



# **BUILDING BRIDGES**

Aligning finance with sustainability

2-5 October 2023 | CICC, Geneva





## BUILDING BRIDGES 2023

The next edition of Building Bridges will convene 2000+ actors from the financial and corporate sectors, the sustainability community, policy makers, academia, entrepreneurs, and young changemakers from **October 2-5, 2023 in Geneva** to shape the global sustainable finance agenda.

Building Bridges' 4th edition will open with a **High-level Summit** that will explore the interdependence of human, social, natural, climate and financial capital with prominent thought leaders.

The Summit will be followed by three impact-oriented days that will address the latest trends in sustainable finance, and explore solutions to tackle some of the most pressing challenges of our times. The **Building Bridges Action Days** will showcase over **70 crowd-sourced events** planned by more than 100 organizations to address climate impact, innovative finance, nature finance, fintech, and other trending topics.

This edition will also host key initiatives that will shape the common frameworks that will be implemented in the upcoming years. Building Bridges will host the European launch of the **Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures** and the second **Sharm el-Sheikh dialogue** led by the UNFCCC.

This ground-breaking event will also provide unique opportunities to network with prominent figures of the industry and like-minded institutions that wish to contribute to a fairer and just transition. The **Building Bridges Village** will present concrete examples of the positive impact sustainable finance can have on our societies.



"Building Bridges is more than an event! It is a place where people can learn, share experiences and connect with actors who are leading the transition toward sustainability. With this 4th edition, our ambition is to become THE platform that will host the discussions, projects and voices that will shape our sustainable future."

**Patrick Odier**  
Chair, Building Bridges





## TNFD's European Launch



Taskforce on Nature-related  
Financial Disclosures

More than half of the world's economic output is moderately or highly dependent on nature. Nature loss poses a major risk to businesses, while moving to nature-positive investments could offers unprecedented opportunity.

Currently, financial institutions and companies do not have the information they need to understand how nature affects the organization's immediate financial performance or the longer-term financial risks that may arise from their impact on nature.

The **Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures will release a new market-led, science-based framework at Building Bridges** that will enable companies to integrate nature into decision making. Better information will allow financial institutions and companies to incorporate nature-related risks and opportunities into their strategic planning, risk management and asset allocation decisions.



"The TNFD framework will guide companies to identify, assess and understand their impact on nature. The ultimate goal of the framework is to support a shift in global financial flows away from nature-negative outcomes towards nature-positive ones. The EU reporting standards are the most ambitious globally. We are proud to help reverse nature's loss with this European launch at Building Bridges 2023."

**Elizabeth Maruma Mrema**

TNFD Co-Chair and Deputy Executive Director of UNEP

# 2023 EDITION



## October 2 – Afternoon

### *Creating constructive debates*

The Building Bridges Summit is an invite-only event that will feature high-level dialogues from thought leaders about the future of finance. It will address pressing global challenges for achieving the SDGs and the interdependence of human, social, natural, and financial capital.



## October 3, 4 and 5

### *Offering innovative events and discussions*

The Building Bridges Action Days will showcase 70+ crowd-sourced events in a range of formats that allow for different levels of dialogue and collaboration. Every day will start with a High-Level Plenary.



## October 2-5

### *Providing an animated networking space*

The Village is an interactive space for networking, meeting new people, and building bridges. It will be open alongside the Summit and the Action Days. A closing event will take place on October 5 for all members of the community.

## Media Events

- **Media Lunch with Speakers and Partners**  
2 October: 12:00-13:00, BB Village, CICC
- **Press conference** | 2 October: 13:00-13:45, BB Village, CICC  
With Patrick Odier, Elizabeth Maruma Mrema, Sue Lloyd
- Meeting for the press with **José Ramos-Horta**, Nobel Peace Prize Winner and current President of Timor-Leste | **October 3, 12:00**, BB-Connect Area, CICC
- A Toast & Talk for the press with **Seedstars** on 10 Years & \$100M+ Impact in Emerging Markets | **October 3, 14:00-14:30**, Seedstars Villa, CICC Level -1

