

# FX Global Code - shaping a better future.

Refinitiv Webinar – 27 June 2019







# **FX Global Code - shaping a better future**



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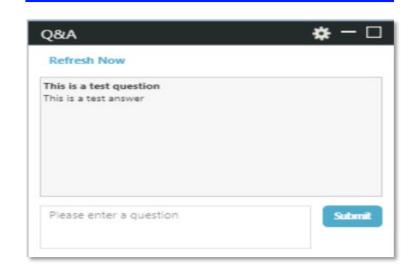


## Housekeeping

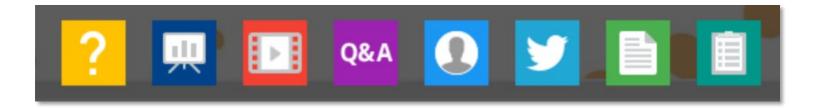


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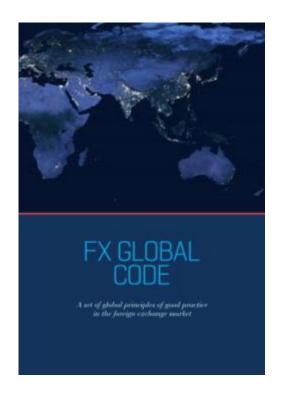


#### The FX Global Code

#### Introduction



- A set of global principles of good practice in the foreign exchange market developed to provide a common group of guidelines to promote the integrity and effective functioning of the wholesale foreign exchange market.
- It is intended to promote a robust, fair, liquid, open, and appropriately transparent market.
- The Global Code does not impose legal or regulatory obligations on Market Participants nor does it substitute for regulation, but rather it is intended to serve as a supplement to any and all local laws, rules, and regulation by identifying global good practices and processes.



## The FX Global Code

#### **Key Principles**

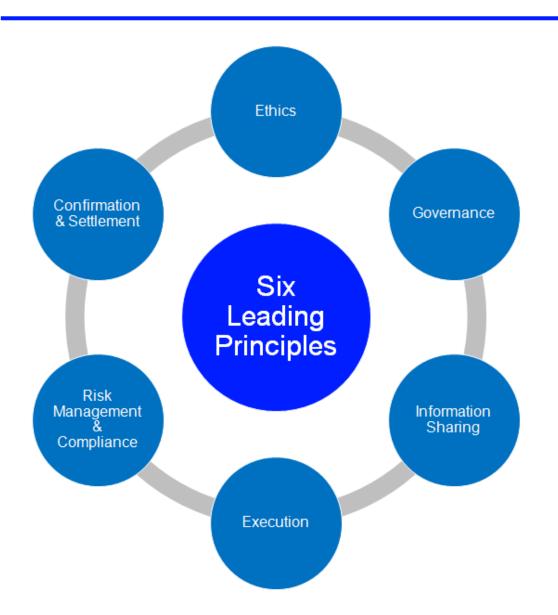




#### The FX Global Code

#### **Key Principles**





Based on 6 Leading Principles. Articulated in less than 80 pages.

Applies globally to all FX Market Participants

Market Participants can post their Statement of Commitment into a Public Register

The GFXC hosts a Global Index of Public Registers collecting data from all public registers.

Adherence to the code can be a source of competitive advantage and differentiation.

It's a live document since May 2017 and is periodically updated.

FX Global Code replaces the ACI Model Code.

Available in English, German, Chinese, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish.

#### **POLL Question**



#### Where do you stand on the FX Global Code adoption journey?

- My organisation is currently reviewing its strategy in adopting FX Global Code
- My organisation has already adopted the FX Global Code
- My organisations has not got a position yet on the FX Global Code.





#### **Andries Tshishonga**

Manager of Foreign Exchange Trading South African Reserve Bank - **SARB** 



# The South African Reserve Bank's (SARB) leadership in the formation of the South African foreign exchange Committee (SAFXC)

- The formation of the FX Working Group
- Structure, purpose and functions of the SAFXC
- SAFXC progress in promoting the FX Global Code (Code)
- Why is it important for market participants to adhere to the Code SARBs perspective



#### The SARB's leading role in the formation of the SAFXC

- In May 2017, South Africa became a member of the Global Foreign Exchange Committee (GFXC)
- Consultation with broader FX market participants
- The SARB established the FX Working Group in January 2018
- The SARB conducted its business review and a gap analysis.

