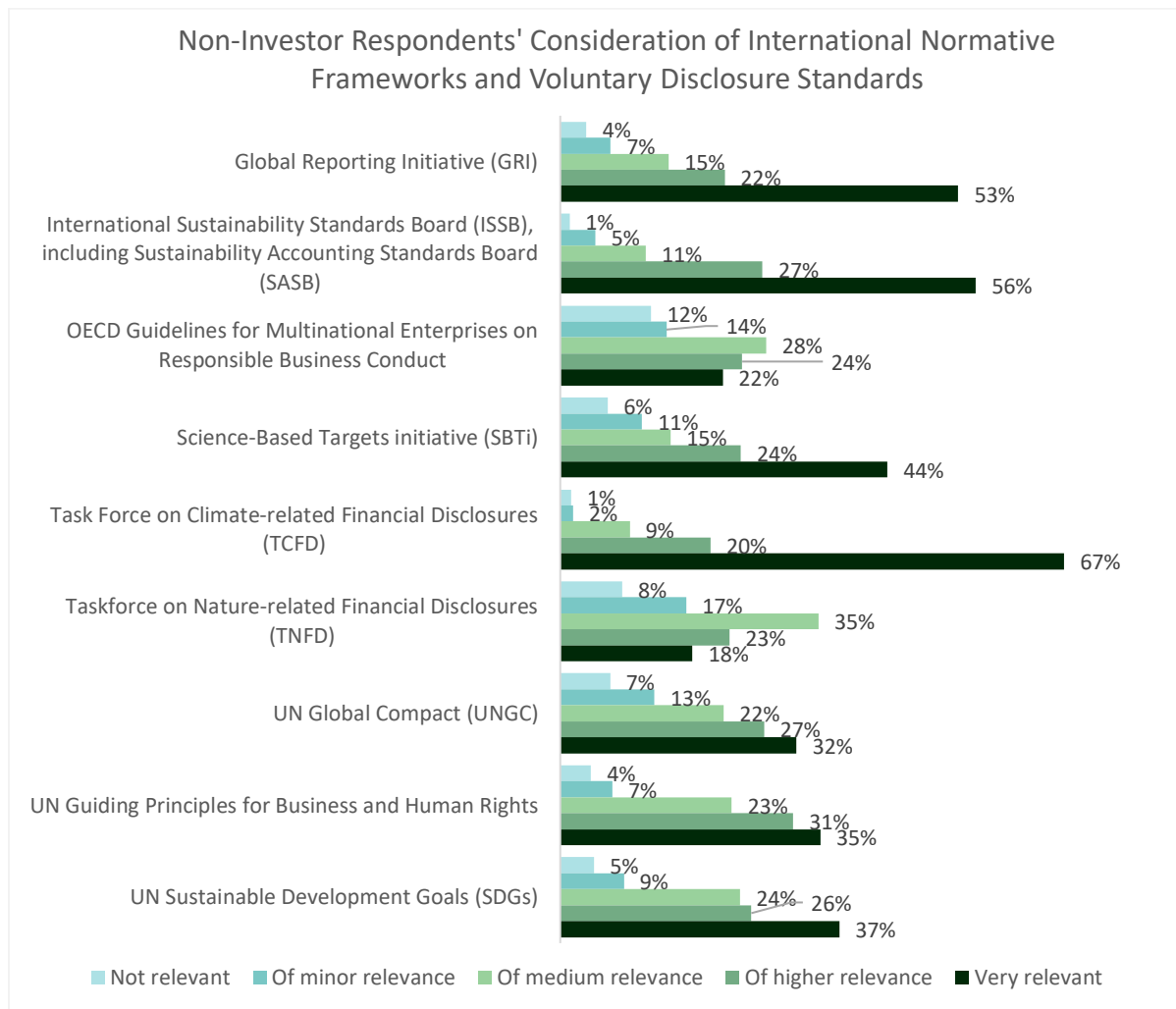
Over half of non-investor respondents considered TCFD (67 percent); ISSB, including SASB (56 percent); and GRI (53 percent) as 'very relevant' frameworks and disclosures for the ESG Corporate Rating methodology and approach.

The following frameworks and disclosures are considered 'very relevant,' although not by the majority of respondents:

- SBTi (44 percent)
- UN SDGs (37 percent)
- UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights (35 percent)
- UNGC (32 percent)

Notably, TNFD, which recently came out with its set of recommendations, was predominantly considered 'of medium relevance' by 35 percent of non-investors. In fact, only 18 percent considered TNFD 'very relevant.' Non-investor respondents assigned the least relevance to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct among all the listed frameworks and disclosure standards.

Figure 2. Non-Investor Respondents' Consideration of International Normative Frameworks and Voluntary Disclosure Standards

