



UN
environment
programme

finance
initiative

Member handbook

Welcome to UNEP FI

A warm welcome from UNEP FI's global steering committee and secretariat. We are pleased that your organization has decided to join the world's leading UN collaboration with the global financial community dedicated to developing the sustainable finance and responsible investment agendas. Together with our global network of financial institutions, we catalyse action to align economies with the Sustainable Development Goals and accelerate the financial sector's integration of sustainability considerations into financial practice.

In this induction pack you will find all the information you need to get the most out of your UNEP FI membership. Whether accessing our resources and the collective expertise, taking part in developing and piloting new tools, methodologies and frameworks, or hearing from technical experts and industry leaders at our events and webinars, you will have access to everything you need to embed sustainability across your organization and into day-to-day operations. We look forward to working with you to help shape the finance sector's contribution towards sustainable economies and a healthy planet.



Lara de Mesa
UNEP FI Global Steering
Committee Co-Chair



Patty Karuaihe-Martin
UNEP FI Global Steering
Committee Co-Chair



Eric Usher
UNEP FI Head

About UNEP FI

You are welcome to use the text here to tell your stakeholders about your membership.

UNEP Finance Initiative brings together a large network of banks, insurers and investors that catalyses action across the financial system to deliver more sustainable global economies.

For more than 30 years the initiative has been connecting the UN with financial institutions from around the world to shape the sustainable finance agenda. We've established the world's foremost sustainability frameworks, helping the finance industry achieve sustainability goals, address sustainability risks and identify the business opportunities in taking a responsible approach to banking and insurance.

Convened by a Geneva, Switzerland-based secretariat, more than 520 banks and insurers with assets exceeding US\$170 trillion are individually implementing UNEP FI's Principles for Responsible Banking and Principles for Sustainable Insurance. Financial institutions work with UNEP FI on a voluntary basis and we help them to apply the industry frameworks and develop practical guidance and tools to position their businesses for the transition to a sustainable and inclusive economy.

Founded in 1992, UNEP FI was the first organization to engage the finance sector on sustainability and incubated the Principles for Responsible Investment, now the world's leading proponent of responsible investment.

Today, we cultivate leadership and advance sustainable market practice while supporting the implementation of global programmes at a regional level across Africa & the Middle East, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America & the Caribbean and North America.

Find all the latest news, projects, events and webinars at [unepfi.org](https://www.unepfi.org).

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is the leading global environmental authority that sets the global environmental agenda, promotes the coherent implementation of the environmental dimension of sustainable development within the United Nations system, and serves as an authoritative advocate for the global environment.

UNEP FI is a unit within the Industry and Economy Division. Find more information here. unenvironment.org/about-un-environment

Benefits of membership

As a member of UNEP FI, your organization can now benefit from being part of the world's largest network of financial institutions working to put sustainability at the heart of their business strategies. You and your colleagues can benefit in the following ways:

- Access a powerful platform that will enable you to share knowledge with peers in your region and fellow practitioners around the globe, as well as learn about the latest trends and how to apply best practices in sustainable finance.
- Take part in a rich and innovative work programme and join workstreams in developing new tools and methodologies to help your organization to integrate sustainability into your core business.
- Contribute to the quickly evolving global sustainable finance agenda and benefit from UN expertise and participation in UN fora.

There are many ways to access these benefits:

- Take part in at least one of our work tracks or communities of practice
- Attend our biennial global and regional roundtables
- Access the expertise of our secretariat and other members by participating in our regular webinars
- Stand for governance roles in one of the committees that provide oversight of our work
- Join one of our workshops and trainings or another of the many more opportunities to get involved.



