# MAYER BROWN Delivering Sustainability Through Supply Contracts WORLD SUSTAINABLE CONTRACT DAY 2022



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is distinctively global law firm known for its deep commercial instincts



#### **Mayer Brown's ESG Practice**

- Comprises more than 130 lawyers in multiple disciplines, including transactional, advisory, regulatory, public policy and litigation-based practices who represent each of the jurisdictions in which we operate.
- "Eye on ESG" blog, launched in early 2021, has attracted, and continues to attract, high levels of interest and engagement.
- ESG webpage contains more information on our capabilities and experience.

#### Thought Leadership





SCAN HERE TO VISIT OUR EYE ON ESG THOUGHT LEADERSHIP PORTAL



SCAN HERE TO VISIT OUR ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE (ESG) PAGE

#### **Topics**

- How investors and regulators are acting to increase sustainability
- Contractual tools and techniques for supply chain:
  - Leveraging regulatory and investor standards
  - Collaborative contracting
  - Managerial contracting
  - Digital transformation
- Case Study: Advancing sustainability in the chemical industry

# Regulatory and Investor Pressures



## The developing regulatory framework

- Recent (and ongoing) legislative and regulatory developments
  - Corporate Sustainability Due Diligence Directive and Corporate Sustainability Reporting Directive
  - TCFD and TNFD
  - UK Modern Slavery Act
  - French Corporate Duty of Vigilance Law
  - German Law on Supply Chain Due Diligence
  - US proposed SEC disclosure rules
- Increased regulatory scrutiny of **supply chains** in particular









### Supply chains: what needs to be addressed?

A "corporate duty to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for external harm resulting from adverse human rights and environmental impacts", including in relation to supply chains (**CSDD Directive**, Explanatory Memorandum)

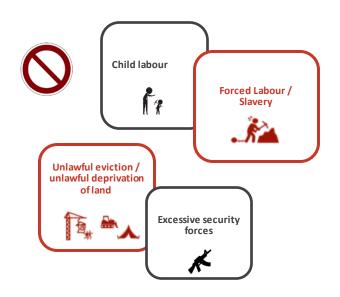
- Integrate due diligence into policies (Art 5)
- Identify negative impacts (Art 6)
- Prevent potential negative impacts (Art 7) civil damages?
- Removal of actual negative impacts (Art 8) civil damages?
- Establish complaints procedure (Art 9)
- Monitor effectiveness (Art 10)
- Public communications (Art 11)





#### **Case study:**

German Law on Supply Chain Due Diligence – human rights risks





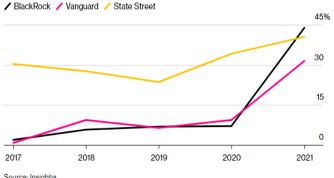
#### **Growing investor – and other stakeholder – pressure**

- United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report
- Milieudefensie v Royal Dutch Shell
- **UK**: undercover newspaper investigation into global fashion retailer – poor working conditions and underpayment of workers
- **France**: building materials company prosecuted for complicity in crimes against humanity?

#### Shareholder resolutions

#### **Getting On Board**

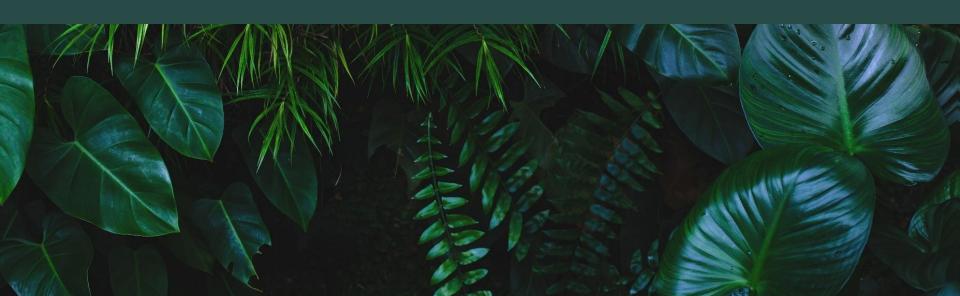
The proportion of supported environmental and social proposals in the U.S. has climbed among largest money managers