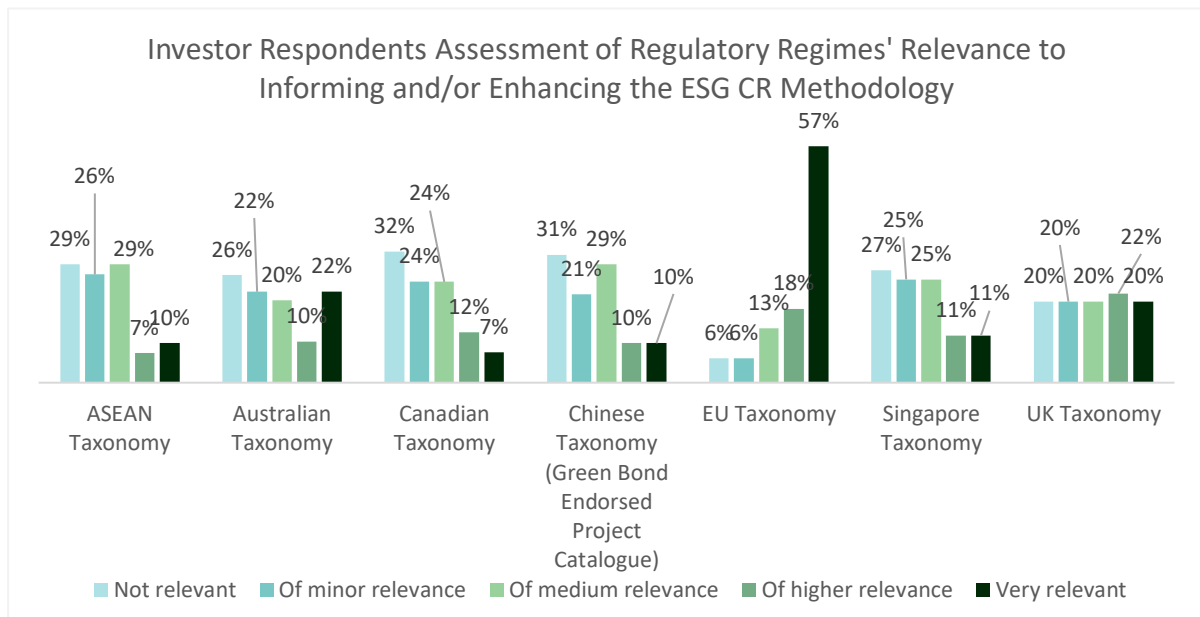


2. Regulation

Taxonomy Regulations

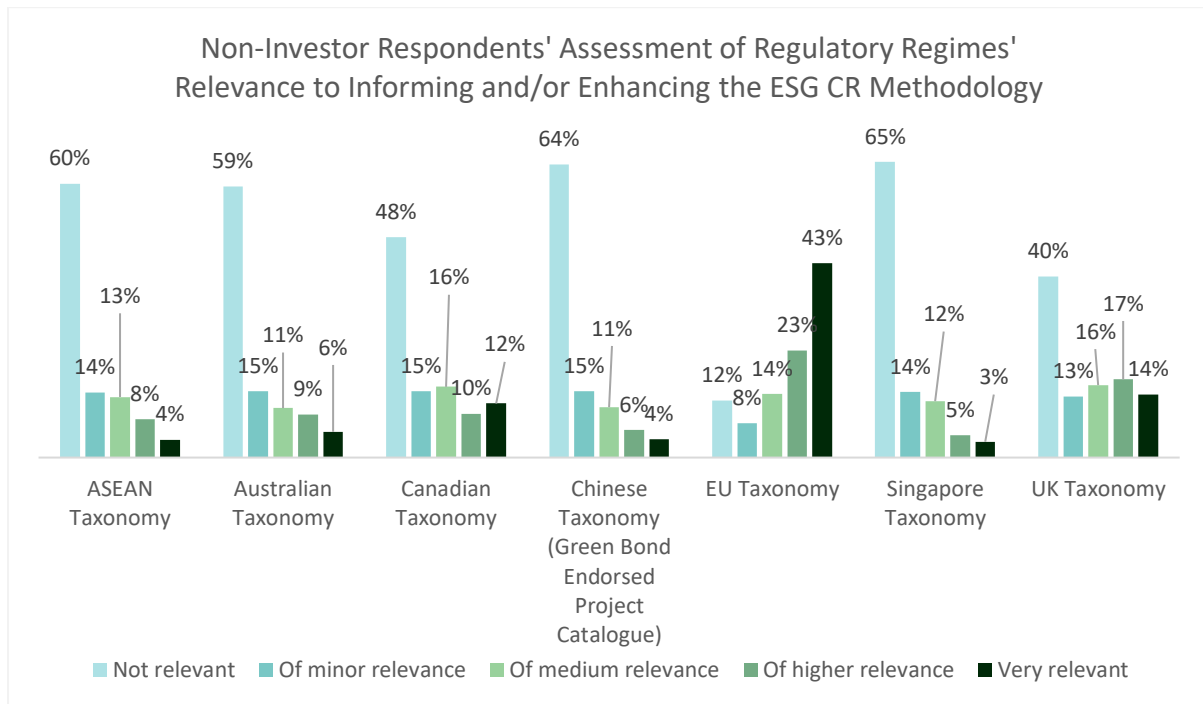
In terms of regulatory regimes (taxonomy and disclosure regulations) informing and/or enhancing ISS ESG’s Corporate Rating methodology, 57 percent of investor respondents considered the EU Taxonomy ‘very relevant.’

Figure 3. Investor Respondents Assessment of Regulatory Regimes' Relevance to Informing and/or Enhancing the ESG CR Methodology



Non-investor respondents showed a similar preference, with 43 percent assessing the EU Taxonomy as ‘very relevant’ to informing and/or enhancing the ISS ESG Corporate Rating methodology. The remaining taxonomies were not perceived as relevant.

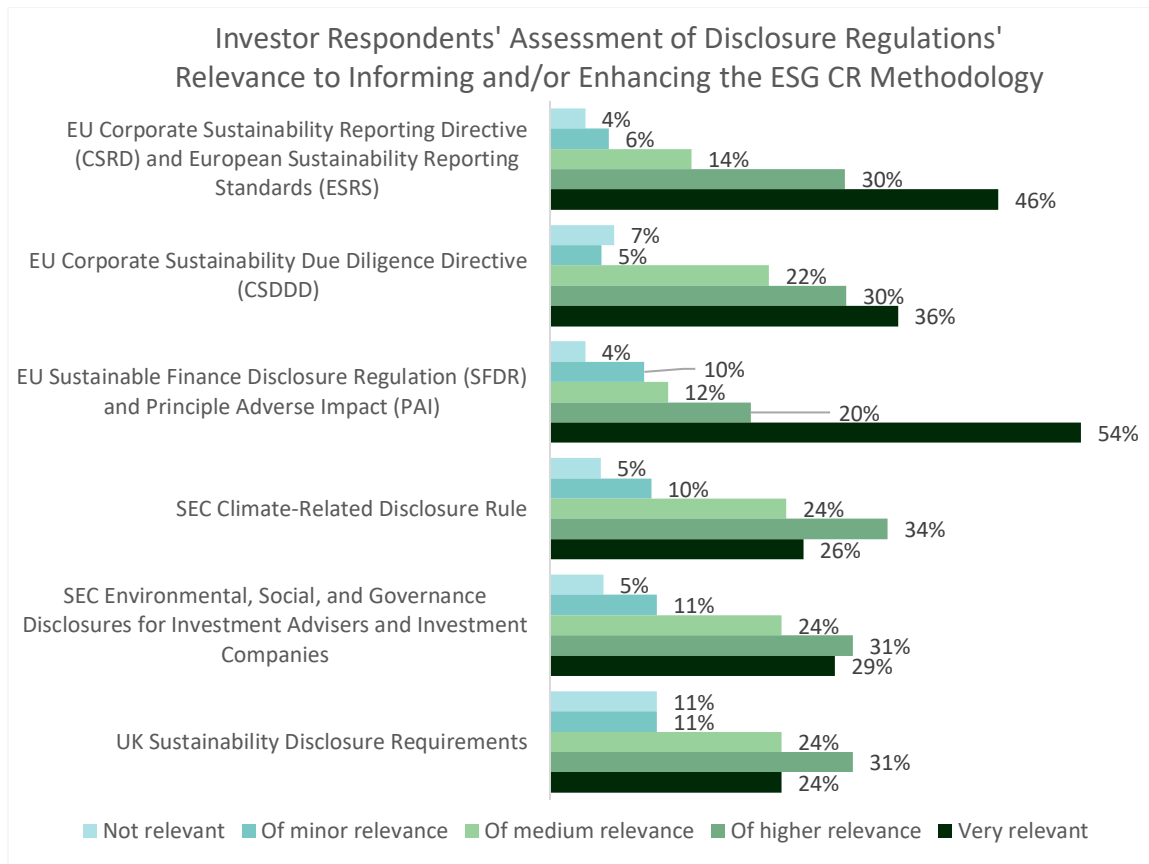
Figure 4. Non-Investor Respondents' Assessment of Regulatory Regimes' Relevance to Informing and/or Enhancing the ESG CR Methodology



