

Press Release

For the First Time in the Region,

UAE Hosts UN Environment Program Finance Initiative's Global Roundtable

Dubai, UAE: 21 October 2016 – Under the patronage of His Highness Sheikh Hamdan Bin Mohammed Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and Chairman of Dubai Executive Council, the United Arab Emirates, represented by the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and in collaboration with the UAE's Central Bank, is hosting the UN Environment Program Finance Initiative's 14th Global Roundtable event for the first time in the region on 25-26 October 2016 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Dubai.

The event will bring together leaders from all parts of the financial system, as well as from civil society, academia, government, and the United Nations, to discuss how to achieve the ambitious climate goals set under last year's two major global commitments to tackle climate change and promote sustainable development: the Paris Climate Agreement and the launch of the new Sustainable Development Goals.

H.E. Dr. Thani Ahmed Al Zeyoudi said, "We are very pleased to host this important event, at a crucial time for both the finance industry and our world's environment. It is now clear that the ambitious climate goals agreed at Paris will only be delivered upon if the finance industry is fully engaged. The United Arab Emirates is taking a leading role in the transformation to a sustainable economy with our initiatives such as UAE Green Agenda 2015 -2030, and we are pleased to be continuing this discussion with global financial leaders at the UNEP FI's 14th Global Roundtable."

This global event on sustainable finance will ask and answer some of the most pressing questions facing the finance sector today, such as, what are the emerging leading-edge business opportunities, how policy and technology innovations are changing the future of sustainable finance, how to better quantify emerging environmental and social risks, and how to upscale green Islamic finance.

UN Environment Program Finance Initiative Head, Eric Usher said, "We are seeing increasing momentum in the drive to create global financial systems and institutions that are resilient to climate change, and financial services companies that are building sustainable development into their core business strategy. But there is still much work to be done. This region is serious about leading the move towards a green

economy and we are looking forward to discussing in Dubai how we move the sustainable finance agenda forward both here and around the globe.”

Keynote speaker H.E. Dr Thani Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment and H. E. Mubarak Rashed Al Mansoori, Central Bank Governor will be joined by some of the world’s largest financial services companies such as Abu Dhabi Islamic Bank, Allianz, AXA, HSBC, ING, National Bank of Abu Dhabi, and Société Générale. Other speakers will include Zeti Akhtar Aziz, Former Governor of Bank Negara Malaysia, Saker Nusseibeh, CEO, Hermes Investment Management and Christian Thimann, Global Head of Strategy, Sustainability and Public Affairs, AXA Group, Paris. Stock exchanges, governments and regulators from around the globe will also be represented.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Global Roundtable will take place on 25th and 26th October at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Dubai. For more information, or to register for the event, please visit the Global Roundtable www.unepfi.org/grt/2016.

About UNEP FI:

The United Nations Environment Program Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is a unique global partnership between the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the global financial sector founded in 1992. UNEP FI works closely with over 200 financial institutions who have signed the UNEP FI Statements as well as a range of partner organizations to develop and promote linkages between sustainability and financial performance. Through peer-to-peer networks, research and training, UNEP FI carries out its mission to identify, promote, and realize the adoption of best environmental and sustainability practice at all levels of financial institution operations.

For more information, see www.unepfi.org

About the UAE Ministry of Climate Change and Environment:

The Ministry of Climate Change and Environment was established in February 2006 as the Ministry of Environment and Water. The ministry acquired its new name following the UAE Cabinet reshuffle in February 2016 and the subsequent integration of the climate change function.

Under its redefined scope, the ministry has taken on a dual mandate. On the national level, the ministry aims to strengthen the UAE’s efforts in preserving the environment and promoting food diversity in accordance with the nation’s aspiration to emerge as a key benchmark for sustainable development. On the global level, the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment will join international stakeholders in combating climate change and profile the UAE’s path-breaking achievements in the sector at thought leadership platforms worldwide.

For more information and to arrange interviews, please contact:



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