

Annex – joint letter of support

The United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) Initiative and the Global Real Estate Sustainability Benchmark (GRESB) today announced plans to deepen their cooperation to improve the quality and consistency of reporting by investors and companies active in the global real estate sector. Through their respective transparency and disclosure frameworks and benchmarks, the two organisations will encourage greater implementation of responsible investment and sustainability policies and practices, delivering greater value to investors and other stakeholders.

The PRI's six Principles encourage signatories to take environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues into account within their investment processes and ownership practices, targeting transparency at the portfolio level. In October 2013, the PRI launched a new [Reporting Framework](#) which includes a new module seeking information from signatories that invest directly, either individually or alongside other investors, in property via non-listed equity or debt. Its signatories include many of the world's largest asset owners and investment managers who collectively manage US\$34 trillion in assets.

The PRI Initiative's Reporting Framework is complementary to the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Guidelines and will help promote transparency and disclosure in the portfolios of asset owners and their investment managers worldwide. The framework has three goals: to improve the accountability of the PRI, enable investors to report their approach to responsible investment in a transparent and globally-comparable way, and to assess the progress of signatories towards implementing the Principles.

In 2013, nearly 550 property companies and funds participated in the GRESB survey, providing aggregate information on the sustainability performance of 49,000 properties across the globe. GRESB's membership now includes over 60 investors, fund managers and property company members. It is an industry-driven initiative that covers a broad range of sustainability-related topics. Undertaken on an annual basis and using a consistent format for both private and listed real estate investments across the globe, the Survey gives investors, managers and property companies the tools to benchmark their investments against one another based on property type, country and regional peer groups. The benchmark includes questions covering management, policies, risk management, performance monitoring, building certifications and stakeholder

engagement. GRESB's data is used globally by investors, listed property companies and managers of real estate investments for engagement, monitoring and due diligence purposes.

The PRI framework and GRESB benchmark differ in objectives and scope but are complementary. The PRI's Reporting Framework contains indicators that allow signatories to review their own performance with an objective third party methodology. It focuses on organisational-level policies and processes. GRESB provides a more detailed assessment of fund or company-level activities, including risk management, policy and process but also with a strong focus on sustainability performance.

Indicators that partially or fully overlap will be cross-referenced in each framework.

GRESB and the PRI have worked together to develop alignment and help reduce the reporting burden for organisations reporting against both frameworks where possible.

GRESB and the PRI will continue to collaborate to strengthen each other's work in the global real estate sector.

Date: 13th February 2014

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Place: Amsterdam

Place: London



GRESB

PRI

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