

B-Corp status for leading pan-African PE firm Helios Investment Partners

- Helios Investment Partners becomes largest emerging markets-focused PE firm globally to receive B Corp certification
- B Corp status recognizes the firm's long-standing commitment to sustainability and responsible business practices

London – 13 January 2020 Leading pan-African private equity firm, Helios Investment Partners (“Helios”), announced today that it has become a Certified B Corporation (“B Corp”). Helios is the world's largest emerging markets-focused private equity company to achieve B Corp status.

The B Corp certification, awarded by B Lab, the leading global sustainability organization, recognizes that the firm adheres to the highest standards of corporate governance, transparency, accountability, and social and environmental performance – including its investment strategy and activities.

Helios' mission is to generate globally competitive investment returns and create positive socio-economic development outcomes by building profitable, value-creating and socially responsible businesses in Africa. B Corp certification underscores the fact that Helios' mission and values are aligned with those of the B Corp community, whose members use business as a force for good.

Tope Lawani, Helios' co-founder and Managing Partner, said: “B Corps meet the highest standards of verified social and environmental performance, public transparency, and legal accountability to balance profit and purpose. We firmly believe this approach creates more valuable and more sustainable businesses with stronger long-term growth prospects. Certifying as a B Corp is a way to signal this commitment.

Since the firm's inception, we have integrated financial, governance, environmental and social considerations into our investment framework, which we believe is essential for creating value and mitigating risk. This is particularly true in the developing markets in which we operate. Our pioneering approach on the continent and best-in-class operating practices enable us to transform African businesses, delivering both economic and societal benefits.”

To achieve B Corp status, organizations must score at least 80 points in the assessment process. On average, companies that complete the test score around 50 points; Helios is proud to have achieved a total of 97.9 points.

Kate Sandle from B Lab UK commented: “B Lab is delighted that Helios Investment Partners has certified as a B Corp. The firm has met high standards of governance, environmental and social performance which they have chosen to be independently verified by B Lab. This is a testament to the standard of their current practices and their ongoing commitment to creating a positive impact across the whole of their business, both within their own operations and the management of their pan-African portfolios.”

About Helios Investment Partners

Established in 2004, Helios Investment Partners is the leading Africa-focused private investment firm, led and managed by a predominantly African team and based in London, Paris, Lagos and Nairobi. Managing funds totalling \$3.6 billion, the firm's portfolio companies operate in over 30

HELIOS Investment Partners

countries in all regions of the continent. Helios has built a record that spans creating start-ups to providing expanding companies with growth capital and expertise, building African market leaders in core economic sectors and driving strong returns via portfolio operations. The firm's unique combination of deep knowledge of the African operating environment, a singular commitment to the continent and a proven capability to manage complexity, is reflected in its position as a partner of choice.

About B Corporations®

Certified B Corporations are for-profit companies that use the power of business to build a more inclusive and sustainable economy. They meet the highest verified standards of social and environmental performance, transparency, and accountability. To date, there are almost 3,200 B Corps in 150 industries and 71 countries around the world.

About B Lab®

B Lab is a non-profit that serves a global movement of people using business as a force for good™. Their initiatives include B Corp Certification, administration of the B Impact Management programs, and advocacy for governance structures like the benefit corporation. B Lab's vision is of an inclusive and sustainable economy that creates a shared prosperity for all.