Source: Insightia

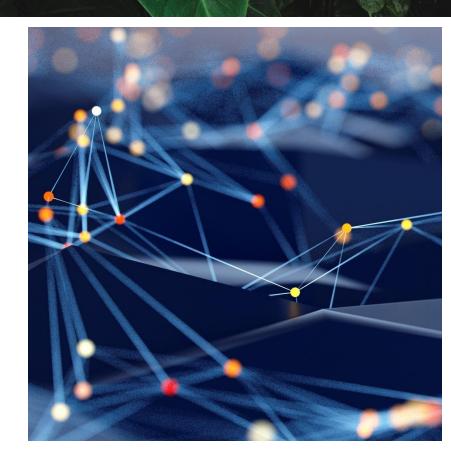
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# Contractual Tools and Techniques for Delivering Sustainability



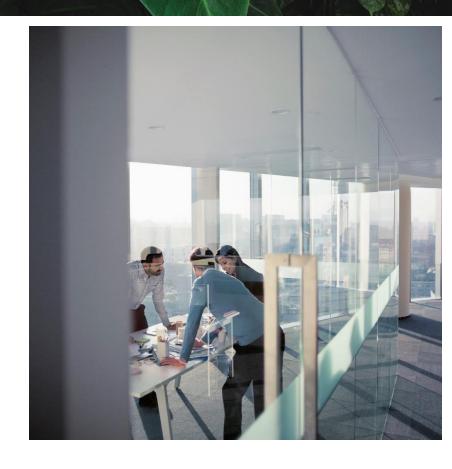
## **Challenges**

- Supply chain contracting is optimized for delivery on time to specifications at an agreed price, not ESG
- Costs of ESG-driven changes
- Myriad stakeholders with conflicting interests
- Competing regulations
- Limited data on suppliers' ESG performance
- Need for holistic solutions



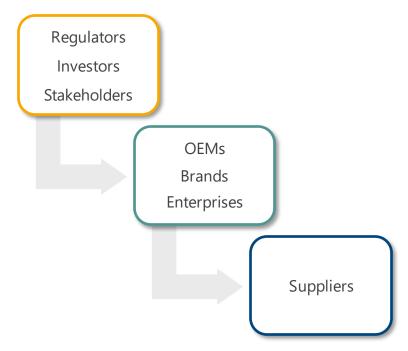
#### **Opportunities**

- Supply chains routinely deliver remarkable results when given clear objectives
- Regulators and investors are providing increasingly clear objectives
- Technical, operational, user and business stakeholders routinely collaborate to develop new requirements
- Companies can use bidding processes and analytic tools like an "internal carbon price" and scorecards
- Board-level and executive support for broad-scale change programs
- Supply chain contracts are steadily more adaptive, flexible and nuanced, allowing broad change



#### Leveraging accepted legal or other standards

- Leveraging standards increases credibility
- Embedding in warranties, training requirements, certification requirements and audit rights increases effectiveness
- Using a "highest global standard" approach reduces complexity
- Having a supply base acting through common standards increases efficiency
- Up front technical, operational and legal analysis reduces cost and risk
- But: General standards may focus at the supplier enterprise level not on (1) how the supplier produces what you buy or (2) sub-tier suppliers

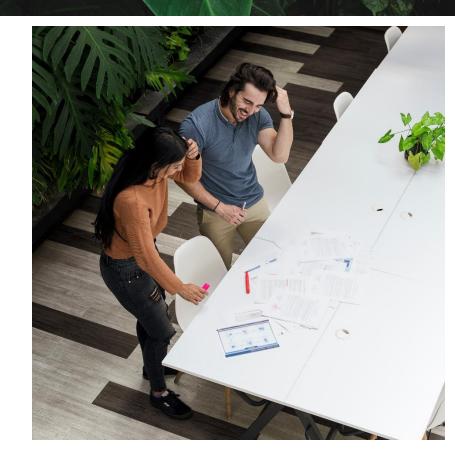


#### **Collaborative contracting**

- Collaborative discussion unlocks new and more sustainable ways to supply products and services
- Aligning incentives in supply contracts facilitates transformation, including both product and production changes
- Collaborations can range from merely having a partnership mindset to collaborative supply contracts to formal joint ventures

