Press Release, 21st October 2021

Sustainable Development Investments – Asset Owner Platform (SDI AOP) appoints James Leaton as Research Director

Amsterdam, 21 October 2021 – Leading asset owners today announced the appointment of James Leaton as Research Director of the Sustainable Development Investments Asset Owner Platform (SDI AOP). In this position, he will play a crucial role in developing the platform and its product offering and leading the research agenda.

In 2020, some of the world's largest asset owners, APG, AustralianSuper, British Columbia Investment Management (BCI) and PGGM, joined forces to launch the SDI AOP with the aim of creating a standard for investing in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and accelerating their adoption. The SDI AOP is built around a defined taxonomy of investable solutions that contribute to achieving the SDGs. It uses artificial intelligence to identify which companies offer such solutions, i.e., products and services. It provides investors with data and insights how much their investments contribute to the SDGs, engage with them, and measure their own exposure to and hence alignment with the SDGs.

The SDI AOP is a highly innovative environment. James Leaton will play a crucial role in the success of the organization's future growth. He will work closely with our technology provider Entis, distribution partner Qontigo and the subscribers to the SDI AOP on further advancing the platform and its product offering and leading the research agenda to bolster the SDI AOP as the global standard for sustainable development investments (SDIs).

James Leaton has 25 years of experience in the field of sustainability and has been involved in a range of innovative research projects to make sustainable development issues relevant to investors. These include creating biodiversity mapping tools at WWF; reframing the investor climate debate around stranded assets whilst Research Director at Carbon Tracker Initiative; and tailoring climate risk and opportunity assessments to credit analysis at Moody's Investors Services.

James Leaton, "At the SDI AOP I will be able to combine my interest and capabilities in terms of analysis, innovation and technology at a critical time for long term sustainable investing. I look forward to working with the asset owners to ensure their members are getting the credible investment solutions and impacts they are looking for and can together set a global reference point for investing into the SDGs."

Claudia Kruse, Chair of the SDI AOP: "James is well recognized in the investment community and has a strong track record in formulating and executing innovative research programs. He is joining the SDI AOP at an exciting moment in time, and speaking on behalf of the Board, I am confident that James will make a significant contribution to the SDI AOP's further development as we are taking the next steps towards a global standard for sustainable development investments".

SDI ASSET OWNER PLATFORM

More information: www.sdi-aop.org or email: info@sdi-aop.org

About SDI AOP

Consisting of APG, AustralianSuper, British Columbia Investment Management Corporation and PGGM, we are an asset owner-led platform committed to accelerating investments into the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Powered by artificial intelligence combined with human intelligence, we have developed a standard for investing into the SDGs. The standard and its underlying data are available to the market through analytics and index provider Qontigo and can be integrated into any investment process. A shared understanding of what constitutes Sustainable Development Investments (SDIs) can greatly enhance engagement with companies, regulators, and other stakeholders. Companies and investors alike can use the standard in their disclosures in relation to the SDGs.

More information: www.sdi-aop.org