

The ten PME Principles for Responsible Investment

1. Principle 1: PME aims for a good and responsible return on investment, while taking account of the social impact of its policies, shunning any involvement in the emergence or growth of social problems and striving, within the framework of its role as pension fund, to resolve any such social problems. PME takes due account of changing social attitudes and beliefs.
2. Principle 2: PME contributes wherever possible to economic stability and sustainable economic growth, and invests in companies and other investment objects in the expectation that these are committed to creating economic value in the medium to long term.
3. Principle 3: PME forestalls any direct or indirect involvement in bribery, corruption, cartels and other forms of market abuse, and will combat any form of corruption, including extortion and bribery.
4. Principle 4: PME does not invest (whether directly or indirectly) in companies and/or other investment objects that make products in contravention of international treaties to which the Netherlands is a signatory.
5. Principle 5: PME respects the internationally accepted principles of human rights as enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other related treaties, avoiding any direct or indirect involvement in any breaches of such principles and always ascertaining that it is not complicit in any violation thereof.
6. Principle 6: PME respects national and international labour standards as enshrined in the ILO core labour standards, will respect freedom of association in trade unions and effectively recognize the right to collective bargaining, while endeavouring to eliminate all forms of forced and compulsory labour and to abolish child labour and effectively combat discrimination in occupation and employment.
7. Principle 7: PME will exercise caution in respect of environmental challenges concerning the environment, the natural world and biodiversity, and will undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental awareness and stimulate the development and diffusion of environmentally benign technologies.
8. Principle 8: PME endorses the 'investment nexus' of the OECD guidelines, under which national and multinational companies are responsible for applying these principles to their business partners and subcontractors and for promoting their application throughout the entire chain. PME believes the 'investment nexus' applies to the enterprises in which it invests, as well as to other investment objects and other business partners and subcontractors of PME.
9. Principle 9: PME believes that companies (and other investment objects) should adopt a form of corporate governance under which shareholder (including minority shareholder) rights are respected, management has sufficient power to implement corporate strategy and policy, sufficient checks and balances are in place, with independent oversight, relevant stakeholders are involved, remuneration systems are consistent with long-term objectives and national laws and codes are respected.
10. Principle 10: PME, when faced with doubts and/or dilemmas, makes (or enables its fiduciary manager to make) conscientious ethical choices on the basis of the above principles, is transparent with policy and implementation and is prepared to render account for its conduct of affairs to its participants and society in general.