

Controversial ESG themes

April 2022

ESG factors are intricately connected with strong cross interdependencies and causal links. Thus, a weakness in one factor tends to affect the other factor/s. The recent flooding in KwaZulu Natal demonstrated this. While the floods were possibly due to or were exacerbated by climate change (Environment) and poor human settlement planning (Governance) the consequences were largely of Social nature.

In April, we voted on 82 resolutions of which 66 were in favour and 16 against. Below are some of the resolutions that we voted against.

Anglo American Plc

To elect Ian Tyler as a director of the Company

Mr Ian Tyler has the required skills and qualifications for this board position. That he is independent is a bonus. Our only concern is that he may be over-committed as he has demanding roles on three other company boards, one of which is listed.

Anheuser Busch InBev

Discharge to the directors

Since the company is registered in Belgium, approval of this resolution in its current format could make it difficult for shareholders to lay claims against directors in future even though they may have a valid basis to do so. We are of the view that the resolution should specify the type of actions which would be covered under this exemption. Given our experience with Steinhoff we think shareholders should always have a recourse against negligent directors.

British American Tobacco

Authority to make donations to political organisations and to incur political expenditure

The resolution does not have clear criteria on what constitutes a political donation, and there is no justification for the size of the donation. There is also no justification for the one year of validity.

Glencore Plc

To re-elect Peter Coates as a Director

Mr. Peter Coates has the required skills and qualifications for the position. However, we feel he lacks independence as he has been associated with the firm since 2011.

Glencore Plc

To re-elect Martin Gilbert as a Director

Mr. Martin Gilbert has the required experience for the position. However, he appears overcommitted as he holds two chairmanship roles in addition to his other membership appointments.



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