

# CANDIDATE STATEMENT, BIOGRAPHY, SIGNATORY, AND COMPARATIVE INFORMATION FORM

Full legal name: Wendy Miller Cromwell, CFA

Job title: Vice Chair

**Senior Managing Director** 

**Head of Sustainable Investment** 

Signatory organisation name: Wellington Management Company, LLP



Signatory organisation(s) seconding your candidacy:

Alliance Bernstein Neuberger Berman Group LLC

Amalgamated Bank Nuveen

EQ Investors Square Mile Investment Research
Generation IM Titan Asset Management Ltd
Hartford Funds Management Company, LLC Tribe Impact Capital LLP

**HSBC Global Asset Management** 

### **CANDIDATE STATEMENT** (400 words maximum)

As Vice Chair and Head of Sustainable Investment at Wellington Management, a large, broadly diversified global asset manager, I am exposed to many of the challenges and opportunities facing PRI signatories today.

Like many firms, Wellington is navigating the evolving regulatory landscape in Europe and elsewhere and managing the ESG backlash evident in some US states. At the same time, we are exploring sustainable investment across most major asset classes, including where practice is less well developed, including sovereigns, commodities, securitized bonds, hedge funds, and private equity. During my frequent travels, I hear a wide range of questions and ideas from signatories on both the challenges and the opportunities associated with sustainable investing.





My role in the boardroom is to share the insights I hear from you, drawing upon my experience as a practitioner to help the PRI approach solutions.

If re-elected for my third term, I plan to continue to lead efforts to:

- 1. Reduce the reporting burden for signatories by incorporating equivalency measures for those who provide detailed information in various jurisdictions
- 2. Improve the PRI's ability to cater to the needs of a diverse set of signatories with varied business models, strengths, and geographical backdrops
- 3. Ensure that the PRI intentionally ties all work, research, and thought leadership to its grounding in fiduciary duty
- 4. Help the PRI work more effectively with other industry groups to avoid duplication of efforts and create a rigorous global community supportive of sustainable investment practices

By addressing those four areas, I believe I can help the PRI achieve its goal of helping all signatories progress their sustainable investment practice.

The PRI is a big-tent organization by design. While every signatory has unique characteristics that influence how it can best uphold the principles, there are minimum requirements for inclusion. This allows signatories to develop their practice in accordance with their business model and regulatory backdrop. Whether you are a quant manager, an OCIO, a fundamental equity manager, a private investments manager, an asset owner with internal or external management, an investment consultant, or a data provider, your comparative strengths, levers, and approach to sustainable investment will be different. But we all have a role to play to create a more sustainable global financial system.

I am very excited about the future of the PRI and that of its signatories. Thank you again for considering my candidacy. It would be a privilege to continue to work on your behalf.



### **BIOGRAPHY** (300 words maximum)

# Wendy M. Cromwell, CFA Vice Chair, Senior Managing Director, Partner, Head of Sustainable Investment

Wendy is the Vice Chair and Head of Sustainable Investment, setting the research agenda and strategy for the firm's sustainable investment practice. As vice chair, she is a senior member of the firm's Management Team and works with the CEO on strategic initiatives and external affairs of the organization.

Wendy serves as Chair of the Wellington Management Australia Board, Vice Chair of the Sustainable Investment Governance Committee, and a member of the firm's Investment Stewardship Committee. She is also a Director on the Board of the United Nations-supported Principles for Responsible Investment, an advisory group member for the Net Zero Asset Managers initiative, a member of the investor advisory group of the ISSB, and a member of the Climate-related Financial Risk Advisory Committee (CFRAC) of the Financial Services Oversight Committee (FSOC) in the US.

Previously, Wendy conducted research on long-term multi-asset themes and led the development of multi-asset portfolios for the firm's global client base as the Director of Global Multi-Asset Strategies. She has also served terms on the Executive Committee, Compensation Committee, Hedge Fund Review Group, and Equity Review Group.

Wendy received her MBA, with honors, from Vanderbilt University and her BBA, summa cum laude, from the University of Mississippi. She also holds the Chartered Financial Analyst designation.



# **SIGNATORY ORGANISATION INFORMATION** (300 words maximum)

Wellington serves as a trusted adviser to more than 3,003 clients in over 64 countries. We manage more than US\$1 trillion in client assets across all major asset classes and are the world's largest investment subadvisor. Alongside our client-centric culture, our private ownership structure is the bedrock of our firm, allowing us to take a long-term view that aligns with clients' interests, and to invest and innovate in areas that require sustained commitment.

Wellington became a signatory to the PRI in 2012, an important milestone in the evolution of our approach to sustainable investing. We cultivate thought partnerships with sustainability-focused organizations within and outside our industry, in pursuit of better investment outcomes. We are also signatories to a wide range of global and regional sustainability-related initiatives and networks.

Through our climate- and biodiversity related initiatives, we reinforce the message that we see climate change as a systemic risk and commit to working in partnership with clients on their decarbonization goals and to set an interim target for the proportion of assets to be managed in line with the attainment of net-zero emissions by 2050. This commitment is grounded in our belief — forged by extensive research — that climate change poses material risks for companies, economies, and society, and therefore, our clients' investment portfolios.

We continue to reaffirm our commitment to the advancement of investor education around sustainability because, in our view, the challenges stemming from related policy, data capture and analysis, consumer behaviour, and investor expectations have the potential to significantly impact economic outcomes. With each passing year, we seek to engage constructively with a expanding set of issuers to create and sustain value for the clients we serve, and, by extension, for the global investment ecosystem.



