

MEDIA RELEASE



International Organization of Securities Commissions
Organisation internationale des commissions de valeurs
Organização Internacional das Comissões de Valores
Organización Internacional de Comisiones de Valores
المنظمة الدولية لهيئات الأوراق المالية

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IOSCO launches its fifth World Investor Week to promote investor education and protection

The International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) today launched its fifth annual World Investor Week (WIW), a global campaign supported by securities regulators and IOSCO stakeholders around the world. The G-20 Italian Presidency has endorsed the IOSCO WIW for 2021.

From 4 to 10 October 2021, securities regulators, stock exchanges, global and regional financial organizations and other stakeholders will conduct an array of educational activities. The aim is to raise awareness of the importance of investor education and protection in participants' jurisdictions.

The activities, which started today in New Zealand (in a symbolic gesture to mark the opening of the financial markets activity of the day), range from publishing investor-focused material to organizing online webinars, virtual or in person conferences, and other events, depending on the prevailing pandemic-related circumstances. As in previous editions of the campaign, the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) will conduct the “Ring the Bell for Financial Literacy” ceremony with Exchanges and CCPs participating around the globe.

For this fifth edition of the WIW, some IOSCO members are also offering regional and global webinars to reach out to a broader audience on topics regarding investor education and protection that may be of common interest to retail investors worldwide. The dedicated

campaign website (www.worldinvestorweek.org) offers additional information on local and regional/global events.

The key messages of the IOSCO WIW campaign in 2021 are based on two themes: 1) sustainable finance and 2) frauds and scams prevention. These messages complement those of previous IOSCO WIW editions, regarding online investing, digital learning and the basics of investing.

Ashley Alder, Chair of the IOSCO Board and the Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission, said, *“Financial education is key to supporting investor protection locally and worldwide. The 2021 WIW underscores IOSCO’s firm commitment to financial educational initiatives which enable retail investors to have the confidence to participate in financial markets on a properly informed basis. This is particularly important during these challenging times.”*

Martin Moloney, Secretary General of IOSCO, said, *“Retail investor protection cuts across many of the issues covered by IOSCO work streams. It is a cornerstone of all IOSCO’s work that our Committee on Retail Investors work continuously to promote the enhancement of financial education and retail investor protection.”*

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 some 130 jurisdictions, and it continues to expand.

2. The IOSCO Board is the governing and standard-setting body of IOSCO and is made up of 34 securities regulators. Mr. Ashley Alder, the Chief Executive Officer of the Securities and Futures Commission 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, Kenya, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Ontario, Pakistan, Portugal, Quebec, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, 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 more than 70% per cent of the IOSCO membership, including 10 of the G20 members. Dr. Mohammed Omran, Executive Chairman of the Financial Regulatory Authority, Egypt is 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 focussed, amongst others, on risks and vulnerabilities assessments, policy and development work affecting emerging markets, and regulatory capacity building.

4. IOSCO aims through its permanent structures:

- to cooperate in developing, implementing and promoting internationally recognized and consistent standards of regulation, oversight and enforcement 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 to assist the development of markets, strengthen market infrastructure and implement appropriate regulation.

MEDIA ENQUIRIES

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