

## International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation

Fédération Internationale des Coopératives et Mutuelles d'Assurances Federación Internacional de Cooperativas y Mutuales de Seguros 国際協同組合保険連合

HRH Prince of Wales Clarence House St James's London SW1A 1BA

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## Your Royal Highness

ICMIF members have been at the forefront of corporate social responsibility reporting for over 20 years now, due in the main to their focus being solely on serving their members. This allows them to have longer-term thinking and be more aligned to the communities they serve as well as protecting the surroundings that affect them such as our planet. In the early years of CSR reporting the CIS, UK and Folksam, Sweden led the world in producing CSR reports and in shareholder activism. These areas had real resonance with other ICMIF members who followed their lead. So it seemed natural that when I heard about A4S and its aims that ICMIF would partner with and get actively engaged in their work.

The mutual insurance sector that ICMIF represents is about a third of global insurance assets and premiums so brings significant influence to the A4S projects as well as credibility of an already engaged and enlightened part of the insurance sector with similar values to the aims of A4S. So when we first got to know each other back in 2014 it seemed natural that we promote A4S at the ICMIF Conference in 2015 in Minneapolis as a first step by having Jessica Fries as a key speaker.

That Conference sparked the interest of The Co-operators, CFO, Bruce West who later became one of the A4S champions in Canada following a dinner with Jessica in Toronto. Your Royal Highness has also influenced another ICMIF member, Warren Zaccaro, CFO at Securian to join the leadership group for the USA earlier this year when you hosted a dinner at Clarence House for a few leading US CFO's. He was very motivated by the dinner and immediately got engaged.

I have also had the privilege of meeting Your Royal Highness on a few occasions now, but the first is always the most memorable as it was just before the COP21 summit in Paris in December 2015. Your Royal Highness had invited a few of the UK speakers and key delegates to the British Embassy in Paris. So the surroundings were spectacular but the energy in the room was palpable as we all knew we stood at such an important juncture in our planets history. We together had to make the change happen and we were all prepared to follow our leader, Your Royal Highness, into battle.

The partnership we have between A4S and ICMIF is one founded on shared values and shared purpose and the success's we have in engaging ICMIF members in the A4S can be replicated in other countries as the work of A4S expands to be truly global. Jessica, we stand by Your Royal Highness ready to promote the great work being done in convincing the CFOs that there is a way to incorporate sustainable financial practices in accounting reporting and that what gets measured gets done.

Your Royal Highness has without doubt been the inspiration to many over the years and Your Royal Highness's vision is vital to changing the current paradigm of the financial world but behind every successful man is a driven woman, Jessica Fries, well done to both of you for showing great leadership and courage to change the world to being a better world that we can leave to our children.

Kind regards

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