



*An initiative co-convened by the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, and the United Nations Global Compact.*

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## WHAT IS THE SUSTAINABLE STOCK EXCHANGES INITIATIVE?

The Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) initiative is a peer-to-peer learning platform for exploring how exchanges can work together with investors, regulators, and companies to enhance corporate transparency, and ultimately performance, on ESG (environmental, social and corporate governance) issues and encourage responsible long-term approaches to investment.

Created by the United Nations in 2009, the SSE was named by Forbes magazine as one of the “World’s Best Sustainability Ideas” and was a finalist for the 2011 Katerva Sustainability Award.

The SSE initiative invites exchanges globally to become Partner Exchanges by making a voluntary commitment to advance sustainability in their market. The SSE also welcomes participation from securities regulators, investors, companies and other key stakeholders.



*“Stock exchanges and other financial bodies and institutions have a key role to play. Many of you have taken important steps to advance this agenda. I welcome your efforts to incorporate ESG considerations into new stock indexes, listing rules and regulatory frameworks.”*

**Ban Ki-moon**  
**UN Secretary-General**  
Sustainable Stock Exchanges Launch, 2009

## WHY DO STOCK EXCHANGES JOIN THE SSE INITIATIVE?

The SSE initiative offers a global platform for exchanges to demonstrate leadership and understanding of the sustainability-related opportunities and challenges facing the capital markets today.

Sharing the common commitment to encourage responsible investment and enhanced ESG disclosure and performance among listed companies, exchanges utilize the SSE to discuss best practices and to learn from their peers and other key stakeholders.

As the SSE initiative offers a unique platform for multi-stakeholder learning, exchanges have an opportunity to take a leading role in creating a more sustainable and inclusive economy.

Joining offers exchanges an array of resources for support and implementation of sustainability initiatives in the form of events, webinars, workshops, publications and other potential work streams that contribute to the overall mission of the initiative. Currently, eleven stock exchanges have made this commitment, including Borsa Istanbul, BM&FBovespa, Bombay Stock Exchange, Colombian Securities Exchange, the Egyptian Stock Exchange, Johannesburg Stock Exchange, London Stock Exchange, NASDAQ OMX, the Nigerian Stock Exchange, NYSE and Warsaw Stock Exchange.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT

After joining the SSE initiative as a Partner Stock Exchange, exchanges are invited to take a leading role in the SSE Consultative Group, setting the strategic direction and shaping the specific work-streams of the SSE initiative. Investors, regulators and companies are also invited to contribute and participate in relevant work streams.

Every two years the SSE initiative hosts a Global Dialogue, which brings together leaders from stock exchanges, regulators, investors and companies to share best practices, and releases a SSE Report on Progress to coincide with the Global Dialogues. The report is designed to measure progress, while highlighting challenges and opportunities ahead.

The SSE will also host work streams that will contribute to the mission of the initiative. The Quartet is seeking feedback on potential work streams and will confirm future projects based on feedback from exchanges and other stakeholders.

For more information on work streams currently taking place, being considered, or to submit ideas please email [info@sseinitiative.org](mailto:info@sseinitiative.org).



The SSE initiative is co-organized by:



## TO JOIN

All stock exchanges are invited to make a public commitment to promote sustainability in their markets, thereby becoming a Partner Exchange.

As a second step exchanges are invited to join the SSE Consultative Group. Stock Exchanges will play a crucial role in setting the strategic direction of the SSE initiative through the SSE Consultative Group.

In parallel, Stock Exchanges will be asked to make efforts to document their progress by sharing their current and future ESG activities, which will be published on the SSE website.

To become a Partner Exchange, we ask that your exchange publicly endorse the following statement:

*We voluntarily commit, through dialogue with investors, companies and regulators, to promoting long term sustainable investment and improved environmental, social and corporate governance disclosure and performance among companies listed on our exchange.*

If your exchange would like to request a formal invitation to become a Partner Exchange or you have questions, comments or feedback please email [info@sseinitiative.org](mailto:info@sseinitiative.org)

