



Background:

The Global Impact Investing Network (GIIN) defines impact investing as: *“investments made into companies, organizations, and funds with the intention to generate measurable social and environmental impact alongside a financial return. Impact investing includes investments that range from producing a return of principal capital to offering market-rate or even market-beating financial returns... Impact investors actively seek to place capital in businesses and funds that can harness the positive power of enterprise”* (Veris Wealth Partners, 2015).

The OECD, whose mission it is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social wellbeing of people around the world, emphasizes that new approaches are needed for addressing social and economic challenges, including new models of public and private partnership which can fund, deliver and scale innovative solutions from the ground up. Impact investment has evolved over the past decade as the result of a number of factors, including a growing interest by individual and institutional investors in tackling social and environmental issues at the local, national or global level. The economic crisis of 2008 has further highlighted the tremendous economic, social and environmental challenges facing countries across the globe. Governments are searching for more effective ways to address these growing challenges and recognizing that private sector models can provide new innovative approaches.

Objective:

The Civil Society Policy Forum to the **World Bank Group / IMF 2017 Spring Meetings** will take place at the IMF Headquarters in Washington DC from April 18 to April 21 2017. To promote discussion on innovative tools of financing for development, the Global Foundation for Democracy and Development along with the NGO Committee on Financing for Development and the NGO Committee on Social Development will be jointly holding a side event entitled. **“Impact Investment as a Tool for Social Development”**. GFDD and the Committees believe that the full participation of all stakeholders- the UN, civil society, public sector, academia and private sector- is crucial to the success of the United Nations’ 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Additional Supporting Organizations:

Academia Mexicana de Derecho Internacional, Casa Generalizia della Societa' del Sacro Cuore, Company of Daughters of Charity, CoNGO, Congregation of the Mission, Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of Good Shepherd, Congregations of Saint Joseph, Dominican Leadership Conference, Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary-Loreto Generalate, Int'l Assoc. of Schools of Social Work, Int'l Confederation of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Int'l Council on Social Welfare, Int'l Federation of Business and Professional Women, Int'l Kolping Society, Int'l Presentation Association, Ius Primi Viri, Loretto Community, Maryknoll Sisters of St Dominic, Missionary Oblats of Mary Immaculate, NGO Committee on Sustainable Development – NY, New Humanity of the Focolare Movement, Partnership for Global Justice, Religious of Sacred Heart of Mary, School Sisters of Notre Dame, Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Soroptimist International, Unanima International, VIVAT Int'l, UNA USA Council of Organizations, International Presentation Association, Society of Catholic Medical Mission Missionaries, Sisters of Charity Federation.