

Press release

29/06/2020

## **UNICEF Luxembourg has joined the ICMA as an observer member**

The organisation will help guiding bond issuers and stakeholders to improve their impact on children's rights

**UNICEF Luxembourg is proud to announce that it is now an observer member of the Green Bond Principles and Social Bond Principles convened by the International Capital Market Association (ICMA).**

The Green Bond Principles (GBP) are voluntary process guidelines that recommend transparency and disclosure, as well as promote integrity in the development of the Green Bond market by clarifying the approach for issuance of a Green Bond. The Social Bond Principles (SBP) promote integrity in the Social Bond market through guidelines that recommend transparency, disclosure and reporting.

As defined by the ICMA<sup>1</sup>, observers provide input to updates to the Principles and may be invited by the Executive Committee to join working groups or advisory bodies. Observers are invited to attend the General Meeting but have no right to vote or to take part in elections or decisions and are not be entitled to form part of the Executive Committee or the Steering Committee.

### **Children's rights at the forefront**

Sandra Visscher, UNICEF Luxembourg Executive Director, stated: "We strongly believe that innovation, new approaches towards development aid, partnerships and new technologies that support the realization of children's rights are critical to providing a better tomorrow for children all around the world. Since the Luxembourg financial sector is at the forefront of ethical finance, leveraging innovative finance in support of UNICEF's strategic goals should be our new and emerging priority."

"Business practices have a significant impact on children's lives. Investors can play a crucial role in highlighting the fact that children are the stakeholders of the future by addressing children's rights in their policies, processes and decision-making and through engaging with their portfolio companies on environment, social and corporate governance (ESG) issues," said Yannick Naud, UNICEF Luxembourg Innovative Finance Officer.

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**About UNICEF Luxembourg**

UNICEF Luxembourg has over 40 years of experience raising funds for UNICEF programmes and emergency appeals, advocating for children's rights in Luxembourg while constantly forging new partnerships to help support UNICEF's cause.

**About UNICEF**

UNICEF works in some of the world's toughest places, to reach the world's most disadvantaged children. Across more than 190 countries and territories, we work for every child, everywhere, to build a better world for everyone.

## **Contact**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.icmagroup.org/green-social-and-sustainability-bonds/governance-framework/>