



# ***Building Bridges Summit***

October 2, 14:00-18:30 | CICG, Geneva





## **BUILDING BRIDGES 2023**

**The 2023 edition of Building Bridges will take place October 2-5 in Geneva, Switzerland.** Building Bridges will build on the great success of its first three years and will create space for participants to convene, update perspectives and debate solutions to global sustainability challenges. Building Bridges will bring together 2000+ actors from the financial and corporate sectors, the sustainability community, policy makers, academia, entrepreneurs, and young change makers.

Geneva plays a key role in addressing the sustainability ecosystem. It is both a multilateral hub and a world-renowned financial center. This makes the city an ideal venue to connect finance with the SDGs. This edition will feature key initiatives and ground-breaking events. 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.

The **High-level Summit** will kick off the week. Influential speakers will address the cutting edge of pressing global challenges for achieving the SDGs and the interdependence of human, social, natural, and financial capital.

The **Building Bridges Action Days** will showcase over **65 crowd-sourced events** planned by more than 100 organizations to address climate impact, innovative finance, nature finance, fintech, and other trending topics.

The Building Bridges week will provide unique opportunities to network with prominent figures 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



## **AN INNOVATIVE SUMMIT**

*The Building Bridges Summit will convene expert-led discussions to address our most critical and pressing global challenges. This will include the twin climate and nature crises, widening social inequalities and how to mobilize capital in unprecedented amounts to build a just, resilient, and sustainable future.*

*Experts will lend knowledge and experience from their respective fields. The aim will be to impart insights, deliver key action steps, and bring clarity to these complex and urgent sustainability issues.*

*Building Bridges recognizes that collaboration and collective action are crucial when addressing interconnected global challenges. No single actor or sector has the resources or expertise to tackle such issues on their own. Therefore, the Summit will adopt an innovative approach to foster inclusivity and leverage diverse perspectives and expertise from various stakeholders. This will include finance, businesses, government, multilateral organizations, civil society, academia, and youth changemakers. This spectrum of stakeholders will ensure diverse viewpoints are heard. Each will bring a unique set of knowledge to the table. This is essential if resilient and lasting solutions are to be found.*

*The Summit will be the ideal platform to create meaningful, balanced, engaging and hopefully radical discussions. The goal is that all members of the audience will glean key insights and significant learnings on how to stay on track in order to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.*



*“This year’s Building Bridges Summit will cultivate an enriching and collaborative environment where participants will hear meaningful exchanges of ideas outside of business-as-usual silos. Action steps are urgently needed by all the actors, and I hope you will be among us on October 2 to advance the sustainable finance agenda.”*

**Sandrine Salerno**  
*Executive Director, Building Bridges*



## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

**14:00**

KICK OFF: THE CHALLENGES WE ALL CONFRONT

**14:25**

PRIORITIZING SUSTAINABLE FINANCE IN TIMES OF ACUTE GEOECONOMIC FRAGMENTATION

**15:00**

FIRESIDE CHAT WITH UBS CEO, SERGIO ERMOTTI

**15:15**

WHY ARE TRILLIONS NOT MOBILIZED? CONNECTING THE DOTS TO HARNESS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FINANCE TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs

**16:30**

MAKING NATURE COUNT: IN CONVERSATION WITH THE TNFD CO-CHAIR

**17:25**

FINANCE FOR PEOPLE: PRIORITIZING THE STABILITY OF OUR SOCIETIES TO ACCELERATE THE TRANSITION

**18:20**

TAKE OFF



### SUMMIT MODERATOR

**Nik Gowing**

*Founder and Co-Director, Thinking the Unthinkable*

*Nik Gowing has a distinguished career in international TV journalism with over forty years broadcasting experience at the BBC and ITN, plus expert moderating skills. He is the Founder of Thinking the Unthinkable which investigates why leaders struggle with the disruptions and upheavals we all now face, especially because of the climate and nature emergencies..*

# KICK OFF



**Alain Berset**

*President, Swiss Confederation*



**Patrick Odier**

*Chair, Building Bridges*



**Sigrid Kaag**

*Deputy Prime Minister  
and Minister of Finance,  
Government of the  
Netherlands*