**SARB** 



#### The SARB's leading role in the formation of the SAFXC

- The SAFXC was established on 13 March 2018 under the sponsorship and leadership of the SARB.
- It is a forum representing industry-wide key market professionals involved in the wholesale FX market
- The SARB endorsed the Code and published the SoC
- All members committed to endorse the Code and publish their SoCs.

#### Structure, purpose and functions

- Provide guidance in the FX market by endorsing and upholding the Code with the intention of promoting a fair and more transparent FX market, as well as compliance with international best practice.
- Functions amongst others includes:
  - to endorse, actively promote and uphold the Code, and contribute to its updating;
  - to promote compliance with international best practice;
  - to discuss the functioning of the SA FX market and propose ways to improve its efficiency



**SARB** 



#### **SAFXC** progress in promoting the FX Global Code

- All SARBs FX counterparties have publically endorsed the Code and published their SoCs
- All SAFXC members have published the statement of commitments (SoCs) to the Code.

#### **Outreach program**

- Promotion of the Code to the buy-side of the market
- Promotion of the Code to the SADC region

#### The importance of adhering to the Code – SARB's perspective

- Encourage a dialogue with FX market participants to collectively agree and adhere voluntarily to principles of the Code and market standards.
- SARB's commitment in partnership with FX market participants to work towards the promotion of the global best practices and processes in the domestic FX market
- Contribute towards the integrity and strengthening the effectiveness and efficiency of the local wholesale FX market.



#### **ACIFMA**





#### **David Woolcock**

Chair of ACIFMA Committee for Professionalism and Member of the Global FX Committee Disclosures Working Group



- Two years after its release, significant progress has been made on global adherence to FX Global Code
- ACIFMA participated in the creation of the FX Global Code and believes it is an excellent framework for adherence to good market practices
- Over 900 Market Participants have now published their Statement of Commitment
  - Strong push in Europe and Asia, other continents following through
  - Strong awareness and embedding for Sell Side, further push needed for Buy Side



- 2017 and 2018 Surveys from Global FX Committee
  - What steps taken or planned to take to embed and monitor the FX Global Code?
    - Top answer in both: "Staff training and education programme" (70% in 2017, 69% in 2018)
- Question 17 on 2018 Survey: "Which areas of your firm have been involved in your firm's implementation of the Global Code? (Choose all that apply)"
  - 1<sup>st</sup> answer with 82% of responses: Trading functions
  - 4<sup>th</sup> answer with 68%: Compliance functions
  - 8th placed answer with 17%: Human Resource functions



 "By familiarising with and adhering to the Code, a firm is better prepared and can engage in a much more qualified dialogue with counterparties on best practices (education)"

Roswitha Hutter, Secretary of FX Contract Group, European Central Bank, 14 Nov 2018

- How to embed Code and verify adherence of individuals?
  - Ongoing training and certification (CPD continuing professional development)
    - Improves ethical behaviour and market integrity, allows proof of adherence
- "Education is the art of making man ethical"

by Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, philosopher



- ACIFMA is a leader on the provision of education tools for market ethical conduct and best practices
- ACIFMA ELAC Portal (E-Learning, Attestation and Certification), from the industry to the industry
  - ✓ Regularly updated with actual and up to date scenarios created by Market Participants
  - ✓ Linking the principles of the code with "real life" and concrete examples
- ACIFMA Online FX Global Code Exam
  - ✓ Portable certification, can be taken anywhere
  - ✓ Testing your continuous knowledge of the 55 principles of the Code

#### **POLL Question 2**



Do you think the FX Global Code is effective in contributing to a safer, transparent and more efficient FX market on a long-term basis ?

