Tackling these global issues is not a task for the public sector alone. The private sector plays a vital role in delivering key climate and sustainable development goals and policies such as those set out in the Paris Agreement, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and national net zero commitments. Sustainable finance is not just about preventing climate change; it goes much further encompassing social and governance issues, including a just transition to net zero and increasing global biodiversity.

Against this backdrop, we highlight the importance of UN Sustainable Development Goal #17. In order to mobilise capital and create an efficient, scalable sustainable finance ecosystem, partnerships and collaboration are crucial. Our lawyers are tasked with servicing our clients but also contributing to the development of the sector.

On sustainability strategy, product development, transactions and risk, we offer innovative solutions combining market intelligence, guidance, legal expertise, project management and strategic alignment to facilitate our clients’ business. An important part of this is raising awareness, education and training; our lawyers in this space are dedicated to sharing expertise and best practice insights, enabling our clients to navigate the complex, wide-ranging set of issues when considering sustainable finance and investment.

Our key services include:

- Advising on ESG investment and sustainability policies, ESG strategy, reporting and disclosure and ensuring alignment with corporate strategy and business operations
- Advising on the rapidly changing regulatory environment for sustainable finance (including ESG legislation, such as SFDR, Taxonomy Regulation, CSRD, the proposed UK SDR, US SEC climate-related disclosure rules and the growing body of EU related regulation)
- Working with trade associations and organisations (such as Loan Markets Association, Borsa Italiana, ISDA, GBBC Digital Finance, European Leveraged Finance Association, UN Global Compact and others) to develop market guidance and advising on ESG market practices and standards, voluntary codes and goals
- Advising clients and helping teams to analyse and apply trade body guidance and relevant reports and data
- Working across Hogan Lovells finance practices and sectors on impact/ESG aspects of mainstream transactions
- Establishing impact funds and advising on hybrid transactions
- Connecting clients, organisations, foundations and enterprises across our network and raising awareness of issues and opportunities
- Advising on risk, potential disputes and legal issues
- Working with clients, trade bodies and organisations to develop innovative financing structures anchored in impact/sustainability outcomes
- Advising social enterprises on investment readiness and receiving social finance from foundations or angel investors

We position our sustainable finance and investment advice within the wider ESG landscape, identifying risks and also opportunities. Innovation is a core part of the strategy and the team meets regularly in order to discuss and design new methods to help clients achieve their sustainability-related and financial objectives, including the use of existing tools in new contexts and the creation of new tools and systems.

Our impact

- The Central America Bottling Corp. on its innovative US$1 billion sustainability-linked bond offering
- Wells Fargo Securities and both Securities on Hublon Puff Properties’ inaugural US$665 million green bond offering
- CIC Valores on its inaugural Cyro million sustainable bond offering
- A major international bank in relation to the interpretation and implementation of the SFDR and other related pieces of EU-Related regulation
- Various fund managers on implementing SFDR and Taxonomy obligations, including developing fund’s compliance frameworks and drafting pre-structured, post-structured disclosure documents
- A major asset manager on its SFDR reporting obligations in connection with SFDR, EU Taxonomy and TCFD
- A large German real estate asset manager on its SFDR related disclosures working for a large Article 8 fund
- A private equity fund on its implementation of the SFDR requirements
- Various infrastructure and real estate funds on the applications of the SFDR, the EU Taxonomy and assisting with their SFDR implementations
- An Asian bank on how to implement the TCFD and how to convert to Article 8 under the SFDR and drafting product disclosures, including the SFDR stripes
- Cassa Depositi e Prestiti S.p.A. (CDS) on the issue of the first Italian Sustainable Bond for a nominal amount of €125 million secured to institutional investors.
- A high bank on the refinance (by way of sustainability linked loan) of the Sindelfingen power plant existing term and revolving facilities and repayment of private placement notes
- Bayerische Landesbank as arranger on the world’s first placement of a Blue Social Bond of Deutscher Kreditbank for the refinancing of the municipal water supply and sanitation business in Germany
- A leading French investment bank on its ESG structural product programme including regulatory requirements and risk management under MiFID II

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