



# Why Aegon Nederland signed the Access to Medicine Investor Statement

**IMVO Webinar**

**Jeroen Vetter**

**Head of Investment Office**

**RI Committee Aegon Nederland**

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*Helping people achieve a lifetime of financial security*



# Aegon: a global provider of financial solutions

## 2019 figures

**Our mission:** “Helping people achieve a lifetime of financial security.”

### Worldwide presence



### Customers

**29.9** million

### Assets under Management<sup>1</sup>

**\$ 930** billion

### Total revenue

**€ 28,107** million

### Employees

**23.757**

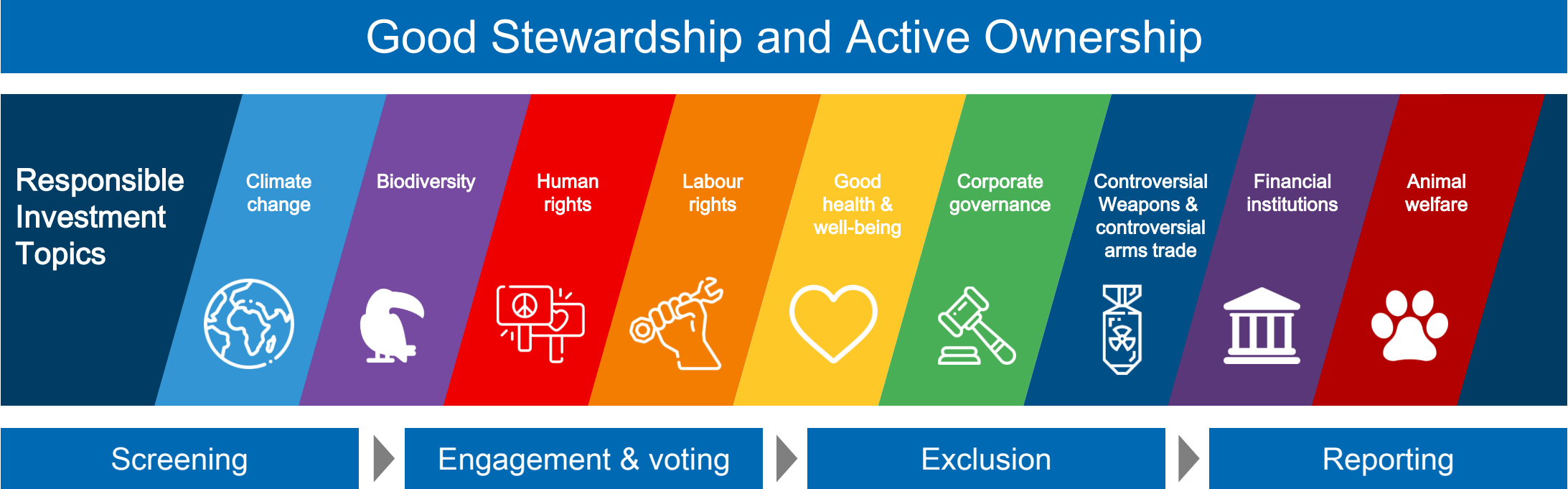
# Aegon: a Responsible Business

“Aegon Netherlands N.V. regards itself as a responsible business and seeks to have a positive impact on society and the environment. As a long-term investor in a wide range of companies, sectors and countries, Aegon Nederland takes its responsibilities as both an asset owner and steward of client assets seriously. Good stewardship of these assets is viewed as essential.”

*Source: RI Policy Aegon-NL*



# Responsible Investing Framework



Source: RI Policy Aegon-NL

# The importance of ‘Health and Well-being’

“Aegon NL believes that all companies have an important role to play in securing good health and well-being. This involves many things, including widening access to affordable healthcare and ensuring we live in a clean and sustainable environment.”

Good  
health &  
well-being



Source: RI Policy Aegon-NL



# Why support the Access to Medicine Index

“We continuously seek ways to improve our Responsible Investment policy. Supporting the Access to Medicine Index Investor Statement is a logical consequence of this.”

*Willem Horstmann*

*Chairman RI Committee*

*Board Member Aegon Nederland*

Source: Aegon NL press release 14 Februari 2020



# How? Screening, Engagement & Voting

## Responsible Investing Topics Aegon Nederland N.V.

January 1, 2020



Responsible Investing Topics Aegon NL

### 6. Good health & well-being

Good health and well-being are interrelated. This is underpinned by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that have been set for 2030. These provide an ambitious and comprehensive plan of action for people, planet and prosperity, ultimately aiming to end the injustices that underpin poor health and development outcomes. SDG 3 aspires to ensure health and well-being for all.

