

MEDIA RELEASE



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IOSCO World Investor Week raises awareness on the importance of investor education for the protection of investors

The International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO) concluded the fifth World Investor Week (WIW) on 10 October, with a strong and enthusiastic participation of supporters around the globe. Some jurisdictions may also conduct WIW-related activities during October or November to accommodate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their local markets and investors.

The large number of jurisdictions and the diversity of the stakeholders participating in the campaign underscores the growing importance of investor education and protection throughout the world. Moreover, this growth comes against a backdrop of a global pandemic and the increasing digitalization of services and products available to retail investors.

In this regard, the key messages of the IOSCO WIW campaign focused 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, all of which were reiterated during the 2021 campaign.

Ashley Alder, Chair of the IOSCO Board and the Chief Executive Officer of the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission, said, “*Investor protection is one of the core objectives of IOSCO’s work. Once again, the WIW has played a key role in helping investors become better informed and thus enhancing investor protection in a changing environment. I would like to thank all the IOSCO members and stakeholders who participated in the 2021 WIW, and look forward to their continuing participation in future WIW events.*”

Martin Moloney, Secretary General of IOSCO, said, “*Retail investors need to understand the products in which they invest, and they must be prepared to identify potential frauds or scams. The IOSCO WIW helps raise awareness of these and other issues that may require action from an investor education perspective. This is especially relevant for new and young investors. We look forward to next year’s edition of the IOSCO WIW to continue supporting retail investors’ knowledge and confidence in the markets.*”

Pasquale Munafò, Chairman of the IOSCO Committee on Retail Investors (Committee 8), said, “*With every new edition of the WIW, IOSCO is placing an additional building block for enhancing a solid and reliable environment for retail investors buying and selling in the capital markets, while fostering their understanding of emerging trends and new challenges, like sustainable finance.*”

Jose Vasco, Committee 8 WIW Working Group coordinator, said “*The IOSCO WIW is now an established platform for disseminating key messages on investor protection and financial literacy on a global level. This involves a joint effort of dozens of jurisdictions and the efficient collaboration of an international network of investor protection and financial education offices. We are grateful to all participants for their contribution to WIW 2021, with special thanks to IOSCO WIW Working Group members, who devoted time, energy and resources to plan and execute the campaign with the support of the IOSCO Secretariat.*”

As in previous years, IOSCO will present the results of the campaign in a public report, which is an additional source of information for those jurisdictions and stakeholders who may wish to learn and benefit from the experience of IOSCO members and related stakeholders regarding financial education and 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.

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