

Dear reader

We were optimistic that 2022 would offer a reprieve from some of the challenges of the past few years – a waning pandemic and fragile economic recovery seemed to promise hope. Then, on 24 February, Russia invaded Ukraine, Europe's frontline democracy. The world watched in dismay as President Vladimir Putin put his country's nuclear forces on high alert.

The crisis has galvanised companies all over the world to respond, from heeding the call to sanction Russia to providing active support to Ukraine by way of donations of cash and medical supplies, fundraising campaigns, and more. For those companies wishing to formulate a more structured response, there are [good practice guidelines](#) and [toolkits](#) that provide practical guidance to solving some of the world's most pressing crises.

In South Africa, we have different crises to overcome, not least how to bring about a more equitable, sustainable recovery after the pandemic. At Triologue, we consider how companies can address these challenges on our thought leadership platforms.

On 10 and 11 May, we will be hosting our first-ever hybrid conference – the [Triologue Business in Society Conference 2022](#), which will be held in person at The Wanderers Club in Johannesburg as well as virtually. We're grateful and excited that we can network with our valued partners once again – this year's theme is, after all, **reconnection**.

We will continue to run our popular webinars on the last Thursday of every month, reflecting on key issues in responsible business and corporate social investment (CSI). This month, on 24 March, we will focus on a key risk for business – [human rights](#).

Finally, we are enormously excited to announce that we will soon be launching the Triologue Academy, an online learning platform that offers **online and hybrid courses** in responsible business, sustainability, and corporate social investment (CSI). Watch this space for more details!

We look forward to engaging with you throughout 2022.

With warm wishes from the Triologue team.

## TRIALOGUE BUSINESS IN SOCIETY CONFERENCE 2022



With just two months to go to our first-ever hybrid conference, we're planning how to make this our most engaging event yet. Morning sessions will be presented to a smaller in-person audience and streamed online, while afternoon sessions will be held exclusively in-person, giving delegates the chance to workshop content in depth, with structured outcomes. This year's themes are **equitable philanthropy**, how to **future-proof the non-profit sector**, the growing importance of **employee engagement**, and contextualising CSI within the **green economy**.

The full programme will be available shortly. Why not [register](#) in the meantime to be sure of a seat at the physical or virtual table? Full conference delegates, both physical and virtual, will receive ever-popular swag boxes with contributions from our valued sponsors. If you have any queries, read the frequently asked questions on the [conference webpage](#), or email [conference@trialogue.co.za](mailto:conference@trialogue.co.za). To whet your appetite, enjoy some highlights from the [2021 conference](#).

## TRIALOGUE BUSINESS IN SOCIETY HANDBOOK



In December last year, we launched the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of the *Triologue Business in Society Handbook*. Illustrated once again with images from The Lockdown Collection, a unique visual arts initiative that supported vulnerable artists and art students during pandemic lockdowns, the Handbook is available in both physical and digital format. You can purchase a copy or download a free online version [here](#).

This year will mark the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our flagship publication and we'd really appreciate it you could complete a brief [survey](#) so that we can incorporate your feedback and preferences into our quarter-century edition.

## WEBINAR: BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

A significant portion of last year's Handbook touched on responsible business. One of the articles, ["Business and Human Rights"](#), argues that human rights are a key risk for business, but many companies fail to prioritise the issue.



Join us from 9:30-10:30 on Thursday 24 March – just days after Human Rights Day on 21 March – to find out how South African companies are faring when it comes to promoting, implementing and embedding human rights, and what needs to be done to ensure that human rights become an integral part of corporate culture. Register for the webinar [here](#).

## WEBINAR: GLOBAL TRENDS IN ESG AND SOCIAL INVESTMENT

On 24 February, we hosted our first webinar of the year with our [Global Exchange](#) partners – [Samhita Social Ventures](#) (India) and [Chief Executives for Corporate Purpose](#) (CECP) (USA) – on how local companies' engagement with environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues compares and contrasts with that of our global counterparts, and how this is likely to impact the future of corporate social investment (CSI) in South Africa.



If you missed the webinar you can catch up on the write-up and recording of the session on the [Triologue Knowledge Hub](#). You can also access CECP's Global Impact at Scale: 2021 Edition report [here](#). The comprehensive report, which brings together insights from 165 companies in 18 countries and regions, examines trends in ESG management, integration and reporting, progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, employee engagement insights and Covid-19 responses, among others.

## A PRAGMATIC GUIDE TO CLIMATE RISK FOR BUSINESS LEADERS



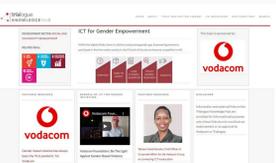
Although climate-related risks are among the top three global risks identified by the World Economic Forum over the next decade, many business leaders find it difficult to identify the information they need to help them mitigate this risk. There is a lot of theory to digest, but few practical guides to show companies where and how to start.

Triologue, the Institute of Directors of South Africa and the Sustainability Institute have co-authored a guidance paper that provides clear recommendations on getting started on the journey to Net Zero – and beyond.

The March 2022 paper contextualises the issue and goes on to distil ten things every business leader should know about the climate crisis. It then outlines ten questions every business leader should ask and provides ten freely available, credible resources to provide them with practical support. Read the highly accessible paper [here](#).

## KNOWLEDGE HUB: ICT FOR GENDER EMPOWERMENT

International Women's Day, which took place 8 March, celebrates the social, economic, political and cultural achievements of women. However, there is no doubt that [women have a long way to go](#) on the road to equality, particularly when it comes to accessing technology. What are companies doing to reduce the digital gender divide, and what types of interventions are available?



[ICT for Gender Empowerment](#), a Vodacom-sponsored topic on our Knowledge Hub, addresses these and many other questions. Find out more about how to empower women so they can participate more fully in the information society.

## PARTNER WITH TRIALOGUE ON YOUR COMPANY'S THOUGHT LEADERSHIP JOURNEY IN 2022

We know that you, our partners in responsible business and corporate social investment, have a lot to share – from case studies and responsible business initiatives to opinions and thought leadership. Why not contribute to our knowledge-sharing platforms, which help to enhance developmental outcomes and sustainability?



Our wraparound offering provides you with the opportunity to profile your work and share your insights with peers in the development sector, reinforcing your messaging and commitment to development in print (in the *Triologue Business in Society Handbook*), online (on Triologue's Knowledge Hub, our website, and our social media platforms), and interactively (through Triologue's Business in Society Conference and monthly webinars).

Triologue is also partnering with the award-winning Expresso breakfast show on SABC3 to provide select companies with the opportunity to showcase how they are helping to rebuild South Africa through the pandemic.

To find out more about these integrated knowledge-sharing platforms, chat to Xolile Zondi ([xolile@trialogue.co.za](mailto:xolile@trialogue.co.za)).