Aegon NL acknowledges that health and well-being have an impact on its customers and wider society. For example, improvements in medicine mean that people are on average living longer and are developing additional needs later in life. This creates additional responsibilities for the society in general, as well as for Aegon NL.

Aegon NL believes that all companies have an important role to play in securing good health and well-being. This involves many things, including widening access to affordable healthcare and ensuring we live in a clean and sustainable environment (see also RI Topics: Climate change and Biodiversity); providing good employment conditions (see RI Topic: Labour rights); and putting policies in place to encourage employees to have active and healthy lifestyles.

Aegon believes investing in the tobacco industry is not compatible with our strategy as a responsible investor, and therefore we decided to end further investment in the industry.

#### I. Screening

We have identified the below criteria for consideration which can be included when making investments and related decisions with respect to health and well-being:

##### *Healthy employees*

1. Do companies have policies in place to encourage employees to have active and healthy lifestyles?

##### *Healthy society*

1. Long-term affordability of social healthcare systems. For example the increasing misuse and of uncontrolled prescription of medicines for pain relief such opioids, and anti-competitive practices regarding price-fixing of (generic) medicines.

##### *Impact of hazardous chemicals and waste*

2. Do companies involved in handling or producing hazardous chemicals and waste acquire and maintain relevant permits?
3. Do companies have appropriate measures in place to measure and report on their usage of hazardous chemicals?

##### *Access to nutritious and safe food*

4. Do companies involved in the manufacturing and distribution of food and beverage products work to increase access to healthy food options?

##### *Access to affordable medicine and healthcare*



Responsible Investing Topics Aegon NL

5. Do companies involved in the pharmaceutical and healthcare industries work to ensure universal access to essential medicines and healthcare at an affordable cost level in both low- to middle-income countries, as well as in developed countries?
6. Do vaccine companies improve access to preventive vaccines for priority diseases in high-need countries?
7. How are pharmaceutical companies responding to the global threat of Antimicrobial Resistance, in relation to company actions relating to medicines and vaccines for bacterial and fungal infections?

#### II. Engagement and voting

Companies will be identified for engagements focusing on good health and well-being where we identify breaches with relevant screening criteria or:

- Via collaborative initiatives; and
- Any other criteria as deemed relevant to a company's specific industry or situation.

In engagements related to good health and well-being, we will encourage companies to:

##### *Employee health and well-being*

1. Promote the health and well-being of their employees by having policies in place that promote active and healthy lifestyles and to design working environments with employee health and well-being in mind

##### *Hazardous chemicals and waste*

2. Work to their reduce emissions of harmful substances and make greater use of sustainable technologies and production practices
3. Set targets and to work towards eliminating their usage of hazardous chemicals in their products and manufacturing processes

##### *Access to nutritious and safe foods*

4. Increase access to healthy food options and to nudge consumers' choice and behaviour

##### *Access to medicine and healthcare*

5. Work to improve access to medicine, for example, by considering the affordability of their products when setting their pricing strategy
6. Provide full disclosure of clinical trial results in the public domain to allow the scientific community and wider public to understand the efficacy and risks of new medicines and treatments.
7. Provide honest and clear information regarding safe-usage and risks associated with their products

Where possible, our voting activities will be guided by:

- Support for shareholder proposals which encourage or require the above-mentioned items; and
- Other topics as may be relevant to the company's specific industry or situation.

# Engaging Pharmaceutical Companies

We have a long history of engaging pharmaceutical companies. Examples include:

- Engagement regarding Opioids, pricing and governance issues like board oversight and accountability.
- Norms based engagement. For example on UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines.
- We recently joined the investor statement on the pharmaceutical sector and its response to Covid-19.



# A shared mission...



The screenshot shows the top portion of the Access to Medicine Foundation website. The header is dark blue with white text. The main content area features a background of colorful, curved lines in shades of blue and purple. The text is white and blue, providing a strong contrast against the dark background.

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FOUNDATION

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**5 billion people have access  
to medicine**  
**2 billion to go**

The Access to Medicine Foundation stimulates and guides  
pharmaceutical companies to do more for the people living in  
low- and middle-income countries without access to medicine.

Source: Access to Medicine website

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