

Stewardship Policy



A joint venture of
  

July 2017

DOCUMENT CONTROL

1. Document Version

Document version of this Stewardship Policy is 1.

2. Preparation / Revision History

S. No.	Date of Approval / Modification	Version No.	Approved / Modified by
1	July 28, 2017	1. Stewardship Policy - July 2017	Board of Directors

3. Issuing Authority

This policy document is to be approved by the Board of Directors.

4. Author and Responsible Official

This policy document will be maintained and updated by way of additions, deletions and modifications, by Chief Investment Officer and by any other authorized official of the company.

Chief Investment Officer or any authorised official will initiate changes for any revision by way of additions, deletions and modifications that are deemed necessary and place the revised Policy for consideration by the Investment Committee and with its recommendations, put up to the Board of Directors for its approval.

Investment Committee (IC) of the Board would overview Stewardship activities undertaken by the Company. IC would be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Stewardship Policy of the Company.

Every time the policy document is edited, the version will increase by one unit. The Version History to be maintained as above.

The revised policy is to be disclosed on the website of the Company, duly mentioning the change / modification to the Policy on Stewardship.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A. INTRODUCTION

B. OBJECTIVES

C. STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLES

- I. Stewardship Responsibilities**
- II. Manage Conflicts of Interest**
- III. Monitoring of Investee Companies**
- IV. Intervention in the Investee companies**
- V. Collaboration with other Institutional Investors**
- VI. Voting Policy**
- VII. Public Disclosures & Reporting of Stewardship Activities**

D. APPROVAL & REVIEW OF STEWARDSHIP POLICY

STEWARDSHIP POLICY OF SUD LIFE

A. INTRODUCTION

- Star Union Dai-ichi Life Insurance Company Limited (SUD Life) as a part of its normal investment activities invests in Equity Shares issued by companies (Investee Company).
- Exposure to equities is taken with due consideration to Investment Philosophy of the Company, Regulatory guidelines and to meet the policyholders reasonable expectations. The investments in equities are made for long-term capital appreciation and dividend yield. These investments are monitored regularly and are reviewed by the Investment Committee and the Board.
- Insurance companies are significant institutional investors in listed companies. It is expected that Insurance companies engage with the managements at a greater level to improve their governance. It will result in informed decisions by the parties and ultimately improve the return on investments of insurers.
- IRDAI vide Circular Ref. IRDA/F&A/GDL/CMP/059/03/2017 dated March 20, 2017 issued Guidelines on Stewardship Code for Insurers. These guidelines require Insurers to frame Stewardship Policy and engage with the investee companies, in order that the best interest of the policy holders' are protected.

B. OBJECTIVES

Objectives of the Stewardship Policy of the company are as below:

- To set out the principles to be followed to protect the interest of the policyholders' fund;
- To put in place process of monitoring of the investee companies and voting on the resolutions;
- To set guidelines for engagement with the managements of the investee companies with significant holding; and
- To state the manner of public disclosures and reporting thereto

C. STEWARDSHIP PRINCIPLES OF SUD LIFE

Followings are the seven Stewardship activities, which would be carried out by SUD Life on best effort basis. These Stewardship responsibilities would be discharged in respect of those Investee Companies, with equity exposure as defined in this policy document.

I. Stewardship Responsibilities

- a) Stewardship activities would include monitoring of company's performance and developments on matters such as strategy, performance, risk, capital structure, leadership effectiveness, succession planning, remuneration and corporate governance.
- b) Applicability: Stewardship policy and its principles would be applicable in the following
 - 1) Where SUD Life's equity investment in an investee company is Rs 75 Crores and above:

The company shall examine all the agenda items to be considered at the General / Extra-ordinary Meetings and decide on the stance to be taken on voting on resolutions. The company, in general, would participate in the voting.

Where the company decides not to cast its vote, it may record the reasons thereof.

2) Where SUD Life's equity exposure is 2% and above of the share capital of the investee company:

The company shall endeavor to engage with the investee company (by attending meetings, concalls or any other means of communication) on matters such as strategy, performance and corporate governance.

3) In addition to the above, based on merits, the company may apply the stewardship responsibilities to other companies where it has equity exposure.

c) Investment Team would report to Investment Executive Committee (IEC) on monthly basis and Investment Committee (IC) on quarterly basis, about its Stewardship activities.

d) The Company may engage the services of an external agency relating to its discharge of Stewardship responsibilities as permitted under the guidelines, which decision shall be taken by the MD & CEO of the Company. Where the services of external agency are availed, the responsibility for Steward activities shall lie with the Company only.

II. Manage Conflicts of Interest

a) The voting on company resolutions may entail some instances of a conflict of interest between SUD Life and the policyholders' interests.

b) Conflict of interest may arise in the following cases:

i. The investee company is a group company;

ii. The investee company is a Group policyholder of SUD Life;

iii. Products/services of the Investee Company are critical to the SUD Life's business;

iv. The Investee Company is an entity participating in the distribution of products of SUD Life;

v. Key managerial personnel of SUD Life may have personal interests that may conflict with their responsibility to act in the best interests of the Company. A conflict of interest may be actual, potential or perceived and may be financial or nonfinancial.

c) SUD Life will make its best efforts to avoid such conflicts and where it cannot be avoided, the same to be resolved in the best interests of its Policyholders.

d) In cases where potential or perceived conflict of interest is observed, the matter would be reported to the Investment Executive Committee (IEC) which shall decide in the greater good of its policyholders.

