

# The Principles Benefits of membership

May 2023



# The Benefits

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The Green Bond Principles, Social Bond Principles, Sustainability Bond Guidelines and Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles (the “Principles”) have become the de facto market standard for issuing green, social, sustainability and sustainability-linked bonds. Involvement with the Principles gives the members of the growing sustainable bond community a practical role in shaping this market for the future as well as an opportunity to be informed on its latest developments.

## Join an international community

More than 400 organisations are [Members and Observers](#) of the Principles community. They represent the main stakeholders of the sustainable bond market from all over the world.

Events and meetings throughout the year offer many opportunities to exchange with other members of the community. The AGM of the Principles is a major international industry event attracting top level speakers and delegates.

## Member or Observer?

**Members** are organisations that have issued, underwritten or placed, or invested in a green, social, sustainability or sustainability-linked bond. The Members elect the [Executive Committee](#) and decide on changes to the [Governance Framework](#) (see below).

**Observers** are organisations which are active in the field of green and/or social or sustainable finance but do not qualify as Members, such as (but not limited to) NGOs, universities, auditors, consultants, and service providers.

## Make your voice heard

Both Members and Observers are able to provide their input into the development and application of the Principles through the annual consultation exercise and also to advise on questions that are raised by the [Executive Committee](#).

Members and Observers can influence the development of the Principles and the market by joining the [working groups](#).

Members and Observers can also apply to join the [Advisory Council](#) (see below) an international body which gives high-level advice.

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## Be informed on market developments

On a quarterly basis, Members and Observers are invited to attend a **conference call** chaired by the Steering Committee which keeps the Principles community informed on the Executive Committee's work and priorities.

The Executive Committee issues Newsletters designed to keep Members and Observers up-to-date with highlights from market and regulatory developments as well as news from the Principles community.

A [Helpdesk](#) provides free guidance for Members and Observers on the application of the Principles.

ICMA offers [training courses](#) at a lower rate for Members and Observers. These education programmes provide a thorough and practically oriented introduction to the essentials of green, social, sustainability and sustainability-linked bonds, with an advanced option also available for professionals who need to know more about the theory and real market application of sustainable bonds.

## Governance

The [Executive Committee](#) comprises 24 organisations equally distributed between investors, issuers and underwriters with 8 representatives from each category. These organisations are elected by the Members for a 2-year mandate.

The **Steering Committee** consists of the Executive Committee Chair and 2 Deputy Chairs elected by the Executive Committee members on a yearly basis. Chair and Deputy chairs are each from one membership category respectively so that issuers, underwriters, and investors are all represented.

The Executive Committee establishes various [working groups](#) open to Members and Observers.

The [Advisory Council](#) was established in September 2019 to increase market awareness and outreach of the Principles and to enable further engagement with specific membership categories. Members and Observers of the Principles apply voluntarily and are selected for a renewable 1 year term by the Executive Committee.

## Membership fees

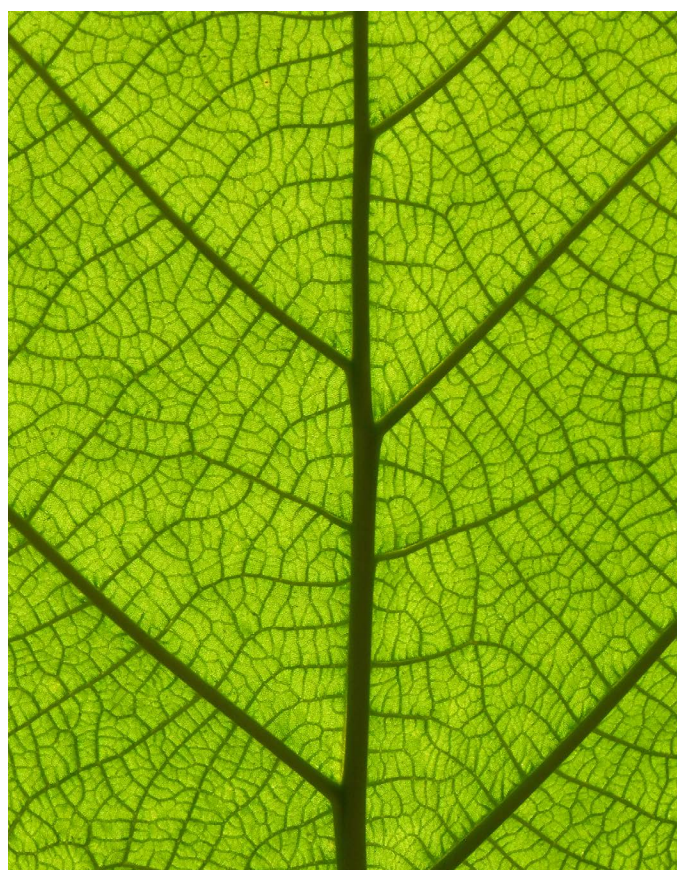
An annual financial contribution of **€15,500** is sought on a highly recommended but voluntary basis from all registered Members and Observers of the Principles who are not fee-paying members of the International Capital Market Association (ICMA). These contributions assist in covering the costs incurred in the management, administration and development of the Principles, in addition to providing enhanced services.

Payment of the contribution will be one of the parameters considered for eligibility and participation in the committees, working groups and event panels of the Principles; along with other associated benefits including discounted fees on ICMA's educational offering.

The contribution, requested from Members and Observers on an annual basis, is not applicable to non-profit organisations such as NGOs and the official sector.

It is also important to note that in place of the annual contribution, Members and Observers have the option of joining ICMA as a member at the entry level fee of CHF 20,500 (€21,000 at time of publication) which offers a wide range of additional benefits relating to regulatory, market and best practice issues among others.

**To learn more about ICMA membership, please consult the website:** <https://www.icmagroup.org/membership>.



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