

## GLOBAL INVESTORS ISSUE US\$4 TRILLION INCENTIVE FOR SUSTAINABILITY

(London, 27 October 2008) A powerful group of global investors has launched an initiative to call on almost 9,000 listed companies to sign-up to international standards on human rights, the environment and anti-corruption measures.

The 52 investors who manage around US\$4.4 trillion in assets have written to companies in the MSCI World, FTSE All-World and IFC Emerging Markets Indices to ask them to sign the United Nations Global Compact, which is a set of 10 principles of corporate responsibility.

The investors are all signatories to the UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). They include investors based in the US, Europe, Australia and emerging markets.

Donald MacDonald, Chair of the PRI initiative and Trustee of the BT Pension Scheme said,

*“Institutional investors in general are looking for investments that offer good, long-term returns, especially in a financial climate currently marked by uncertainty. We believe investee companies that take account of environmental, social and governance issues are more likely to offer these returns. As current and potential shareholders in these companies we want to urge them to take action on these major issues.*”

*“The UN Global Compact is an extremely important tool for helping companies to achieve long-term business success while also fulfilling society’s expectation that they should operate responsibly. It provides companies with a framework of widely accepted standards to use in their management of environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues. Participation in the UN Global Compact sends a strong signal to investors that companies are both alert to the business implications of ESG issues, and taking active steps to incorporate them in their strategy and risk management.”*

[The full list of companies being approached can be found here](#)

**The full list of investors:** AP1; AP2; AP3; AP4; AP7 ; APG; ARIA (Australian Reward Investment Alliance); Aviva Investors; AXA Investment Managers; BankInvest; BC Investment Management Corporation (bcIMC); British Telecommunications Pension Scheme; Caisse des dépôts et consignations (CDC); CalPERS; Calvert Group; Capricorn Investment Group; Care Super; CPP Investment Board; Comité syndical national de retraite Bâtirente; de Pury Pictet Turrettini & Cie; DnB Nor Asset Management; Fondation Guilé; F&C Asset Management; Fonds de réserve pour les retraites (FRR); General Board of Pension and Health Benefits of the United Methodist Church; Government Pension Fund (Thailand); Hermes Pensions Management; HESTA Super Fund; Kennedy Associates Real Estate Counsel; KLP; Stichting Ondernemingspensioenfonds Mn Services (Opf); Multi-Employer Property Trust; Nathan Cummings Foundation; New Zealand Superannuation Fund; Newton Investment Management; Nordea Fonder; NYCERS; OFI Asset Management; PGGM Investments; Robeco; Santa Fe Portfolios; SPF Beheer bv; SPOV; Statewide Superannuation Trust; Stichting Spoorwegpensioenfonds; Syntus Achmea Asset Management; The Central Church Fund of Finland; The Ethical Funds Company; The Northern Ireland Local Government Officers Superannuation Committee; Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS); Vital Forsikring ASA

#### Notes to editor

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- **UN Global Compact**  
Launched in 2000, the UN Global Compact brings business together with UN agencies, labour, civil society and governments to advance ten universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Through the power of collective action, the Global Compact seeks to mainstream these ten principles in business activities around the world and to catalyze actions in support of broader UN goals. With over 5000 participating companies and hundreds of other stakeholders from more than 120 countries, it is the world's largest voluntary corporate citizenship initiative. For more information, please visit [www.unglobalcompact.org](http://www.unglobalcompact.org).
- **United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI)**  
UNEP FI is a unique global partnership between UNEP and the private financial sector that works closely with approximately 180 financial institutions to develop and promote linkages between sustainability and financial performance. Through regional activities, a comprehensive work programme, training and research, UNEP FI carries out its mission to identify, promote and realize the adoption of best environmental and sustainability practice at all levels of financial institution operations. More information: [www.unepfi.org](http://www.unepfi.org)
- **The Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI)**  
The Principles for Responsible Investment, convened by UNEP FI and the UN Global Compact, was established as a framework to help investors achieve better long-term investment returns and sustainable markets through better analysis of environmental, social and governance issues in investment process and the exercise of responsible ownership practices. The Principles themselves, a full list of signatories and more information can be found at [www.unpri.org](http://www.unpri.org)