

## Joint Commitment

The world faces great and in many aspects growing challenges. In 2015, nearly all countries in the world agreed on a common agenda for sustainable development at the United Nations: the 2030 Agenda and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (the SDGs, including 169 Targets). The 2030 Agenda is a map that provides direction for the world with objectives that include preventing and tackling the challenges of climate change, providing sustainable energy for all, decreasing social gaps and inequalities, eliminating poverty and hunger, providing good education for all, promoting sustainable cities, ensuring access to clean water and halting the loss of biological diversity.

The private sector has been an important actor in forming the SDGs and continues to be an important actor for the 2030 Agenda. The long-term capital, institutional investors and investment companies play a key role through their ownership and governance of different asset classes, including listed and unlisted companies, bonds and alternative investments. We, as institutional investors, represent present and future retirees, insurance policyholders and shareholders whose capital we have the responsibility to manage long-term, with good returns and in a sustainable manner.

Long-term sustainable value creation for us as capital owners requires a stable development of the real economy during the coming five, ten, fifty years and thereafter. This is only possible if the world's limited resources are used in a responsible way.

Responsible investments have evolved during the last decades from being "ethical", where the main focus has been on exclusion of certain industries, to inclusion of companies that contribute to a sustainable development or show ambition in improving standards of environmental performance, working conditions, human rights, corporate governance. Increasingly, investors and companies are looking for opportunities to create sustainable impact for global prosperity. These areas affect, to a growing extent, the operations' financial risks and opportunities. Certain operations create value for the economy as a whole in which long-term positive contribution to the returns of the capital owners and sustainability converge, to achieve a prosperous planet for all people. It is thus in line with the 2030 Agenda to invest for a sustainable development of society.

As long-term and responsible investors, we hereby declare that we will strive to invest in accordance with the SDGs including in countries and sectors where investments are most needed since we are convinced that this is positive for our beneficiaries in a long-term perspective. We acknowledge that the goals are interlinked and should be looked upon as a single, integrated agenda. Climate change for example, relates to all goals. We may focus on different specific SDGs, depending on our specific mandate as individual organisations. We will work with the SDGs based on our existing and future investments.

In 2019, SISD inspired the UN to form a global Alliance; Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD). SISD is represented in the Alliance, which consists of 30 of the largest pension funds, asset managers, banks and individual companies in the world. On October 16<sup>th</sup> 2019, the CEOs of GISD adopted a joint statement supporting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with six commitments to which SISD members, through this Joint Statement, hereby commit themselves (see attached). Looking ahead, the capital markets will go through major changes, partly because of technical development due for example to digitalization and as a result of new regulations. Therefore, we see a great need for transition within the financial system and its regulations to facilitate and encourage investments for a sustainable development and for the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda.



## MEMBERS

Alecta, AMF, AP2, AP3, AP4, AP7, Carl Bennet AB, East Capital, Folksam, Handelsbanken Fonder, Industrivärden, Investor, Kinnevik, Nordea Asset Management, SEB Investment Management and SEB Life and Pension, Skandia, SPP, Svenska kyrkan, Swedbank Robur and Swedfund. Sida is a facilitator and catalyser for the platform.