Most of your contact with UNEP FI will be via your Regional Lead and your relevant Industry Coordinator. Their contact details are below:

Membership and regional coordination manager	Europe
 <p>Maria Sosa Taborda maria.sosataborda@un.org</p>	 <p>Daniel Bouzas Luis daniel.bouzasluis@un.org</p>
Africa and Middle East	Latin America & Caribbean
 <p>Nuran Atef nuran.atef@un.org</p>	 <p>Mabel Gonzalez Pacheco mabel.gonzalezpacheco@un.org</p>
Asia Pacific	North America
 <p>Nirnita Talukdar Nirnita.talukdar@un.org</p>	 <p>Layalee Ramahi layalee.ramahi@un.org</p>
Banking Coordinator	Insurance Coordinator
 <p>Flora Petrucci flora.petrucci@un.org</p>	 <p>Lilia Tchemchirova lilia.tchemchirova@un.org</p>

Contact your Regional Lead if you or your colleagues—including subsidiaries—would like to suggest or get more involved in specific global or regional activities

UNEP FI's work programme

Guided by the UNEP FI secretariat you can get involved in a broad range of technical workstreams and leadership initiatives. You can take part in work that is designed specifically for your industry and region or join cross-cutting initiatives that go deeper into specific sustainability themes that are relevant across the banking, insurance and investment sectors or high-profile initiatives such as the Net-Zero Asset Owner and Banking Alliances. Please find more information on the industry-specific and thematic work below.



Please follow the [link](#) to access our current work programme.

Banking

The Principles for Responsible Banking provide the banking industry with a single framework that embeds sustainability at the strategic, portfolio and transactional levels and across all business areas. UNEP FI is supporting signatories in integrating sustainability in their core business aligned with society's goals as expressed in the Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Climate Agreement, and biodiversity frameworks. [Read more here.](#)

Please follow the link to access the current [banking work programme](#).

Insurance

UNEP FI is working with members to implement the Principles for Sustainable Insurance, a global framework for the insurance industry to address sustainability risks and opportunities—as risk managers, insurers and investors. [Read more here.](#)

Members also have the opportunity to participate in the UNEP chaired Forum for Insurance Transition to Net Zero (FIT), a multistakeholder forum to advance insurance strategies and practices that accelerate and scale up a just transition to a resilient net-zero economy. [Learn more here.](#)

Investment

UNEP FI works with pioneering investors to help them embed sustainability into decision-making. Through the Investment Leadership Programme—a joint initiative from UNEP FI and the Principles for Responsible Investment—ambitious investors can work in small groups to to accelerate action on sustainability. [Read more here.](#)

Climate Change

UNEP FI helps its members understand and respond to the risks and opportunities of the transition to a low-carbon economy and the physical impacts of climate change, as well as finance for climate adaptation. For example, they can test and pioneer new methodologies and tools as participants in UNEP FI's Risk Centre research programme and contribute to policy engagement on the role of financial institutions in addressing climate change. UNEP FI provides technical support for members to align their portfolios with the Paris Climate Agreement and is the host organization for several net-zero finance alliances. [Read more here.](#)

Nature: ecosystems, water, oceans and land use

UNEP FI is working with members to provide resources to integrate environmental issues such as natural capital, including biodiversity, into their analysis, strategy and risk management. Members join communities of practice to enhance knowledge and expertise in areas such as financing a sustainable blue economy. UNEP FI has a long history of producing cutting edge research and innovation in this area and continues to push the boundaries of incorporating natural capital dependencies and impacts into financial sector decision-making by developing tools and building capacity. [Read more here.](#)

SDGs and Impact

The Positive Impact Initiative is UNEP FI's response to the UN Sustainable Development Goals financing challenge and helps financial institutions ensure their activities contribute to the SDGs. Members are learning how to define positive impact, and access tools and guidance to enable them to analyse, manage and deliver impact across business lines. [Read more here.](#)

Social & Human Rights

Members are engaging on human rights standards, the just transition, and wider social issues, both in managing their risks and impacts, and as an indicator of good corporate responsibility. UNEP FI helps clarify how human rights and wider social issues relate to the activities of finance institutions. [Read more here.](#)

Pollution and Circular Economy

UNEP FI engages with its members to shift production and consumption models towards a circular economy and address the triple planetary crisis on climate, nature and pollution (including plastics). Through working or interest groups, research and guidance, UNEP FI raises awareness and builds capacity within its membership while facilitating peer exchange and progress for a circular economy at global and regional level. [Read more here.](#)

Policy & Regulation

UNEP FI is providing resources to help its members navigate complex and ever-changing regional and global sustainable finance policy environments. Members are leveraging our regulatory implementation support programming and accessing timely policy briefs on topics from the global landscape of nature-related regulations for banks to the evolution of sustainable finance taxonomies across ASEAN. [Read more here.](#)

Engage with UNEP FI

Your first points of contact will be your Regional or Industry Leads. They will keep you up-to-date on activities and projects and will be able to advise you on relevant initiatives and put you in touch with members of the secretariat or other UNEP FI members in your region or worldwide.

