

# AA1000SES v3

## The Next Generation of Stakeholder Engagement

2026

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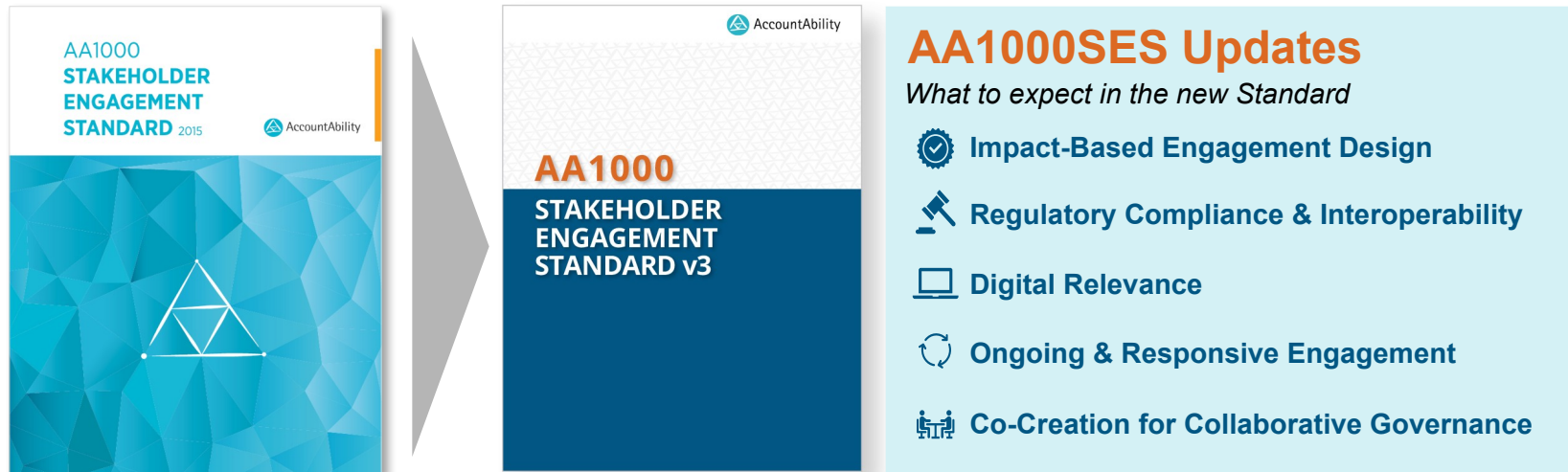
***LAUNCHING 2026***

**AccountAbility's "New and Improved"  
AA1000 Stakeholder Engagement  
Standard (AA1000SES v3)**

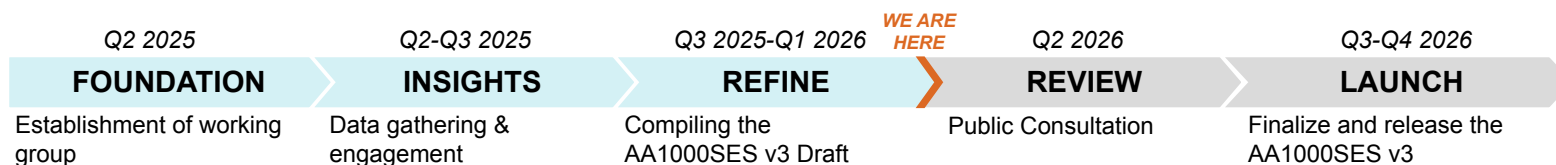
# The New AA1000 Stakeholder Engagement Standard (AA1000SES v3)

## Meeting Emergent Stakeholder Needs With The AA1000 Stakeholder Engagement Standard

The **AA1000 AccountAbility Stakeholder Engagement Standard v3 (2027)** has been updated to reflect **evolving stakeholder expectations, regulatory requirements, and market developments** in sustainability management.



