

**COUNCIL ON ETHICS**  
THE GOVERNMENT PENSION FUND GLOBAL

**To Norges Bank**

7 January 2019

**Recommendation to revoke the exclusion of Nutrien Ltd from the  
Government Pension Fund Global (GPF)**

## **1 Introduction**

In 2011, Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan (Potash Corp) was excluded from investment by the Government Pension Fund Global (GPFG). The Council on Ethics had recommended its exclusion due to the company's purchase of phosphate minerals from Western Sahara.

In January 2018, the companies Potash Corp and Agrium Inc merged to form Nutrien Ltd (Nutrien). Potash Corp's exclusion from the GPFG was carried over to cover Nutrien.

Nutrien has now discontinued its imports of phosphates from Western Sahara, thereby eliminating the grounds for its exclusion.

## **2 Background**

In November 2010, the Council on Ethics recommended that Potash Corp be excluded from the GPFG. The company was purchasing phosphate mineral on a long-term contract with the Moroccan state-owned company OCP. Potash Corp was excluded from the GPFG in 2011. Since 2018, the exclusion has applied to the company Nutrien.

Pursuant to section 5(5) of the guidelines for observation and exclusion from the GPFG, the Council on Ethics may, on the basis of new information, recommend to Norges Bank that the exclusion of a company be revoked.

## **3 Information from the company**

Nutrien has confirmed that it will cease purchasing phosphates from Western Sahara from the close of 2018. The company informs that it has reorganised its production and will no longer use imported phosphate mineral as a raw material.<sup>1</sup>

## **4 The Council on Ethics' assessment**

Nutrien was excluded solely on the grounds of its purchase of phosphate minerals from Western Sahara. Since this has now ceased, there are no grounds for maintaining the company's exclusion.

## **5 Recommendation**

The Council on Ethics recommends that the exclusion of Nutrien Ltd from investment by the Government Pension Fund Global (GPFG) be revoked.

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Johan H. Andresen   Hans Christian Bugge   Cecilie Hellestveit   Trude Myklebust   Brit K. S. Rugland  
Chair

(Sign.)

(Sign.)

(Sign.)

(Sign.)

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<sup>1</sup> Letter from Nutrien to the Council on Ethics, 13 November 2018.