Contact your Regional Lead, Industry Coordinator or UNEP FI's Membership and Regional Coordination Manager [Maria Sosa Taborda](#) for more information.

Update your organization's contacts using the UNEP FI portal

The [UNEP FI Members' Portal](#) is designed to improve communication and streamline member engagement. The Portal allows you to directly manage your institutional contacts, including adding new contacts, updating existing ones, and removing contacts who have left your organization. You can manage your communication preferences including ensuring you are signed up to receive UNEP FI newsletters.

We encourage you to either create an account and manage your communication preferences. For questions, please refer to the [user guide](#).

Implementation programme activities

UNEP FI offers a comprehensive range of implementation support activities throughout the year, to assist your bank on its responsible banking journey. PRB signatories can get involved in both global and region-specific workshops for technical capacity building, or communities of practice and thematic workstreams for further peer learning opportunities.

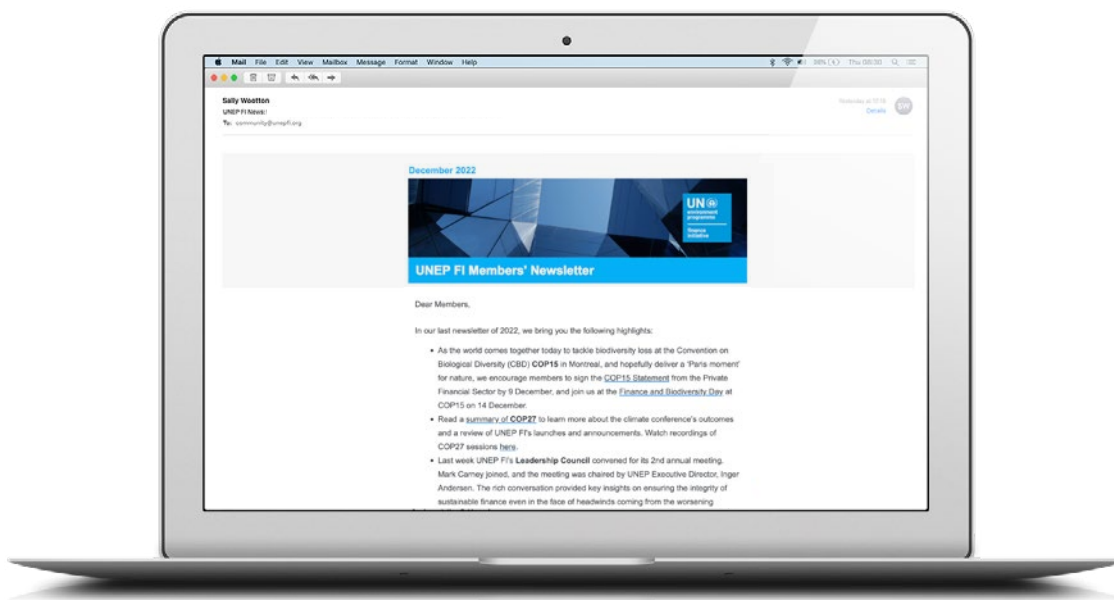
To consult the full list of activities across a range of topics—including climate, nature, healthy & inclusive economies, and human rights—available to you this year, please [view this page](#).