Disclosure Regulations

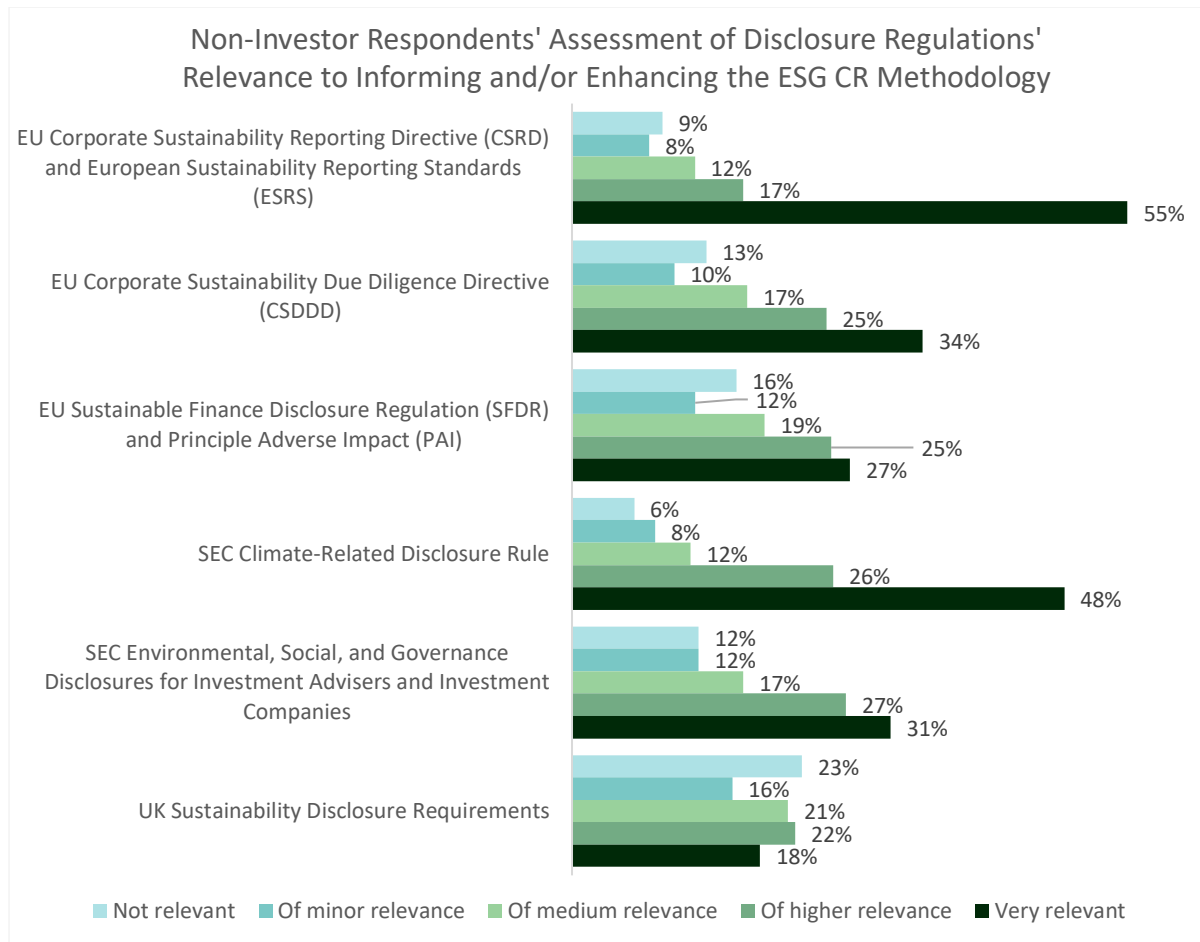
Among the disclosure regulations presented, investors considered the EU Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) and Principle Adverse Impact (PAI) 'very relevant' (54 percent) to inform and/or enhance the ISS ESG Corporate Rating methodology. Other disclosure regulations considered 'very relevant' by a high proportion of investor respondents were the EU Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive (CSRD), including the European Sustainability Reporting Standards (ESRS); and the EU Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive (CSDDD), which received 46 percent and 36 percent of responses, respectively.

Figure 5. Investor Respondents' Assessment of Disclosure Regulations' Relevance to Informing and/or Enhancing the ESG CR Methodology



Regarding disclosure regulations, CSRD and ESRS were highlighted as 'very relevant' by 55 percent of non- investor respondents — the highest among all disclosure regulations assessed. The SEC Climate-Related Disclosure Rule received 48 percent of 'very relevant' responses, followed by EU CSDDD (34 percent), the SEC ESG Disclosures for Investment Advisers and Investment Companies (31 percent), and SFDR and PAI (27 percent).

Figure 6. Non-Investor Respondents' Assessment of Disclosure Regulations' Relevance to Informing and/or Enhancing the ESG CR Methodology



3. Materiality, Risk, and Impact

'Integrating financial and impact materiality,' an approach known as double materiality, was 'very relevant' for most investor respondents (49 percent) while just 12 percent of investor respondents viewed it as being of 'no' and/or 'of minor relevance.'

Almost 70 percent of respondents viewed an 'Impact materiality approach focusing on potential and actual sustainability impacts,' as 'of higher relevance' (30 percent) and 'very relevant' (39 percent), as opposed to 16 percent that attributed no or minor degrees of relevance to the approach.

A 'Single/financial materiality approach focusing on shorter time horizons' was perceived as 'of medium relevance' by 32 percent of investor respondents and 'very relevant' by 19 percent. This materiality approach received the lowest relevant scores of all presented approaches. A 'Single/financial materiality approach reflecting longer time horizons' was considered 'of higher relevance' by 39 percent of respondents and 'very relevant' by 21 percent.

Figure 7. Investor Respondents' Assessment of Relevance of ESG Ratings Reflecting Materiality Approaches

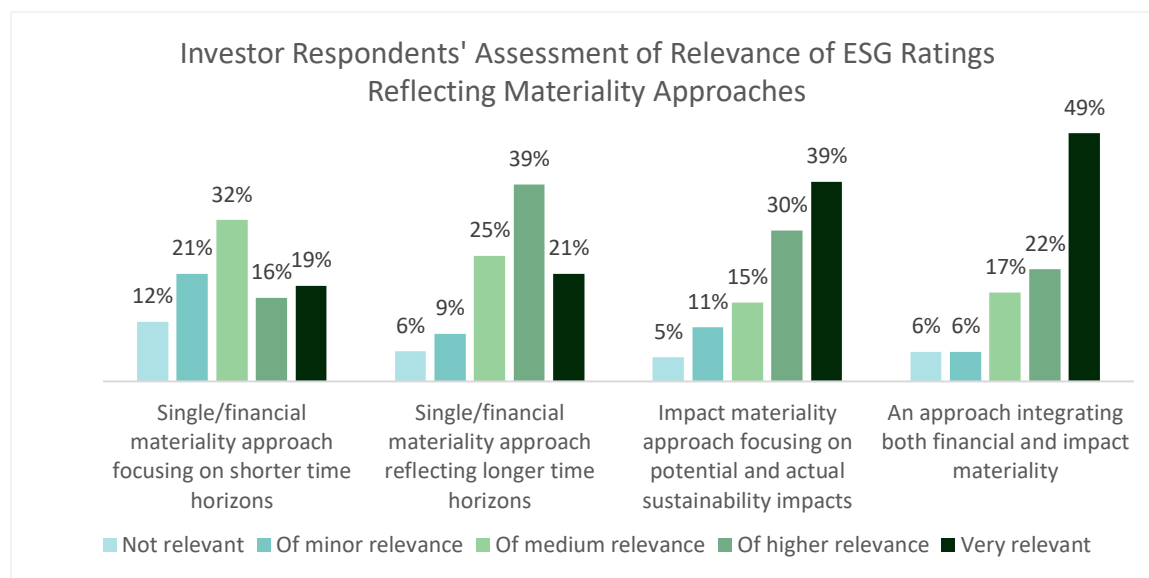


Table 6. Europe-Based Investor Respondents' Assessment of Relevance of ESG Ratings Reflecting Materiality Approaches

Materiality Topic	Not Relevant	Of Minor Relevance	Of Medium Relevance	Of Higher Relevance	Very Relevant
Single/financial materiality approach focusing on shorter time horizons	15%	21%	35%	13%	15%
Single/financial materiality approach reflecting longer time horizons	10%	12%	21%	37%	21%
Impact materiality approach focusing on potential and actual sustainability impacts	6%	6%	12%	38%	38%
An approach integrating both financial and impact materiality	8%	6%	21%	17%	49%

Table 7. North America-Based Investor Respondents’ Assessment of Relevance of ESG Ratings Reflecting Materiality Approaches

