

## **Renewed Drive for Sustainable Investment and Finance Underlined by UKSIF Name Change**

**London, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2009** — UKSIF, the membership association that promotes sustainable and responsible financial services, has today changed its name to better reflect its aim of advancing sustainable investment and finance. At the same time, it has launched a renewed drive for sustainable investment and finance so that today's credit crisis does not become tomorrow's even more damaging climate and resources crisis.

UKSIF is the only UK association with the specific aim of advancing sustainable development through financial services. It will be known in future as "UKSIF – the sustainable investment and finance association". Its name has been changed legally to "UK Sustainable Investment and Finance" to keep the familiar acronym unchanged.

Formed in 1991 as the "UK Social Investment Forum", UKSIF has an 18 year track record in championing sustainable and responsible finance and supporting its 200+ members to work together to align investment profitability with social and environmental sustainability.

A new logo and a new UKSIF web site at [www.uksif.org](http://www.uksif.org) are being launched to support the change.

### **Penny Shepherd MBE, UKSIF Chief Executive said:**

"There is an urgent need for the financial services industry and its regulators to do more to combat the looming threat to the economy and society from climate and resources chaos. This requires a stronger focus on long-term responsible investment and sustainable development that builds on today's growing institutional and private client interest.

Under our new name, we will highlight that a sustainable approach to investment and finance is the smart thing to do to achieve a competitive edge, the safe thing to do to help manage systemic risk and the right thing to do for all our futures.”

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## **Editors Notes**

### **About UKSIF**

UKSIF, the sustainable investment and finance association, promotes responsible investment and other forms of finance that support sustainable economic development, enhance quality of life and safeguard the environment. It also seeks to ensure that individual and institutional investors can reflect their values in their investments.

Its aim is to ensure that the UK finance sector is the world leader in advancing sustainable development through financial services.

Founded in 1991, its 200+ members include banks, asset managers, pension funds, investment consultants, research providers, financial advisers and non-governmental organisations.

UKSIF changed its name in January 2009 from “UK Social Investment Forum” to “UK Sustainable Investment and Finance” but is known mainly as UKSIF. It took its original name from its sister organisation, the Social Investment Forum, in the United States where “Social Investment” is broadly equivalent to the terms “Socially Responsible Investment” and “Ethical Investment”. UKSIF’s name both builds on its history and represents more accurately its membership and mission today.

For more info, visit [www.uksif.org](http://www.uksif.org).

### **About Client Interest and Urgent Need**

#### *Interest - Institutional Clients:*

There were 51 UK signatories to the UN Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) at end December 2008. This includes 14 UK asset owner signatories, which is approximately 10% of total asset owner signatories. (Source: PRI secretariat.)

From May to November 2008, the total number of PRI signatories grew by approx 24% with Asset Manager Signatories up 40%. (Source: calculated by UBS on the basis of reports on the PRI website).

For more information on PRI signatories, see [www.unpri.org](http://www.unpri.org).

*Interest - Private Clients:*

In its report “High Net Worth Individuals and Sustainable Investment” (September 2008), the European Sustainable Investment Forum (Eurosif) estimated that sustainable investments represented approximately 8% of European HNWI’s portfolios as of December 31, 2007 and predicted that by 2012 the share will have increased to 12%. See [www.eurosif.org/publications/hnwi\\_sustainable\\_investment](http://www.eurosif.org/publications/hnwi_sustainable_investment).

*Urgent Need:*

The World Economic Forum’s “Global Risks 2009” report published 13 January 2009 stresses “the need for a determined, global focus on balancing the response to the immediate challenges with a concerted effort to mitigate longer term risks, not least those related to climate change and resources” (Executive Summary – on Page 5). See [www.weforum.org](http://www.weforum.org) and [www.weforum.org/pdf/globalrisk/2009.pdf](http://www.weforum.org/pdf/globalrisk/2009.pdf).