# Discussion 1

## **PRIORITIZING SUSTAINABLE FINANCE IN TIMES OF ACUTE GEOECONOMIC FRAGMENTATION**

*Stability is unravelling. The world is being thrust into an acute and fraught period of global geoeconomic fragmentation. This is evidenced by weakening international cooperation, eroding multilateralism, and reduced capital flows. New fragmentation fault lines have been created by the global economic slowdown, the cost-of-living crisis, high debt levels, market volatility, food and energy insecurity, supply chain vulnerabilities, and increased geopolitical tensions.*

*The SDG agenda is at risk in this increasingly shock-prone world. The proliferation of global trade fragmentation into rival economic blocs threatens to leave all of us unable to address the urgent ways needed to achieve a sustainable, socially inclusive, and just transition. Sustainability can have a profound, material impact on the economy, people, and the overall stability of the financial system.*

*How can we all rise to the challenges, tackle the increasing fragmentation, and accelerate capital flows to benefit the sustainability agenda?*

### **KEYNOTE**



**Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**

*Director General, World Trade Organization*

## **Discussion 2**

### **FIRESIDE CHAT**



**Sergio Ermotti**

*Group Chief Executive  
Officer, UBS*

## Discussion 3

### **WHY ARE TRILLIONS NOT MOBILIZED? CONNECTING THE DOTS TO HARNESS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE FINANCE TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs**

In this increasingly fragmented and disrupted world, unprecedented amounts of capital need to be mobilized rapidly to achieve the global sustainability goals. Why are trillions not being mobilized to finance the SDG Agenda? Investors, both public and private, often prioritize short-term financial returns over longer-term sustainable development goals. The SDGs require investments which may not yield immediate financial profits but have long-term social and economic benefits. Despite the increasing focus on “blended finance” over the last decade, private capital is not being mobilized at the scale and pace needed and will follow if policy and regulation are clearly set out with transparent and robust investment frameworks. Alongside public investments, private capital is the agent of change to catalyse innovation, sustainable economic growth, and job creation to achieve the SDGs. This discussion will address the complex relationship between public-private financial partnerships and the obstacles to reaching optimal scale and orientation. How can the dots be connected to bridge the public-private financial gap given that the challenges will only amplify with the deepening of the climate crisis, nature’s loss, and social injustice in both developed and emerging markets?

### **SPEAKERS**



**Avinash Persaud**

*Special Envoy on Investment and Financial Services to the Prime Minister, Government of Barbados*



**Sheikha Shamma bint Sultan bin Khalifa Al Nahyan**

*President and Chief Executive Officer, UAE Independent Climate Change Accelerators*



**Rémy Rioux**

*Chairman, IDFC; Chief Executive Officer, Agence Française de Développement*



## Discussion 4

### **MAKING NATURE COUNT: IN CONVERSATION WITH THE TNFD CO-CHAIR**

*The Building Bridges Summit will host the European launch of the Taskforce on Nature Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD) led by the TNFD Co-Chair. These are the first set of disclosures to emerge which measure nature's impact on businesses and businesses on nature. There is new urgency on this issue as all economic and social connections ultimately rely on a healthy planet. More than half of the world's economic output – a staggering US\$44 trillion of economic value generation - is dependent on nature. The acceleration of the global loss of nature and biodiversity is an increasing source of risks to companies, and in times of ever more stringent regulation, corporates should pay close attention to their use of natural capital and ecosystem services. The role of nature as a source of systemic risk alongside climate change, therefore, poses a major threat to the viability and resilience of economic activities, impacts corporate reputation, and affects the social license to operate. The discussion will examine how the TNFD framework helps companies understand the interconnectedness of nature in financial performance, the evolving nature-related risks, and how climate, carbon reduction and nature-related strategies go hand in hand. Finally, consumers and investors are increasingly aware of the importance of protecting the environment and are demanding that companies take action to reduce their impacts on nature.*

#### **KEYNOTE**



**Elizabeth Maruma Mrema**

*Co-Chair, TNFD; Assistant Secretary-General, United Nations*

#### **MODERATOR**



**Eva Zabey**

*Chief Executive Officer, Business for Nature*

## Discussion 5

### FINANCE FOR PEOPLE: PRIORITIZING THE STABILITY OF OUR SOCIETIES TO ACCELERATE THE TRANSITION

*Financing people and communities to adapt is the pillar of a stable society. It leads to economic progress, productivity, and innovation. Financing people plays the crucial role in maintaining the stability of our society as a functioning financial system. It supports economic growth, facilitates trade and investment, and provides individuals and businesses with access to capital. Conversely, an unstable financial system has far-reaching consequences that places the stability of our society at risk and exacerbates socioeconomic inequalities.*

