RISK INFORMATION ALLIANCE

Risk Screening
Approved Indices

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Preferred by Nature

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Introduction

This document presents the application of the RIA methodology for risk screening. The risk screening methodology has been applied to a selection of 3 criteria or set of indicators:

- Freedom of association
- Modern slavery
- Bribery and corruption

Those target criteria or indicators have been chosen based on the availability of relevant and reliable indices. Based on the research conducted, the RIA technical team assesses that:

- It is unlikely that all RIA criteria can be matched to an existing index or qualitative source of information, or a combination of indices. There are indeed some topics for which there is no global, transparent and reliable quantitative analysis or scoring that would support the screening approach.
- With the current methodology, RIA would therefore not be able to produce a whole country profile solely based on risk screening.
- It is however likely that additional criteria or indicators can be matched to existing sources of information, with additional research and analysis.

The selected indices and applied methodology have led to a classification of countries into 2 groups:

- Negligible risk countries: those countries that clearly qualify as negligible risk, because of their high scoring in the retained index or combination of indices.
- Undetermined risk countries: for all the other countries, an "Undetermined" conclusion is drawn. This means that even for countries with the worst score, we consider that further qualitative, context-specific and substantiated information is needed to conclude a "non-negligible risk". On the other hand, a country in the "Undetermined" category may very well be later assessed as "non-negligible" based on additional assessment.

The following results are meant to be used as follow:

- When a country assessment is developed, the assessor will consult the list of negligible risk countries produced with the risk screening methodology.
- For all criteria or indicators assessed as negligible for the target country, no further assessment is required.
- For all criteria or indicators which have a selected risk screening index or combination of indices but for which the country does not pass the negligible risk threshold:
    - Additional qualitative, context-specific and substantiated information must be gathered.
    - The assessor may nonetheless consult and take the index scoring into account to inform the risk description and conclusion. The assessor should not base their conclusion on the risk screening index only.

1. Modern slavery

Indicator(s) covered

4.2 Modern slavery, including forced and compulsory labour, are not taking place.
4.2.1 Legal requirements on modern slavery, including forced and compulsory labour, are complied with.
4.2.2 Modern slavery, including forced and compulsory labour are not used, promoted, or supported in any way.

Selected index

Name	**Global Slavery Index**
Link	https://www.walkfree.org/global-slavery-index/
Organisation	Walk Free Walk Free is an international human rights group focused on the eradication of modern slavery in all its forms. Together with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Walk Free developed the joint Global Estimates of Modern Slavery.
Background	
Overview	The Global Slavery Index is a freely available dataset presenting a detailed picture of modern slavery as it exists across industries and countries today. It also indicates the actions governments are taking to combat modern slavery and the risks that populations face around the world. The Global Slavery Index is a tool for citizens, civil society, businesses, and governments to understand the scale of the problem, existing responses, and contributing factors so that they can advocate for and build sound policies that will eradicate modern slavery.
Release date	Latest release 2023
Index format	Several measures are made available by the Walk Free Global Estimates of Modern Slavery and presented separately, for each country. Those measure are: (1) the Prevalence of modern slavery (quantitative figures) (2) a Vulnerability score (rating 0-100) (3) a Government response score (categories A-D)
Index methodology	All supporting data tables and methodology are available to download from the Walk Free website. For the following measures, separate methodologies and datasets are used to calculate the score:

