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US SIF FOUNDATION RELEASES 2016 BIENNIAL *REPORT ON US SUSTAINABLE, RESPONSIBLE AND IMPACT INVESTING TRENDS*

Media Teleconference Scheduled for 1:00 p.m. ET Today, Nov. 14

Highlights

- Sustainable, responsible and impact (SRI) investing assets have expanded to \$8.72 trillion in the United States, up 33% from \$6.57 trillion in 2014.
- Much of this growth is driven by asset managers, who now consider environmental, social or corporate governance (ESG) criteria across \$8.10 trillion in assets, up 69 percent from \$4.8 trillion in 2014.
- The top two issues considered both by these money managers and by their institutional investor clients is conflict risk and climate change.
- From 2014 through the first half of 2016, 176 institutional investors and 49 investment managers controlling \$2.56 trillion in assets filed or co-filed shareholder resolutions on ESG issues

WASHINGTON, D.C., November 14, 2016 – Sustainable, responsible and impact investing assets now account for \$8.72 trillion, or one in five dollars invested under professional management in the United States according to the US SIF Foundation’s biennial *Report on US Sustainable, Responsible and Impact Investing Trends 2016* which was released today.

The biennial *Trends Report*—first conducted in 1995 when ESG assets totaled \$639 billion—provides comprehensive data on US asset managers and institutional investors using one or more sustainable investment strategies and examines a broad range of significant ESG issues such as climate change, human rights, weapons avoidance, and corporate governance. US SIF Foundation CEO Lisa Woll and *Trends Report* project directors Meg Voorhes, US SIF Foundation, and Joshua Humphreys, Croatan Institute, will host a media teleconference today at 1:00 p.m. ET to discuss report findings.

“The trend of robust growth in sustainable and impact investing is continuing as investment managers apply ESG criteria across broader portions of their portfolios, often in response to client demand,” said Lisa Woll, US SIF Foundation CEO. “Asset managers, institutional investors, advisors and individuals are moving toward sustainable and impact investing to advance critical social, environmental and governance issues in addition to seeking long-term financial returns.

“A diverse group of investors is seeking to achieve positive impacts through such strategies as shareowner engagement or investing with an emphasis on addressing climate change, corporate governance, and human rights including the advancement of women.”

The significant growth in ESG assets reflects demand from individual and institutional clients, growing market penetration of SRI products, the development of new products that incorporate ESG criteria and the incorporation of ESG criteria by numerous large asset managers across wider portions of their holdings.

Among asset owners who have been advocates for ESG investing is the Wallace Global Fund, a donor for the 2016 *Trends Report*. “We have been a sponsor of the *Trends Report* since 2010 as it is the most detailed and meaningful study of sustainable and impact investing available,” said Ellen Dorsey, Executive Director of the Wallace Global Fund. “It supports our efforts to promote an informed and engaged citizenry, to fight injustice and to protect the diversity of nature as well as our own efforts to have a 100% mission aligned endowment.”

Summary of Findings

- The research found:
 - \$8.10 trillion in US-domiciled assets at the outset of 2016 held by 477 institutional investors, 300 money managers and 1,043 community investing financial institutions to which various ESG criteria are applied in investment analysis and portfolio selection, and
 - \$2.56 trillion in US-domiciled assets at the start of 2016 held by 225 institutional investors or money managers that filed or co-filed shareholder resolutions on ESG issues from 2014 through 2016.
 - These two segments of assets, after eliminating double counting for assets involved in both strategies and for assets managed by money managers on behalf of institutional investors, yield the overall total of \$8.72 trillion, a 33 percent increase over the \$6.57 trillion that the US SIF Foundation identified in sustainable investing strategies at the outset of 2014.
- The top reasons managers report incorporating ESG factors include client demand (85%), mission (83%), risk (81%), returns (80%), social benefit (79%) and fiduciary duty (64%).
- The number of investment vehicles and financial institutions incorporating ESG criteria continues to grow and includes mutual funds, variable annuities, ETFs, closed-end funds, hedge funds, VC/private equity, property/REIT, other pooled investment vehicles, and community investing institutions.
- The leading ESG criteria that institutional investors consider are restrictions on investing in companies doing business in regions with conflict risk (particularly in countries with repressive regimes or sponsoring terrorism) and consideration of climate change and carbon emissions.
- While the number of institutions and money managers actively involved in filing shareholder resolutions has remained relatively stable over the past four years, the proportion of shareholder proposals on social and environmental issues that receive high levels of support has been on the rise. Further, money managers and institutional investors are pursuing engagement strategies on ESG issues in addition to filing shareholder resolutions at publicly traded companies.

For additional *Trends Report* findings and information please visit www.ussif.org/trends. To schedule an interview with Woll or the US SIF Research Director or to be added to the US SIF news release distribution list, please email ussif@lowecom.com.

About the Survey

The US SIF Foundation, along with research team members at Croatan Institute, distributed an online information request to money managers and institutional investors from March through August 2016. The research team also reviewed annual reports, financial statements, SEC forms ADV by money managers, IRS 990 filings by nonprofit organizations and 5500 filings by plan sponsors. It also gathered data from third-party providers and trade associations of community investing institutions, investment companies and institutional investors. The *2016 Trends Report* is based on research of the SRI activities of 797 money managers and 1,660 institutional investors who were asked to detail whether they considered ESG issues in investment analysis and portfolio selection, to list the issues considered, and to report the value of the US-domiciled assets as of December 31, 2015.

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Media Teleconference

To register for the media teleconference, please visit:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2869454147500014084>

About US SIF

The US SIF Foundation is a 501c3 organization that undertakes educational, research and programmatic activities to advance the mission of US SIF. The Foundation houses the Center for Sustainable Investment Education, which serves the growing need of investment professionals in the United States to gain expertise in the field of sustainable, responsible and impact investment. The Center provides education, trainings, research and thought leadership on sustainable investment to investors, investment advisors, consultants and analysts.

US SIF: The Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment is the leading voice advancing sustainable, responsible and impact investing across all asset classes. Our mission is to rapidly shift investment practices towards sustainability, focusing on long-term investment and the generation of positive social and environmental impacts. US SIF members include investment management and advisory firms, mutual fund companies, research firms, financial planners and advisors, broker-dealers,

community investing organizations, nonprofit associations, and pension funds, foundations and other asset owners. Learn more at www.ussif.org.