

Symposium on Mobilizing Sustainable Investments: Making Private Finance Work for Sustainable Development

**25 May 2016
(09:00 – 12:00 hrs)**

Objectives of the Symposium

1. The finance symposium, co-hosted by the UNEP Inquiry and the UNEP Finance Initiative, aims to showcase that the financial system both globally and nationally is at an exciting nexus for playing an active role in sustainable development and in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement. The future investments and broader financing required will necessitate both mobilising capital through new financial products and asset classes, as well as the mainstreaming of environmental risks across the entire financial system.
2. The symposium will examine how this can be done from two different perspectives. The first session, hosted by the UNEP Inquiry, will focus on efforts made so far in aligning the financial system towards sustainable development, including international models of cooperation. It will draw on international examples of best practice financial policy innovation. The second session, hosted by the UNEP Finance Initiative, will showcase where leadership is developing from within the financial industry itself. Together the sessions will highlight opportunities for the public and private sectors to come together in mobilising private finance for sustainable development.

Format and Guiding Questions

3. The symposium will be opened by the Executive Director of UNEP and will consist of two moderated panels discussions.

Session 1: Towards a Sustainable Financial System (09:00 – 10:30 hrs)

4. Hosted by the UNEP Inquiry, this session will focus on experience in aligning the financial system with sustainable development, covering selected country experience, regional and international developments, and the role of Ministries of Environment in these developments. The session will also explore international cooperation, focusing on the potential role of Ministries of Environment and emerging areas of international cooperation, including G20, G7, regional developments in ASEAN, and voluntary coalitions such as the Sustainable Banking Networking for banking regulators. This would then be followed by a moderated panel discussion involving the audience as participants and high-level closing remarks.
5. Questions for discussion include:
 - How can financial market development support efforts to realise the sustainable development goals
 - What progress is being made in practice at the national and international levels
 - How can environment ministries impact such developments, individually and through international cooperation

**Session 2: The finance industry perspective on mobilizing private finance for the SDGs
(10:30 – 12:00 hrs)**

6. Hosted by the UNEP Finance Initiative, this second session will discuss where leadership is coming from today from within the financial industry itself, looking across banking and the capital markets, exploring innovative approaches being taken to mobilize private finance for sustainable development. The session will specifically showcase collaborative activities within the Mongolian and Kenyan banking industries to develop new green financial products and services; the role of stock exchanges such as the Egyptian Exchange in making publicly listed companies more sustainable; and the experience of the South African government in mobilizing private investment for the renewable energy industry.
7. Key questions for discussion to include:
 - **Making business of green finance:** Is there currently a business rationale within financial institutions for developing green finance products and services? Which products are on offer; targeting which industries; what are the pitfalls; where has public policy and public finance helped the most?
 - **To lead or to follow:** Can financial institutions be a catalyst in the transition to sustainable development?
 - **Comfort in numbers:** How can the finance community work together more effectively in addressing the barriers to, and mobilising investment for, sustainable development markets development.