*The business community has powerful levers at its disposal to be part of this rescue effort. As the workplace provides the lion's share of the products, services and jobs people need to sustain themselves and the livelihoods of their families, human capital must consistently be measured and valued in corporate, investor and government decision-making.*

#### SPEAKERS



**Marcos Neto**

*Director of the Sustainable Finance Hub, UNDP*



**Sue Lloyd**

*Vice Chair, International Sustainability Standards Board*



**Richard Manley**

*Chief Sustainability Officer, CPP Investments*



**Dominic Waughray**

*Executive Vice President, WBCSD*

# TAKE OFF



**Eric Usher**

*Head, UNEP FI; Co-Chair,  
the Impact Management  
Platform*



**Mark Gough**

*Chief Executive Officer,  
Capitals Coalition*

# STAKEHOLDER VOICES

## FINANCE



**Hubert Keller**

*Senior Managing Partner,  
Lombard Odier*



**Laurent Ramsey**

*Managing Partner, Pictet*



**Michael Baldinger**

*Chief Sustainability  
Officer, UBS*



**Johnny el Hachem**

*Chief Executive Officer,  
Edmond de Rothschild  
Private Equity*



**Dan Grandage**

*Head of Sustainable  
Investing, abrdn*



**Martin K. Weber**

*Chair of the Board of  
Directors, Robeco  
Switzerland Ltd*



**Andreas Utermann**

*Chair of the Board of  
Directors, Vontobel*



**Sigrid Kaag**

*Deputy Prime Minister  
and Minister of Finance,  
Government of the  
Netherlands*



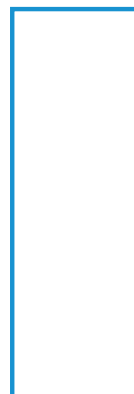
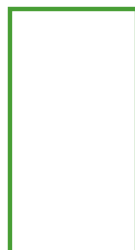
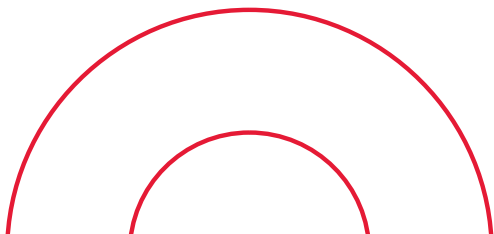
**James Mwangi**

*Chief Executive Officer,  
Equity Group Holdings*



**Iwan Deplazes**

*President, AMAS;  
Head Asset  
Management, ZKB*



# STAKEHOLDER VOICES

## CORPORATE



**Saskia Günther**

*Head of Sustainability,  
Swisscom*



**André Hoffmann**

*Vice Chair, Roche*



**Rob Cameron**

*Vice President Global  
Head of Public Affairs and  
ESG Engagement, Nestlé*



**Holcim**



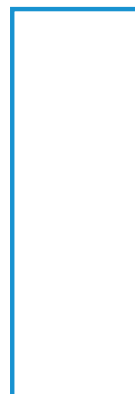
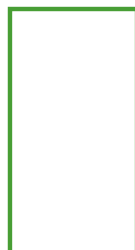
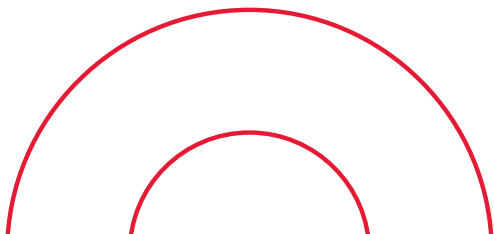
**Dominic Waughray**

