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THE BRIDGE



Sustainable
Finance
Geneva

WHERE FINANCE MEETS IMPACT

NEWSLETTER - DECEMBER 2021

Dear members,

2021 is ending with the most beautiful way for SFG! You might remember that I had the pleasure to announce in our first edition 2021, the launch of a new cycle with Sandrine as director, Kali as coordinator for Building Bridges, a new edition of The Bridge in cooperation with Geneva Solutions (our newsletter), the launch of a working group on gender issue, and several local networking events.

Result? Eight newsletters, three Meet & Connects, the Swiss Gender Lens Initiative, and naturally a successful second edition of Building Bridges, with 77 events promoted by our community on several locations, many high level speakers, and 1450 participants from more than 35 countries. It's much more than 2019.

We can be grateful to Sandrine, Kali, Claudia but also Emmanuelle, Lola, Nour and Maxime for such success. SFG is THE essential platform in our ecosystem through which ideas and people can connect, innovate and create synergies. It lives for and through its members.

Let's keep moving. Thank you!

Fabio Sofia,
President

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Interview of the month: David Nabarro



David Nabarro, senior advisor to the Food Systems Summit at the pre-summit held in July 2021 in Food and Agriculture Organization headquarters Rome, Italy. (Credit: UN Photo/Giulio Napolitano)

UN food summit adviser: Geneva's finance and aid world must take risks and work together. To make food systems sustainable, the finance sector and the international organisations must take the plunge and cross over to the other side of the lake, said David Nabarro, senior adviser to the UN food summit, on the occasion of Building Bridges held in Geneva last week. // [Read more](#)

● What's happening at SFG?

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(Credit: SFG/Audrey Pedro)

// A look back at Building Bridges.

The sustainable finance event in Geneva took place from 30 November to 2 December. Here is a selection of the announcements that marked this 2021 edition:

// The Swiss Federal Council promised a "climate rating" during the Building Bridges Summit. "Our country wants to be better than the European Union [...], higher standards are an advantage for Switzerland," said Finance Minister Ueli Maurer, who also announced the government's support for the introduction of a "climate score" system - a rating of financial products according to their impact on global warming, promised next summer. // [24 heures \(FR\)](#).

// Switzerland unveiled future partnership with banks to raise \$1bn for SDGs. The foundations of Switzerland's two biggest banks, UBS and Credit Suisse, and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, are participating in the initiative alongside the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, which is providing CHF19.5m in financial support. // [Geneva Solutions](#)

// Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) launched an ambitious Roadmap for the Swiss financial sector. In the [document](#) presented in Geneva, the association aims to ensure that by 2030, all financial flows and activities of the sector must be aligned

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institutional investors. // [Agefi \(FR\)](#).

// UNDP-UNCDF presented their five principles and five recommendations to align BigFintech governance with the SDGs. The study calls for a much more ambitious and convergent approach across regulatory domains, highlighting five principles upon which policy makers, regulators and BigFintechs can build a governance aligned with sustainable development. // [UNDP-UNCDF](#)

// Edmond de Rothschild Private Equity and PeakBridge announced a joint project to support the growth of impact companies in the Agri-Food Tech sector. By mobilising their skills and international presence, the two players intend to contribute to addressing environmental and social issues related to food systems. // [allnews \(FR\)](#).

// University of Oxford and Lombard Odier presented their new study examining the predictors of success in a greening world. The report, Predictors of Success in a Greening World, offers a global, 25-year-long perspective on countries' standing in global trade in high-growth green industries, and the extent to which each country has adequately directed their Covid-19 recovery spending to "build back greener". // [allnews \(FR\)](#).

To review the conferences, click [here](#).

