

Credit Suisse response to the Business & Human Rights Resource Centre, April 2020

“Credit Suisse acknowledges that financial flows also need to be brought in line with the objectives of the Paris Agreement and is continuing to expand its own role in supporting the transition to a low-carbon and climate-resilient economy. In 2019, we introduced a Group-wide Climate Risk Strategy program based on a three-pronged approach. First, we aim to work with our clients to support their transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient business models and to further integrate climate change into our risk management models. Second, we endeavor to focus on delivering sustainable finance solutions that help our clients achieve their goals and contribute to the realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Credit Suisse would like to be the partner of choice when it comes to supporting clients with capital and advice in their transition to funding investments in new, efficient technologies and production processes as well as low-carbon products and services. Third, we aim to further reduce the carbon footprint of our own operations.

Credit Suisse carries out a series of measures to assess business risks. If there are grounds to believe that a potential transaction or client relationship could pose an unacceptable risk or is not compatible with our existing agreements or internal guidelines, Credit Suisse conducts a bank-wide standardized Reputational Risk Review Process. Environmental (such as climate change) and human rights-related risks are some of the risks considered in that process. Credit Suisse evaluates whether the potential client’s activities are consistent with the relevant industry standards and whether the transaction is compatible with Credit Suisse’s own policies and guidelines for sensitive sectors. Our sector policies and guidelines take into account standards developed by international organizations such as the UN and the World Bank and set out environmental and social standards that we expect clients operating in certain sensitive sectors to comply with when conducting their activities.

The policies and guidelines address a range of topics, such as compliance with industry-specific, internationally recognized standards on the environment and human rights; measures to assess and reduce the environmental impact of operations; the protection of the health and safety of company employees and surrounding communities; respect for the human rights of the local population; and business areas and practices that Credit Suisse explicitly will not finance. For example, we announced in 2019 that we would no longer provide any form of financing specifically related to the development of new coal-fired power plants. This restriction was introduced in addition to the bank’s existing policy of not providing any form of financing that is specifically related to the development of new greenfield thermal coal mines.

For more details see <https://cs-reports.mdd.ch/en/2019/report/corporate-responsibility-report-2019/responsibility-in-banking/risk-management-and-sustainability>.”

April 17, 2020