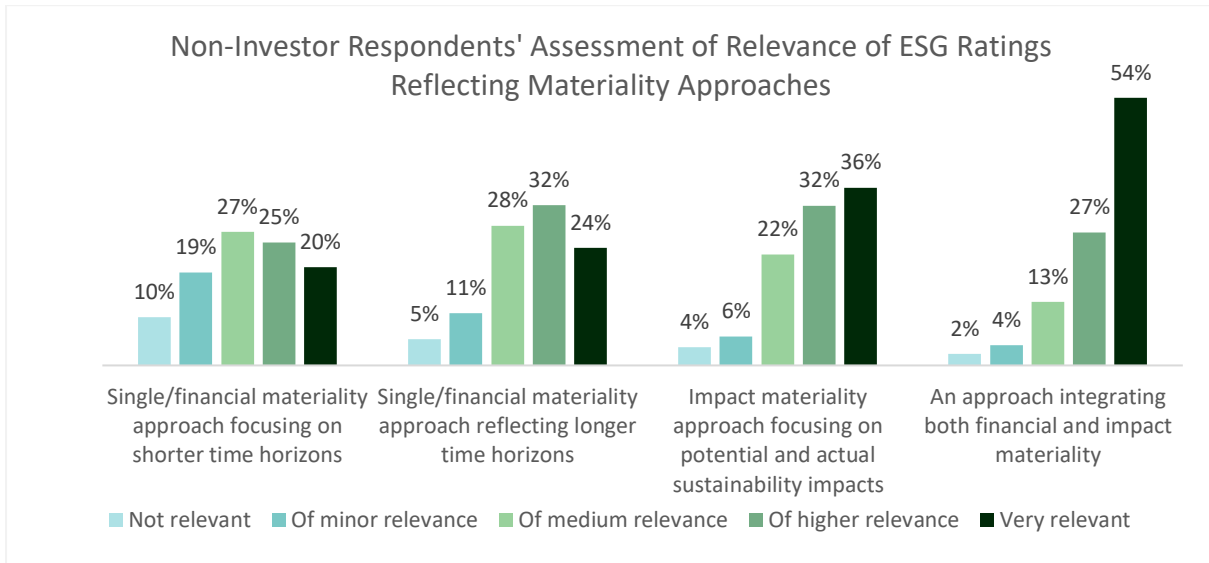
Materiality Topic	Not Relevant	Of Minor Relevance	Of Medium Relevance	Of Higher Relevance	Very Relevant
Single/financial materiality approach focusing on shorter time horizons	6%	19%	31%	19%	25%
Single/financial materiality approach reflecting longer time horizons	0%	0%	38%	44%	19%
Impact materiality approach focusing on potential and actual sustainability impacts	7%	20%	40%	13%	20%
An approach integrating both financial and impact materiality	6%	6%	19%	31%	38%

The double materiality approach was favoured by most non-investor respondents, with 54 percent considering it ‘very relevant.’ By contrast, 6 percent of non-investor respondents viewed it as of ‘no’ and/or ‘of minor relevance.’

Slightly less than 70 percent of respondents assessed an ‘Impact materiality approach’ to be ‘of higher relevance’ (32 percent) and ‘very relevant’ (36 percent), as opposed to 10 percent attributing low degrees of relevance to the approach. ‘Single/financial materiality approaches focusing on shorter and longer time horizons’ were, by most respondents, perceived as ‘of medium relevance’ (27 percent and 28 percent, respectively). Under one quarter of respondents, 20 percent, and 24 percent respectively, evaluated them as ‘very relevant.’

The responses provided by non-investors showed that they considered single/financial materiality more relevant in the longer-term horizons than the shorter-term ones. As with investor responses, shorter time horizons were identified as having the least relevance.

Figure 8. Non-Investor Respondents' Assessment of Relevance of ESG Ratings Reflecting Materiality Approaches



4. ESG Corporate Rating Use Cases

Investor Use Cases

All investor use cases for ESG ratings were predominantly deemed 'very relevant' or 'of higher relevance' by investor respondents. 'Negative screening' was identified as the most relevant by 50 percent of respondents, followed by 'ESG risk assessment' (45 percent).

Figure 9. Investor Respondents' Assessment of ESG CR Results' Relevance for Various Investor Use Cases

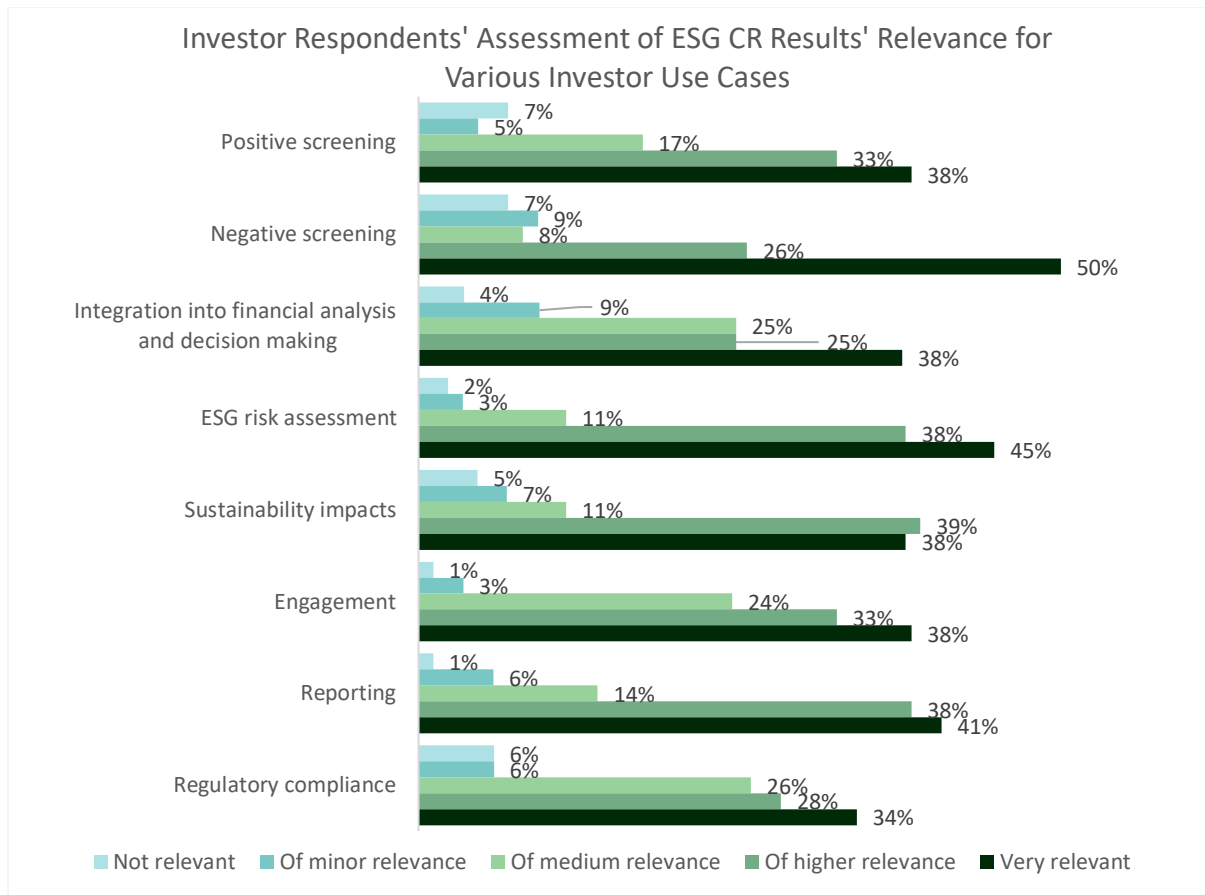


Table 8. Percentage of Investor Respondents Finding Investor Use Cases 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'

Investor Use Cases	% of Investor Respondents' Finding 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'
ESG Risk Assessment	83%
Reporting	79%
Sustainability Impacts	77%
Negative Screening	76%
Positive Screening	71%
Engagement	71%
Integration into Financial Analysis and Decision Making	63%
Regulatory Compliance	62%

Corporate Use Cases

For corporate use cases, a variety were considered 'very relevant' or 'of higher relevance' by the majority of non-investor respondents. 'Benchmarking' stood out, being considered the most relevant, with over 70 percent of respondents assigning 'very relevant' (40 percent) or 'of higher relevance' (31 percent) to it. This was followed by 'Management of reputational risk,' with 26 percent and 37 percent considering it 'very relevant' or 'of higher relevance'; 'Informing sustainability reporting priorities,' with 25 percent and 37 percent considering it 'very relevant' or 'of higher relevance,' respectively; and 'Development of action roadmap and/or strategy,' with 23 percent and 38 percent considering it 'very relevant' or 'of higher relevance,' respectively.

