

## PREFACE

In today's dynamic business environment, effective stakeholder engagement has emerged as a cornerstone of responsible governance and sustainable decision-making. Organizations operate within an ecosystem of diverse stakeholders each with distinct expectations, concerns, and priorities.

By understanding stakeholders' needs, expectations, feedback, and concerns, and incorporating them into decision-making and policy improvements, organizations can build mutually beneficial relationships and enhance overall governance effectiveness. Meaningful engagement with stakeholders is essential not only for building trust and credibility but also for fostering long-term value creation.

Engagement on Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) parameters helps entities to align their policies with stakeholder expectations, mitigating risks and fostering innovation and overall governance.

Recognizing the importance of stakeholder engagement in ESG, the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) introduced this all-encompassing "**Stakeholder Engagement Toolkit on ESG**" to guide corporates, stewards and other stakeholders in adopting effective, transparent, and sustainable engagement practices to boost their governing architecture of ESG. It outlines suitable engagement practices for different kind of stakeholders as well as principles to be followed while planning and executing stakeholder engagement activities.

I place on record my sincere thanks to all members of the ESG and Sustainability Board (ESGSB) of ICSI for their valuable contribution during formulation of Stakeholder Engagement Toolkit on ESG under the leadership of CS Ranjeet Pandey, Chairman-ESGSB, CS Ashish Garg, Co-Chairman, ESGSB and with the presence of my council colleagues CS R. Venkata Ramana and CS Rajesh C. Tarpara, as members of the ESGSB.

I commend the dedicated efforts put in by CS Rakesh Kumar, Deputy Director, ICSI and CS Alex VS, Executive (Academics), ICSI in bringing out this Stakeholder Engagement Toolkit on ESG under the guidance of CS Banu Dandona, Director, ICSI and overall supervision of CS Asish Mohan, Secretary, ICSI.

I invite all corporate entities and their stakeholders to embrace this Stakeholder Engagement Toolkit on ESG to institutionalize the engagement framework and offer your constructive feedback for further advancement of this publication.

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