III. Monitoring of Investee Companies

Investment Team carries out the periodical review of the financial performance of all Investee Companies, wherein equity exposure is taken. Monitoring here includes the quarterly financial performance (or monitoring higher frequency data, depending on stock specific development) and business outlook, management evaluation, capital structure and key risk areas. However, the areas like succession planning, remuneration, corporate governance etc. are assessed on the best effort basis.

In this context, Investment Team would follow the monitoring mechanism as briefed below:

a) Monitoring would be based on the information available in public domain like Review of Financial Results, Annual Reports, Corporate Actions, Press Release, Media News etc.;

b) Interaction with Management of Investee Companies: The best efforts would be made to have

interaction with senior officials of Investee Companies individually or with other Institutional Investors. These interaction would also be attempted through any mode of communication with Investee Companies;

- c) Research Reports of these Companies and to its Industry may be available in public domain. Efforts would be made to have these types of reports from our empanelled equity brokers as well. These reports would also help to understand the developments happening in these Investee Companies; and
- d) Attending Analyst Meets and joining Conference Calls: It would be endeavoured to attend the Analyst meets and join for Conference call of these Investee Companies.

IV. Intervention in Investee Companies

In case of any perceived concern related to strategy, performance, governance, remuneration or approach to risks, including those that may arise from social and environmental matters, of Investee Company, wherein equity exposure is beyond threshold limit (where the SUD Life owns 2% or more of share capital of the investee company), any of the following steps may be taken in the interest of Policyholders on best effort basis.

- a) Investment Team would communicate to Investee Company about the concern (through any mode of communication);
- b) To seek appointment with the senior management of the company through investors relations personnel to know the company's view;
- c) The best possible efforts would be made to join hands with Institutional investors to take up the matter to the Senior Management of Investee Company; or
- d) Voting on significant resolutions would be carried out, in active consultation with other similarly placed institutional investors in the interest of the Policyholders.

V. Collaboration with other Institutional Investors

- a) SUD Life may from time to time, find concern related to strategy, performance, governance, remuneration or approach to risks, including those that may arise from social and environmental matters, of its Investee Companies.
- b) In some case, there can be certain requirements related to monitoring of Investee Companies in respect of their leadership effectiveness, succession planning, corporate governance, reporting and other parameters (like reported corporate actions, news, agenda items in meetings etc).
- c) SUD Life, based on the severity of the issue, would collaborate with other Institutional Investors to arrive at common stance in the best interest of the policyholders.

VI. Voting Policy

- a) SUD Life is responsible, in its fiduciary capacity, to act in the best interests of its stakeholders.
- b) Equities held by SUD Life carry voting rights. Exercising voting rights is to be carried out in the overall interest of the stakeholders.

- c) Having regard to the agenda items, authorised officials of the Company would decide on either to participate or abstain from voting and also on the stand to be taken.
- d) While deciding on the stand to be taken on the agenda items, impact on Profitability, Shareholder value, Corporate Governance etc. Would be taken into account.
- e) SUD Life would authorise its Officials to cast vote at the investee company meetings. The vote may be cast through e-voting (electronically) as well.
- f) Investment Team would report to IEC details of participation in voting.
- g) In respect of securities lent under SLB mechanism, the company would still be holding shares of the company as certain percentage of holding can be lent. Further, provisions relating to SLBM entail auto foreclosure of SLB contracts, in times of meetings requiring voting by the shareholders. As such the company would consider the resolutions and decide on its stance thereof, in respect of those companies as well.

VII. Public Disclosure & Reporting of Stewardship activities

SUD Life shall make the necessary disclosures and reporting to the IRDAI, as per the regulatory requirements related to Stewardship Code.

1) Public Disclosures

- a) Stewardship Policy would be uploaded on the website of the Company, within 30 days from the date of approval by the Board.
- b) In case of revision of the policy, the same would be displayed on the website of the Company, within 30 days from the date of approval by the Board, duly mentioning the changes / modifications thereto the Policy.
- c) SUD Life shall disclose a report on its Stewardship activities on its website, as part of Public Disclosures.

2) Internal Reporting

Investment Team would report to Investment Executive Committee (IEC) on monthly basis and Investment Committee (IC) on quarterly basis, about its Stewardship activities.

3) Reporting to IRDAI

SUD Life shall submit report on an annual basis to the Authority in the prescribed format, on the status of compliance with the Stewardship Code. The status report, as approved by the Board and as endorsed by the Compliance Officer, would be submitted to the Authority on or before 30th June every year. The reporting shall be done under the principle of “comply or explain”, the reasons for deviation or non-compliance with the Stewardship Principles would be provided in the report.

D. APPROVAL & REVIEW OF STEWARDSHIP POLICY

Stewardship Policy shall be reviewed and approved by the Board on annual basis or as warranted.
