

10 June 2020

## **Statement of Action by the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance**

### ***COVID-19 and Beyond: Response and Recovery***

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to tremendous human suffering all over the world. Hundreds of thousands of individuals have lost their lives, many more have been infected with the virus. Humanitarian crises have spread. The social, financial and economic impacts are unprecedented and we must address them while ensuring they do not derail the investment needed for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We must confront this momentous challenge with decisive action by all stakeholders to ensure the timely achievement of the SDGs.

#### ***Our commitment: Build a more stable and sustainable economy***

We, the Members of the Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance, met in these extraordinary circumstances to send a strong message of unity and commitment. We reinforce the UN Secretary-General's calls for wide ranging actions that match the scale of the crisis.

We are determined to continue to transform finance and investment to bring the world on a trajectory to sustainable development. We are committed to make the post COVID-19 economy more sustainable and resilient to external shocks, such as climate-related ones. We will act within our companies, in our industries, and in partnership with public actors to enable a robust global response and recovery that is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### ***Our plan: Accelerate action for a sustainable and resilient recovery***

We have already taken significant steps to address the fallout of the pandemic. This includes the mobilization of capital through COVID-19 bonds, extraordinary measures to provide liquidity to our customers and suppliers and seeking viable investment opportunities for our beneficiaries and clients, in line with our fiduciary duties. Such responses are aligned to the SDGs.

But more needs to be done. We will make efforts to accelerate actions in the following areas:

- I. **Urge the broader business sector to better integrate the SDGs into core business models:**  
We will endeavor to align internal strategies, policies and guidelines with the SDGs, introduce long-term performance metrics, and accelerate company disclosure and reporting on social and environmental issues.
- II. **Scale-up sustainable investments globally, especially to countries and areas most in need:**  
We will work to establish scalable innovative financing and investment vehicles that are aligned with the SDGs, including COVID-19 bonds, risk-sharing tools, joint investment and business match making platforms
- III. **Align investment with sustainable development objectives:** We will advance voluntary industry-based standards, principles and benchmarks that help align investment with the

definition of Sustainable Development Investment agreed by GISD. This will give clarity on impact and help drive the scale that is required for success.

Some of our actions will be undertaken in partnership with policy makers and regulatory bodies:

- IV. **Advocate for a coordinated international approach to financial regulation:** We will promote a regulatory environment that facilitates finance and investment for sustainable development and create more resilient economies.
- V. **Encourage rating agencies to better incorporate sustainable development considerations into their decision-making:** We will work with rating agencies to increase the time horizon of their credit assessments and integrate social and environmental risks into their decision-making, while also taking into consideration the different development stages and needs of countries.
- VI. **Advance internalization of key externalities:** We will accelerate private and public sector collaboration to develop and approve models that price-in carbon emissions and other ways to incentivize sustainable business practices.

Our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to creating a resilient, sustainable world for all is stronger than ever, even in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. To achieve this, we will work collaboratively with all stakeholders. Together, we are determined to overcome the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and build a better and brighter world for future generations.