

Media release

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Helvetia signs UN Principles for Responsible Investment

At the beginning of January, Helvetia signed the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). The global investor initiative works to bring about a better understanding of the investment implications of environmental, social and governance factors.

Swiss insurance group Helvetia has signed the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI), thereby affirming its responsibility to actively promote environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues and incorporate them into the investment process. Since 2017, the group has been using ESG screening to analyse almost 90 percent of its financial assets for non-sustainable investments.

Signing up out of conviction

The PRI reflect Helvetia's fundamental values and are consistent with the practice of using sustainability criteria in investment management in order to generate sustainable returns and for comprehensive risk management. André Keller, Chief Investment Officer of Helvetia, says: "Our signing of the PRI underscores our conviction that we as an investor have a social responsibility and fiduciary duty. The principles reflect our practice of implementing responsible investment in line with global guidelines – tailored to our business model and portfolio".

Incorporating sustainability into investment decisions is key to financial market stability and performance. As a long-term investor, Helvetia is at the top of the investment chain, sending a clear signal to entities, organizations and countries. Fiona Reynolds, CEO of the PRI, is delighted about the collaboration: "We are very pleased to be able to welcome Helvetia as a signatory to the PRI. By becoming a signatory, Helvetia is acknowledging how important it is to incorporate environmental, social and governance factors into its investment strategies."

This media release is also available on our website
www.helvetia.com/media.

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About the Helvetia Group

In 160 years, the Helvetia Group has grown from a number of Swiss and foreign insurance companies into a successful international insurance group. Today, Helvetia has subsidiaries in its home market Switzerland as well as in the countries that make up the Europe market area: Germany, Italy, Austria and Spain. With its Specialty Markets market area, Helvetia is also present in France and in selected regions worldwide. Some of its investment and financing activities are managed through subsidiaries and fund companies in Luxembourg. The Group is headquartered in St.Gallen, Switzerland.

Helvetia is active in the life and non-life business, and also offers customised specialty lines and reinsurance cover. Its business activities focus on retail customers as well as small and medium-sized companies and larger corporates. With some 6,600 employees, the company provides services to more than 5 million customers. With a business volume of CHF 9.07 billion, Helvetia generated an IFRS result after tax of CHF 431.0 million in financial year 2018. The registered shares of Helvetia Holding are traded on the SIX Swiss Exchange under the symbol HELN.

About the UN PRI

The United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) is an international network of investors working together to put the following six principles for responsible investment into practice:

- We will incorporate environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues into investment analysis and decision-making processes.
- We will be active owners and incorporate ESG issues into our ownership policies and practices.
- We will seek appropriate disclosure on ESG issues by the entities in which we invest.
- We will promote acceptance and implementation of the Principles within the investment industry.
- We will work together to enhance our effectiveness in implementing the Principles.
- We will each report on our activities and progress towards implementing the Principles.

The aim is to raise awareness of the implications of environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors. In addition, the PRI supports signatories in incorporating these factors into their investment decisions and performing their role as shareholder. By applying these Principles, the roughly 2,600 signatories worldwide contribute to developing a more sustainable global financial system. www.unpri.org.

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