

Beyond the UNGPs and OECD Guidelines:

International Standards Governing Community Engagement Expectations

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A powerful tool that can help companies navigate uncertainty and risk in their operations and across their value chains, [stakeholder engagement](#) bridges business priorities and societal needs by grounding decisions in the perspectives of those most affected. As part of stakeholder engagement, companies can conduct [community engagement](#), which involves building respectful, mutually beneficial, ongoing, two-way relationships with people and groups in the places where a company operates. Some community members, such as Indigenous Peoples, women, children, and persons with disabilities, are protected by additional international instruments, listed below, which discuss specific rights and engagement expectations.

Community Members	Key International Standards	Engagement Expectations
Local Communities and Institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">International Finance Corporation (IFC) Performance Standard 1, 3, 4, 5, and 8.	Maintain regular, two-way, and inclusive engagement; integrate institutional expertise into impact management; coordinate on governance, services, and community safety; ensure culturally appropriate engagement; provide accessible grievance mechanisms.

Indigenous Peoples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) • International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples • IFC Performance Standard 7 	Obtain Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC); respect land rights, culture, and self-determination.
Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); • UN Women's Empowerment Principles. 	Conduct gender-responsive engagement and impact assessment; ensure equitable participation and benefits.
Children and Youth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); • UNICEF Children's Rights and Business Principles. 	Engage youth and families in decisions affecting education, health, or employment prospects.
Persons with Disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). 	Ensure accessibility and inclusion in consultations; assess differentiated impacts.
Human Rights Defenders	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. 	Engage transparently with civic actors; protect freedom of expression and participation.
Trade Unions and Workers' Representatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ILO Convention No. 87 on Freedom of Association and 	Respect freedom of association; engage in dialogue with trade

	<p>Protection of the Right to Organise;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ILO Convention No. 98 on Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining.	<p>unions in community and workplace decision-making.</p>
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