- Highly effective
- Somewhat effective
- Not at all effective



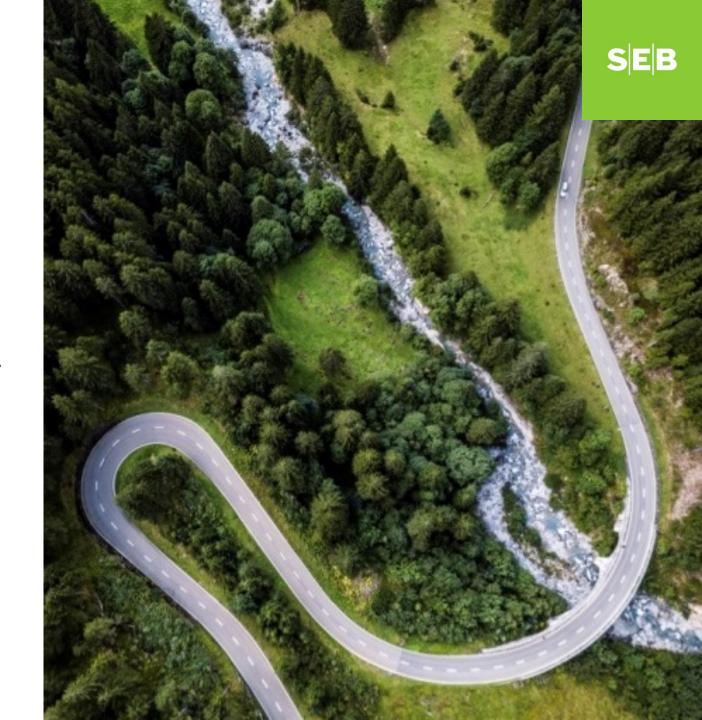


#### **Svante Hedin**

Global Head of FX & Commodities - SEB

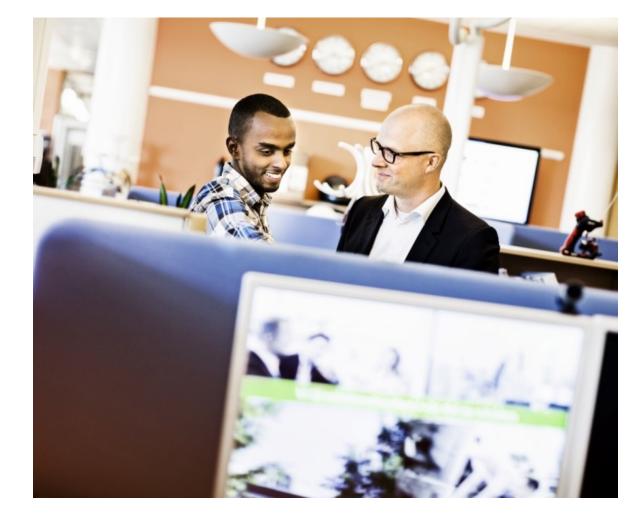
#### SEB and the FX Global Code

- We believe the FX Global Code fills a very important gap in the market, and is unique in its approach.
  - Could be a starting point for similar work across other asset classes in the future.
- Crystal clear alignment with sustainable finance.
- SEB participated in the private sector Market Participants Group through the drafting of the code...
- ... and worked closely with Sveriges Riksbank on the Examples Annex and on other content.
- SEB signed Statement of Commitment in May 2018.