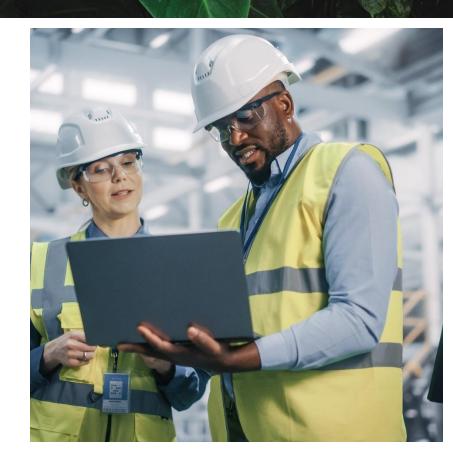
#### But:

- Complex issues are raised on commitment, contribution, control and sharing of risks and rewards
- Collaborative contracting is more complex, nuanced and novel than top-down contracting



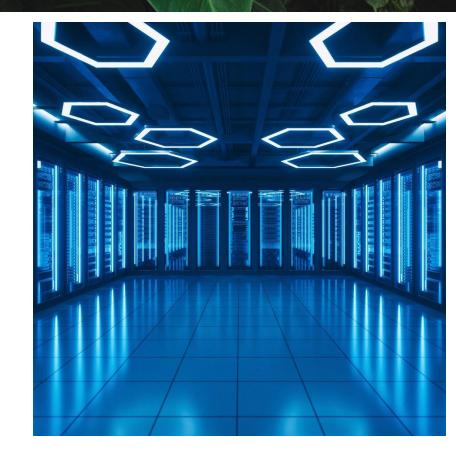
### **Managerial contracting**

- Typically, buyers contract for delivery meeting specs for a price, the "what not the how"
- In managerial contracting, buyers contract to "manage the how" with detailed process requirements, on-site inspection rights, scorecards, incentives, relational governance structures and other management tools
- Managerial contracting is a proven process for OEMs and other integrated product manufacturers
- Managerial contracting can allow buyers to modify supplier processes based on buyer engineering to improve sustainability in demonstrable ways
- But: Buyers must invest more in engineering, operational management and contracting

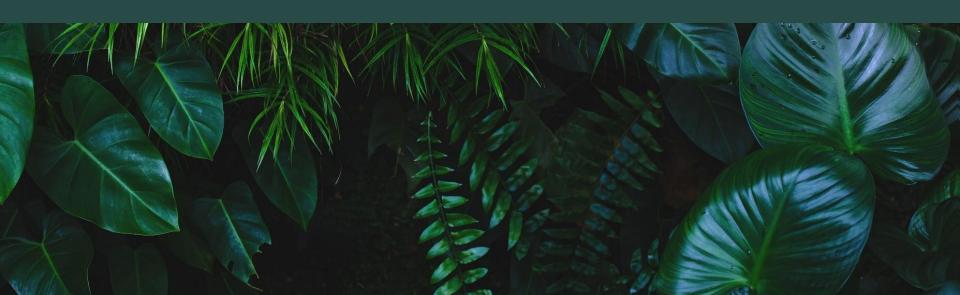


# Digitalization and digital transformation

- To measure ESG impact, you need:
  - Digitalization of sustainability by capturing sustainability data with sensors
  - Digital transformation of sustainability by replacing the currently highly-manual processes of analyzing and reporting on data with automated systems
- The benefits for suppliers include being able to provide ESG improvements credible enough to be paid for delivering them
- The benefits for buyers include lower costs for ESG enforcement and reduced risk of "greenwashing" by suppliers



# Case Study: Advancing sustainability in the chemical industry



### **Chemical Industry**

- Generally aligned to UN Global Compact and Responsible Care Principles
- Formed Together for Sustainability (TfS), a global network of 36 chemical companies that deliver the global standard for environmental, social and governance performance of chemical supply chains.
- Implemented or actively reviewing a sustainable procurement strategy or related initiatives
  - Sustainability reports generally recognize the importance of sustainability in the supply chain (particularly for key suppliers) in achieving stated sustainability goals
  - Sustainability-driven agreements (CCUS, PPAs)
  - Accounting for sustainability in "standard" agreements





#### **Chemical Industry:**

#### Digitalization, Digital Transformation, Link to Sustainability

Digitalization: Increases efficiency of existing processes, through connected computers/devices using data to make real-time decisions without human involvement

Digital Transformation: Creates new or changes existing business

Chemical industry is in the midst of digitalization and digital transformation; the pace is accelerating; progress viewed as critical.