### Publication Timeline



### CSEP Training

A brand-new Stakeholder Engagement Certificate Program for practitioners



Transition from ad hoc, reactive engagement efforts to **structured, credible, and practical engagement strategies** through:

- Interactive training sessions
- Real-world case studies and examples
- Practical tools and engagement frameworks
- Certification as a **Certified Stakeholder Engagement Practitioner (CSEP)**
- Public recognition on AccountAbility's website

# The New AA1000 Stakeholder Engagement Standard (AA1000SES v3)

## A Modern Approach to Meet Emergent Stakeholder Needs

The **AA1000 AccountAbility Stakeholder Engagement Standard v3 (2027)** has been updated to reflect **evolving stakeholder expectations, regulatory requirements, and market developments** in sustainability management.



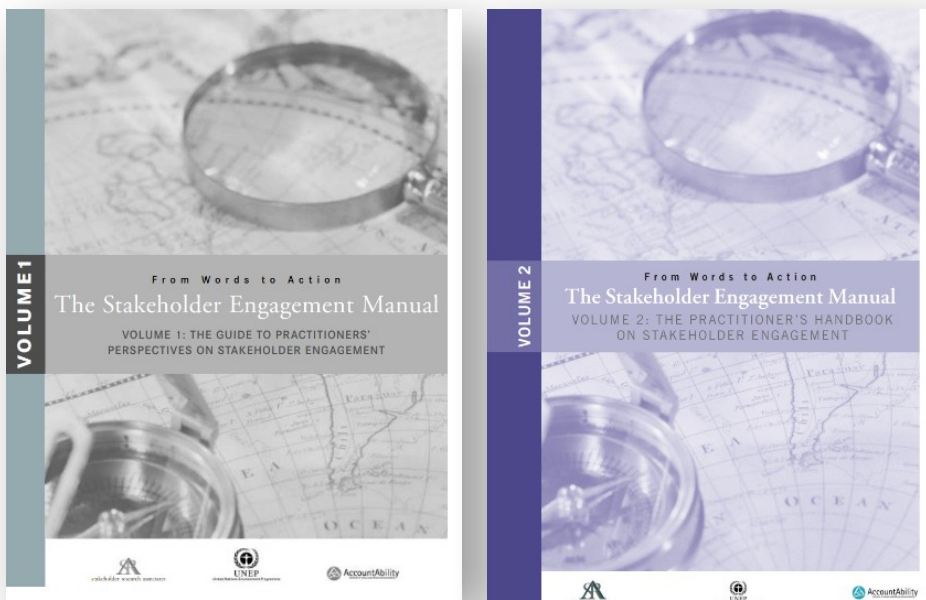
The AA1000SES v3 makes stakeholder engagement more *relevant, adaptable, and impact-driven*:

- ▶ **Prioritization framework** guides users to **identify the purpose and scope of engagement alongside the stakeholders engaged, supporting more systematic decision-making.**
- ▶ **Clearer governance requirements** for greater accountability in corporate strategy, decision-making, operations, and communications.
- ▶ **Enhanced integration with assurance processes.**
- ▶ Updated to reflect the latest version of the **AA1000 AccountAbility Principles (2018)** including **Impact**, in addition to **Materiality, Inclusivity, and Responsiveness.**
- ▶ Enables organizations to develop an **enterprise-wide stakeholder engagement strategy** to inform their individual engagements.
- ▶ Prioritizes **interoperability with other emerging disclosure frameworks**, enabling organizations to better **meet their reporting requirements.**

# The Evolution of the AA1000 Stakeholder Engagement Standard

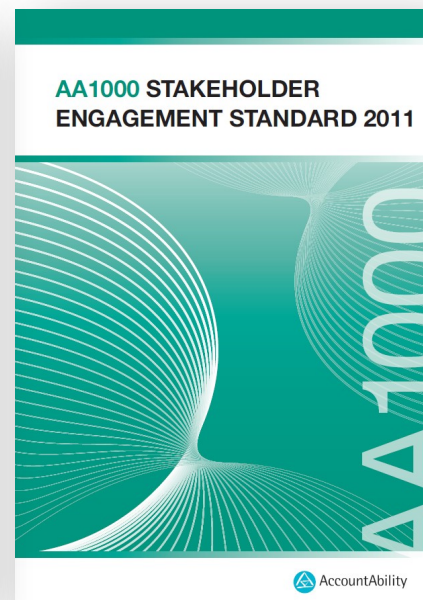
## The Most Widely Used Stakeholder Engagement Standard Worldwide

2005



Guided organizations in structured stakeholder engagement as a **collaborative approach to governance**, based on the AccountAbility Principles of **Inclusivity**, **Materiality**, and **Responsiveness**.

