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THE BRIDGE



Sustainable
Finance
Geneva

WHERE FINANCE MEETS IMPACT
NEWSLETTER - FEBRUARY 2022

Dear Members,

After an intense and dynamic year 2021, mainly dedicated to the organization of Building Bridges, 2022 is already shaping up to be just as rich in activities for SFG.

In order to tackle it in the best possible way, we are lucky to welcome Kali Taylor to our team. For those of you who don't know her yet, you will find her portrait in this newsletter. Kali will be in charge of animating the sustainable finance community. Enthusiastic by nature, she will work to give strength to our community. In the same vein, a huge thank you to Antoine Amiguet, a Member of our Board, who has agreed to share his legal analysis of our sector with you each month. This contribution will allow you to be even better informed of the latest legal developments in sustainable finance.

In a constantly changing world, which is facing major and essential challenges that will eventually disrupt our way of life, SFG believes more than ever in the need to act together, to exchange, to inform, to share, to co-construct a sustainable world. To succeed, we need a strong, curious, and committed community. We need you. Do not hesitate to contact us to get involved. 2022 will certainly be an important year in terms of consolidation of sustainable finance in Geneva and in Switzerland.

Ready? We are!

Sandrine Salerno
Director, SFG

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Interview of the month: Peter Maurer](#)

Peter Maurer, President of the ICRC, visiting Niger, a country affected by conflict and climate shocks. (Credit: ICRC, Kathryn Cook-Pellegrin)

ICRC's new Climate and Energy Transition Fund links humanitarian response and environmental action. SFG caught up with Peter Maurer, President of the ICRC, to learn more about this new fund, what it aims to achieve, and how the finance industry and other private sector players can be involved in this mechanism and others in the future. // [Read more](#)

● What's happening at SFG?

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(Credit: SFG/ Laurent Giraud)

// Get to know our new Community Manager

Kali Taylor recently joined the SFG team and is looking forward to working with our community of members and stakeholders. [Read her portrait](#)

// Meet & _____

SFG is proud to bring back our signature *Meet & Connect* events in 2022 with our partners at the Positive Finance Network. We will run four *Connect* events this year, in addition, we are adding a bit of a twist and will also run two *Meet & Exchange* events. What's the difference? *Connect* events are more networking-focused and provide the opportunity to mingle with like-minded individuals over an informal apéro. *Exchange* events are more content-focused and feature table discussions led by sustainable finance experts. We have two *Meet &* events coming up in March, see below for more details.

// Gender Lens Initiative for Switzerland (GLIS)

One Year of the GLIS

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achieved so far, look forward to what we have planned for 2022, and hear from experts about the findings of the SAGE 3.0 review of Gender Lens funds coordinated by GenderSmart.

Opportunity Alert: GLIS Vice President

To advance our mission, GLIS is currently looking for a Vice President, a transformative leader who can help increase industry awareness, collaborate with partners, inspire donors, and stimulate innovation. [Read the role description](#) and [apply by completing this form](#) **no later than Friday 25 February at 5pm CET.**

GLIS Research Report

During our Building Bridges 2021 GLIS session, we had the pleasure of releasing our [first GLIS report](#), which outlines the importance and benefits of investing in SDG 5 and highlights global initiatives and standards contributing to that goal. The 2022 edition of our study will assess progress towards SDG5 and GLI in Switzerland and globally, and will include the insights of 3 pilot surveys on Swiss financial products with a gender lens, on women as capital owners and investors in Switzerland, and on the gender balance of Swiss financial institutions. The report will be launched in autumn 2022.

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GLIS Event at Building Bridges 2021 (Credit: SFG/Mark Henley)

● Connecting financial centres

In partnership with [FC4S](#)

A report released late January by Toronto Finance International (TFI), the UN-convened Financial Centres for Sustainability (FC4S) and Deloitte Canada, finds that there is a need to address the growing gap between the current skills in sustainable finance and those that will be needed in the future in the Canadian market. The report, “[*Taking the lead in sustainable finance: A case for developing critical financial skills and competencies in Canada*](#)”, surveyed over 100 professionals in Canada’s financial services sector and produced several key findings that are useful to financial centres around the globe. // **Read More**

● SFG Law Review -new!

In partnership with [Oberson Abels](#)

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finance. Besides the transparency requirements that apply in the context of the offering of financial instruments, new regulations aim at increasing disclosure duties for large companies to provide more and better information as regards climate risks. In this paper, Oberson Abels looks closer at the role assigned to transparency by climate policies and how it materializes in the new EU regulations about non-financial reporting duties. // [Read More](#)

● Coming Up

// 2 March | 12h | Meet & Exchange @ Innovate4Water

SFG's first Meet & Exchange will take place at the upcoming "*Innovate 4 Water*" event. Join us for lunch with a panoramic view of the Ville de Genève and stimulating conversations exploring water and nature finance. Spaces are limited. [Info and Register here](#)

// 8 March | 16h | First Anniversary Webinar of the Gender Lens Initiative for Switzerland (GLIS)

Join SFG and Alphamundi for the first anniversary of the GenderLens Initiative for Switzerland (GLIS) and participate in a one-hour webinar happening on International Women's Day [Register here](#)

// 9 March | 18h30 | Meet & Connect - Late Winter Drink

As part of the Meet & Connect series, SFG and the Positive Finance Network's next gathering will take place on March 9. [Save the Date](#)

● Sustainable Finance News

A new study finds that if the US financial services sector were a country, its carbon emissions would rival Russia. Carried out by Sierra Club and the Centre for American Progress, this study shows that eight of the biggest US banks and 10 of its largest asset managers combined finance an estimated 2 billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions, based on year-end disclosures from 2020, or about 1% less than

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Infographic on the milestones of the EU Taxonomy. In response to the EU's delay on disclosure deadlines, the EuroSif published an infographic that highlights the policy development and implementation timelines, drawing attention to the potential misalignment and inconsistencies that delays in any part of the process may cause.

// [EuroSif](#)

The limits of divestment. Enterprise for Society (E4S) recently published new research looking at the impacts and limits of divestment, one of the most popular "greening" strategies for financial institutions. The report, produced in partnership with Pictet Asset Services and Retraites Populaires, shows that divesting from unethical businesses is *unlikely* to improve divested firms' sustainability profile or investors' financial performance. // [E4S](#)



Produced in partnership with the new media on international development and cooperation, [Geneva Solutions](#).

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Contact us at info@sfgeneva.org

Have a good day and keep an eye out for our **next newsletter 11 January 2022**.

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