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IOSCO Launches its fourth World Investor Week to enhance investor education and protection

The International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) today launched its fourth annual World Investor Week (WIW) with more organizations participating in the event than ever before.

During the event, securities regulators, stock exchanges, international organizations, investor associations and other stakeholders from some 100 countries will offer a variety of activities to raise awareness about the importance of investor education and protection in their own jurisdictions, particularly during the COVID 19 pandemic.

While WIW is scheduled from the 5 to 11 October, jurisdictions can choose alternative weeks in October or November to stage their events, given the logistical issues and other challenges posed by the pandemic. Many participants have opted to hold their campaigns in a digital format.

To present the campaign and assist jurisdictions in organizing online events during WIW, the IOSCO WIW Working Group hosted two well-attended webinars for IOSCO members on 5 August and 2 September 2020. WIW Public resources are available online at: <http://www.worldinvestorweek.org/resources.html>.

The World Federation of Exchange has organized a “*Ring the Bell for Financial Literacy*” ceremony. More than 35 Exchanges and CCPs around the world will ring the bell for financial literacy during the week or offer financial literacy-related activities in support of World Investor

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Week. The New Zealand Exchange (NZX), in partnership with the NZ Financial Markets Authority, kicked off the event early Monday with the first ringing of the opening bell.

A key objective of the WIW is to encourage IOSCO members, international organizations and other relevant parties to coordinate their activities to promote investor education and protection while also delivering key messages for all investors to help them make sound investment decisions. Part of this year's campaign is to warn investors not to be tempted to invest in risky products by misleading information.

The WIW key messages for 2020 highlight the basics of investing, including, among other things, the importance of assessing the impact of fees when choosing an investment and understanding that all investments entail risks. The WIW will again stress last year's messages regarding online investing, initial coin offerings, crypto-assets and ed-Tech issues, such as digital learning and online education. It will also deliver a new key message about the risk of investing in these uncertain times caused by COVID-19.

In 2019, securities regulators, stock exchanges, international organizations, investor associations and other IOSCO stakeholders from 89 jurisdictions participated in the campaign. IOSCO communicated its key messages from this event through the press and various online channels, including Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/worldinvestorweek>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/IOSCOWIW>). In 2019, the number of social media posts soared 830% from the year before.

Paul Andrews, IOSCO Secretary General, said, *“Every year, WIW attracts growing international support and new participants, thereby underpinning IOSCO’s steadfast commitment to investor education and protection. This fourth reiteration of WIW is particularly relevant, given the impact of COVID 19 on global capital markets and investor protection.”*

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José Alexandre Vasco, Chair of IOSCO's Committee on Retail Investors, said, *"It is encouraging to see that the number of WIW campaign participants continues to increase, reflecting the growing importance of this event. I would like to commend the dedication and enthusiasm of the WIW Working Group, and I am confident that this campaign will contribute to enhancing retail investor education and protection in member jurisdictions."*

The dedicated campaign website (<http://www.worldinvestorweek.org>) provides all relevant resources, including an implementation guide, key messages, press releases and continuously updated information. It also includes details about the various participating authorities and the international organizations supporting this effort.

NOTES TO THE EDITORS

About IOSCO

1. IOSCO is the leading international policy forum for securities regulators and is recognized as the global standard setter for securities regulation. The organization's membership regulates more than 95% of the world's securities markets in more than 115 jurisdictions and it continues to expand.
2. The IOSCO Board is the governing and standard-setting body of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO), and is made up of 34 securities regulators. Mr. Ashley Alder, the Chief Executive Officer of the Securities and Futures Commission (SFC) of Hong Kong, is the Chair of the IOSCO Board. The members of the IOSCO Board are the securities regulatory authorities of Argentina, Australia, Bahamas, Belgium, Brazil, China, Egypt, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Ontario, Pakistan, Portugal, Quebec, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America (both the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission and U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission). The Chair of the European Securities and Markets Authority and the Chair of IOSCO's Affiliate Members Consultative Committee are also observers.
3. The Growth and Emerging Markets (GEM) Committee is the largest committee within IOSCO, representing close to 80 per cent of the IOSCO membership, including 11 of the G20 members. Dr. Obaid Al Zaabi, Chief Executive Officer, Securities and Commodities Authority, United Arab Emirates, is the Chair of the GEM Committee. The committee brings members from growth and emerging markets together and communicates members' views and facilitates their contribution across IOSCO and at other global regulatory discussions. The GEM Committee's strategic priorities are focused, among others, on risks and vulnerabilities assessments, policy and development work affecting emerging markets, and regulatory capacity building.

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4. IOSCO aims through its permanent structures:

- to cooperate in developing, implementing and promoting adherence to internationally recognized and consistent standards of regulation, oversight and enforcement in order to protect investors, maintain fair, efficient and transparent markets, and seek to address systemic risks;
- to enhance investor protection and promote investor confidence in the integrity of securities markets, through strengthened information exchange and cooperation in enforcement against misconduct and in supervision of markets and market intermediaries; and
- to exchange information at both global and regional levels on their respective experiences in order to assist the development of markets, strengthen market infrastructure and implement appropriate regulation.

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