

CANDIDATE STATEMENT, BIOGRAPHY, SIGNATORY, AND COMPARATIVE INFORMATION FORM

Full legal name: **Sonja Cecile Saunderson**

Job title: **Chief Investment Officer**

Signatory organisation name: **EPPF**

Signatory organisation(s) seconding your candidacy: **Old Mutual**



CANDIDATE STATEMENT

I am interested in serving as a Board Member of the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Investment (UN PRI). I have 23 years' investment experience, including having been Chief Investment Officer (CIO) at Momentum Investments and currently at the Eskom Pension and Provident Fund (EPPF). I have the right balance of experience, knowledge and passion for responsible investment practices.

I have witnessed the transformative power of responsible investing throughout my career as an investment professional. It has the potential to create positive change not only in financial markets but also in social and environmental aspects. I am committed to helping formulate responsible investing practices and steering initiatives for a sustainable future.

My experience and insight as a CIO in the South African landscape can contribute significantly to the work of the UN PRI. The EPPF plays a pivotal role in driving responsible investment practices among asset owners in South Africa. I have been actively involved in shaping our organisation's sustainable investment strategies, ensuring that they align with global best practice while addressing the unique challenges and opportunities found in South Africa and on the African continent.

As a potential board member, I will bring a strong African perspective to the table and this is so important in the current global context. Africa holds immense potential for sustainable investment but it also faces unique socio-economic and environmental challenges. Living in Africa which is one of the biggest carbon polluting continents, I am committed to promoting responsible investing. I also support initiatives that address these challenges, while capitalising on the opportunities presented by the African landscape. All of this is done through fair and transparent process.

I also recognise the importance of collaboration and knowledge-sharing on a global scale. By serving on the UN PRI Board, I aim to facilitate dialogue and foster partnerships that can drive responsible

investment practices worldwide. I am dedicated to actively participating in the formulation of policies, strategies, and initiatives that advance the UN PRI's mission and contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

I believe that my extensive experience (coupled with my passion for sustainable investing) uniquely positions me to contribute to the work of the UN PRI Board. I am eager to leverage my expertise, African perspective, and commitment to responsible investing to support the organisation in its mission to create a more sustainable and equitable world.

BIOGRAPHY

Sonja Saunderson is an accomplished investment professional with a successful career spanning 23 years. With a strong educational background, including a B.Sc., BCom., BCom. Hons., and M. Comm., she has consistently excelled academically, graduating cum laude in each of her degrees. Sonja's expertise extends to actuarial exams and a postgraduate diploma in financial planning.

During her tenure as a lecturer at the Centre for Business Mathematics and Informatics at North-West University, Sonja played a crucial role in developing the university's actuarial training programme. Her experience includes presentations at colloquiums, tuition of students in actuarial science, and collaboration with industry on research projects.

As a quantitative analyst at PSG Escher Investments/m Cubed Holdings, Sonja honed her skills in asset and liability modelling, investment advice and risk management. Her responsibilities included running simulations, compiling reports, liaising with clients, and investment decision-making. She also managed research projects, conducted quantitative modelling and contributed to product development.

Sonja's career progressed to other senior leadership positions, where she demonstrated exceptional research and analytical capabilities, overseeing quantitative research processes, portfolio construction and risk management.

As Chief Investment Officer at the Momentum Metropolitan Group, Sonja oversaw substantial assets under management for third party clients as well as the life company, ensuring optimal investment processes, chairing investment committees and providing strategic direction. Her responsibilities extended to investment decision-making, stakeholder management, budgeting and formulating client value propositions. She is an expert in managing investment teams, launching new fund capabilities and engaging with large clients.

She is the Chief Investment Officer at the Eskom Pension and Provident Fund (EPPF) where she drives strategic agenda, focusing on delivering investment returns for members as well as responsible investing.

Sonja's exceptional academic achievements, extensive experience, leadership roles and passion for making positive impact make her the ideal candidate for the UN PRI Board.

SIGNATORY ORGANISATION INFORMATION

The Eskom Pension and Provident Fund (EPPF) is a significant institutional investor in South Africa, providing retirement benefits for employees of Eskom, the country's electricity utility. Established in 1989, the EPPF manages retirement savings for approximately 86,000 members, including in-service employees and pensioners.