Figure 10. Non-Investor Respondents' Assessment of ESG CR Results' Relevance for Various Corporate Use Cases

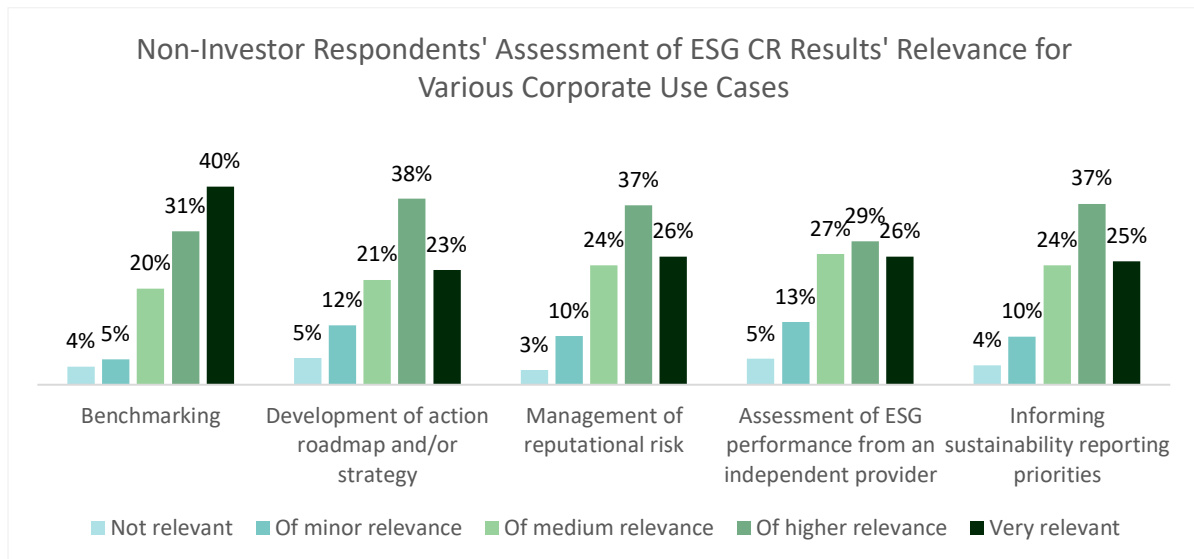


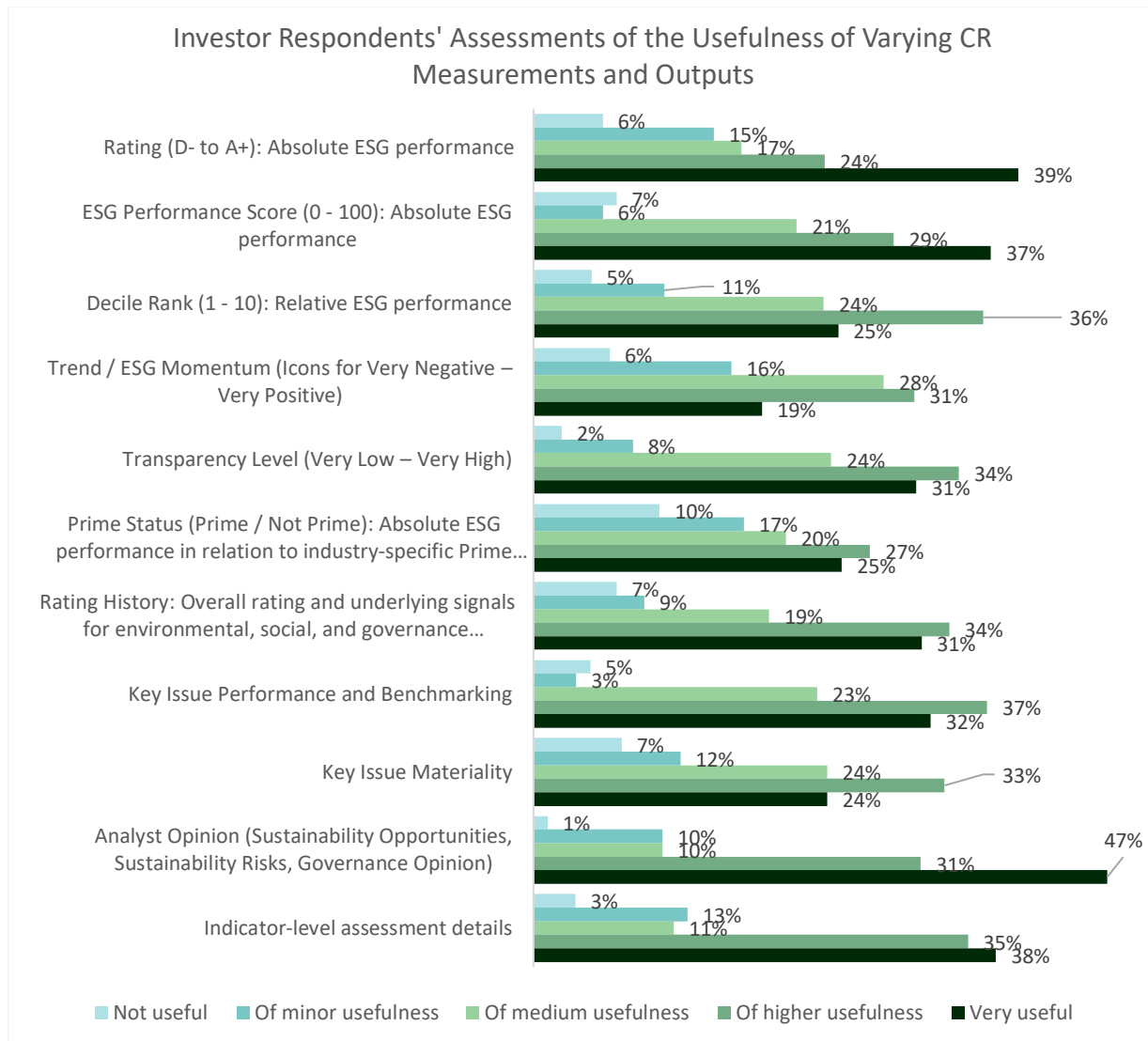
Table 9. Percentage of Non-Investor Respondents Finding Corporate Use Cases 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'

Corporate Use Cases	% of Non-Investor Respondents Considering 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'
Benchmarking	71%
Management of reputational risk	63%
Informing sustainability reporting priorities	62%
Development of action roadmap and/or strategy	61%
Assessment of ESG performance from an independent provider	55%

