

Media Release

February 3, 2011

responsAbility Announces Strategic Investment in PlaNet Finance Group's Subsidiary PlaNIS

Integration of Market Coverage – Strengthening of Local Presence

Based on its prominent role in the field of social investments, responsAbility is stepping up efforts to further expand its financing activities in developing countries and emerging markets through a strategic investment in PlaNIS, a subsidiary of PlaNet Finance Group. The cooperation will lead to integrated investment processes, expanded local presence and increased synergies with PlaNet Finance Group.

The investment in the Paris-based company – which will operate under the new name PlaNIS responsAbility SAS – is the natural consequence of a successful business partnership that began in 2005. As preferred investment partner, the company's team of 15 investment analysts and investment officers covers 77 microfinance institutions in 25 countries mainly in Central Asia, Caucasus, Asia, Latin America and Western Africa, representing an outstanding loan portfolio of 179 millions USD.

Combined with responsAbility's imminent opening of local representations in Lima (Peru), Nairobi (Kenya) and India, local partners and borrowers worldwide will benefit from more direct services and efficient integrated investment processes. One important objective is to reduce transaction costs, which are comparatively high in the development investment universe. Investees and investors alike will ultimately benefit from efficiency gains.

Additionally, responsAbility and its partners will benefit from valuable synergies with PlaNet Finance Group. This will relate in particular to the development and distribution of social investment products to the French market by capitalizing on the group's extended network and access to key decision-makers of the Paris financial marketplace. With its activities in almost 80 countries worldwide, PlaNet Finance Group will also support responsAbility in entering new markets.

Klaus Tischhauser, co-founder and CEO of responsAbility, confirms that "Local presence, global investment analysis capacity and know-how in various development-related areas are key features of responsAbility. This strategic investment in PlaNIS and the closer cooperation with PlaNet Finance Group are important steps towards strengthening our position as a leading asset manager for social investments."

Arnaud Ventura, Vice President and co-founder of PlaNet Finance Group, commented, "Since 2005, PlaNet Finance has been developing its investment advisory activities through a strong collaboration with responsAbility. Inviting responsAbility to become a strategic shareholder of PlaNIS is a natural development for our group. PlaNet Finance Group hopes to build strong links with responsAbility in the coming years, supporting the development of one of the leading microfinance/impact investment asset management groups in Europe."

Sébastien Duquet, Managing Director of PlaNIS, heralds the strengthened partnership, which represents a major turning point and a step forward for PlaNIS, triggering new opportunities for development in growth areas such as Fair trade, SME financing, healthcare, and education project financing.

Please feel free to contact Mirjam Haller with any questions you may have.

Mirjam Haller
Head Marketing & Communications
responsAbility Social Investments AG
Josefstrasse 59
CH-8005 Zurich
Direct line +41 (0)44 250 99 38
Fax +41 (0)44 250 99 31
mirjam.haller@responsAbility.com

About responsAbility

Founded in 2003, responsAbility Social Investments AG is one of the world's leading asset managers for social investments. It specializes in sectors such as microfinance, SME financing, fair trade and independent media. With its products, responsAbility enables people in developing countries and emerging markets to access markets, information and other services crucial for their development. Private and institutional investors can thus professionally contribute to positive social development while at the same time achieving a financial return.

responsAbility is backed by well-established Swiss financial institutions and a social venture capital company. Its founders and shareholders include Baumann & Cie., Credit Suisse AG, Raiffeisen Schweiz Genossenschaft, Schweizerische Rückversicherungs-Gesellschaft AG, Bank Vontobel AG as well as George Avenue C. V. responsAbility currently manages 910 million USD invested in 344 institutions and in 65 countries (December 31, 2010).

About PlaNet Finance Group

Founded in 1998, PlaNet Finance is one of the world's leading microfinance groups, fighting poverty via the development of inclusive finance. The group aims to help those excluded from mainstream financial services to save, borrow and gain access to insurance coverage, thus enabling them to stabilise their income, create and develop income-generating activities and seek protection against everyday risks.

PlaNet Finance Group is active in 80 countries, working continuously to promote the growth and development of microfinance.

Disclaimer

This document was produced by responsAbility Social Investments AG (hereinafter "responsAbility"). The information contained in this document (hereinafter "information") is based on sources considered to be reliable, but its accuracy and completeness is not guaranteed. The information is subject to change at any time and without obligation to notify the recipient. Unless otherwise indicated, all figures are unaudited and are not guaranteed.

Any action derived from this information is always at the recipient's own risk. This document is for information purposes only. The information does not release the recipient from making his/her own assessment.

This document may not be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in part or in full, in any form or by any means, whether electronically, mechanically, photocopied, recorded or otherwise, without the prior written consent of responsAbility. Additional information is available upon request.

© Copyright responsAbility Social Investments AG, 2011. All rights reserved.

responsAbility

Social Investments AG, Josefstrasse 59, CH-8005 Zürich, Switzerland
Tel. +41 (0)44 250 99 30, Fax +41 (0)44 250 99 31
info@responsAbility.com, www.responsAbility.com