

Building Bridges Press Kit

Building Bridges 2025 – 6th Edition

30 September – 2 October 2025, International Conference Centre Geneva (CICG)

Theme: **Innovative Solutions and Investment Opportunities in Sustainable Finance**

Over 2,000 leaders from finance, government, international organisations, civil society, academia will gather in Geneva for this year's three-day conference which comes at a **critical juncture**.

Sustainable finance faces strong headwinds and competes for attention in an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape. Cuts to Official Development Assistance (ODA) across most OECD countries are straining the international development community at a time when coordinated, well-financed responses are more essential than ever.

Yet, despite the tumultuous macroeconomic backdrop:

- The long-term economic rationale for the transition is established.
- The financial repercussions of climate change and nature loss are increasingly priced into assets, not to mention the costs of their consequences.

With 200+ confirmed speakers (see full list at: buildingbridges.org/2025-speakers), join us at this critical moment, when finance, development, and policy actors sit side by side to co-create solutions. [2024 participation](#) featured 56% from finance and business sectors and 44% from the public sector, media, youth and academia.

Top storylines to consider:

- **Councillor [Martin Pfister](#) brings a security lens:** Representing the Swiss Federal Department of Defence, Councillor Pfister will reflect on the links between resilience, stability and sustainability in today's complex geopolitical context.
- **[Sec. John Kerry](#) on financing the transition:** The 68th U.S. Secretary of State will deliver a keynote on the bold solutions and international cooperation needed to finance a livable planet.
- **Shifting global capital:** [David Blood](#), Co-Founder of Generation Investment Management will outline how investors can accelerate the global capital shift alongside [Rhian-Mari Thomas](#), the Chief Executive of the Green Finance Institute, who will share practical innovations reshaping sustainable finance.
- **Institutional investors paving the way:** [Ronald Wuijster](#) of APG Asset Management, which manages Europe's largest pension fund, will discuss how major institutional investors are driving the next phase of sustainable finance.
- **Private markets as decisive capital:** Experts from SIX, Lombard Odier, La Caisse (formerly CDPQ), Gresham House and ILX will show why private markets could prove decisive in financing the transition this decade.
- **Insurance as the new climate gatekeeper:** Generali, Swiss Re, UNDP and Howden will debate how insurance is reshaping investment flows in an era where what cannot be insured cannot be invested in.
- **Transition finance in action:** Corporates and investors including UBS, Holcim, Dassault Systèmes and Mirova will showcase how the transition is being executed in the real economy, with practical, investable pathways.
- **Showcasing bridges across a value chain for Carbon Markets:** A unique panel uniting leaders from across the same value chain: Gold Standard, the World Bank, Trafigura, South Pole and ICCF, will examine how to build high-integrity carbon markets that align the interests of communities, investors and policymakers alike.

Our Programme

- **The Summit and High-Level Plenaries** set the strategic tone, spotlighting strategies to finance the net-zero and nature-positive transition, and align corporate action with sustainability goals.
- **A crowd-sourced programme of Action Events** forms the majority of the programme. Selected from over 150 submissions, the final agenda with over 60 events represents the most relevant topics critical to the Building Bridges community today.
- **The dynamic Solutions Stage spotlights innovations** from climate risk tools and nature mapping, to blockchain-based funding for development.
- **Meanwhile, networking moments**, including Cohorts Connect, Speed Networking and social cocktails, foster connections that have the potential to deploy capital for durable impact.

Media Programme, Launches and Announcements

The following media events will take place on the Solutions Stage on the Ground Floor.

Tuesday, 30 Sept 08:15 | Morning Press Briefing (ahead of Summit) featuring:

- **Fiona Watson, Vice-President of Corporate Performance & Accountability of the World Business Council on Sustainable Development (WBCSD)** will highlight the new CEO Handbook for Physical Risks in Value Chains. This is related to the Action Event [Driving action on physical risk in value chain](#) taking place on the same day from 15:30-17:00 in Room F.
- **Lily Tomson (Cambridge) and Zarina Nasib (Bloomberg)** will share how the University of Cambridge's academic research led to a new Bloomberg index which supports investors choosing to pivot from portfolio decarbonisation to real economy outcomes. This is related to the Action Event [Fixed income, flexible solutions: the bond index reshaping climate finance](#) taking place on the same day from 14:00-15:30 in Room E.
- **Katherine Foster, Finance Innovation Lead at EIT Food** (the world's largest food innovation initiative) will announce the launch of a new Think-Do Tank on Resilient Agriculture, established by EIT Food in collaboration with its cross sectoral partners. This is related to the Action Event [Blended and Beyond: Finance Innovation for Regenerative Agriculture and Market Infrastructure](#) from 10:30-11:30 on the following day (Wednesday) in Room A.
- **Guillaume Bonnel from the SDG Impact Finance Initiative (SIFI)** will announce the winners of the 4th call for proposals of SIFI's Innovation Window, targeting financial solutions addressing SDGs 1, 8 and 10. This is related to the Action Event [Unlocking Capital Flows: Solving Liquidity Challenges for Impact Investments in Emerging Markets](#) from 13:00-14:30 on the following day (Wednesday) in Room F.

