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**PRESS RELEASE**

**Paris, 28th November 2001**

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**SOCIÉTÉ GÉNÉRALE SIGNS THE UNEP STATEMENT  
BY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ON THE ENVIRONMENT  
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

Société Générale has signed the UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) Statement by Financial Institutions on the Environment and Sustainable Development, in the presence of Philippe Citerne, Chief Executive Officer of Société Générale and Jacqueline Aloisi de Larderel, Assistant Executive Director of UNEP and Director of Technology, Industry and Economics division.

*"As members of the financial services sector, we recognise that sustainable development depends on a positive interaction between economic and social development and environmental protection, to equitably account for the interests of the current and future generations. Sustainable development is the collective responsibility of governments, businesses and individuals. We are committed to working co-operatively within the framework of market mechanisms toward common environmental goals."*

To date, 192 banks and 91 insurers from around the world have signed this Statement, including major US, UK and German banks. Société Générale is the first private French bank to assert its commitment to sustainable development, environmental management and raising awareness about these matters.

For Société Générale, the signing of this agreement aims to reinforce the group's image of responsibility and commitment to the future, in a context of growing concern for sustainable development.

Société Générale has recently set up a cross-business steering committee co-led by quality, human resources and communications with representatives of finance, risk, properties management divisions (head office and the branch network in France), and legal departments.

The Group has adopted the following definition of sustainable development: *"development that satisfies current needs without compromising those of future generations, via a responsible approach that combines the interests of all involved : customers and partners, employees, shareholders, society and the environment"*.



The **Société Générale Group** is one of the largest banks in the euro zone. The Group employs 80,000 people around the world in three key businesses:

- *Retail Banking* : Société Générale serves 12 million retail customers worldwide.
- *Asset Management & Private Banking* : Société Générale ranks third in the euro zone in terms of assets under management.
- *Corporate & Investment Banking* : SG is the fourth largest bank in the euro zone based on net banking income.

**Société Générale is the only French bank to be included in the four major socially responsible investment indexes (ASPI Eurozone, DJSI World, DJSI Stoxx and FTSE 4 Good).**

### ***The main role of the United Nations Environment Programme***

*"The environmental conscience of the United Nations" is to :*

- *take regular stock of the state of the environment world wide,*
- *develop international policies and strategies for protecting the environment,*
- *promote global legislation and agreements as well as voluntary initiatives in partnership with the private sector and non-governmental organisations in order to achieve the objective of sustainable development.*

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*For more information on the Société Générale Group and to consult press releases online :*  
[www.socgen.com/sdp](http://www.socgen.com/sdp)

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