Sustainability is a catalyst for digital transformation

Competitive advantage in integration of sustainability and digital transformation



Image source: The World Economic Forum

### **Innovative Convergence of the Building Blocks:**

#### Cloud, AI, Data

- Cloud computing
- Artificial intelligence (AI)
- Machine learning
- Bid data
- Autonomous systems
- Internet of Things (IoT)
- Robotic process automation
- Bots/robots
- Industrial Internet of Things (IIoT)
- "Smart" equipment
- Predictive analytics



#### Chemical Industry: Digital Initiatives

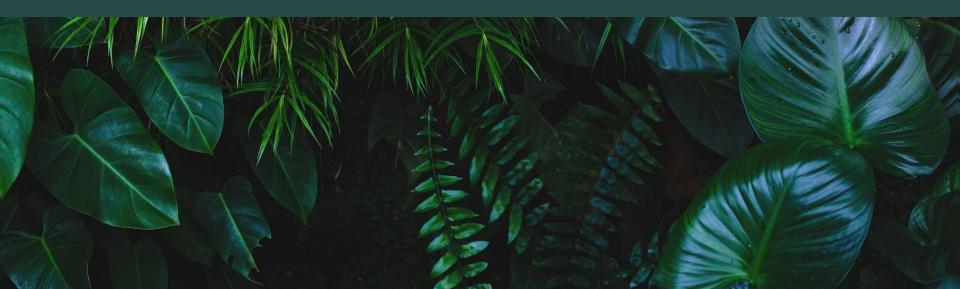
- R&D (accelerate chemical discovery, lower research costs, optimize testing)
- Supply Chain (Industry 4.0; end-to-end transparency, inventory reduction)
- Manufacturing (improving speed of throughput; enhancing quality; process automation)
- Waste reduction (analysis of raw material costs; demand forecasting)
- Safety and compliance (remote monitoring and predictive maintenance)

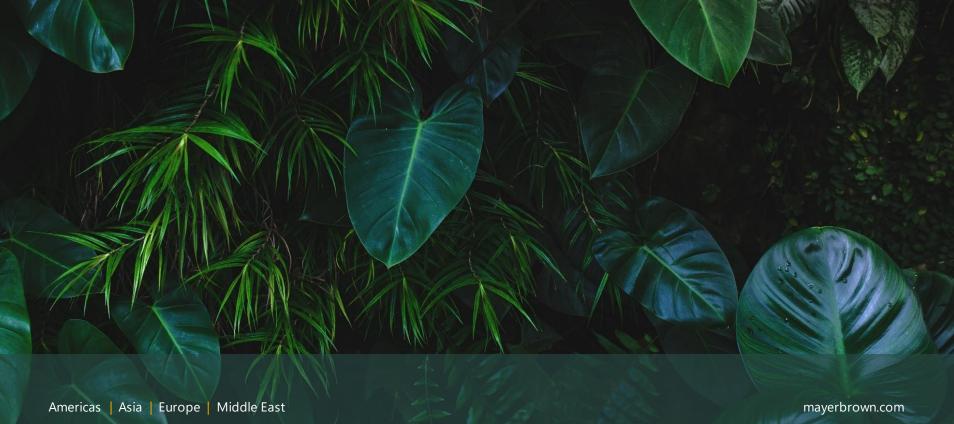


Image source: Precognize

## Conclusion

- Efforts by regulators and investors are clarifying sustainability objectives for buyers
- Achieving those objectives will require buyers to go beyond traditional sourcing approaches
- Success will demand comprehensive, holistic approaches informed by extensive analysis and planning





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