

Areas of conflict

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Danske Bank's customers must feel secure that we invest their funds in a responsible manner regardless of where in the world the companies that we invest in operate.

The companies we invest in must therefore comply with international guidelines and principles of social responsibility such as the UN Global Compact, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Businesses. In countries and areas where there are conflicts, where local law often deviates from the norms of the international community, these guidelines and principles are especially important.

Certain areas of conflict are currently very controversial, for example Burma, Syria, the western Sahara and the occupied Palestinian territories.

Involvement in controversial activities

The Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories have been criticised by the UN, the EU and the Nordic governments. According to standard international law, the settlements are considered illegal and a hindrance to achieving peace.

Companies' activities related to these settlements are therefore controversial and in some cases represent a violation of international conventions and guidelines. Whether there is a violation depends on an evaluation of the individual companies' actual activities.

In order to adhere to Danske Bank's Responsibility policy, companies must comply with sanctions from the EU and the UN, including Security Council resolutions. In addition, we expect that companies are able to show the necessary caution and manage the risks that exist in areas of conflict.

Company evaluations are conducted by Ethix, which is Danske Bank's independent adviser for responsible investing. Ethix gathers facts from relevant parties, evaluates whether a company contributes to the violation of international guidelines, and if so, evaluates whether the company can avoid this.

Danske Bank has made systematic review of companies' activities in areas of conflict and controversy since 2008.

The Bank has found it necessary to exclude companies when it believes that there is a violation of international norms. The Bank also conducts a dialogue with and gathers data on a number of other companies.