

CANDIDATE STATEMENT, BIOGRAPHY, SIGNATORY, AND COMPARATIVE INFORMATION FORM

Full legal name: **Johannes Feist**

Job title: **CEO**

Signatory organisation name: **Mikro Kapital Management S.A.**

Signatory organisation(s) seconding your candidacy: **Monega
Kapitalanlagegesellschaft mbH**



CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I believe that my knowledge and international experience, in responsible investment both on equity and debt side, both with public and private players, all related to sustainable development and ESG, will allow me to bring a relevant contribution to PRI.

Besides my respective professional functions as officer and manager in public and private institutions in impact finance, I can also look back to a very fruitful 4 years of serving an “industry association”: From 2011 to 2015 I served as secretary general to the newly founded International Development Finance Club (IDFC), an association of 20 bilateral and national development banks from all continents, allowing this new player to enter the international discussions towards the Paris Climate Agreement, facilitating a meeting of IDFC with the then UN Secretary General, and developing joint climate finance measurement rules between the Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and the IDFC institutions. Hence, working for a collective organisation, serving the collective interests of its members, is not a “known” to me, which I would love to refresh.

The Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) are built upon a strong foundation of core values that guide the actions and commitments of its signatories. These values reflect a collective dedication to incorporating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors into investment practices, and to promoting a sustainable and inclusive global financial system.

My commitment is to support and defend the values of the Principles for Responsible Investment ensuring they will remain relevant and valuable to all signatories and future ones. Bearing in mind that these values are not only essential for the success of the organization but also, and foremost, crucial for shaping a sustainable and responsible investment landscape globally.

BIOGRAPHY

Following upbringing in Germany and UK, Johannes joined the German army, then studied at Universities of Munich (Germany) and Bordeaux (France) obtaining an MSc in Economics. He started his career at the EU Commission, then rejoined the German security and defence establishment, then became Assistant Lecturer at University of Munich and obtained a PhD. In 1999 he joined KfW German Development Bank. In the following 20 years at KfW, Johannes served as Resident Director in Kosovo and Serbia, Vice President for Product Development, Vice President European FIs, Vice President Corporate Strategy. Since 2015 he was Head of KfW's equity and funds team.

In 2020 Johannes left KfW and launched his own company, JF Investment Advisory, supporting clients in the public (DFIs, International Organizations) and private / corporate impact finance space. Among his clients were the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the African Development Bank, and Finca Impact Finance.

He joined MikroKapital as CEO in autumn 2022, and is refocussing MikroKapital's activities on Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and on new partnerships with private and public investors in microfinance, leasing and the sharing economy.

He is a value-oriented networker across continents, cultures and sectors, a shock-proof / resilient personality, and a dedicated family person (single father).

He has lived in Germany, the UK, France, Belgium, Kosovo and Serbia. He has work / business experience in Africa, Western Europe, Eastern Europe incl. Central Asia and Caucasus, and the Americas.

He is business fluent in German, English and French, and has a reasonably good command of Russian.

SIGNATORY ORGANISATION INFORMATION

Founded in 2008, MIKRO KAPITAL is a leading microfinance and sustainable investor in emerging countries of EMEA and APAC regions focused on impact finance and microfinance and operating through Luxembourg based securitization funds: MIKRO FUND and ALTERNATIVE. These offer investment opportunities to professional investors through the issuance of fixed coupon, fixed maturity debt securities linked to the risks related to micro-financing. As of March Q1 2023 the total assets of the 2 securitization funds are more than a billion euros.

Securitization funds invest the proceeds in their own local Portfolio Companies which provide microcredits and microloans and leasing financing to MSMEs (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) and sharing economy services thus enabling access to economic growth opportunities.

This model allows a full overview on the flows, from investors to end-borrower, reducing risks, optimizing the returns and eliminating costs related to intermediaries.

In addition, the local presence of the Micro Finance Institutions, allows a constant monitoring and support to the end-borrower further reducing the risk of non-repayment of the debt.

Unlike most other micro finance / financial inclusion holdings or networks, MIKRO KAPITAL is almost completely financed by private investors, although, of course, DFIs are major partners in the field.

