

PRESS RELEASE

**INTESA SANPAOLO JOINS THE UNEP FI PRINCIPLES
FOR RESPONSIBLE BANKING (PRB)**

Official Signing and Global Launch at the start of the UN General Assembly week on 22 September in New York, with UN Secretary-General in attendance.

CEO Carlo Messina: “For a Bank like ours, which has embedded sustainability in its Business Plan, subscribing to the Principles for Responsible Banking is a natural next step”.

Milan, 20 September 2019 – Intesa Sanpaolo signs the Principles for Responsible Banking - PRB from UNEP FI (the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative), the policy document that aims to align the banking sector with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and with the 2015 Paris Agreement on Climate. The Principles will be signed and launched at UN Headquarters on 22 September at the start of the UN General Assembly week, with Secretary-General António Guterres in attendance. Intesa Sanpaolo is a Founding Signatory, a title that is given to the first banks that confirm their subscription to the Principles.

Intesa Sanpaolo CEO Carlo Messina commented: *“Intesa Sanpaolo has been a member of UNEP FI and of the UN Global Compact since our Group’s creation in 2007. For a Bank like ours, which has embedded sustainability in its 2018-2021 Business Plan, subscribing to the Principles for Responsible Banking is a natural next step. Our commitment is significant and includes a €5 billion circular economy fund - for which we plan to issue a second Sustainability Bond to be offered on international markets. Along this, we also have a plan for economic inclusion built on a €1.25 billion impact fund and a major program to aid the neediest. We are deeply committed to cultural initiatives with our Progetto Cultura, aimed at sharing our vast artistic patrimony”.*

Society’s expectations change, and banks are being asked to be increasingly transparent and clear on how their products and services generate value for their customers, investors and also for communities. By providing an outline on how banks can successfully adapt their business strategies, the Principles set out a framework for a sustainable banking system to ideally lead to a pick up in the positive contribution made by this sector to the burning issues regarding sustainability.

There are six Principles: 1) alignment of business strategies with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the relevant national and regional frameworks, 2) increasing positive impacts and reducing negative ones, 3) supporting customers who promote sustainability and prosperity for current and future generations, 4) engagement and collaboration with stakeholders to share goals, 5) effective governance 6) monitoring the application of the Principles and transparency of the results achieved.

Here is the link to the Principles for Responsible Banking: <https://www.unepfi.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/FINAL-PRB-Signature-Document-2-Interactive-22-07-19.pdf>

Intesa Sanpaolo

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Intesa Sanpaolo

Intesa Sanpaolo is one of the soundest and most profitable banks in Europe, offering commercial banking, asset management, corporate investment banking and insurance services. It is the leading Bank in Italy, with approximately 12 million customers who are assisted through both digital and traditional channels. The Group's international subsidiary banks serve 7.2 million customers across Eastern Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. Intesa Sanpaolo is considered one of the most sustainable banks in the world. For the Group, creating value means being a driver of social and economic growth.

As regards the environment, the Group has set up a 5-million-euro fund for the circular economy. Intesa Sanpaolo supports major economic inclusion and poverty reduction projects, including an impact fund of 1.2 billion euro for loans available to social groups who struggle to access credit. Intesa Sanpaolo has a high level of involvement in cultural initiatives, organised by itself or in collaboration with other entities in Italy and further afield. These include permanent and temporary exhibitions showcasing the Bank's impressive artistic heritage at the Gallerie d'Italia, the Group's museums located in Milan, Naples and Vicenza.

Website: group.intesaspaolo.com | News: <https://www.intesaspaolo.com/it/news.html> | Twitter: @intesaspaolo | Facebook: @intesaspaolo | LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/intesa-sanpaolo> | Instagram: @intesaspaolo

INTESA SANPAOLO'S COMMITMENT TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Intesa Sanpaolo has always been a trailblazer in the field of sustainability, a commitment that has been reaffirmed by the 2018-2021 Business Plan. This commitment to sustainability has led to a number of great achievements for Intesa Sanpaolo. Among these are the Bank's inclusion in numerous sustainability indices, such as the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (World and Europe) and the 2018 Climate Change A List of the Carbon Disclosure Project, being the only Italian bank among roughly 126 leading global companies engaged in combatting climate change and promoting environmentally-friendly strategies. In the 2019 ranking by Corporate Knights, a Canadian rating and research company specialising in sustainability, Intesa Sanpaolo placed 80th out of 7500 listed companies, and was the sole Italian bank to be included among the top 100 most sustainable companies in the world.

Environmental sustainability

The Group's commitment to environmental sustainability has meant that measures to limit its CO₂ emissions have continued thanks to a multi-year action plan, and Intesa Sanpaolo continues to offer green financial products and services to support the development of the green economy, with funding of over 1.9 billion euro disbursed in 2018. In June 2017, it was the first Italian bank to issue a green bond for a total amount of 500 million euro for the financing of projects particularly focused on renewable energy and energy efficiency. The proceeds from the green bond have been entirely allocated to fund 75 projects with an annual saving of over 353,000 tonnes of CO₂ emissions (equal to the annual emissions produced by roughly 66,000 people - source: Intesa Sanpaolo calculations based on International Energy Agency (IEA) data for Italy in 2016). Intesa Sanpaolo, in a close partnership with the Ellen MacArthur for the circular economy, has also set up a 5-billion-euro fund and, together with Fondazione Cariplo, launched the very first circular economy lab in Italy for businesses. Furthermore, in 2018, the Eurizon Fund Absolute Green Bonds fund was launched, the first instrument to be set up by an Italian asset manager specialising in global bond markets that enables funding to be provided for environmental projects.

Social sustainability

In 2018, the Intesa Sanpaolo Group disbursed nearly 4.5 billion euro in loans for high-social-impact activities (7.4% of total new loans), helping to create business and employment opportunities, as well as assisting people in difficulty through various means: microcredit, anti-usury loans, loans to the Public Administration to develop services and activities of social interest, and products designed for the most vulnerable groups in society to promote their financial inclusion. For some time, Intesa Sanpaolo has recognised the importance of assisting Third Sector organisations with Banca Prossima – now part of the Group in the new Impact Department – that in late 2018 had approximately 65,000 customers, with direct and indirect deposits of almost 5.3 billion euro (of which 3.7 billion euro being direct deposits) and loans of just under 2 billion euro. Thanks to the Fund for Impact, loans

of approximately 1.25 billion euro for groups struggling to access credit will be disbursed. The first initiative revolved around the “per Merito” loan for students living in Italy, that seeks to structurally provide greater access to Italian and international universities, with no need for guarantors. In 2018, approximately 250 million euro was disbursed to support social enterprises and the Third Sector.

A strong commitment to philanthropy to support those facing hardship is key to Italy’s growth. The philanthropic goal became a reality in 2018, with collaboration agreements established with institutions and associations, that are often partners with the Bank, in order to set out medium- and long-term social solidarity projects with over 3.5 million measures.

In 2018, the disbursements from the Charity Fund and Intesa Sanpaolo’s social and cultural projects, coordinated under the responsibility of the Chairman, totalled 12 million euro, supporting 908 projects set up by non-profit organisations. Of these disbursements, 72% was provided for social matters, supporting the most vulnerable in society, 16% for projects proposed by religious organisations, 8% for culture, entailing Fund activities that focused on projects involving vulnerable and marginalised groups, and 4% for scientific research. In 2019, the Fund will be able to disburse a total of 13.5 million euro.
