

Joint Statement by the

Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance

We, the members of the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance, reaffirm our support for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – which sets out a vision for a prosperous future for people and planet, underpinned by sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic development.

We are convened by the UN Secretary-General to facilitate the scaling up of finance and investment that is essential for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In doing so, our aim remains to transform business and finance. We are bringing a long-term and inclusive approach to decision-making and aligning the objectives of the private sector with the 2030 Agenda.

To this end, we have undertaken a range of actions to move international capital behind the SDGs:

- » We have developed a common definition of Sustainable Development Investing (SDI). Broad adoption of this definition across the financial industry will support investors in aligning their investments with the SDGs using a consistent approach.
- » We have produced targeted instruments and platforms to channel investment to sectors and countries that need them the most. These include a climate Exchange Traded Fund (ETF) and an [SDG Investor Platform](#) that will help facilitate private sector investments in the SDGs.
- » We are also working towards establishing a blended finance fund for sustainable infrastructure and are actively engaging with multilateral development banks to enhance efforts to catalyze private finance for SDG-related investments in developing countries.
- » We have advanced the development of key performance indicators that measure the SDG-aligned outcomes of business activities. In this context, we have led the development of sector-specific metrics that would increase transparency on companies' impact on the SDGs. We are also issuing today, in a companion statement, a call to action to support SDG-related disclosure by companies and investors.
- » We have moreover been working with the wider business sector to incorporate a longer-term sustainability perspective into their operations and investment decisions. We are developing an updated model mandate that will seek to define the contractual relationships between asset owners and asset managers, with a view to encouraging long-term investments that are aligned with sustainable development.

Our efforts to scale up and align private finance and investment with the SDGs are beginning to bear fruits. Now, support from policy makers and regulators in several areas, at both national and international levels, will be necessary:

- » Importantly, we call on policymakers to set in place effective measures to internalize environmental and social externalities and incentivize sustainable business practices, including by agreeing to a price on carbon that is compatible with the Paris Agreement. This will be essential to provide a level playing field for those companies that are making efforts to transition to sustainable activities.
- » We also urge financial regulators to make it clear that investors' fiduciary duties encompass sustainability considerations. Likewise, corporate governance and investor stewardship codes should be revised to incorporate a long-term lens into decision-making, which properly captures sustainability risks and opportunities.
- » We call on multilateral and regional development banks and their shareholding governments to support our efforts to mobilize additional private capital for the SDGs, especially in developing countries. There needs to be greater focus on effectively creating partnerships between the public and private sectors to channel finance and investments towards where they are needed the most and to invest with the broader perspective of eradicating poverty.

In the next phase of the GISD Alliance, we will take the established achievements and partnerships to the next level:

- » We will continue to advocate for a long-term approach to business and investment decisions that benefits and takes into account the interests of all stakeholders.
- » We will work on the further integration of SDG-related criteria into our decision-making processes, consistent with our fiduciary duty to achieve risk-adjusted returns.
- » We will encourage the wider business sector to align their internal strategies, policies and guidelines with the SDGs, including through introducing long-term performance metrics and accelerating relevant sustainability disclosure by companies. To achieve this, we aim to establish active networks of business alliances around sustainable financing and investment issues, including at the regional level.
- » We will also scale up our advocacy at the highest level with key policy making bodies and forums, such as the Financial Stability Board and other regulators, G20, COP and G7, as well as with multilateral and regional development banks, so as to ensure that the policy and regulatory environment is supportive of private sector efforts towards the SDGs.

We share the Secretary-General's view that the global community is facing a *breakdown or breakthrough moment* for planet and people. We will be judged by current and future generations on how we will take up this monumental challenge. As we enter a new phase for the GISD Alliance, we are determined to significantly enhance our impact on moving global capital towards the sustainable investment needed to achieve the SDGs. Moreover, our commitment is to inspire other actors to join us in aligning the finance and investment ecosystem with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – for a more sustainable, green, and equitable world.