	(1) the Prevalence of modern slavery (a) per thousand population and (b) as a total estimated number of people. (2) a Vulnerability score (consisting of several measures, aggregated in a “final overall score”, normalised, weighted 0 (best) to 100 (worst)). (3) a Government response score consisting of several measures, aggregated in a score from 0 (worst) to 100 (best), also translated as a lettered credit rating - A to D).
RIA risk screening method	
Logic applied	It is deemed sufficiently precautionary to select countries that simultaneously rank themselves among all other countries in the 30% best for all 3 categories (Prevalence, Vulnerability and Government response). The threshold is therefore determined by the 3rd decile for Prevalence and Vulnerability (countries below this threshold qualify) and by the 7h decile for Government response (countries beyond this threshold qualify).
Retained threshold	• The score for estimated Prevalence per 1000 of population is in the 3 top deciles of assessed countries AND • The score for Vulnerability is in the 3 top deciles of assessed countries AND • The score for Government response is NOT in the 7 top deciles of assessed countries
Steps applied	Note: Only countries with available data for Prevalence, Vulnerability and Governance response are considered. Countries with missing scores are not considered in the steps below. STEP 1: The relevant decile threshold (3rd or 7th decile) is identified for each score (Prevalence, Vulnerability and Governance response). STEP 2: The lists with countries within in 3rd decile for Prevalence and Vulnerability, as well as 7th decile for Governance response are developed. STEP 3: The lists of qualifying countries are compared to produce a final country list with countries fulfilling the threshold set for each score. A negligible risk is concluded for those countries. Countries only fulfilling the threshold for 1 or 2 scores are attributed a not defined risk conclusion.
Negligible risk results	
List of countries	Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, United Kingdom, United States of America, Uruguay

2. Freedom of association

Indicator(s) covered

5.5 Freedom of Association, the Right to Organise and the Right to Collective Bargaining are allowed.
5.5.1 Legal requirements related to the Freedom of Association, the Right to Organise and the Right to Collective Bargaining are complied with.
5.5.2 Workers have the Right to Organise and the Right to Collective Bargaining as specified in the ILO Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

Selected index

Name	**Global Rights Index (GRI)**
Link	https://www.ituc-csi.org/global-rights-index
Organisations	International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) The ITUC's primary mission is the promotion and defence of workers' rights and interests, through international cooperation between trade unions, global campaigning and advocacy within the major global institutions.
Background	
Overview	The GRI is a highly credible and widely used index from a reputable international federation. It specifically evaluates the protection (or violation) of workers' and trade union rights across countries. It is updated annually and includes a comprehensive global coverage of legal and actual violations.
Release date	2025 (annual releases)
Index format	Rates countries on a scale of 1 to 5+ (1 = best, sporadic violations; 5+ = worst, no guarantee of rights). Lower scores mean better protection of rights.
Index methodology	Based on ~97 indicators derived from ILO labor standards, covering the following topics: • Restrictions on collective bargaining • Limits on the right to strike • Obstacles to union membership and registration • State surveillance of union activities • Violence or killings of trade unionists • Restrictions on freedom of speech and assembly • Access to justice for workers ITUC compiles reports of violations into a composite country score.

RIA risk screening method	
Logic applied	The index is closely fitting the indicator, so the country ratings are used as such. Countries scoring 1 or 2 on the index are considered to present non-systemic risks and are allocated a negligible risk conclusion. The final list represents the best performing 20% of the 151 evaluated countries.
Retained threshold	Countries rating 1 or 2.
Steps applied	Countries rating 1 or 2 are selected.
Negligible risk results	
List of countries	Australia, Austria, Barbados, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Iceland, Italy, Ireland, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malawi, Moldova, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Taiwan, Uruguay.