2011



Introduced **rigor and organizational accountability** for engagement process and outcomes

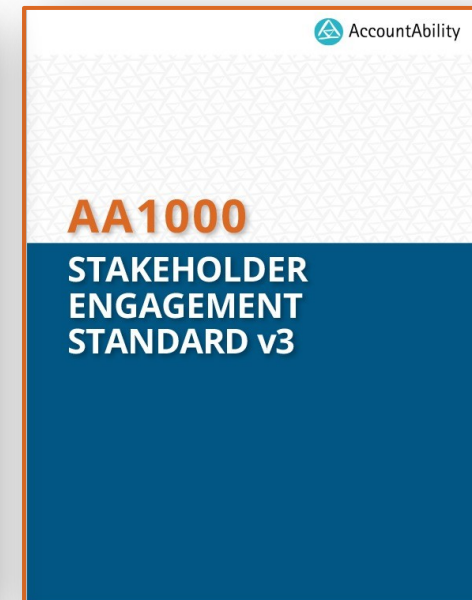
2015



**Repositioned engagement as a strategic imperative**, integrating it with **corporate governance** for **long-term value creation**.

WE ARE HERE

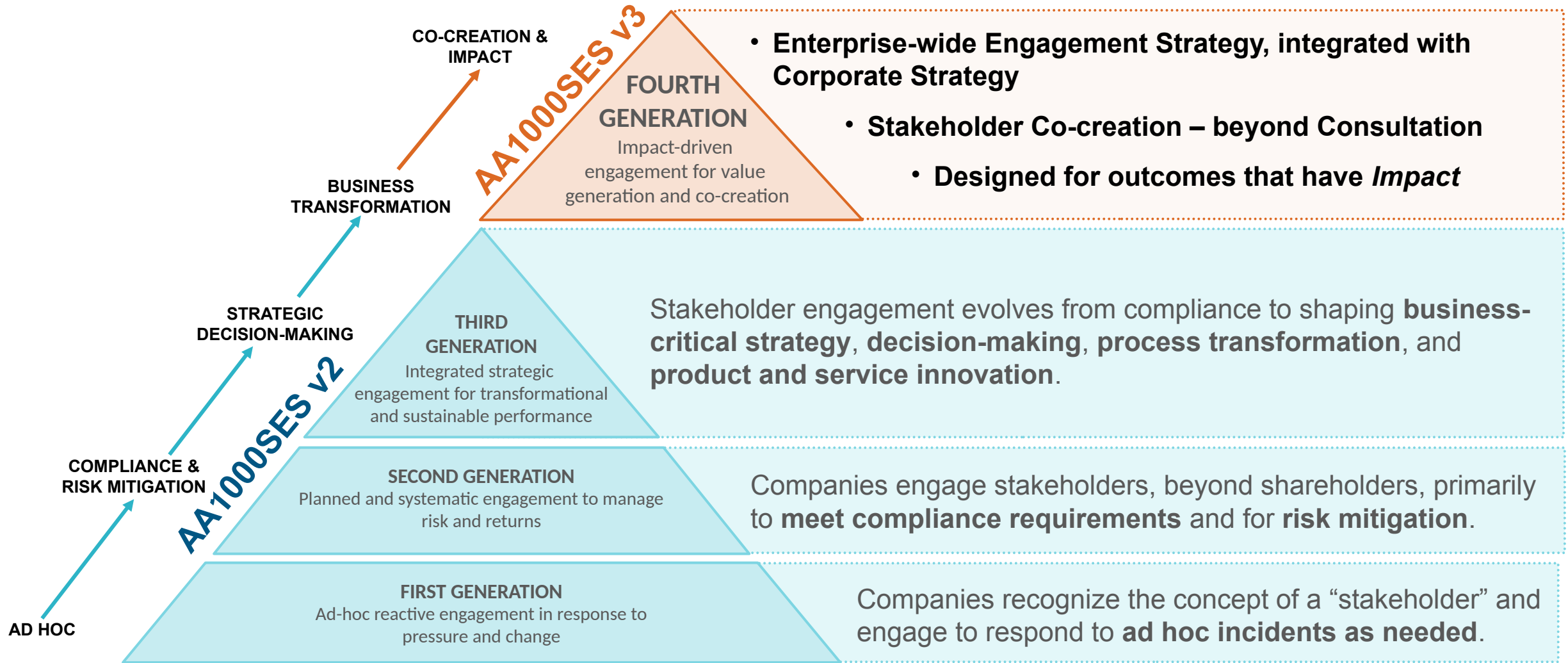
2026



**Modernized for emerging engagement complexities**, anchored in **co-creation** and the additional Principle of **Impact**.

# The “4<sup>th</sup> Generation” of Stakeholder Engagement

## The Evolution of Stakeholder Engagement



# Key Updates to the AA1000SES v3

## A Standard Designed for Long-term *Relevance, Resilience, and Impact*



### Ongoing & Responsive Engagement

A greater focus on **continual stakeholder engagement** for more **meaningful and dynamic relationships** and **ongoing insight into emerging risks and opportunities**.



### Two-Way Dialogue

An increased emphasis on **two-way dialogue** which enables organizations to **co-create solutions, better evaluate effectiveness, and calibrate responsiveness to stakeholder expectations**.



### Digital Relevance

New guidance provided on the **use of digital platforms and AI** as tools to **map stakeholders, manage engagement, and analyze insights** for more **efficient and scalable engagement processes**.



