

GISD Global Investors for Sustainable Development Alliance

Overview

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a global plan of action for people, planet and prosperity. It provides a roadmap for the future of all countries, stakeholders and individuals. Private finance and investment are of central importance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Yet, to date, private investment in areas critical for implementation of the SDGs is vastly insufficient. It is estimated that achieving the SDGs by 2030 in developing countries alone will require investment in the order of trillions of dollars annually, mainly in infrastructure (power, telecommunications, transport, and water and sanitation).

To this end, and as part of his Strategy for Financing the [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), the United Nations Secretary-General is establishing an alliance of 30 business leaders to provide decisive leadership in mobilizing resources for sustainable development. The core objective of this alliance, termed 'Global Investors for Sustainable Development' (GISD), will be to address incentives for long-term investment for sustainable development. This will be achieved through leveraging the unique insights of the Alliance members in identifying policy, institutional, market, and other impediments to financing sustainable development, as well as advancing viable solutions.

GISD will aim to achieve the following:

- a) *Generate support and adoption of actions required to mobilize long-term finance and investment for sustainable development.*
- b) *Foster transformation of the enabling environment for long-term investment in sustainable development.*
- c) *Facilitate the alignment of business operations, finance and investment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.*

GISD will issue periodic updates and reports on their achievements in 'shifting the pendulum' in the above areas so as to unblock the impediments to, and create incentives for, significantly larger amounts of long-term investment in sustainable development.

Deliverables

- *Actionable Solutions.* Alliance members will advance and facilitate solutions that enable the mobilization and alignment of long-term finance and investment with sustainable development. Examples of such actions may include i) encouraging innovation in financial instruments for mobilizing long-term capital; ii) revisiting existing and new business models that are aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and iii) addressing intra-industry/institutional obstacles to long-term investment in sustainable development.

- *Platform for Transformation.* GISD will serve as a platform to promote required actions to high-level decision makers globally across UN member states, international organizations, regulatory and standard-setting bodies, business associations and other influential bodies for reforms. These required actions may include i) incorporating SDGs into the regulatory and standard-setting frameworks; ii) broadening the interpretation of fiduciary responsibilities; iii) developing enabling accounting and reporting standards; and iv) introducing mechanisms that enable companies to accurately price-in long-term sustainability into their investment and business decisions.

Timeline

The specific timeline for the implementation of an initial 2-year action plan will be agreed by the GISD members, in line with the following phases of the alliance:

- **15 April 2019:** Announcement
- **16 October 2019:** Launch and Inaugural Meeting of GISD, including Media Launch
- **October 2019 to September 2021:** Implementation of Plan of Action and occasional updates to the Secretary-General
- **September 2021:** Presentation of final report on actions undertaken and results achieved

Support

A working process, including a Strategy Group, has been formulated. Members of the alliance have designated relevant senior executives from their own organizations and other experts to participate in the Strategy Group.

The GISD members will be supported by a focal point based in UN Headquarters in New York. In addition, a group comprising relevant parts of the UN system and UN supported networks (e.g. UN DESA, UNCTAD, UN Global Compact, PRI, UNEP FI, UNDP, UNCDF and the Regional Economic Commissions) and other pivotal actors like the World Bank Group, will assist GISD in the implementation of its action plan, including the provision of necessary background information and analyses.