5. Rating Measurements and Outputs

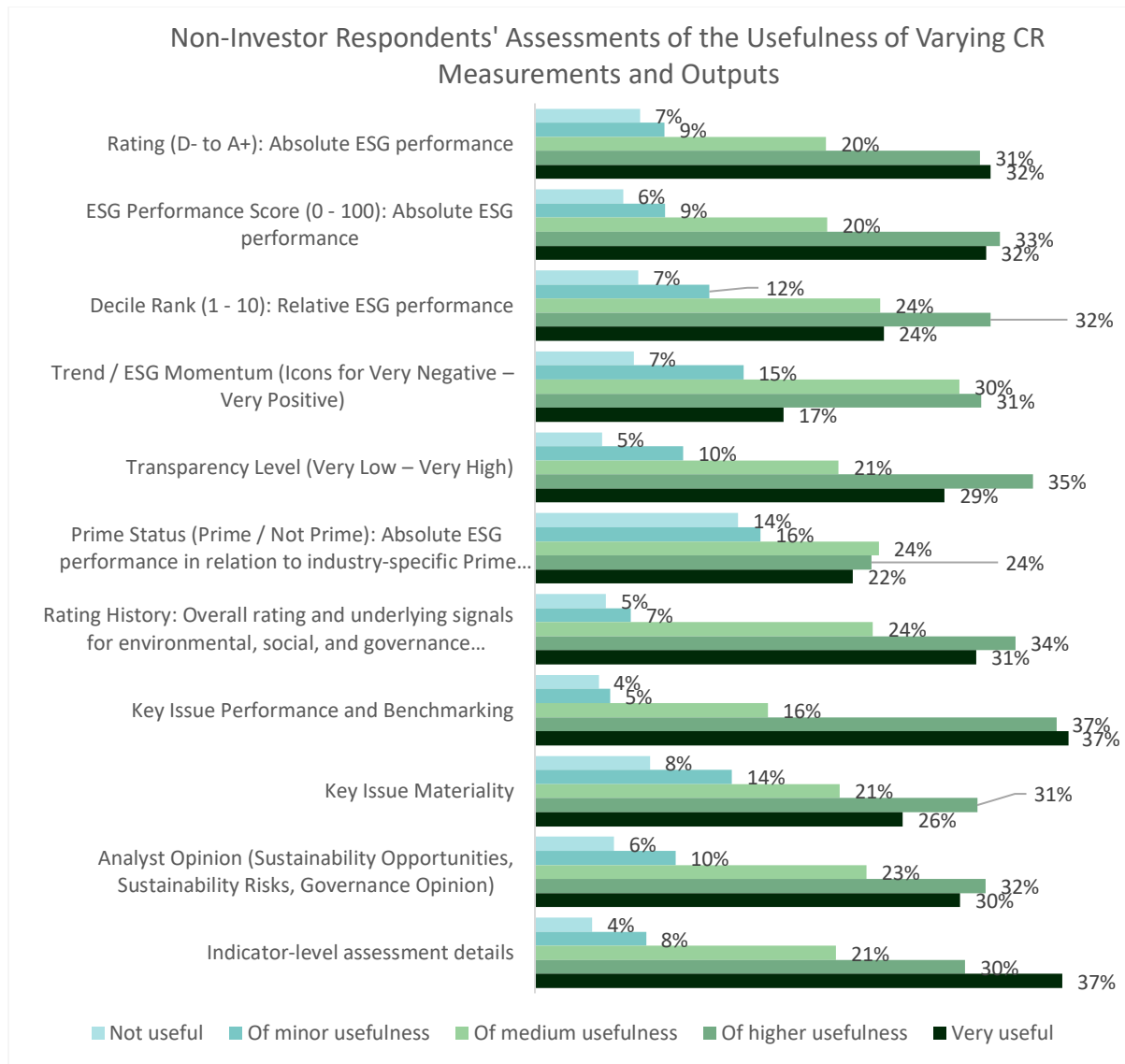
A majority of investor respondents deemed all ISS ESG Corporate Rating signals designated as "key" to be 'very useful' or 'of higher usefulness.' The respective numbers of investor respondents ranged from 78 percent (47 percent and 31 percent responding, 'very useful' or 'of higher usefulness') for the 'Analyst Opinion,' 73 percent (38 percent and 35 percent responding, 'very useful' or 'of higher usefulness') for the 'Indicator-level assessment details,' to 50 percent (19 percent and 31 percent responding, 'very useful' or 'of higher usefulness') for the 'Trend/ESG Momentum.'

Figure 11. Investor Respondents' Assessments of the Usefulness of Varying CR Measurements and Outputs



A similar trend was observed with non-investor responses, where more than half of respondents considered varying ISS ESG Corporate Rating measurements and outputs 'very useful' and/or 'of higher usefulness.' The respective numbers of non-investor respondents ranged from 74 percent (37 percent each responding, 'very useful' or 'of higher usefulness') for the 'Key Issue Performance' and 'Benchmarking,' 67 percent (37 percent and 30 percent responding 'very useful' or 'of higher usefulness,' respectively) for 'Indicator-level assessment details,' to 49 percent (17 percent and 31 percent responding 'very useful' or 'of higher usefulness') for the 'Trend/ESG Momentum.'

Figure 12. Non-Investor Respondents' Assessments of the Usefulness of Varying CR Measurements and Outputs



6. Sustainability Topics

The top five sustainability topics that investor respondents considered 'very relevant' or 'of higher relevance' by sector are as follows:

- **Consumer Products and Services Sector:** Climate Change (91 percent), Human Rights and Freshwater Use (83 percent each), and Biodiversity Loss and Modern Slavery (82 percent each).
- **Energy, Materials, and Utilities Sector:** Climate Change (97 percent), Pollution (95 percent), Net Zero (89 percent), Deforestation (84 percent), and Worker Health & Safety (83 percent).

- **Financials and Real Estate Sector:** Cyber Risk/Customer Privacy (88 percent), Audit & Risk Oversight (85 percent), Climate Change (83 percent), Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Shareholder Rights (78 percent each).
- **Health Care Sector:** Customer Health and Safety (88 percent), Audit & Risk Oversight (78 percent), Worker Health & Safety (76 percent), Board Structure and Shareholder Rights (75 percent each).
- **Industrials Sector:** Climate Change (95 percent), Pollution (92 percent), Net Zero (88 percent), Freshwater Use and Circular Economy/Resource Efficiency (85 percent each).
- **Technology, Media, and Telecommunications Sector:** Cyber Risk/Customer Privacy (88 percent), Climate Change (80 percent), Audit & Risk Oversight (77 percent), Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (76 percent), Government Relations (Taxes, Political Contributions, Lobbying) (69 percent).

The top five sustainability topics that non-investor respondents considered 'very relevant' or 'of higher relevance' by sector are as follows:

- **Consumer Products and Services Sector:** Climate Change and Worker Health & Safety (88 percent each), Human Rights (83 percent), Customer Health & Safety (82 percent), and Audit & Risk Oversight (79 percent).
- **Energy, Materials, and Utilities Sector:** Climate Change (91 percent), Worker Health & Safety (89 percent), Pollution (84 percent), Net Zero (82 percent) and Audit & Risk Oversight (80 percent).
- **Financials and Real Estate Sector:** Cyber Risk/Customer Privacy (84 percent), Audit & Risk Oversight (81 percent), Climate Change (77 percent), Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and Executive Compensation (76 percent each).
- **Health Care Sector:** Customer Health & Safety (93 percent), Worker Health & Safety (88 percent), Cyber Risk/Customer Privacy (84 percent), Human Capital Management (80 percent), and Work-Life Balance (77 percent).
- **Industrials Sector:** Worker Health & Safety (93 percent), Climate Change (91 percent), Pollution (89 percent), Net Zero (84 percent), and Human Rights (81 percent).
- **Technology, Media, and Telecommunications Sector:** Cyber Risk/Customer Privacy (93 percent), Audit & Risk Oversight (81 percent), Human Capital Management (80 percent), Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (79 percent), and Responsible Marketing (73 percent).

Consumer Products and Services Sector

Table 10. Top 5 Sustainability Topics in the Consumer Products and Services Sector*

Sustainability Topic	% of Investor Respondents Considering 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'	Sustainability Topic	% of Non-Investor Respondents Considering 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'
Climate Change	91%	Climate Change	88%
Human Rights	83%	Worker Health & Safety	88%
Freshwater Use	83%	Human Rights	83%
Biodiversity Loss	82%	Customer Health & Safety	82%
Modern Slavery	82%	Audit & Risk Oversight	79%

*Responses were narrowed down to display the top five topics per sector for readability and focus.

