



United Nations Environment Programme

برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة • 联合国环境规划署
PROGRAMME DES NATIONS UNIES POUR L'ENVIRONNEMENT • PROGRAMA DE LAS NACIONES UNIDAS PARA EL MEDIO AMBIENTE
ПРОГРАММА ОРГАНИЗАЦИИ ОБЪЕДИНЕННЫХ НАЦИЙ ПО ОКРУЖАЮЩЕЙ СРЕДЕ

Finance Initiative

Innovative financing for sustainability

UNEP FI African Task Force (ATF) Conditions of Membership

- Members join the UNEP FI ATF under the auspices of their financial firm i.e. it is the firm as a body that becomes the ATF member and not the individual. The ATF is a non-fee paying¹ voluntary initiative and non-contractual in nature.
- Members need to display a genuine concern for, and have an appreciation of sustainability issues, an awareness of the interrelationship of these issues with their financial activities and a willingness to improve their own organisation's sustainability performance while lending assistance to their counterparts to do likewise.
- Members must be dedicated and willing to devote the necessary time to the ATF in order to achieve its work programme. This includes engaging in all ATF activities, e.g. taking part in all conference calls (up to 4 a year), attending ATF related meetings and events, commenting in a timely manner on issues presented to them, and overall participation in agreed ATF work programmes.
- Members are obliged to meet their individual responsibilities in the agreed ATF work programmes so that the group may function efficiently as a whole in its role as a member –driven initiative.
- Members are obliged to attend each of the ATF AGMs, and if not possible, to provide a suitable colleague of theirs to attend in their place.
- Members make a minimum yearly commitment to being involved in the ATF and can review this commitment at the AGM if necessary.
- If a member must leave the ATF unexpectedly they must: notify the secretariat and ATF Chair of their departure and submit written documentation of their reasons for doing so for review by UNEP FI, and appoint a successor to represent their firm in the process. Failure to do so will result in the removal of their firm from membership of the ATF.
- Non-UNEP FI signatory members may initially become ATF members, but this is with the view that they become UNEP FI signatories over the course of their ATF membership.
- UNEP and the UNEP FI Chair reserve the right to annul the membership of a signatory in the ATF at any time if it is agreed by UNEP and UNEP FI Chair that they are in violation of the ATF Membership Terms of Reference and the UNEP FI Working Group/Task Force Governance Framework Document and/or are not adding value to the ATF process.

¹ A mandatory fee payment does apply to becoming a UNEP FI signatory per se (US \$15,000, \$7,500 & \$3,000 dependent on company size)



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The Benefits of ATF Membership

The UNEP FI ATF is of benefit to financial institutions in Africa for the following reasons:

- The ATF provides a forum for information exchange on African financial sector experiences with sustainable development related issues. Participating African financial practitioners have the opportunity to explore the relevance of sustainability issues to their particular sector, through discussions with task force members and participation in ATF work programme activities.
- Valuable networks within the African financial sector and its related associates can be established through the ATF to assist with individual firms' movement toward the internalisation of sustainability issues within their operations.
- The ATF acts as a pragmatic reference point for up-to-date research and information on the status of sustainable finance in Africa, offering practical advice on best practice and how the business case for "sustainable finance" may be achieved.
- ATF projects provide opportunities to create and apply innovative financial mechanisms to address pressing socio-environmental needs within the African continent. Projects that can result in mutually beneficial returns for both the financial sector and African environments and societies as a whole.
- The ATF is a medium to ensure competitive advantage in the market place and more sustainable environments and livelihoods throughout the continent, through its various planned capacity building programmes.
- As a UNEP FI body, the ATF is directly connected with some 230 leading financial institutions worldwide, offering a wealth of international expertise on the implications of a wide variety of socio-environmental concerns to the finance sector, and the advantages to be gained from addressing these issues head-on.
- Becoming part of UNEP FI's international network of financial signatories can ensure that individual ATF member financial institutions are at the cutting edge of international finance and sustainability trends and debates.

UNEP FI view the ATF as a valuable mechanism to promote an African "renaissance". The finance sector is pivotal to the advancement of such renewal and thus UNEP FI and its ATF related associates are in a prime position to be at the forefront of the operationalisation of sustainable development in Africa.