Grace for submission to the Regent House under Special Ordinance A (ii) 5: Divestment from the arms industry

The Council has received the following Grace, which has been initiated under Special Ordinance A (ii) 5 by 165 members of the Regent House:

The Regent House, as the governing body of the University, requests

(a) that the University disclose in aggregate form the direct and indirect exposure of its investments within and outside the Endowment Fund in companies whose business is concerned with the arms industry, as defined below; and that the University commits to divest from the arms industry within the time period specified below; and
(b) that the Council publish a Report to the University within six months of issuance of this Grace setting out how the University will divest from the arms industry. This Report should:
   (i) provide costed details of how the University will divest from the arms industry; and
   (ii) consider the effects of divestment on the University’s mission and function; and
   (iii) set out a timetable for divestment which is to be completed no later than the beginning of Michaelmas Term 2025 – with the understanding that divestment from private equity funds may require further time.
(c) that the Council put in place measures to ascertain that divestment has been completed, and to prevent future investments of this kind. Information on this category of investments should be included in the annual report of the Cambridge University Endowment Fund henceforth.

1 Utilising the Church of England Ethical Investment Advisory Group’s recommendations, companies are classified as belonging to the arms industry if:
   (i) they are involved in the production or supply of indiscriminate weaponry (defined as nuclear weapons, anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons or biological weapons), with no turnover threshold to be applied; or
   (ii) they are involved in the production, processing, supply or storage of weapons-grade nuclear fissile materials, with no turnover threshold to be applied; or
   (iii) they are involved in the provision of strategic parts or services for anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons or biological weapons, with no turnover threshold to be applied; or
   (iv) they derive more than 10% of their turnover from strategic military sales including conventional military platforms, whole military systems, weaponry or strategic military parts or services; or
   (v) further to this definition, this Grace adds: they are technological surveillance companies that derive more than 10% of their revenue from their technologies being used by states for military purposes; or they are companies associated with violations of international humanitarian conventions, laws and regulations.

A list of the signatories is included in the Annex below.

The Council will consider the proposed Grace at its meeting on 21 October 2024.

ANNEX

R. H. ABBOTT  M. M. ARNOT  C. A. BASSETT
M. M. ABDEL RAHMAN  A. K. ARSAN  M. N. BEG
F. AHMED  A. ASHRAF  G. S. BETEGH
Z. AL AZMEH  W. J. ASTLE  E. C. BLAIR
R. A. ALEXANDER  A. J. ATTAHERI  B. A. BODENHORN
P. S. ANDERSON  V. BAENA  PIETE BROOKS
C. J. ANGELOPOULOS  R. A. BARR  N. BUITRON ARIAS
M. ARBUTHNOT  T. BASARAN  B. J. BURCHELL