Energy, Materials, and Utilities Sector

Table 11. Top 5 Sustainability Topics in the Energy, Materials, and Utilities Sector*

Sustainability Topic	% of Investor Respondents Considering 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'	Sustainability Topic	% of Non-Investor Respondents Considering 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'
Climate Change	97%	Climate Change	91%
Pollution	95%	Worker Health & Safety	89%
Net Zero	89%	Pollution	84%
Deforestation	84%	Net Zero	82%
Worker Health & Safety	83%	Audit & Risk Oversight	80%

*Responses were narrowed down to display the top five topics per sector for readability and focus.

Financials & Real Estate Sector

Table 12. Top 5 Sustainability Topics in the Financials & Real Estate Sector*

Sustainability Topic	% of Investor Respondents Considering 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'	Sustainability Topic	% of Non-Investor Respondents Considering 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'
Cyber Risk / Customer Privacy	88%	Cyber Risk / Customer Privacy	84%
Audit & Risk Oversight	85%	Audit & Risk Oversight	81%
Climate Change	83%	Climate Change	77%
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	78%	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	76%
Shareholder Rights	78%	Executive Compensation	76%

*Responses were narrowed down to display the top five topics per sector for readability and focus.

Health Care Sector

Table 13. Top 5 Sustainability Topics in the Health Care Sector*

Sustainability Topic	% of Investor Respondents Considering 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'	Sustainability Topic	% of Non-Investor Respondents Considering 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'
Customer Health and Safety	88%	Customer Health & Safety	93%
Audit & Risk Oversight	78%	Worker Health & Safety	88%
Worker Health & Safety	76%	Cyber Risk / Customer Privacy	84%
Board Structure	75%	Human Capital Management	80%
Shareholder Rights	75%	Work-Life Balance	77%

*Responses were narrowed down to display the top five topics per sector for readability and focus.

Industrials Sector

Table 14. Top 5 Sustainability Topics in the Industrials Sector*

Sustainability Topic	% of Investor Respondents Considering 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'	Sustainability Topic	% of Non-Investor Respondents Considering 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'
Climate Change	95%	Worker Health & Safety	93%
Pollution	92%	Climate Change	91%
Net Zero	88%	Pollution	89%
Freshwater Use	85%	Net Zero	84%
Circular Economy / Resource Efficiency	85%	Human Rights	81%

*Responses were narrowed down to display the top five topics per sector for readability and focus.

Technology, Media, and Telecommunications Sector

Table 15. Top 5 Sustainability Topics in the Technology, Media, and Telecommunications Sector*

Sustainability Topic	% of Investor Respondents Considering 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'	Sustainability Topic	% of Non-Investor Respondents Considering 'Very Relevant' or 'Of Higher Relevance'
Cyber Risk / Customer Privacy	88%	Cyber Risk / Customer Privacy	93%
Climate Change	80%	Audit & Risk Oversight	81%
Audit & Risk Oversight	77%	Human Capital Management	80%
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	76%	Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	79%
Government Relations (Taxes, Political Contributions, Lobbying)	69%	Responsible Marketing	73%

*Responses were narrowed down to display the top five topics per sector for readability and focus.

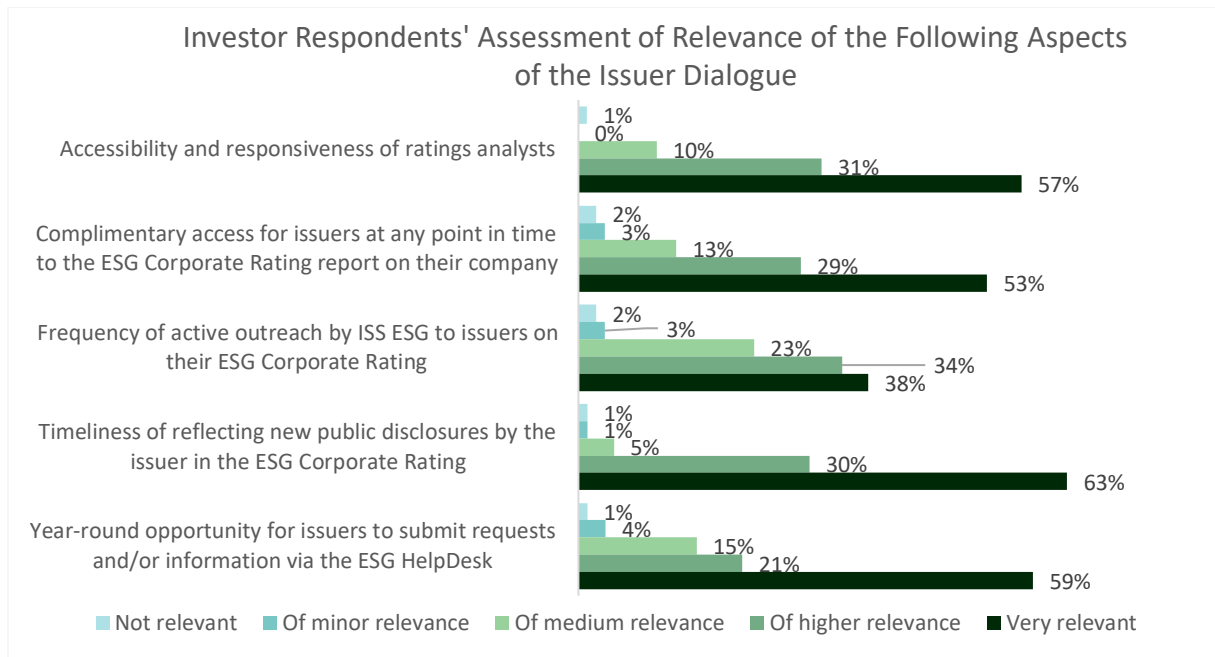
7. Dialogue with Issuers

Over half of investor respondents considered the following aspects of issuer dialogue as 'very relevant':

- Timeliness of reflecting new public disclosures from the issuer in the ISS ESG Corporate Rating (63 percent)
- Year-round opportunity for issuers to submit requests and/or information via ISS ESG's HelpDesk (59 percent)
- Accessibility and responsiveness of ratings analysts (57 percent)
- Complimentary access for issuers at any point in time to their ISS ESG Corporate Rating report (53 percent)

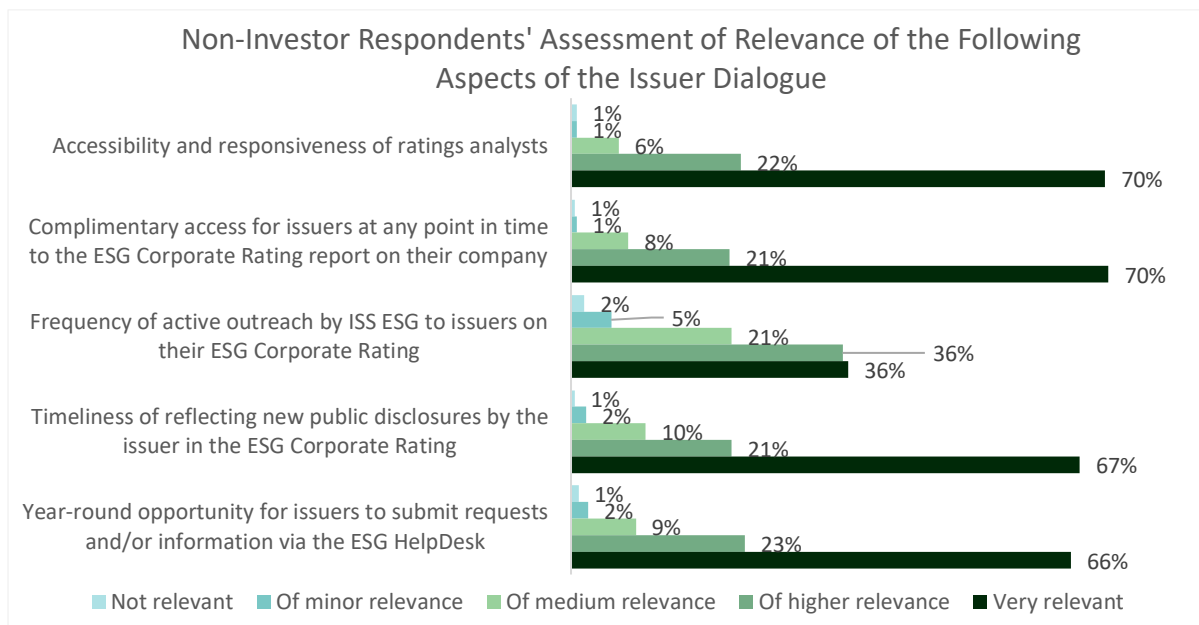
'Frequency of active outreach by ISS ESG to issuers on their ESG Corporate Rating' was identified as 'very relevant' by 38 percent of investor respondents, followed by 34 percent considering it 'of higher relevance,' as illustrated below.