MIKRO KAPITAL is part of the European Microfinance Network, signatory of OPIM, member of GIIN (Global, Impact Investing Network) and partner of Luxflag, IFAD (international Fund for Agricultural Development) among others.

SPECIFIC EXPERTISE

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE EXPERIENCE

Johannes gained leadership experience in the impact finance industry since 2001, when he was appointed head of KfW's resident office in Pristina / Kosovo, and then in 2003 also in Belgrade / Serbia. Until 2005 he led both offices with local teams of 3-5 each, travelling between the two duty stations, and also managing the significant "cultural and political divide" (among clients, political stakeholders, but also employees) only a few years after the "Kosovo war". Since 2005 Johannes held 4 consecutive team leader positions in KfW HQ, in different topical areas (product development, European business, corporate strategy and equity & fund investments). Several of his staff from former positions followed him into later positions. While he was leading KfW's corporate strategy team he also was the first secretary general of the International Development Finance Club (IDFC) ([Homepage - IDFC](#)). Although IDFC being a "club of CEOs" (of around 20 development banks globally), the group of sherpas coordinated by Johannes laid the ground work for the international recognition of this industry association. In board mandates for the Microfinance Enhancement Facility (MEF), a 600 mUSD debt fund in Luxemburg, which he chaired 2015-19, and with Finca Microfinance Holding (2015-19), a global microfinance network with 20 subsidiaries and AuM of around 1 bn USD, he gained significant governance experience, and demonstrated his convening power. Johannes was involved in, many say as the key player, one of the largest restructurings in the microfinance sector, when he successfully navigated and eventually aligned the interests of equity and 17 lenders. His appointment as CEO of Mikrokapital Management SA, hence to the key position in a group marked by strong diversity, and subject to complex geopolitical framework conditions, needs no further explanation. Besides being group CEO he sits on the boards of 3 portfolio companies.

GENERAL

DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP WITHIN RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT, ESG EXPERTISE AND OTHER EXPERIENCE RELEVANT TO THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS OF THE PRI

Following is a summary of Johannes's **deal log within responsible investments**:

Equity Transactions / Funds:

Responsibility Renewable Energy Holding (rareH), Kenya: 30 million USD into a company designed to develop, build and operate renewable energy systems in Africa (2019)

African Guarantee Fund for SMEs (AGF), Kenya / Togo / Mauritius: 25 million Euro (2019)

Womens' World Banking Capital Partners Fund II (WWB II), Mauritius: 12 million USD from EU and KfW funds into a financial inclusion equity fund (2019)

Partech Africa, France: 15 million Euro with VC fund operating in Africa (2019)

One Acre Fund, Kenya et al.: 20 million USD (non returnable grant) (2019)

The Currency Exchange Fund (TCX), Netherlands: 48 million Euro (2018, 2019)

Shorecap III, Mauritius: 10 million USD into new microfinance equity fund (2018)

AfricInvest Financial Inclusion Vehicle (FIVE), Mauritius: 10 million Euro (2018)

Regional Education Finance Fund for Africa (REFFA), Luxembourg: 20 million USD (2018)

Microfinance Enhancement Facility (MEF), Luxembourg: 50 million USD (2017, 2018)

African Local Currency Bond Fund (ALCBF), Mauritius: 30 million USD (2017)

Loan Transactions:

Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), South Africa: 80 million USD (2019)

PostFin / Nampost, Namibia: 22 million USD (2019)

Landbank, South Africa: loan of 900 million ZAR (76 million USD) (2018)

World Bank led Clean technology Fund (CTF), USA: 500 million Euro (2009)

Microbanco Futuro Mozambique: 2 million USD (2022)

Stanbic Bank Uganda: 5 million USD (2022)

Finca DRC, Finca Malawi and Finca Zambia: subordinate loans of 14 million USD (2018)

Loans for renewable energy and energy efficiency to BPCE / France, Erste Bank / Austria, Volksbank / Austria, Kommunalkredit / Danmark, Cassa depositi et prestiti / Italy, Bank Handlowy w Warszawie / Poland; approx. 700 million Euro (2009-2011)

ESG: as chair of the board of MEF (2015-19) he anchored new ESG policies in the fund.