# 2023 Speakers



**Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**  
Director General – WTO



**Alain Berset**  
President - Swiss Confederation



**Elizabeth Maruma Mrema**  
Co-Chair – TNFD



**Sergio Ermotti**  
Group Chief Executive Officer - UBS



**Paul Polman**  
Business Leader, Climate Campaigner – Net Positive



**Sigrid Kaag**  
Minister of Finance, First Deputy PM – Government of the Netherlands



**José Manuel Barroso**  
Chair of the Board - Gavi



**Sue Lloyd**  
Vice Chair – International Sustainability Standards Board



**José Ramos-Horta**  
Nobel Peace Prize winner and current President of Timor-Leste



**Sheikha Shamma**  
President and Chief Executive Officer - UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators



**Avinash Persaud**  
Special Envoy on Investment and Financial Services to the Prime Minister – Government of Barbados



**Sebastião Salgado**  
Photographer & Activist



**Marcos Neto**  
Director, Sustainable Finance Hub – UNDP



**Rémy Rioux**  
Director General – Agence Française de Développement



**Eric Usher**  
Head – UNEP FI



**Sonja Gibbs**  
Head of Sustainable Finance – Institute of International Finance





**Sandrine Dixon-Declève**  
CO-President – The Club of Rome



**Mahmoud Mohieldin**  
Executive Director – International Monetary Fund



**Dominic Waughray**  
Executive Vice President – World Business Council for Sustainable Development



**Barbara Buchner**  
Global Managing Director - Climate Policy Initiative



**Nora Ernst**  
Senior Sustainability Risk Manager – Swiss Re



**Vincent Kaufmann**  
Chief Executive Officer – Fondation Ethos



**Iris Menn**  
Chief Executive Officer – Greenpeace Switzerland



**Michael Baldinger**  
Chief Sustainability Officer – UBS



**Jessica Smith**  
Nature Lead – UNEP FI



**Stephen Jackson**  
UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya - UNRC Kenya



**Alison Bewick**  
Global Head of Group Risk Management - Nestlé



**Patrick Odier**  
Chairman – Building Bridges



**Simon Zadek**  
Executive Director – NatureFinance



**Nik Gowing**  
Founder and Co-Director – Thinking the Unthinkable



**André Hoffmann**  
Co-Founder – InTent



**Emily McKenzie**  
Technical Director – TNFD



## ABOUT BUILDING BRIDGES

Building Bridges is a joint initiative, launched in 2019, by Swiss public authorities, the finance community, the United Nations and other International partners to accelerate the transition to a global economic model aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

At the core of the initiative is the recognition that the scale and complexity of the transition require “building bridges” between multiple stakeholders in the finance, government, and international development communities. By creating synergies between actors and sectors, Building Bridges serves as an international hub for sustainable finance, and facilitates the emergence of innovative sustainable solutions.

Every year, the initiative convenes key actors in Geneva to leverage the power of finance to preserve the planet, reduce social inequalities, and improve access to human rights. More than an event, Building Bridges aims to stimulate international debate and shape the global sustainable finance agenda.

### INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY



### FINANCE INDUSTRY



### SWISS AUTHORITIES



## A SOLID TRACK RECORD

**A global forum to drive the transition to a sustainable financial system.**

### OUR JOURNEY

- **2019** – The first Building Bridges Summit brought together 400+ individuals to highlight the role of sustainable finance. 31 grassroots events were held across Geneva in October.
- **2021** – The second edition, featuring 77 events, attracted 1,453 individuals in person and 12'500 participants online.
- **2022** – The third edition gathered 1,850 participants from 50+ countries over 3.5 days to mobilize capital flows toward sustainable and inclusive projects.
- **2023** – The fourth edition will be expanding reach and diversity, while enhancing the interactivity of the Summit. The Action Days will feature event formats designed to encourage concrete impact. This edition will also host initiatives that will determine the future of sustainable finance.

### GROWTH



#### ATTENDEES

From 1,000  
To **1,850**



#### SPONSORS

From 9  
To **32**



#### PARTICIPATING ORGANIZATIONS

From 60  
To **150**



#### EVENTS

From 31  
To **71**



# SEEDSTARS' 10-YEAR JOURNEY

Seedstars will celebrate its 10-year journey of growth and impact at Building Bridges from October 3 to 5.



Over the past decade, Seedstars has steadfastly utilized technology and capital as a conduit to empower entrepreneurs and Small & Growing Businesses (SGBs) in emerging markets. After a successful global tour across Asia, MENA, Africa, USA, and LATAM, Co-Founders Alisée de Tonnac and Pierre Alain Masson, together with the Seedstars family from across the regions, will meet in Geneva to celebrate 10 years of impact.



Seedstars is a company of change makers across Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, Central-Eastern Europe, and Asia who are passionate about making a difference in emerging and frontier markets through entrepreneurship and technology. As an international investment and education company headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, their work spans 90+ countries with 15 offices around the globe. The organization supports the world's most ambitious and dedicated entrepreneurs in growing and scaling their companies to create meaningful and lasting change.

Seedstars partners with governments, developmental financial institutions, foundations, corporations and investors to build sturdy and healthy entrepreneurial ecosystems that drive purposeful social and economic development.

The Seedstars Villa will provide an immersive experience where participants will connect with global leaders, and discover investment opportunities in emerging markets.

**Discover Seedstars' program at Building Bridges:**  
[www.buildingbridges.org/seedstars/](http://www.buildingbridges.org/seedstars/)

# 2023 Building Bridges Sponsors

## Diamond Sponsors



## Gold Sponsors



## Silver Sponsors



## Bronze Sponsors



## With support from



## Special Collaborations





# 2023 Action Days Co-organizers





# PRACTICAL INFORMATION

## Contact

- To receive a press accreditation for the 2023 Building Bridges edition or to organize an interview with a speaker or a member of the Building Bridges community, please reach out to **Nora Sada**, Head of Communications: [n.sada@sfgeneva.org](mailto:n.sada@sfgeneva.org).

## Building Bridges Program

- Full program of the 2023 edition: [www.buildingbridges.org/2023-edition](http://www.buildingbridges.org/2023-edition)
- More information on the initiative: [www.buildingbridges.org/About-BB](http://www.buildingbridges.org/About-BB)
- Download the BB Connect app (available on [AppStore](#) and [Google Play](#))

## Upcoming Press Events

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## Venue

Centre international des conférences de Genève  
17 rue de Varembe  
1202 Geneva, Switzerland