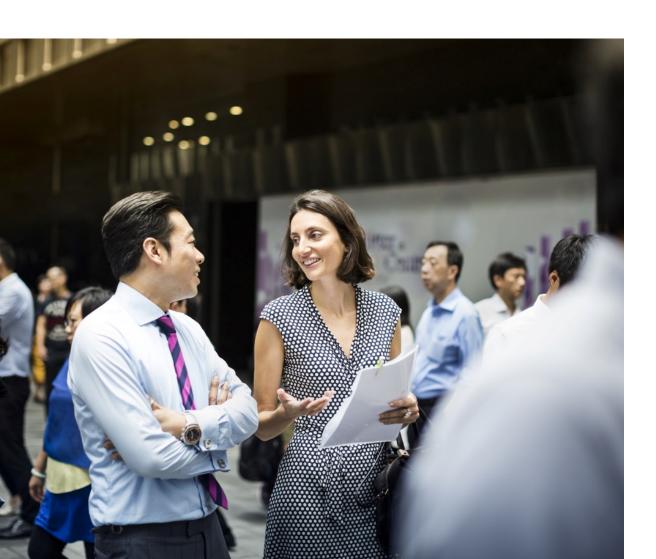


# Statement of Commitment – SEB's journey

- 1. Review of internal procedures; gap analysis, updating procedures manuals.
- 2. Staff training, front to back (sales, trading, operations).
- Set and implement policies that are communicated to clients (e.g. mark-up, lastlook etc).
- 4. Make Statement of Commitment publicly available and searchable on the public register.



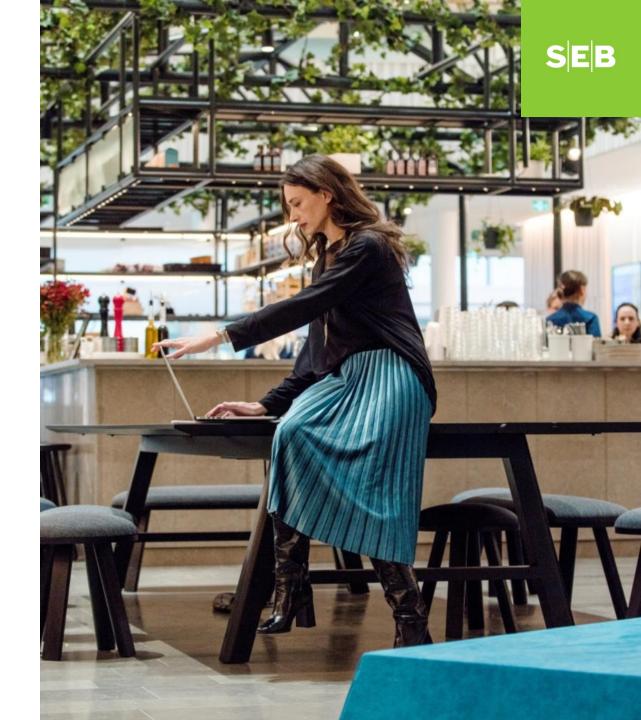
#### **Obvious benefits**



- Useful cross-reference of internal procedures vs market best practise.
- Useful baseline for staff training, particularly those new into the market. Promotes professionalism.
- Principles based and not prescriptive; explains some of the intent behind MiFID etc, which simplifies their interpretation and implementation.
- Very clear link to sustainability.

# Key learnings from implementation

- The Examples Annex was very useful for staff training and to drive internal discussion.
- Most questions from staff consistently related to information sharing and level of disclosure.
- Implementation is not a one-off; consider continuous training, attestation, etc.
- Business practices including last-look were already aligned with the code, however documentation and public disclosures were updated.



#### **Standard Bank**





#### Richard de Roos

Head of Foreign Exchange and Deputy Chair of the South African FX Committee

Standard Bank

#### Standard Bank journey to compliance



- The Global FX code was finalised by the Bank of International Settlements in May 2017, with updates being published in December 2017. The code has no force of law, but wholesale market participants are encouraged to sign a Statement of Commitment to the Code to publicly demonstrate their recognition of, and commitment to adopting the good practices set forth in the Code.
- The first version of the Global FX Code was completed in May 2017. The South African Reserve Bank has endorsed the Global FX Code (GFX Code) and required that South African market participants sign the Statement of Commitment no later than 1 September 2018. The expectation is that South African market participants will commit to progressive realisation of compliance with the Code. We anticipate that, in time, the Code will be given force of law through the publication of conduct standards pursuant to Twin Peaks.
- In early 2018, Standard Bank made the decision to publicly evidence our adherence to the Code. This decision was made in line with the principles of the Code and with the commitment to progressively realise the aims in the Code.
- Prior to making this decision, we formally constituted a project team to review the code, analyse its provisions and prepare a gap analysis against our current operations to ensure that we would be able to evidence our good faith efforts undertaken to satisfy the aims of the Code. This project team was also tasked with determining the training needs of the FX business and rolling out relevant training to ensure that impacted staff members (in the FX business) understand the GFX Code, its impacts on business, the required conduct and any relevant policies and procedures.
- Our high-level project approach and key tasks and deliverables is set out on the next slide.

