

CANDIDATE STATEMENT, BIOGRAPHY, SIGNATORY, AND COMPARATIVE INFORMATION FORM

Full legal name: Pia Gisgård

Job title: Head of Sustainability & Corporate
Governance

Signatory organisation name: Swedbank Robur

Signatory organisation(s) seconding your candidacy: Svenska
Handelsbanken



CANDIDATE STATEMENT (400 words maximum)

As one of the Nordic's leading asset managers with an unwavering commitment to sustainability and responsible investment, Swedbank Robur, is honoured to present its candidacy for the PRI Board. Guided by the vision to be a world leader in sustainable value creation, combined with her adamant belief in a sustainable society, passionate leadership and strong communicational skills, widely acknowledged by colleagues, industry peers and other stakeholders, Pia Gisgård would bring substantial value to the PRI Board within the following areas:

In-depth knowledge and long experience in Sustainable Investing

Swedbank Robur has long experience from integrating sustainability in its investment philosophy and process, launching its first environmentally focused fund, in the 1980s. In her current role Pia has successfully continued to build a strong organisation and culture with common focus on Swedbank Robur's goal to be a leader within sustainable value creation. Swedbank Robur's 100 funds, including holdings on all major global markets, are governed by our Policy for responsible Investments and subject to high sustainability standards. Leveraging this expertise, Pia can support PRI's strategic initiatives and implementation globally.

Innovative Investment Approaches

Swedbank Robur's vision is to be world leader in sustainable value creation includes being a frontrunner within the sustainability area. Swedbank Robur has pioneered by being the first asset manager to launch Paris Aligned investment funds, co-developed the world's first sustainability-screened derivative together with Nasdaq and developed a methodology to calculate and report carbon footprint in covered bonds. These insights can help shape new frameworks and standards within PRI, driving forward-thinking investment approaches. Pia has contributed to the development in

the field and been the driving force signing collaborations and advancing the fund company's positions within sustainability.

Strong Stakeholder Engagement Experience

Swedbank Robur has long-proven track record in engaging with diverse stakeholders; companies, clients, regulators and data providers. During 2023, Swedbank Robur engaged with over 850 companies on relevant sustainability issues. To share knowledge, Swedbank Robur was one of five co-authors of Finance for Biodiversity Pledge's Investor Guide on Engagement with companies on biodiversity. To reach positive change, collaboration is essential, and Swedbank Robur is active in numerous engagement initiatives such as Access to Medicine, Climate Action 100+, Nature Action 100, Valuing Water Finance Initiative and Big Tech and Human Rights Investor Collaboration.

Pia will bring deep-rooted expertise in sustainable finance, innovative investment approaches, strong advocacy, commitment to transparency, robust collaborative networks, and stakeholder engagement experience.

BIOGRAPHY (300 words maximum)

Pia Gisgård is the Head of Sustainability & Corporate Governance at Swedbank Robur, where she is responsible for the sustainability agenda and strategy for the firm's sustainable investment practice. As a senior member of both Swedbank Robur's management team and the investment team's management team, Pia collaborates closely with the CEO and CIO on strategic initiatives and external communication and collaborations, ensuring that sustainability is integrated into all aspects of the organization.

Pia serves as a member of Swedbank Robur's Sustainability Committee, playing a crucial role in guiding the firm's sustainability efforts. Additionally, she is a Board Member of Swedbank Hypotek, a leading mortgage lending company within the Swedbank group that serves over one million customers and holds a prominent position in the Swedish market.

Pia has an extensive background in compliance, as she previously has led compliance functions for some of the largest Swedish asset managers. Her career began as a lawyer at one of Sweden's leading law firms specialising in local and international business law, where she became a member of the Swedish Bar Association. This legal foundation has been instrumental in her ability to navigate complex regulatory environments and drive corporate governance initiatives.

Pia holds a Master of Law degree with honours from the University of Lund, where she specialized in corporate and business law. Her academic achievements laid the groundwork for her distinguished career in law, compliance, and sustainable finance.

Through her leadership at Swedbank Robur, Pia has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to sustainability, corporate governance, and responsible investment practices.

SIGNATORY ORGANISATION INFORMATION (300 words maximum)

Swedbank Robur is Sweden's largest and one of the Nordic region's leading fund managers. Robur has one of the broadest fund offerings in the Swedish market and provides savings solutions in close to 100 funds ranging from actively managed equity funds, alternative investment funds, close to index and quantitative funds, credit funds, fixed income funds and balanced funds as well as discretionary management to over 4 million savers through our distributors in Sweden and the Baltic countries. Robur manages approximately USD 220 billion, of which just over USD 42 billion in discretionary management.