*Executive Vice President,  
WBCSD*



**Andreas Ernst**

*Head, Endowment  
Responsible Investment,  
Constanter*



# STAKEHOLDER VOICES

## CIVIL SOCIETY



**Pavan Sukhdev**

*Founder and Chief Executive Officer, GIST Impact*



**Simon Zadek**

*Executive Director, NatureFinance*



**Iris Menn**

*Chief Executive Officer, Greenpeace Switzerland*



**Kirsten Schuijt**

*Director General, WWF International*



**Villars Institute**



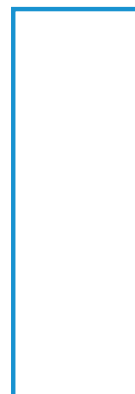
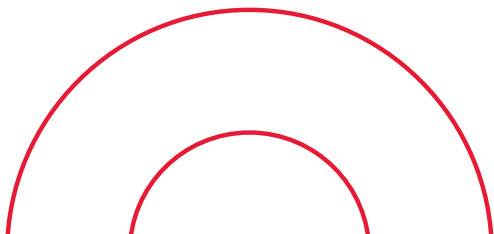
**Mark Gough**

*Chief Executive Officer, Capitals Coalition*



**Sonja Gibbs**

*Managing Director and Head of Sustainable Finance, Institute of International Finance*



# STAKEHOLDER VOICES

## ACADEMIA



**Nina Seega**

*Director, Centre for Sustainable Finance at the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership*



**Vanina Farber**

*Professor and Dean of the Executive MBA, International Institute for Management Development*



**Marie-Laure Salles**

*Director, Geneva Graduate Institute*



**Dan Esty**

*Director, Yale School of the Environment and Yale Law School*



**Rajna Gibson Brandon**

*Founder and Professor, Geneva Finance Research Institute*



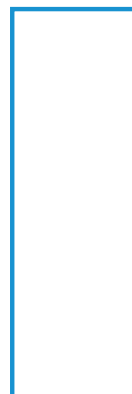
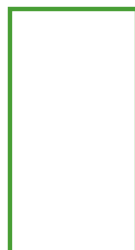
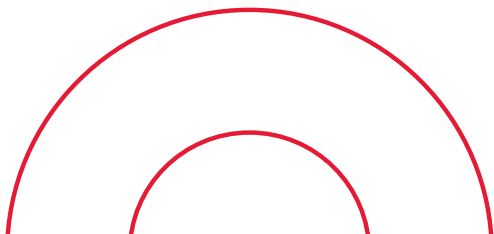
**Zacharias Sautner**

*Professor of Sustainable Finance, University of Zurich*



**Nick Robins**

*Professor in Practice for Sustainable Finance, Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change & the Environment, LSE*



# STAKEHOLDER VOICES

## MULTILATERAL AGENCIES



**Tatiana Valovaya**

*Director General, UN Geneva*



**Marcos Neto**

*Director of the Sustainable Finance Hub, UNDP*



**Eric Usher**

*Head, UNEP FI; Co-Chair, the Impact Management Platform*



**Sue Lloyd**

*Vice Chair, International Sustainability Standards Board*



**Rémy Rioux**

*Chairman, IDFC; Chief Executive Officer, Agence Française de Développement*



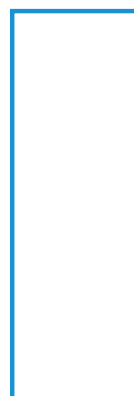
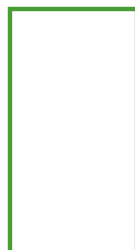
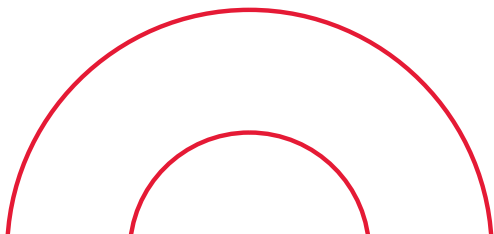
**Stephen Jackson**

*UN Resident Coordinator in Kenya, UNRC Kenya*



**Avinash Persaud**

*Special Envoy on Investment and Financial Services to the Prime Minister, Government of Barbados*







# Contact

*For any questions on the Building Bridges Summit, please contact our team:*

**Sandrine Salerno**

*Executive Director*

*Building Bridges*

[s.salerno@sfgeneva.org](mailto:s.salerno@sfgeneva.org)

**Christine Wallier**

*Summit Coordinator*

*Building Bridges*

[c.wallier@sfgeneva.org](mailto:c.wallier@sfgeneva.org)