

PRI to redesign its reporting and assessment framework to meet new challenges

(25 May 2011) The UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) is launching a redesign of its Reporting and Assessment framework and opening it up for broad consultation during September and October 2011. The new framework, again based around an online survey of signatories, will be implemented in full in 2013. Reporting by PRI signatories based on the new framework as well as public disclosure of responses will be mandatory from 2013. In 2012, participation in the survey will be voluntary, during which time the framework will be thoroughly tested.

The Reporting and Assessment survey – in its fifth year – is an annual survey for PRI signatories to report on their responsible investment activities and progress towards fulfilling their commitments under the Principles. In 2011, over 500 investor signatories from 33 countries completed the survey, with 44 per cent agreeing to publish their responses online.

The PRI Secretariat is now launching a redesign of the survey and analysis methodology to capture new developments and challenges within the industry, particularly with the growth of responsible investment across different asset classes and the much greater diversity of organisations signing the Principles. The main objective of this review is to design a robust tool that provides a comprehensive transparency and accountability framework for signatories whether they are beginners or leaders, small or large, specialised or mainstream and whether portfolio management is in-house or outsourced. It will also offer a better assessment of asset class implementation.

The PRI Secretariat has received a vast amount of valuable feedback from signatories on the strengths and weaknesses of the current reporting framework. Working with consultants Acona Partners LLP, the PRI Secretariat will set up a technical committee to develop drafts of the new reporting framework and run a broad consultation during September and October 2011 for signatories and experts to feed into the process.

James Gifford, Executive Director, PRI Initiative said: “Our goal is to create the world’s most robust and comprehensive responsible investment reporting and assessment process for

investors. We have learnt a lot of lessons over recent years, and there were certainly concerns expressed by signatories. From our discussions with investors, we believe there is a real need for a reliable process to assess responsible investment capability, and like all other areas of business, there needs to be clear indicators of progress and success. While reporting and assessment may be resource intensive, most signatories recognise the importance of it, both to their own internal management of these issues, and the integrity of the PRI”.

A description of the process, committee members and how feedback will be collected is available at www.unpri.org/consultation.

Notes to Editor

- PRI communications: +44 207 749 5145 | comms@unpri.org

- **About Principles for Responsible Investment**

The UN-backed Principles for Responsible Investment, an investor-led initiative convened by UNEP FI and the UN Global Compact, was established to help investors achieve better long-term investment returns and sustainable markets through improved analysis of environmental, social and governance issues. The Initiative has over 870 signatories from 45 countries with more than US\$ 25 trillion combined assets under management. www.unpri.org