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***Human Rights: A path towards understanding responsibilities and due diligence requirements for the financial sector***

The stakeholders' focus on Human Rights is increasing over the time, as well as the number of companies including Human Rights topics in their strategic agenda.

The financial services sector is in a particular position in this regard, as it is exposed not only to direct human rights risks (i.e. treatment of employees and supply chain issues), but potentially significant indirect risks through the services it provides to all industry sectors, including those which may have a high direct human rights risk exposure.

Having in mind also the recent endorsement of the "Guiding Principles for the implementation of the United Nations 'Protect, Respect and Remedy' Framework" by the UN Human Rights Council, it is advisable for banks to carefully examine what the scope and depth of the human rights responsibilities and due diligence requirements for their broad range of services should be.

In this respect, UniCredit decided to launch a project in order to better understand how to address such challenges and further develop a comprehensive approach on human rights that defines its corporate responsibility to respect human rights via a multi-stakeholder approach.