#### Standard Bank journey to compliance



Deliverable	Tasks
Review GFX Code with a view to determining priority areas for remediation	<ul> <li>Review of GFX Code</li> <li>Determining priority principles for remediation</li> </ul>
Adhere to the GFX Code	<ul> <li>Determine appropriate individual to sign the statement of commitment on behalf of SBSA</li> <li>Get statement of commitment signed and published on a recognised public register</li> </ul>
Prepare gap analysis	<ul> <li>Prepare gap analysis of principles set out in the GFX Code against the practices of SBSA, according to priority</li> <li>Determine relevant legal documentation and applicable policies to review and analyse gaps</li> <li>Identify appropriate steps that could be taken to mitigate gaps</li> <li>Take decisions in respect of recommended remedial action and assign tasks to responsible person/areas</li> </ul>
Remediate identified gaps	<ul> <li>Prepare implementation plans to remediate identified gaps – distinguish internal requirements (eg amendment to policies and new policies required) from external requirements which will require client communication/disclosure</li> <li>Preparation or amendment of legal documents, policies and procedures</li> <li>Prepare and sign off of client disclosures</li> <li>Prepare flight plan for sending out disclosures and amended legal documents as necessary</li> <li>Send out disclosures</li> <li>Project manager sign-off that remediation is sufficient to remedy identified gaps</li> </ul>
On-going review and support to Africa Regions	<ul> <li>Ensure that SBSA is kept up to date in respect of developments to the GFX Code and are able to amend disclosures / policies / processes as required</li> <li>Socialise the GFX Code with Africa Regions entities – the aim will be general awareness and equipping in-country teams to start discussions with local regulators</li> </ul>
Training	<ul> <li>Provide training to all FX staff in respect of the Code as well as any amended policies and procedures</li> <li>Consider attestation requirements</li> </ul>
Phase 2: Africa jurisdictions	Work with in-country teams with a view to assessing when these jurisdictions will be in a position to adhere to the Code

#### Standard Bank journey to compliance



#### Key learnings and takeaways

- In general, we found that, even prior to any regulatory requirement to adhere to the Code, there was market pressure from our offshore counterparts to do so. Some market participants will no longer do business with a counterparty who has not evidenced commitment to the Code
- > Although our business practices largely aligned to the Code, we were lagging in our disclosures to clients
- > The Code prompted an analysis of the way we utilized economic checks like last look. We now report these statistics to internal governance structures
- > In some instances, there may be local peculiarities (like liquidity constraints) to be considered in determining an effective, proportionate response to the Code
- > The Code is continually evolving and as such market participants need to keep close to these developments. Compliance programmes need to be robust enough to respond to changes
- > Staff training should provide real-life examples and equip staff to act appropriately in "grey" areas
- > The principles set out in the Code have applicability in other areas and it could be used as a starting point to develop statements of good conduct across multiple asset classes/an entire trading floor

#### Intro slide for Refinitiv





#### **Vincenzo Dimase**

Market Development Director, Trading EMEA - Refinitiv

#### The Refinitiv experience

Offering Market Participants with the right tools to align with the Code



Refinitiv signed a statement of commitment to the FX Global Code - Nov 2017

- We played an active role in the development of the Code
  - Membership of the Market Participants Group
  - Participation in regional FX Committees
  - Neill Penney appointed Co-Vice Chair of the Global Foreign Exchange Committee (GFXC)

• We committed to promoting the Code to our clients and wider industry on both sell & Buy Side