Figure 13. Investor Respondents' Assessment of Relevance of the Following Aspects of the Issuer Dialogue



A similar pattern was seen with non-investor respondents, with 70 percent considering 'Accessibility and responsiveness of ratings analysts' and 'Complimentary access for issuers at any point in time to the ESG Corporate Rating report on their company' as 'very relevant.'

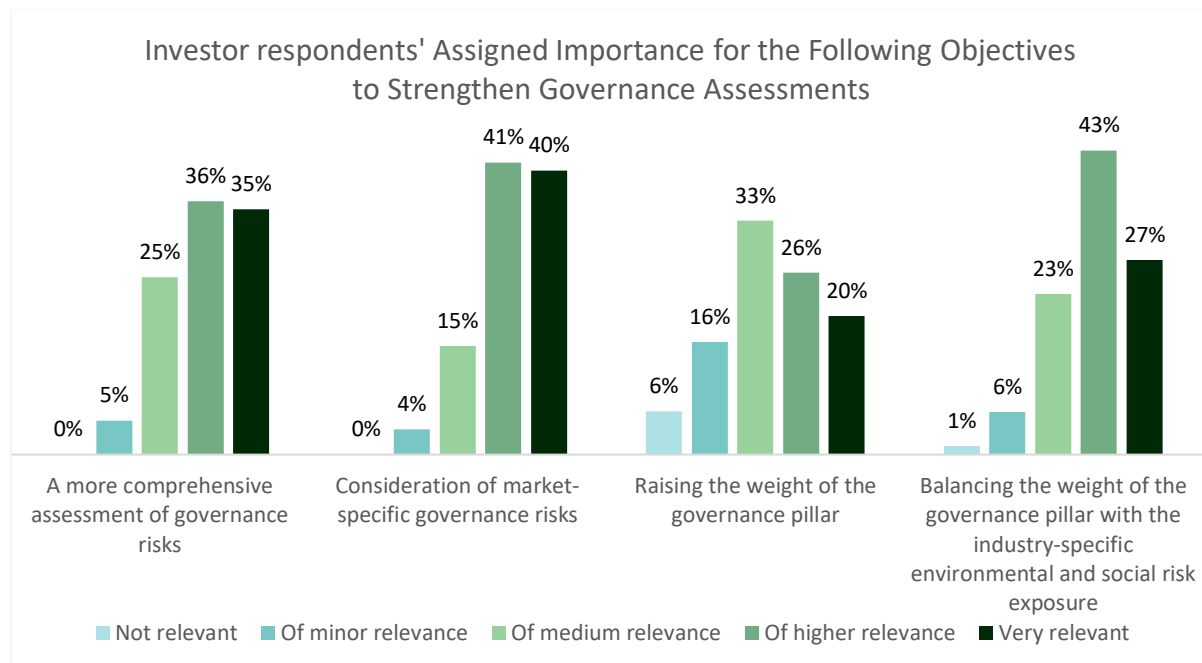
Figure 14. Non-Investor Respondents' Assessment of Relevance of the Following Aspects of the Issuer Dialogue



8. Governance Pillar

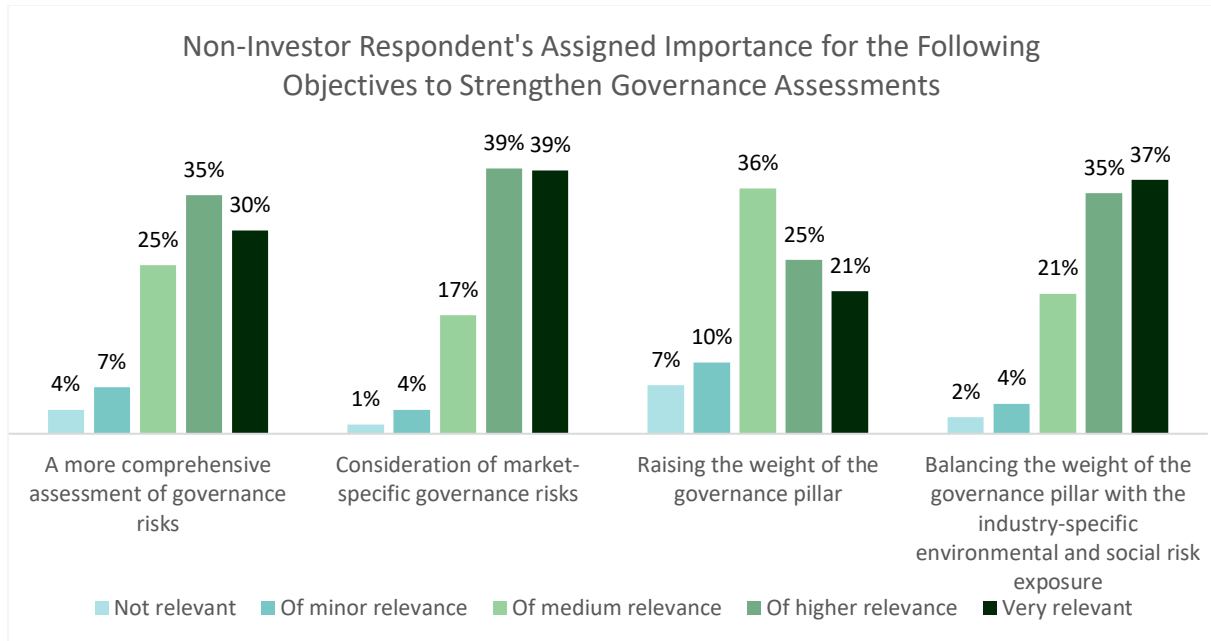
'Consideration of market-specific governance risks' was considered a 'very relevant' objective for strengthening the ISS ESG Corporate Rating governance assessment by 40 percent of investor respondents. 'A more comprehensive assessment of governance risks' was seen as 'of higher relevance' by 36 percent and 'very relevant' by 35 percent of respondents. By comparison, 'Raising the weight of the governance pillar' was deemed the least important of all the objectives provided as options, with a plurality (33 percent) of investor respondents finding it to be 'of medium relevance.'

Figure 15. Investor respondents' Assigned Importance for the Following Objectives to Strengthen Governance Assessments



Non-investor respondents indicated 'Consideration of market-specific governance risks,' 'Balancing the weight of the governance pillar with the industry-specific environmental and social risk exposure,' and 'A more comprehensive assessment of governance risks' as 'very relevant' objectives with 39 percent, 37 percent, and 30 percent of respondents, respectively. As with investor responses, 'Raising the weight of the governance pillar' was considered the least relevant objective, with 36 percent of non-investor respondents assigning it 'of medium relevance.'

Figure 16. Non-Investor Respondent's Assigned Importance for the Following Objectives to Strengthen Governance Assessments



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