

Role of civil society organisations

We recognise the valuable role that civil society organisations can play in supporting and advocating for responsible business conduct. We also recognise that civil society organisations have varied aims and interests, with some groups focusing more on advocacy, and others engaged more in partnerships. We support the existence of an open civic space, value these diverse objectives, and work with civil society organisations in a variety of ways. We recognise the particular risks faced by human rights and environmental defenders, respect their human rights and make it clear that attacks on them will not be accepted, including when we engage with our business partners.

By highlighting concerns about environmental, social and governance issues, and advising on how to improve, civil society organisations can be an important advocate for change. We believe that significant progress in preventing and addressing many complex and multifaceted environmental, social and governance challenges, such as climate change, human rights violations, bribery and corruption, will only be achieved through genuine dialogue and engagement between governments, business, investors, consumers and civil society. In order to build trust and sustain public support, we also recognise that it is vital that all parties adopt high standards of integrity, transparency and accountability in their work and maintain their independence from party politics.

Although there may be differences of opinion between Rio Tinto and civil society organisations from time to time, we believe that understanding diverse viewpoints is a vital first step towards resolving differences and achieving sustainable outcomes.