### Regulatory Compliance & Interoperability

Updates to ensure **interoperability with current and emerging regulatory frameworks and disclosure requirements** which foster more **credible, transparent, and auditable stakeholder engagement practices**.



### Principles-Based Approach

The **inclusion of the 2018 AccountAbility Principle of “Impact”** alongside *Inclusivity, Materiality, and Responsiveness*, **emphasizes the importance of outcomes and value creation** for more meaningful engagement.

# What's New?

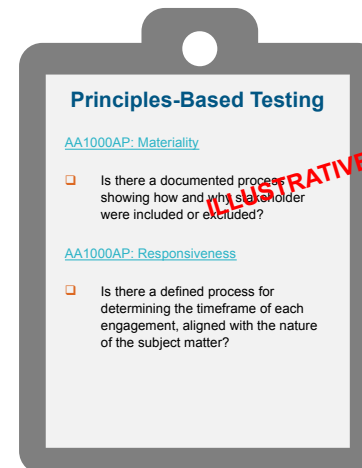
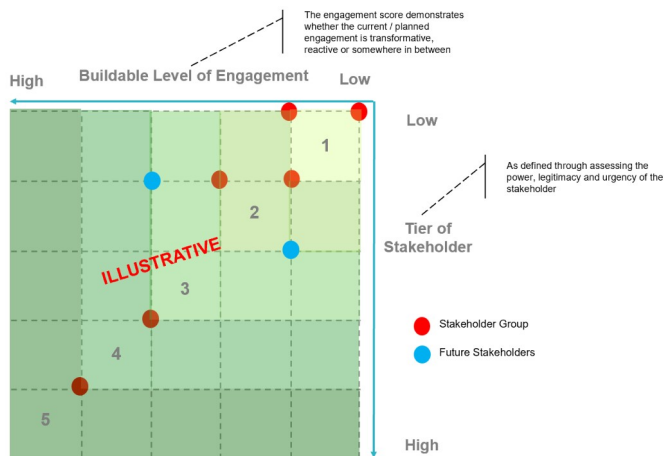
## How the New & Improved AA1000SES Delivers Strategic Value

**1 Clarifying the Purpose of Stakeholder Engagement**  
 A structured self-assessment helps organizations define why they engage stakeholders and how engagement supports strategic priorities.

**2 Ensuring Strategy Remains at the Core of Engagement Design**  
 Stakeholder engagement is aligned with organizational strategy, transformation priorities, and key decision points.

**3 Practical, User-friendly Requirements Illustrated through Principles-Based Testing**  
 Baseline requirements and principles-based testing help organizations demonstrate credible, accountable engagement practices.

