

JURISDICTION: SWITZERLAND

AUTHORITY: SWISS FINANCIAL MARKET

SUPERVISORY AUTHORITY FINMA

Background

FINMA is Switzerland's independent financial-markets supervisory authority. Its mandate is to supervise banks, insurance companies, financial institutions, collective investment schemes, and their asset managers and fund management companies. It also regulates insurance intermediaries. It is charged with protecting creditors, investors and policyholders. FINMA is responsible for ensuring that Switzerland's financial markets function effectively.

FINMA is addressing the subject of climate-related financial risks as part of its supervisory remit.

Sustainability objectives

The Swiss Financial Market Supervisory Authority FINMA has been a member of the NGFS since 2019, and a member of the Sustainable Insurance Forum since March 2020.

FINMA's current priorities (2020):

- FINMA has defined a step-by-step approach to address climate risks from a supervisory perspective. The key focus of this approach is to better understand physical and transition risks for individual entities and to identify potential concentration risks in supervised institutions.
- From a consumer protection perspective, FINMA is also addressing the risks of greenwashing in the provision of financial services and the distribution of financial products. Consumers may not be deceived by exaggerated or misleading claims about "green" properties, for example in the case of investment products.
- In addition, FINMA is considering regulatory steps for improved disclosure of climate-related financial risks (pillar 3 disclosure).

Membership of any other initiatives/networks working on sustainability

- IAIS
- NGFS

Recent engagement with SIF

- FINMA contributes to SIF's half yearly reports, by providing updates on their activities
- FINMA provided feedback to SIF's Application Paper on the Supervision of Climate-related Risks in the Insurance Sector (to be published in early 2021)
- FINMA participates in SIF's virtual meetings