# COMPARATIVE CANDIDATE INFORMATION

As part of the commitment to strengthen the rigour and accountability of the election process, the PRI is providing guidance and information to candidates and signatories in advance of their vote.

The Board should have the appropriate balance of skills, diversity, experience, independence, and knowledge of the organisation to enable it to discharge its duties and responsibilities effectively. This necessary diversity encompasses a sufficient mix of relevant skills, competence, and diversity of perspectives. It may include but is not limited to: geographical diversity of signatory representation to bring regional knowledge and perspectives to the board; diversity of geographical origin, ethnicity, language and culture, and also gender diversity.

The Board needs to be appropriately representative of the diversity of the PRI signatories in order to generate effective debate and discussion around the key issues that the board considers, and to deliver the broadly founded leadership that the initiative requires. The PRI is a global organisation, and aims for global representation on its board, particularly within the asset owner positions.

#### The PRI Board is encouraging:

- candidates with governance skills and demonstrated leadership in responsible investment;
- global representation and expertise to enable the Board to appropriately represent the diverse signatory base.

Candidates are asked to elaborate leadership and governance experience, and demonstrated leadership in responsible investment, in their candidate statement. This information as well as information on the nominating signatory, the candidate biography, statement, and candidate video will enable the signatory electorate to easily compare the skills, experience, and diversity of the respective candidates.



# **SPECIFIC EXPERTISE**

#### **LEADERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE EXPERIENCE** (300 words maximum)

Over the course of my career, I have held a variety of leadership and governance roles. Prior to leading our firm's sustainable investment practice, I led the multi asset group, a global team managing over \$25 billion in assets. I was also a portfolio manager. These experiences grounded me in the factors impacting long term value of securities across the asset class spectrum which allows me to provide the practitioner's perspective in the PRI boardroom.

As Vice Chair at Wellington, I advise the CEO on strategic initiatives. I am also a member of Wellington's CEO Leadership Team, Sustainable Investment Governance Committee, Investment Stewardship Committee, and I am Chair of the Board for our WM Australia entity. These roles have enabled me to shape our firm's governance worldwide. In order to promote diversity within the asset management community, I have been a speaker at 100 Women in Finance and WISE events, a champion of the Wellington Women's Network, a founder of the Becoming Allies group, and a member of Upstanders, which supports diverse talent through sponsorship and mentorship.

I have previously served on Wellington's Executive Committee, Compensation Committee, Product Panel, Equity Review Group, Hedge Fund Review Group, Morning Meeting Council, and the Grant Review Committee of the Wellington Charitable Foundation.

In the broader SI ecosystem, I contribute by serving as an Advisory Group member for NZAM, a member of the Investment Advisory Group of ISSB, a member of the Climate-Related Financial Risk Advisory Committee to the (US) Financial Stability Oversight Council, and a Director on the PRI Board. Outside of work, I am a member of the Board of Visitors of Vanderbilt University's Owen Graduate School of Business, a trustee for The Winsor School and serve on the investment committee for Noble & Greenough School.



# **GENERAL**

# DEMONSTRATED LEADERSHIP WITHIN RESPONSIBLE INVESTMENT, ESG EXPERTISE AND OTHER EXPERIENCE RELEVANT TO THE LONG-TERM SUCCESS OF THE PRI (300 words maximum)

As the leader of Wellington's sustainable investment efforts, I aim to increase the reach of our ESG, climate, impact measurement and management teams and the investors across our sustainable investment platform by engaging in primary research and sharing our SI insights with others across the ecosystem globally.

While my role as Head of Sustainable Investment was formalized in 2018, I have supported and championed the development of our impact investing platform for over 10 years. After spending two years researching and building infrastructure, my team launched Wellington's public equity global impact strategy in 2015 and shortly thereafter we launched a second, fixed income version of this strategy. Both funds are aimed at democratizing impact investing and allowing more investors to get involved. In this effort we wanted to ensure we had high standards for measuring the impact of our investments. Through external research and the development of custom KPIs we seek to determine each company's progress toward effective social and environmental change. By adapting structured, repeatable methodology we aim to hold ourselves and the companies we invest in to high standards of accountability for measuring and achieving impact.

Since 2020 I have been an Advisory Group member for NZAM. In this role I consult with network partners to help develop work plans and meet with potential and recent NZAM signatories to share perspectives from Wellington's research-led approach, offer advice, and answer questions. I am also a member of the Climate-related Financial Risk Advisory Committee, formed by the Financial Stability Oversight Council (FSOC). This committee was established to identify, assess, and respond to the risk climate change poses to the US financial system. Finally, I am a member of the ISSB Investor Advisory Group. I believe all of these experiences help me contribute to long-term success of the PRI and its signatories.



## **EXECUTIVE EMPLOYEE INFORMATION**

If an applicant is an executive employee of a signatory in a role where his or her immediate line manager is a CEO, CIO or most senior investment professional, they must provide a brief job description (100 words maximum) and indicate the number of years employed in an executive position.

# Job description:

In my role as Head of Sustainable Investment I drive the research agenda, engagement practices, ESG integration, and overall firm strategy with regard to sustainability.

In my role as Vice Chair, I aid the CEO in external business affairs including industry initiatives and discussions with CIOs of our asset owner clients and sub-advisory partners.

Number of years employed in an executive position: 17

Please tick if you accept the PRI's privacy policy.