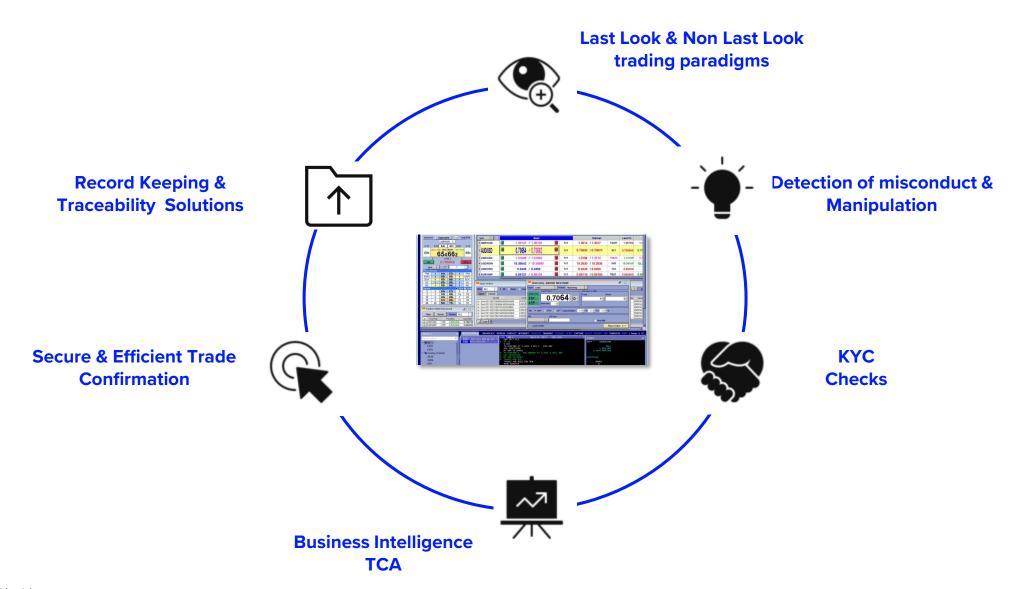




# The Refinitiv Experience

Offering Market Participants with the right tools to align with the Code







"... Market Participants acting as Clients should regularly evaluate the execution they receive."



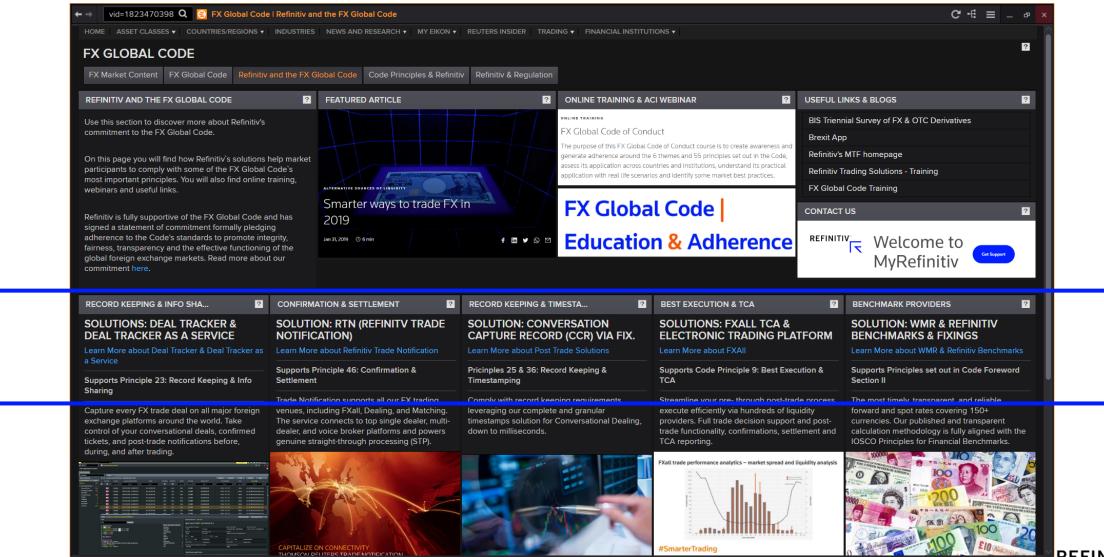
Best Execution
Transaction Cost Analysis
Fxall Trade Performance Analytics



