

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)[View this email in your browser](#)

# THE BRIDGE



Sustainable  
Finance  
Geneva

**WHERE FINANCE MEETS IMPACT**

NEWSLETTER - SEPTEMBER 2021

Dear SFG members and supporters,

I hope you had a great summer! Ours has been spent working on Building Bridges, the flagship event that will take place the week of November 29, in Geneva, Maison de la paix and Forum Credit suisse. This ambitious initiative, led by SFG, is generating unprecedented enthusiasm. As an example, we have received more than 70 event proposals for Building Bridges Week. This momentum illustrates that sustainable finance is now, and for a long time to come, on the political agenda. It must also and sincerely become part of financial and economic practices. Of course, there is still a long way to go, but more and more of us are advocating for a paradigm shift. Let it be !!

Sandrine Salerno,  
Executive Director

---

**Feature of the month: Building Bridges 2021 edition**

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

**Geneva sustainable finance summit gears up for second edition.** At the end of November, Geneva will pull out all the stops in proving itself a world centre for discussions on sustainable finance. The industry needs a dedicated “moment” in the international calendar and Building Bridges is the platform for this, says President Patrick Odier. He joins other organisers and supporters in voicing their expectations for the summit. // [Read more](#)

---

## ● More on Building Bridges

**Building Bridges to bring about concrete action** by mobilizing finance and pushing ESG data collection forward, writes Patrick Odier, senior managing partner of Lombard Odier and president of Building Bridges. Its aim: to change unsustainable behaviour and foster sustainable standards. This will require a common definition of “sustainability” and a commitment to transparency. A clear and common framework for sustainable finance in reference to the SDGs is needed. // [Le Temps](#)

**'Sustainable investing will be the most important source of future returns'**, said Patrick Odier in a recent interview with Geneva Solutions. “We don’t want to be just one more conference,” he said. “What is key is to contribute to the priorities and the sustainable agenda in a way that corresponds to what the different actors interested in sustainable finance are thinking about currently.” // [Geneva Solutions](#)

---

## ● What’s happening at SFG

### // Gender Lens Initiative for Switzerland

During Building Bridges, GLIS will host an event on SDG5, Gender Equality, and provide an overview of the gender lens investing industry’s size, trends, standards, innovations and impact. The event will cover how gender lens

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

1. Educating financial industry professionals on the merits of a gender lens approach, both within their own organisation (governance, policies) and in their products and services.
2. Showcasing best practices and emerging standards.
3. Helping financial institutions shift capital to SDG5 and gender lens investing strategies by showcasing gender lens products in different asset classes and covering different geographies and sectors.
4. Commitments to SDG5 from Swiss institutions and GLIS partners.

## ● Members corner

We are interested in getting to know our community members better and share stories about their work and experiences. Journalists at Geneva Solutions will be supporting these efforts writing articles, running interviews, as well as producing podcasts and videos. We are inviting you to take part in this editorial project by [writing to us](#).

## ● Coming up next

### // 2 September | Alternatiba: Can sustainable finance save the world?

SFG will host a round table at 18h30 at Uni Dufour on the responsibility of sustainable finance for tomorrow's world, moderated by our executive director Sandrine Salerno with an introduction from Alfonso Gomez, administrative adviser, in charge of finance, environment, and housing for the city of Geneva. // [SFG](#)

### // 3 September | Moving Mountains Forum: Financing the sustainable transition in the mountains

Boris Clivaz, CEO of our institutional partner GEFISWISS, will present the village of Zinal's energy transition at the tenth edition of Moving Mountains, taking place in Les Diablerets. // [Moving Mountains Forum](#)

### // 8 September | Meet & Connect new format

SFG and the [Positive Finance Network](#) have teamed up to create a new Meet & Connect series for like-minded, Geneva-linked individuals in sustainable finance and positive environmental and social impact investing. You're invited to our first gathering, free of charge, with a complimentary welcome drink. // [Positive Finance Network x SFG](#)

### // 22 September | Building Bridges: Shining a Light on the Social Dimension of Sustainable Finance

Our partners the SDG Lab and the International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD) will launch a Building Bridges warm-up event on the social aspect of sustainable finance moderated by IISD policy analyst Trine Schmidt. // [SDG Lab x IISD](#)

### // 23 September | Geneva Forum for Sustainable Investment: SDGs, at the heart of investors' concerns?

Don't miss our roundtable "Is Swiss sustainable finance value-driven or regulation-driven?" at 16h45 moderated by our executive director, Sandrine Salerno, with the participation of Patrick Odier, senior managing partner at Lombard Odier and president of Swiss Sustainable Finance, Gerhard Andrey, Fribourg National Councillor, and Jean-Sébastien Lassonde, Partner PWC. // [GFSI2021](#)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

**How to value water?** The failure to fully value water in all its different uses is considered a root cause, or a symptom, of the political neglect of water and its mismanagement, according to a new report by UN Water, published to coincide with World Water Week from 23 to 27 August. Water shortage is recognised as one of the global risks of greatest concern to policy-makers and business leaders. A 2020 survey by data platform CDP of 525 investors with US\$96 trillion in assets, showed 45 per cent were exposed to substantive risks from water insecurity. // [UN Water](#)

## ● Sustainable Finance News

### // Swiss news

**Sustainability at Swiss universities: Lausanne ranks among the best.** A survey by WWF has ranked the University of Lausanne, Bern, and ETH Zurich, among the leading higher education institutions in Switzerland when it comes to sustainability. As training, research and service institutions, universities play a central role in the sustainable development of society and the economy. The report by the conservation organisation analyses which are the most committed. // [WWF](#)

**Major Swiss companies to report on climate risks from 2024.** The government set out its guidelines on 18 August on which companies will be obliged to report on climate-related risks, as well as which risks, under the recommendations of the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD). They include all public companies, banks and insurance companies with 500 or more employees and more than CHF 20 million in total assets. // [Admin.ch](#)

### // International news

**Climate funds often fall short of Paris goals: report.** Funds marketed as “climate-themed” often hold shares in large polluters including big oil companies, and many are inconsistent with the goals of the Paris agreement despite claiming to be “aligned” with it, according to analysis by think-tank InfluenceMap. // [Financial Times \(paywall\)](#)

**Stark IPCC report forces rethink for ESG investors.** The release in August of the UN climate panel’s latest landmark report and also prompted leaders in sustainable finance to consider a longer-term focus and new ways to measure investments, especially in the lead-up to COP26 later this year. Investors should “review their commitments” and take action, says UN PRI’s Fiona Reynolds. // [Bloomberg](#)

[Subscribe](#)[Past Issues](#)[Translate ▼](#)[RSS](#)

**Get the latest headlines and insights from the world of international cooperation and development.** Learn more about our media partner [Geneva Solutions](#), and access daily news updates on their five core themes: Sustainable Business and Finance, Climate, Peace & Humanitarian, Science & Technology and Global Health.



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

Join [the SFG community](#) and contribute to the development of sustainable finance in Geneva.  
Contact us at [info@sfgeneva.org](mailto:info@sfgeneva.org)

Have a good day and keep an eye out for our **next newsletter on October 5 2021!**

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).