

A world where sustainability counts

Our world is changing at an unprecedented pace, bringing new challenges and new opportunities. A series of global megatrends – including climate change, urbanisation, renewable energy, population growth and the digital transformation – all underline the need for a more sustainable future. At the same time, we are witnessing a global rise in populism and a changing landscape in geopolitics. The Baby Boomer generation is meanwhile making way for Millennials, with their heightened focus on the environment, fairness and the impact of business on society.

Inevitably, the world of finance is also changing rapidly, and that includes asset management. The surge in popularity of passively managed funds, illiquid asset classes and responsible investment strategies are all signs of a different approach. Candriam's commitment to sustainable investment, more than 20 years ago, has proved to be a visionary one. Today we are a recognised leader for Environmental, Social and Governance policies (ESG) in asset management. Our strategies are clearly aligned with the kinds of megatrends that are already driving the global economy – and will continue to do so for decades to come.

But if positioning is important, performance remains essential. From institutional investors to private clients, Candriam's objective is to provide the advice they seek and the returns they expect. Our results clearly indicate that we achieved both those objectives in 2018, a problematic year for the asset management community as a whole. Our Assets Under Management reached a record high, at almost €115 billion, and we received €7.7 billion in Net New Cash. Significantly, half of that cash was destined for our ESG strategies. To give a broader perspective, our AUM has risen organically by 70% over the last five years.

Building a more sustainable future, in every sense, is the biggest challenge facing the world today. On its own, the investment community cannot solve all the problems. But we can make a very real difference, and Candriam is determined to play its part in doing so.



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Naim Abou-Jaoudé
CEO