3. Bribery and correction

Indicator(s) covered

6.1 Corruption, fraud and conflict of interest
6.1.2 Bribery and corruption does not take place.

Selected indices

INDEX 1	
Name	**Transparency International Corruption Perception Index (CPI)**
Link	https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2024
Organisations	Transparency International Transparency International is working in over 100 countries to end the injustice of corruption. It is an independent, non-governmental, not-for-profit and work with like-minded partners across the world to end the injustice of corruption. Its mission is to stop corruption and promote transparency, accountability and integrity at all levels and across all sectors of society.
Background	
Overview	The Corruption Perceptions Index is an annual ranking that assesses the perceived levels of public sector corruption in countries around the world. It assigns scores to countries on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean), based on how corrupt their public sectors are perceived to be by experts and business executives. The index aggregates data from various sources, including surveys and assessments from different institutions. It aims to provide insights into the perceived levels of corruption and to raise awareness about corruption-related issues globally.
Release date	2025 (covering 2024). Annual releases.
Index format	Scale from 0-100. 100 is very clean and 0 is highly corrupt.
Index methodology	The CPI aggregates data from 13 independent sources, such as the World Bank, African Development Bank, Economist Intelligence Unit, and others. Sources cover topics including bribery, misuse of public office, nepotism and anti-corruption mechanisms. Sources used are evaluated against a set of criteria including methodological reliability, conceptual alignment, quantitative granularity, cross-country comparability, and multi-year availability. Independent parallel calculations by two in-house researchers and two external academic advisors ensure accuracy. Each source's results are standardised into a 0–100 scale. CPI then calculates the average of all standardized scores from the sources available. This becomes the country's CPI score.

	Transparency's International methodology is publicly available and downloadable (2024 version).
INDEX 2	
Name	**World Bank Worldwide Governance Indicators**
Link	https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/worldwide-governance-indicators/interactive-data-access
Organisation	World Bank Group
Background	
Overview	The Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI) describe broad patterns in perceptions of the quality of governance across countries and over time. The WGI are based on existing data sources produced by more than 30 think tanks, international organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and private firms around the world. The data sources (1) produce original primary data using their own well-defined methodologies, (2) report respondents' perceptions of relevant dimensions of governance, (3) cover multiple countries, and (4) are regularly updated. The data reflect the diverse views of tens of thousands of survey respondents and experts worldwide. The WGI combine these into aggregate indicators of six dimensions of governance for over 200 economies over the period 1996–2023: • Voice and Accountability • Political Stability and Absence of Violence/Terrorism • Government Effectiveness • Regulatory Quality • Rule of Law • Control of Corruption
Release date	2025 (covering perception in 2024). Annual update.
Index format	Each indicator is based on data from surveys and expert assessments from over 30 sources. Scores are expressed as standardized scores between -2.5 and +2.5 where -2.5 represents Weak governance and +2.5 represents Strong governance. Countries are also allocated an absolute score ranging from 0 to 100.
Index methodology	Each of the 30+ sources used provides governance-related scores on their own scale. They are converted into a common scale using statistical normalization. The index uses a statistical aggregation method called Unobserved Components Model (UCM), which combines multiple sources and accounts for measurement error and assigns weights based on source reliability. Each score includes a margin of error to reflect data variability. The methodology is publicly available on the dedicated World Bank website.
RIA risk screening method	
Logic applied	Both indicators are deemed closely aligned with the RIA indicator while bringing different elements. To strengthen the results obtained, they are used in combination: countries

	allocated a negligible risk threshold must comply with the determined threshold for each indicator.
Retained thresholds	• CPI ≥ 75 AND • WGI on corruption ≥ 1.5
Steps applied	1. The list of countries scoring 75 or above on the CPI is established. 2. The list of countries scoring 1.5 or above on the WGI on corruption is established (only scores available for 2024 have been taken into consideration). 3. The lists of qualifying countries are compared to produce a final country list with countries fulfilling the threshold set for each score. A negligible risk is concluded for those countries. Countries only fulfilling the threshold for one or the other index are attributed a not defined risk conclusion.
Negligible risk results	
List of countries	Australia, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Uruguay

RIA RISK INFORMATION ALLIANCE

The Risk Information Alliance (RIA) is a collaboration of organisations working together to address the growing complexity of corporate due diligence and responsible business practices. By pooling resources, funding, and expertise, RIA facilitates the joint production of credible, high-quality, and up-to-date risk data across commodities, sectors, and geographies.

Through the development of a shared methodology, indicators, and a blueprint for a risk data storage platform, RIA enables its members to share and access risk data efficiently and cost-effectively. This collaboration supports better-informed sourcing decisions, stronger sustainability investments, and more consistent due diligence outcomes.

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Learn more: www.riskinformationalliance.org