With a history stretching back to 1967 it is one of the oldest asset managers in the Nordics. An early commitment to corporate governance has broadened into a strong position in sustainability – with Swedbank Robur being rated highly in Nordic and international settings.

Swedbank Robur's vision is to be world leader in sustainable value creation. Sustainable value creation refers to our ambition to create long-term return for our customers, while also contributing to a positive development of the society and the environment. We consider sustainability an integral part of well-managed and profitable investments.

We began working with sustainability in the 1980s, when we launched our first environmental fund. Sustainability has since then developed to encompass far more than the environment. As Sweden's largest fund company, we have a responsibility and opportunity to take a clear stance on issues that are important to our clients, investments and society.

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)*

Swedbank Robur has firmly established itself as a pioneer in responsible investment and sustainable practices in the Nordics. Guided by our vision to be a world leader in sustainable value creation, Swedbank Robur integrates sustainability at the core of its investment strategy. This commitment is reflected in our ambitious climate and biodiversity targets, aligning investments with global sustainability goals such as the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We strive to be transparent, break new ground and share our developed methodologies to be an inspiration to other asset managers. A notable example is the development of a new method to measure carbon footprints on covered bonds in 2022. As far as we know, we were the first asset manager to calculate and report on this publicly. In 2023 we took another important step for climate reporting on the fixed income side as we disclose the carbon footprint on our sovereign bond portfolio. To our knowledge, we are once again an early mover that breaks new grounds and helps closing the reporting gap. Our work on the fixed income side showcases our innovative approach to addressing climate impact.

In 2018, Robur was the initiator to the development of the world's first sustainability-screened derivative, which was done together with Nasdaq. This development was an important step in integrating sustainability into all aspects of our portfolio management.

Swedbank Robur believe that collaboration is key to drive change. Hence, we are active and lead investor in numerous collaborative initiatives for investors, such as Climate Action 100+, Nature Action 100, Access to Medicine and Big Tech and Human Rights Investor Collaboration. Swedbank Robur has also initiated a joint collaboration with the non-profit foundation Global Child Forum and other European investors engaging with 35 companies globally on children's rights.

GENERAL

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

Swedbank Robur has demonstrated leadership within responsible investment through:

- To our knowledge first in the world to launch funds managed in line with the Paris Agreement (2020)
- Early signatory of Finance for Biodiversity Pledge (2020) and have co-written a Guide on Engagement with companies on biodiversity in their corporate dialogues.
- Received Citywire Gender Diversity Award for the most improved distribution between men and women among investment managers (2021)
- Collaborates with non-profit foundation Global Child Forum to strengthen children's rights. Initiated a collaborative engagement targeting 35 companies worldwide asking them to assess and report on their impact on children's rights (2023)

- One of the co-founders of the international collaboration initiative Nature Action 100 (2023)
- Ranked #1 in the Nordics and #8 in the world by the non-profit organisation ShareAction for our sustainability work (2023)
- Ranked #4 in Europe by Morningstar of companies with funds that have 4 or 5 sustainability globes (2023)
- Swedbank Robur's interim nature and biodiversity targets have been raised as best practice by Finance for Biodiversity Pledge while our climate solutions target have received similar recognition from Net Zero Asset Manager initiative.
- Our CEO Liza Jonson has for many years (+10 years) been a member of the Board of Directors in the Swedish Investment Fund Association, driving regulatory and best practise within the Swedish investment management industry. She was also commissioned by the Swedish government to support and stimulate Sweden's implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals - the 2030 Agenda. She was also the winner of Sustainable Leadership awarded the Swedish Network for Sustainable Business (2023)

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:

Responsible for developing Swedbank Robur's sustainability strategy, setting and implementing climate and nature targets, voting at shareholders meetings (approx. 1,000 annually), coordination and ensuring that focus areas are promoted in board nomination committees (approx. 100 annually), prioritizing engagement and stewardship activities (approx. 850 annually) and prioritization of international collaborative initiatives and media. Manager of team of 10 sustainability and corporate governance specialists. Member of Swedbank Robur's Executive Management Team, Investment Management Team and Sustainability Council.

Number of years employed in an executive position: 15

Please tick if you accept the [PRI's privacy policy](#).