Wednesday, 1 Oct, 08:00 | Media Workshop: Greening the Newsroom to build resilience in times of turbulence and disruption. This session is targeted at media and communication professionals who are interested in enhancing their impact and leadership in sustainability. Organised by the University of Lancashire, the Media Innovation Studio and Thomson Foundation.

Thursday, 2 Oct, 08:15 | Morning Press Briefing featuring:

- **Jessica Graf of LeFil** will announce two new reports: "*Impact-Linked Finance – From intention to results: a practical guide to invest with extra inclusive impact*" and "*Gender mainstreaming: a powerful performance lever for both impact and business – summary of findings from the Latin American social entrepreneurship ecosystem.*" This is related to the Action Event [Gender Impact: Unlocked, Worthwhile, Rewarded with Impact Linked Finance](#) from 15:30-17:00 on the same day in Room C.
- **Diana Rose and Michele Soavi of ImpactScope** will launch new platform for public to access AI-powered greenwashing reports and Insig AI will launch of an AI-enabled platform to accelerate IFRS reporting. This is related to the Action Event [De-risking Sustainable Finance: ensuring trust in ESG data](#) from 16:00-17:00 on the same day in Room 9.

- **The ENCORE partners (UNEP-WCMC, Global Canopy, and UNEP FI)** will launch a new online functionality for the ENCORE tool at the event ‘Exploring nature-related risks and opportunities: ENCORE and beyond’. This feature provides visualizations of nature dependencies and impacts in **key value chains**, enriching insights into exposure to nature-related risks. This is related to the Action Event [Exploring nature-related risks and opportunities for finance and business, shaping nature solutions towards UNFCCC COP30, CBD COP17 and beyond](#) from 15:00-16:30 on the same day in Room F.

Other launches

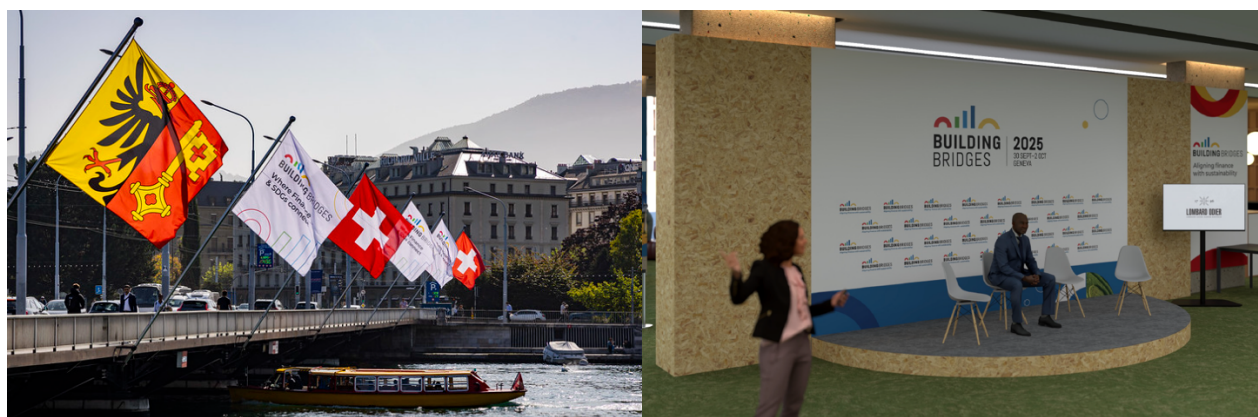
- **Renat Heuberger of Terra Impact Ventures** will present the newly launched climate thriller novel, “The Carbon Paradox”, on how to fund real climate action in an imperfect world. This will be referenced in an Action Event on 30 Sept, from 17:30-18:30 [ROI or Perish: Tech, Impact & the New Rules of Sustainable Business](#)
- **Tony Goldner (CEO, Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)) and Anthony Miller (Chief Coordinator, UN Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative)** will jointly launch the “Model Guidance on Nature-related Financial Disclosures” for stock exchanges. This will be a key tool for the global financial community providing a template for stock exchanges develop guidance for listed entities on nature-related assessment and disclosure, helping prepare their markets for disclosing nature-related information drawing on the TNFD’s guidance. More will be shared at the Solutions Stage session on 30 Sept, from 14:30-15:30 [Integrating Nature into Finance: Tools for Risk and Opportunity](#).

Facilities

- Dedicated press workroom Wi-Fi.
- Lunch vouchers distributed at morning briefings.

Photo opportunities

- Our “Where finance meets SDGs” flags will be on Mont Blanc bridge from 29 Sept – 3 Oct.
- A new media area will be available for interviews on request



Leading Voices Available for Media Requests

(Full list of 200+ speakers [available online](#); below are those most relevant and available for media interviews)

Building Bridges Leadership

- **Patrick Odier**, Chair of Building Bridges, President of Swiss Sustainable Finance and Chair of the Supervisory Board, Lombard Odier Group.
- **Marie-Laure Schaufelberger**, Vice Chair of Building Bridges, President of Sustainable Finance Geneva and Chief Sustainability Officer of Pictet Group.
- **Karen Hitschke**, CEO, Building Bridges Foundation.