The primary objective of the EPPF is to ensure the financial security and wellbeing of its members during retirement. With assets under management of close to R200 billion, the EPPF plays a crucial role in safeguarding the retirement savings and delivering sustainable returns to its members. It is also a leader in the South African investment landscape.

As Chief Investment Officer, Sonja Saunderson is responsible for driving the strategic investment agenda of the EPPF including focusing on delivering investment returns for the fund's members while prioritising responsible investing practices. The EPPF is committed to integrating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors into its investment decision-making processes, aiming to generate long-term value while considering sustainability and societal impact.

The EPPF recognises the importance of responsible investing in addressing global challenges and creating a sustainable future. By incorporating ESG considerations into investment strategies, the fund aims to promote positive change and contribute to a more equitable and environmentally conscious society.

Under Sonja Saunderson's investment leadership, the EPPF will continue prioritising responsible investing and actively engage with ESG issues. As a significant institutional investor, the EPPF has the opportunity to influence corporate behaviour, encourage sustainable practices among its investee companies and contribute to the broader Sustainable Development Goals.

SPECIFIC EXPERTISE

LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE EXPERIENCE

Sonja has a wealth of leadership and governance experience, showcased throughout her 23-year career in the investment industry. Her leadership journey evolved over time. As Deputy CIO at Momentum Investments, Sonja was responsible for daily portfolio management activities, staff management and communication with the board and large clients. She chaired the Investment Policy Group, serving as a vital link between the investment team and the board, ensuring sound investment decision-making and governance.

Continuing her ascent, Sonja took on the role of Chief Investment Officer at Momentum Manager of Managers/Momentum Outcome-based Solutions. Sonja provided leadership for the investment management team, nurturing a culture of innovation and also served as a board member and registered Key Individual (in the Financial Advisory and Intermediary Services Act for the Financial Services Provider) where she worked with industry and other stakeholders to shape the future strategy.

Then as Chief Investment Officer at MMH Group, Sonja assumed responsibility for all third-party and MMI Life assets, demonstrating her ability to manage complex portfolios and oversee investment strategy. She chaired the Group Investment Committee, as well as various steering and product committees including the Responsible Investments Committees. She was a member of the Board for Momentum Investments and served as the Key Individual responsible for the management and oversight of the various investment licences within the group.

Sonja's leadership and governance acumen extended to her current role as Chief Investment Officer of the Eskom Pension and Provident Fund (EPPF). In this capacity, she is part of the executive and investment teams, contributing to the fund's strategic agenda, particularly in terms of investment returns and responsible investing. She chairs the Asset Owner Forum Investment Committee in South Africa where she drives various investment projects, championing sound governance practices, and promoting responsible investing aligned with the UN PRI's objectives.

GENERAL

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

Sonja brings extensive leadership experience in the realm of responsible investing, ESG, and other relevant areas crucial for the long-term success of the UN PRI.

Throughout her career, Sonja has been a passionate advocate for sustainable and responsible investing practices. As Chief Investment Officer of various prominent investment firms, including Momentum Manager of Managers and MMH Group, she has consistently demonstrated her commitment to integrating ESG factors into investment decision-making processes. Sonja recognises the importance of considering environmental and social impact, as well as strong governance practices, in generating sustainable long-term value for investors.

Sonja has led efforts to embed responsible investment practices across all asset classes and investment strategies, ensuring that ESG considerations are thoroughly incorporated into the investment process. Sonja has fostered a culture of accountability and transparency, driving her teams to actively engage with investee companies on sustainability issues and advocate for positive change. She was instrumental in establishing a Responsible Investing Programme within the Momentum Metropolitan Group and participated in various industry initiatives at the Association for Savings and Investments of South Africa and other industry bodies.

Sonja's leadership experience encompasses a deep understanding of global ESG trends and industry developments. She has played a key role in formulating and executing strategies to address emerging ESG risks and opportunities.

In addition to her strong focus on responsible investing and ESG, Sonja has a solid foundation in governance. She has served on various investment committees and boards, providing valuable

insights and guidance on investment governance matters. Sonja's experience in chairing committees and governance forums demonstrates her ability to effectively navigate complex decision-making processes, and promote accountability and ethical behaviour within organisations.

Overall, Sonja Saunderson's leadership experience in responsible investing, ESG integration, and governance positions demonstrate why she's the ideal candidate for the PRI.