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Panelists at the Building Bridges Summit on 29 November. From left to right, Tanya König journalist and moderator, Pavan Sukhdev, founder and CEO of GIST, Patricia Danzi, ambassador and director general of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Guy Ryder, director-general of the International Labour Organization, and Mirjam Staub-Bisang, country head and senior advisor for BlackRock Sustainable Investing - BlackRock Switzerland. (Credit: SFG/Anne Colliard)



493 participants joined the Building Bridge Summit on 29 November. (Credit: SFG/Anne Colliard)

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Panellists during the conference “Creating a market for investing in peace: the next big challenge for the international ecosystem” organised by SFG, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, the Graduate Institute Geneva, Interpeace, the Peace Dividend Initiative, and de Pury Pictet Turrettini.

From left to right Brian James Williams, chief of the financing for the Peacebuilding branch of the Peacebuilding Support Office - UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, Catriona Gourlay, executive director of Peace Nexus, Julie Mandoyan, head of external relations and partnerships for the Peace Dividend Initiative, Scott M. Weber, president of Interpeace, and Emmanuelle Kasavi moderator and project manager at SFG. (Credit: SFG/Anne Colliard)

// Gender Lens Initiative for Switzerland (GLIS)

Investing in gender equality: Instructions guide

GLIS hosted its first in-person gathering during Building Bridges attended by 74 participants who came to listen to the 19 speakers who came to present their strategies for promoting and investing in gender equality. // [Le Temps \(FR\)](#).

The conference also marked the launch of the first annual GLIS market [report](#).

GLIS Award Ceremony

During the closing dinner of Building Bridges, SFG provided the first GLIS award to one of the 12 UNDP GSIV finalists for its impact on SDG5. Nigerian renewable energy company PowerStove received a CHF 5'000 prize to recognise their efforts to empower women and address climate change through renewable energy stoves and

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Agi Veres, Director of the UNDP in Geneva (left) and Marie-Laure Schaufelberger, Vice-President of SFG (right) hand over the GLIS award to Okey Esse, founder of the Nigerian renewable energy company PowerStove. (Credit: SFG/Anne Colliard)

● Connecting financial sector

In partnership with [FC4S](#)

Working in partnership with the Coalition of Finance Ministers for Climate Action, during COP26 Finance Day, on 3 November UN-convened Financial Centres for Sustainability (FC4S) published [an analysis](#) of international sustainable finance roadmaps and how they are underpinning national governments approaches to financial system transformation.

A first of its kind global report, it provides a detailed analysis of the structure and characteristics of 41 sustainable finance roadmaps created by 30 countries between 2014 and 2021, including an in-depth case studies section – covering Canada, Japan, Luxembourg, Mexico, Nigeria, Switzerland, Germany, and Ireland – to understand how their recommendations are being considered within national activities and strategies.

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● Coming up next

// 22 December | Meet & Connect Christmas Drink

As part of their Meet & Connect series, SFG and the Positive Finance Network [next gathering](#) will take place at the Christmas Pub, inside Geneva's Christmas Market, free of charge, with a complimentary welcome drink.

Register [here](#)

// 7 January | Registration open for CAS Sustainable Finance, HEG – Genève

The Geneva School of Business Administration (HEG) has opened applications for its online Certificate of Advanced Studies in Sustainable Finance, starting on 17 January 2022. Applications should be submitted to the HEG Executive education office no later than 7 January.

Register [here](#)

● Sustainable Finance News

A new study estimates the cost of environmental neutrality for the non-financial companies of the Swiss Market Index at CHF 28bn per year.

Carried out by Ecometrics, Valuing Impact and Sofies, and co-financed by Ethos, this study proposes an assessment of annual investments required to set up long-lasting and viable solutions for a more biodiversity-considerate transition to a low carbon economy. The assessment is proposed for the 14 industrial companies included in the Swiss Market Index. // [Ethos](#)

Entrepreneurs and investors met at the SDG Finance Geneva Summit on 2

December. Organised by the UNDP for the first time in 2016, this event promotes SDG-aligned finance and drives active collaboration between the financial sector and the development community. // [Swissinfo](#)

More consistent EU action needed to redirect finance towards sustainable

investment. That is the conclusion of a special report by the European Court of Auditors that calls for more consistent EU action. The European Commission has rightly focused on increasing transparency in the market, but the auditors criticise

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