

MEDIA RELEASE



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World Investor Week spurs investor protection and education during COVID-19

Members and stakeholders of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) concluded the fourth World Investor Week on 11 October. While the week may have concluded, the participants efforts to promote investor education and protection will have a lasting effect.

From 5 October to 11 October, securities regulators, stock exchanges, international organizations, investor associations and other IOSCO stakeholders from more than 100 jurisdictions participated in this campaign in favor of financial literacy and investor education and protection. Jurisdictions may also have the opportunity to organize events during October or November depending on the local circumstances and other challenges caused by the pandemic. With more participants than ever, World Investor Week 2020 underscored the growing importance of investor education and protection, particularly amidst the COVID-19 pandemic.

This year's WIW provided key messages about the risk of investing in volatile markets caused by the pandemic. The campaign also focused on the basics of smart investing, such as the need to assess the impact of fees on returns and understand the risks of investing. The campaign reiterates the previous year's messages regarding online investments and digital assets.

Ashley Alder, Chair of the IOSCO Board and the Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission, said, *"This campaign was a great success thanks to the continuous efforts and commitment of our members to investor education and protection, particularly during these challenging times. Higher participation levels and the growing variety of investor-focused activities this year means World Investor Week has a growing impact."*

Paul Andrews, IOSCO Secretary General, said, *"I am very pleased that more IOSCO members and interested stakeholders participated actively through virtual and online tools to overcome the challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Given the growing importance of investor protection as financial markets continue to evolve, this campaign should continue to expand."*

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José Alexandre Vasco, Chair of IOSCO’s Committee on Retail Investors, said, *“I wanted to take a moment to thank all WIW participants and supporters for their tremendous efforts to raise awareness about the importance of investor education and protection. I am looking forward to reporting on the outcomes of the campaign and believe the outcomes will provide valuable inspiration for the work in this very important field.”*

The dedicated campaign website <http://www.worldinvestorweek.org> provides additional information about WIW.

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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.
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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