**Corporate Governance Advisory Committee statement**

Principle 13 of the 2018 Code of Corporate Governance states that: “The Board adopts an inclusive approach by considering and balancing the needs and interests of material stakeholders, as part of its overall responsibility to ensure that the best interests of the company are served.”

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted many businesses and resulted in many uncertainties. Stakeholder engagement is particularly important at this time. Shareholders, employees, customers, suppliers, and the community will be affected when companies restart their operations. In charting their strategies and business plans, Boards should take the concerns and interests of these stakeholders into account. Through a holistic approach, companies may even find opportunities to emerge stronger in the long term.

Singapore Exchange Regulation’s (SGX RegCo) latest Regulator’s Column offers guidance to companies on engaging stakeholders via their annual or sustainability reports. In particular, companies can use their annual or sustainability reports to consider and describe how they have managed the impact of COVID-19 and intend to operate in the future amid risks that may include infectious diseases such as COVID-19. Companies can include a special emphasis on the social aspects of their plans in their sustainability reports.

The CGAC supports the SGX RegCo guidance and encourages all companies to provide stakeholders with a holistic understanding of their responses to the challenges brought about by COVID-19.