**4 Impact-Focused Assessment**  
 Enhanced methodologies support organizations in evaluating the risks, opportunities, and outcomes of stakeholder engagement.



| Likelihood rating | Consequence rating |         |
|-------------------|--------------------|---------|
|                   | Insignificant      | Minimal |
| Almost certain    | Minor              | Medium  |
| Likely            | Minor              | Medium  |
| Possible          | Low                | Minor   |
| Unlikely          | Low                | Minor   |
| Rare              | Low                | Low     |

# Coming Soon - Supporting Resources

*Practical Guidance, Case Studies, and Tools* to Help Organizations with Implementation



## Practitioner's Guide to the AA1000SES v3

Provides **practical guidance and real-world examples** to help organizations apply the standard across industries, organizational sizes, and contexts.



## Materiality Assessment & Stakeholder Engagement Guidance

Supports organizations in **integrating stakeholder engagement into materiality assessments** based on the latest industry guidance.



## AA1000SES v3 Assurance Matrix (AI Enabled)

Helps **assurance providers evaluate alignment** with the standard to enhance the **credibility of stakeholder engagement practices**.



## Interoperability Guidance Document

Outlines how AA1000SES v3 aligns with **other leading sustainability and ESG frameworks**, to **streamline reporting** with engagement processes.

# Developing Certified Leaders in Stakeholder Engagement

## Certified Stakeholder Engagement Practitioner (CSEP) Training



### Build Organizational Capacity in Strategic Stakeholder Engagement

Based on AccountAbility's latest AA1000SES v3 Stakeholder Engagement Standard, the **CSEP program** will provide individuals and organizations with the tools, skills, and knowledge necessary to make the **transition from ad hoc, reactive engagement efforts to structured, credible, and practical engagement strategies.**

#### Who This Training Is For

Executives, manager, practitioners, and teams that engage internal and/or external stakeholders regularly:

- Customer Success
- Sustainability & ESG
- Strategy & Transformation
- Governance, Risk, and Compliance
- Investor Relations
- Communications
- Procurement & Supplier Management
- Corporate Affairs
- Public Affairs
- Government Affairs
- Human Resources
- Consultants and advisors supporting clients with stakeholder engagement

#### What Participants Will Learn

- Design effective stakeholder engagement strategies
- Facilitate credible two-way stakeholder dialogue
- Apply AA1000SES principles and requirements in practice
- Integrate stakeholder insights into corporate strategy and decision-making
- Demonstrate credible and auditable engagement practices

#### Value for Organizations

- Build internal capacity to strengthen organizational engagement practices and outcomes
- Enhance public credibility, trust, and transparency
- Address ESG, sustainability, and regulatory expectations
- Improve stakeholder-informed decision-making
- Demonstrate alignment with the AA1000SES global benchmark

# CSEP Training Overview

The CSEP program equips professionals to design, implement, and demonstrate credible stakeholder engagement aligned with AA1000SES v3



- Interactive training sessions
- Real-world case studies and examples
- Practical tools and engagement frameworks
- Certification as **Certified Stakeholder Engagement Practitioner (CSEP)**
- Public recognition on AccountAbility's website

## Module A

### Foundations of Stakeholder Engagement (4 hours)

Understanding the AA1000 Standards and their role in corporate governance.

#### Learn:

- The AA1000 Series of Standards and their purpose
- The scope and value of AA1000SES
- How stakeholder engagement supports organizational governance, strategy, and management

## Module B

### Principles and Sustainability Context (4 hours)

Applying the AA1000 AccountAbility Principles in practice.

#### Understand:

- The AA1000 AccountAbility Principles (*Inclusivity, Materiality, Responsiveness, Impact*)
- The role of stakeholder engagement in sustainability reporting and ESG frameworks
- Real-world examples and case studies

## Module C

### Stakeholder Engagement Skills Application (8 hours)

Designing and implementing stakeholder engagement processes.

#### Practice:

- Define the scope and objectives of engagement
- Identify and map stakeholders
- Develop and implement engagement plans
- Identify and manage engagement risks
- Monitor, assess, and report engagement outcomes

# THANK YOU

AccountAbility is providing this information overview for discussion purposes.

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