

Building Bridges, Switzerland’s flagship sustainable finance initiative, releases 2021 event program

Registration is now open for 77 events November 29-December 2

- Moving from talk to action: Building Bridges 2021 events will feature concrete announcements, launches and commitments.
- Building Bridges Week taking place November 29-December 2 will feature a rich crowd-sourced program, a summit featuring world-renowned keynote speakers and the support of 28 sponsors
- Nearly every one of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals will be addressed at Building Bridges.
- The event is free and open to anyone interested in sustainable finance. Registration is now live on the new Building Bridges website: www.buildingbridges.org

Geneva, October 7, 2021 – Building Bridges - an action-oriented, multi-stakeholder movement launched in Switzerland in 2019 to shape the global agenda and the future of sustainable finance – today unveiled a full program of 77 events on its new website. Registration is now officially open to anyone interested in sustainability and finance. Most of the events will take place in-person in Geneva and select sessions will be webcast live for a global audience. Nearly every Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) of the United Nations (UN) will be addressed during the four days beginning on Monday, November 29 and running until Thursday, December 2, 2021. Many of the events, including the summit, will feature concrete announcements, launches and commitments.

Leveraging the unique ecosystem in Switzerland, Building Bridges will bring together a diversity of international actors in finance, government, the UN, NGOs, and academia with a broad spectrum of expertise in finance and SDG implementation.

The second edition of *Building Bridges* will start on Monday, November 29, 2021 in Geneva with the Building Bridges Summit, which will convene a unique group of key Swiss and international decision makers and world-renowned keynote speakers around a common vision and objective: to accelerate the transition to a global economic model aligned with the imperatives of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, with finance as a key catalyst for change.

High-level speakers confirmed to date include Ueli Maurer, Swiss Federal Councillor and Head of the Federal Department of Finance; Paul Polman, former CEO of Unilever; Guy Ryder, Director-General of the International Labour Organization; Patricia Danzi, Head of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; Clara Barby, CEO of the Impact Management Platform; and more. Additional speakers will be announced over the coming weeks. The summit will be starting point for the full week of events taking place in Geneva.

77 action-oriented events to advance a sustainable financial system

Building Bridges is a community effort intended to unite high-level support with broad community engagement. To that end, the week program was crowd-sourced to enable the creation of a true movement and collective ownership, rather than one-way dialogue. As a result, over 70 events were

scheduled, all planned by one or more members of the Community, including governments, the United Nations, academic institutions, NGOs, tech companies, financial players and more.

The events all aim to advance financing for the UN Sustainable Development Goals and cover a broad range of topics, including health, biodiversity, climate change, circular economy, human rights, inequality, decent work, water & oceans, food & agriculture, gender, humanitarian response, and peace. They will take place in various online and in-person formats (panel discussions, roundtables, workshops, training sessions, etc.) to stimulate deeper levels of dialogue and action.

Commenting on the upcoming Building Bridges event series, Patrick Odier, President of Building Bridges, said: *“We aim to see Building Bridges become the global agenda setting initiative on sustainable finance and the 2021 edition is the next step in achieving that goal. Building Bridges is more than an event, it is a movement to truly drive transformational change and accelerate achievement of the SDGs.”*

About Building Bridges

Building Bridges is organized by Sustainable Finance Geneva (SFG) in collaboration with Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) on behalf of a unique alliance of institutions from the financial sector, public authorities and Geneva-based international organizations: the UN Geneva/SDG Lab; UNEP FI; World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD); the UN-convened Financial Centres for Sustainability (FC4S); the Geneva Financial Centre (FGPF); Swiss Bankers Association (SBA); Asset Management Association Switzerland (AMAS); NGOs (including WWF Switzerland, IISD, DNDi, PeaceNexus, Ashoka); City of Geneva; Republic and Canton of Geneva; Swiss Confederation (via the SIF, the SECO and the DFAE).

The first edition of Building Bridges in October 2019 brought together over 1000 stakeholders from diverse backgrounds in Switzerland and internationally, including the President of the Swiss Confederation, the Director-General of UN Geneva, and numerous CEOs and opinion leaders representing NGOs, business, academia and other international organizations.

Building Bridge 2021 will take place at the Maison de la Paix, Forum Genève, the Impact Hub and on the Biotech Campus.

Registration is free and open to anyone interested in sustainable finance on the movement’s website: www.buildingbridges.org

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