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**New Study shows global initiatives now set the standards for ESG and Corporate Responsibility**

BOSTON – A new study released today by High Meadows Institute, *The Role of Industry Associations and Civil Partnerships in Corporate Responsibility*, finds that industry associations and civil partnerships are now playing a critical role in setting standards for corporate responsibility and ESG, often addressing issues that government have not. The report identifies over 200 industry associations and multi-stakeholder partnerships, operating both nationally and globally, that are playing a leadership role, working with companies to develop CSR standards and initiatives. Among the key finding:

- These initiatives cover a wide spectrum of issues from broad systemic challenges like climate change to industry-specific operating practices such as supply chain management
- These initiatives now operate in all industry sector, including the financial sector, as well across multiple industry sectors
- Many of these initiatives were founded within the last ten years
- Among the ESG themes being addressed, Ecological Impacts has attracted the most attention, followed by Human Rights & Community Relations and GHG Emissions

The report traces the growth of initiatives and partnerships and explores key trends in the field and factors that drive success to better understand how they have improved industry practices, enhanced social and environmental management and contributed to policy changes. Selected case studies provide further in-depth analysis, examining the structure and impact of seven leading initiatives for perspectives on the ways they drive change and the challenges they face.

The report, as well as a database profiling each initiatives in the report and identifying the companies involved, can be found on HMI's website at: <https://www.highmeadowsinstitute.org/projects/business-leadership-in-society-database/>

High Meadows Institute is a Boston-based think tank and policy institute focused on the role of business leadership in creating a sustainable society. Founded in 2013, HMI's mission is to increase the contribution of business leadership in addressing complex environmental and societal challenges, working in close partnership with thought leaders, academic and business leadership organizations and other policy institutes to drive positive change.

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