#### FX Global Code - EIKON

FX Global Code & Refinitiv: EIKON Landing Page

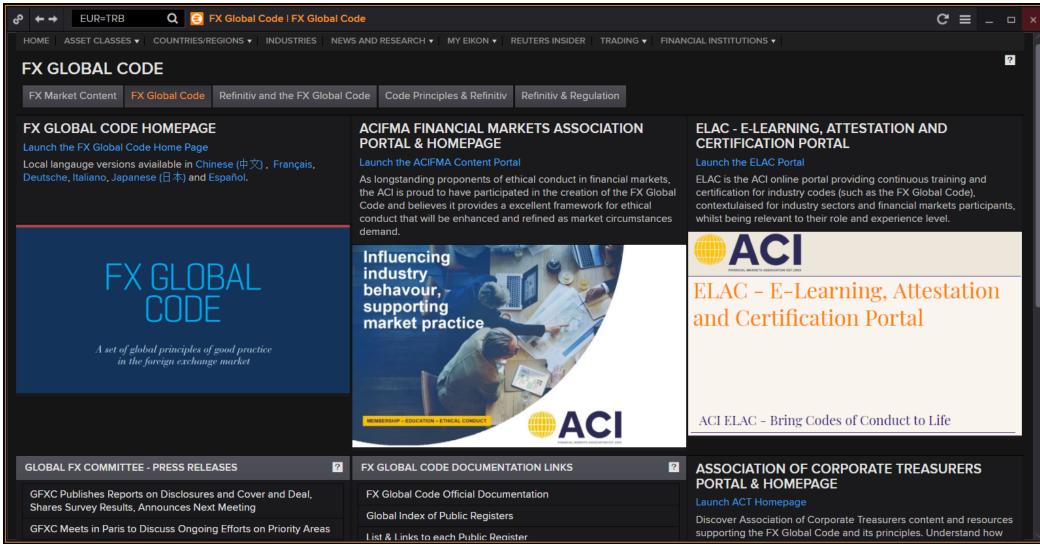




#### FX Global Code - EIKON

FX Global Code & Refinitiv: EIKON Landing Page







# Quick Recap

- ✓ FX Global Code Overview
- ✓ Role of the SARB for the SA market
- ✓ Education is essential ELAC
- ✓ Review & update of processes and policies
- ✓ Principle based and not prescriptive
- ✓ Key Learnings & Benefits



## What makes the FX Global Code Unique?



**Principles-based** - the FX Global Code is built on principles universally recognized as best practices that were defined through the collaboration of public and private sectors. Such principles are less exposed to obsolescence compared with quantitative rules.

**Interpretation** - compared with directives and regulations, the code needs to be interpreted and applied to each market participant's characteristics. This requires implementation of learning paths and procedures review along the full value chain, not just trading desks.

**Proportionality** - market participants adopt the code in line with their level of engagement in the FX market and with the size and complexity of their operations.

Global - the FX Global Code applies globally to all FX market participants, with very few exceptions (i.e. retail).

**Simplicity** - the code is written in clear and simple language. It is relatively short and provides illustrative examples.

**Evolution** - the code has a precise schedule and rhythm to make sure it is regularly reviewed in order that it can evolve and encompass all new market requirements. An annual review is followed by a deeper review every three years.

## Poll Question 3



#### Are you aware of what proportionality means to your organization?

- Yes
- No

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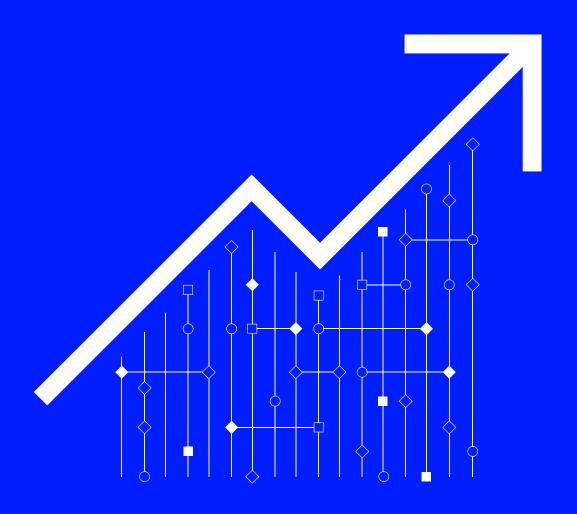
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# Q&A



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