International Finance Voices

- **Rhian-Mari Thomas**, CEO, Green Finance Institute
- **Philippe Zaouati**, CEO, Mirova
- **Sophie Gioanni**, Head of Investor Relations, ILX Management
- **Peter Bakker**, President, WBCSD

Pension Funds

- **Emmanuel Jaclot**, Executive VP & Head of Infrastructure & Sustainability, La Caisse
- **Martin Roth**, President, Swiss Association of Pension Institutions (ASIP)

Insurance

- **Rowan Douglas**, CEO, Howden
- **Lauren Carter**, Deputy Team Lead & Head of External Engagement, UNDP IRFF
- **Arend Kulenkampff**, Innovative Finance for Nature Lab, NatureFinance

Carbon

- **John Gantt**, CEO, International Conservation Caucus Foundation Group
- **Hannah Hauman**, Global Head of Carbon Trading, Trafigura
- **Nili Gilbert**, Vice Chairwoman - Carbon Direct
- **Daniel Klier**, CEO, South Pole

Nature Finance

- **Tony Goldner**, CEO, Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)
- **Julie McCarthy**, CEO, NatureFinance
- **Luana Maia**, Lead, Global Brazil, NatureFinance
- **Marcelo Furtado**, Head of Sustainability, Itaúsa

Academia

- **Lisa Sachs**, Director, Columbia Center of Sustainable Investment (CCSI)
- **Partha Dasgupta**, Professor of Economics, University of Cambridge
- **Beatrice Weder de Mauro**, Chair of the Andre Hoffmann Centre, Global Economics, Graduate Institute of Geneva

International Development

- **Federica Diamanti**, Associate VP, External Relations Dept, IFAD
- **Kamal Kishore**, UN SG Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, UNDRR

Major Event Partner Spokespersons

- **Melanie Larkin**, Senior Sustainability Development Manager, Pictet
- **Stephen Freedman**, Head of Research & Sustainable Thematic Equities, Pictet
- Media requests for Executives from UBS, Lombard Odier and InTent also welcome.

New Event Partner

NatureAlpha is joining Building Bridges as an Event Partner for the first time. They are an AI-driven fintech providing leading nature risk data and analysis to support investors, companies and financial institutions. www.naturealpha.ai. Spokespeople joining Building Bridges on-site:

- **Vian Sharif**, Founder & President – two decades in finance and sustainability, recognised leader in linking nature, technology and investment.
- **Nick Hough-Robbins**, CEO – former Chief Data Officer at Shell, expert in data strategy and energy transition.
- **Nicolas Nebout**, Head of Sales (native French speaker) – sustainability specialist with experience in carbon accounting, ESG reporting and scaling green tech startups.

Event Organisers & Interview Opportunities

Building Bridges 2025 Action Events Programme is co-organised by a diverse community of over 100 organisations from finance, international development, business, and civil society. The following interlocutors have expressed interest for media interviews to share their perspectives.

- **Finance, Investment and Innovation:** Acumen, AMAS, Aviva Investors, Balim Investments AG, BASE Foundation, Cardano Foundation, Climate Policy Initiative, DWS Group, Graubündner Kantonalbank, Helmi Group, Home of Blockchain, Innovate 4 Nature, LeFil, Louis Dreyfus Company, SDG Impact Finance Initiative (SIFI), Swiss Bankers Association, Zurich Carbon Market Association (ZCMA).
- **Development & Multilateral Organisations:** AIIB, Inter-American Development Bank, IFAD, UNDP, UNEP-WCMC, CGAP, World Vision International.
- **Sustainability & Standards:** WBCSD, PRI (UNPRI), PCAF, NatureFinance, IISD, Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation, ATNi, Sanitation and Hygiene Fund, Access to Nutrition Initiative, Taskforce on Inequality and Social-related Financial Disclosures (TISFD).
- **Research & Academia:** University of Cambridge, Center for Sustainable Finance and Private Wealth, CFA Society Switzerland, INFRAS.
- **Civil Society & Foundations:** Enviu Foundation, PeaceNexus, BreakFree Suisse, Green Business Award.

About Building Bridges

Founded in Geneva in 2019, Building Bridges is a neutral, global platform aligning finance with sustainable development. After four successful editions, the Building Bridges Foundation was established in 2024 to sustain year-round momentum.

Key initiatives launched at past editions include NatureFinance, the Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosures (TNFD), and the Swiss Platform for Impact Investing. Building Bridges remains the strategic meeting platform of finance and development, uniquely positioned in Geneva. More info: www.buildingbridges.org

Media Accreditation: media@buildingbridges.org

Direct Requests: Thuy Maryen, Head of Communications t.maryen@buildingbridges.org