Regular webinars

You can listen to webinars and pose questions to the UNEP FI secretariat, industry experts, and special guests such as climate scientists, as well as gaining insight into the experiences of other members. Many of our webinars are for members only and offer a first look at UNEP FI-convened project outputs such as guidance, frameworks and tools, and members can access draft guidance ahead of public releases. The webinars are advertised on the UNEP FI website [here](#), the members' extranet and in the members' newsletter. We also hold webinars regularly on the BrightTALK webinar platform. **Sign up to the UNEP FI channel on [BrightTALK](#) to be notified of upcoming webinars.**

Regular emails and monthly newsletters

We communicate with members on a regular basis via emails and regular updates and newsletters which summarize the latest developments, events and other ways to get involved with UNEP FI's work, as well as useful information such as webinar recordings and other sustainable finance news. We also showcase members' news. **Update your communications preferences in the [UNEP FI Members' Portal](#).**



On a daily basis, you can follow UNEP FI on our social media [here](#)

UNEP FI Members' Area

Members can access information on members' only activities, governance including Annual General Meetings, and copies of past editions of the member newsletter via the members' extranet. **Access the extranet [here](#).** The password is "unepfi".

Banking members can access a section providing resources and tools especially for banks [here](#). The password is "unepfi".

Meet with peers and explore UNEP FI's work in depth

You and your colleagues are all invited to engage with the UNEP FI community. If you would like to get in touch with your peers, contact your Regional Lead to be connected with another member in your region or globally and take part in our Roundtables and other events.

UNEP FI Global Roundtable

Over the years, UNEP FI's Global Roundtable has become the key global, agenda-setting event on sustainable finance. Held biennially, it gathers the sustainable finance community to discuss the latest trends and innovations, bringing together leaders from all parts of the financial system as well as from civil society, academia, government and the United Nations. Highlights from the 2024 Global Roundtable can be found [here](#). Members' input into the agenda is welcomed and sponsorship opportunities are available. [Find more information here](#).

4000+
Registrants



3000+



Live
attendees



70+
Countries

30+
Sessions



UNEP FI Regional Roundtables

We established Regional Roundtables in 2017, the year of our 25th anniversary, in response to members' requests for opportunities to discuss local sustainability issues and get together with peers a little closer to home. With a combination of plenary sessions and workshops, the events provide a platform for best practice, and a forum for members to share experiences, explore UNEP FI initiatives in depth and interact with other members, regional policy makers and UNEP FI's secretariat. Find the highlights of

2023 events [here](#). The regional roundtables are held every second year. Find out when the next gathering will take place in your region [here](#).

Leadership Council

Chaired by Inger Andersen, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme, the UNEP FI Leadership Council meets annually to provide vision and strategic direction to UNEP FI in orienting its role and that of the UN, in shaping, mainstreaming and deepening sustainability integration across the industry. It is designed to further mobilize the financial community to support a sustainable, resilient and inclusive economy. Learn more [here](#).



Implementing UNEP FI's frameworks and accessing our expertise

Learning and development

UNEP FI offers a range of learning and development opportunities to help members adopt best environmental and sustainability practice at all levels of their operations. New in 2022 is the [Principles for Responsible Banking Academy \(PRB Academy\)](#). This game-changing learning programme is designed to rapidly upskill large numbers of employees across banks, giving them a practical understanding of how to integrate sustainability into their core business and address critical sustainability challenges. The online resource includes the following modules:

- Foundations of responsible banking
- Climate-related issues and how these topics influence the banking sector
- A unit for bankers working with clients and customers that want to evolve as responsible businesses entities
- A special module for Board members and senior executives
- An introductory module to nature and responsible banking
- An additional nature-related module building on the introductory course to apply a nature-responsible approach banking.

Financial institutions and relevant stakeholders can also take part in UNEP FI's deep-dive, online courses and can tailor in-person workshops according to their organization's needs. All our training courses help to raise awareness in sustainable finance and build capacity for the adoption of best environmental and sustainability practice at all levels of financial institution operations, especially in developing countries and emerging markets.

Training courses are available both online and in workshop format, covering several themes:

- UNEP FI Risk Centre—Advanced Skill Development
- Environmental & Social Risk Analysis (ESRA)—Training Programme
- Climate Change: Risks and Opportunities for the Finance Sector—Online Course

To find out more about these and other courses visit the training webpage [here](#). For all questions on training, contact your Regional Lead or the UNEP FI Training Coordinator [Carolina Lopez](#).

Access all UNEP FI's guidance and resources

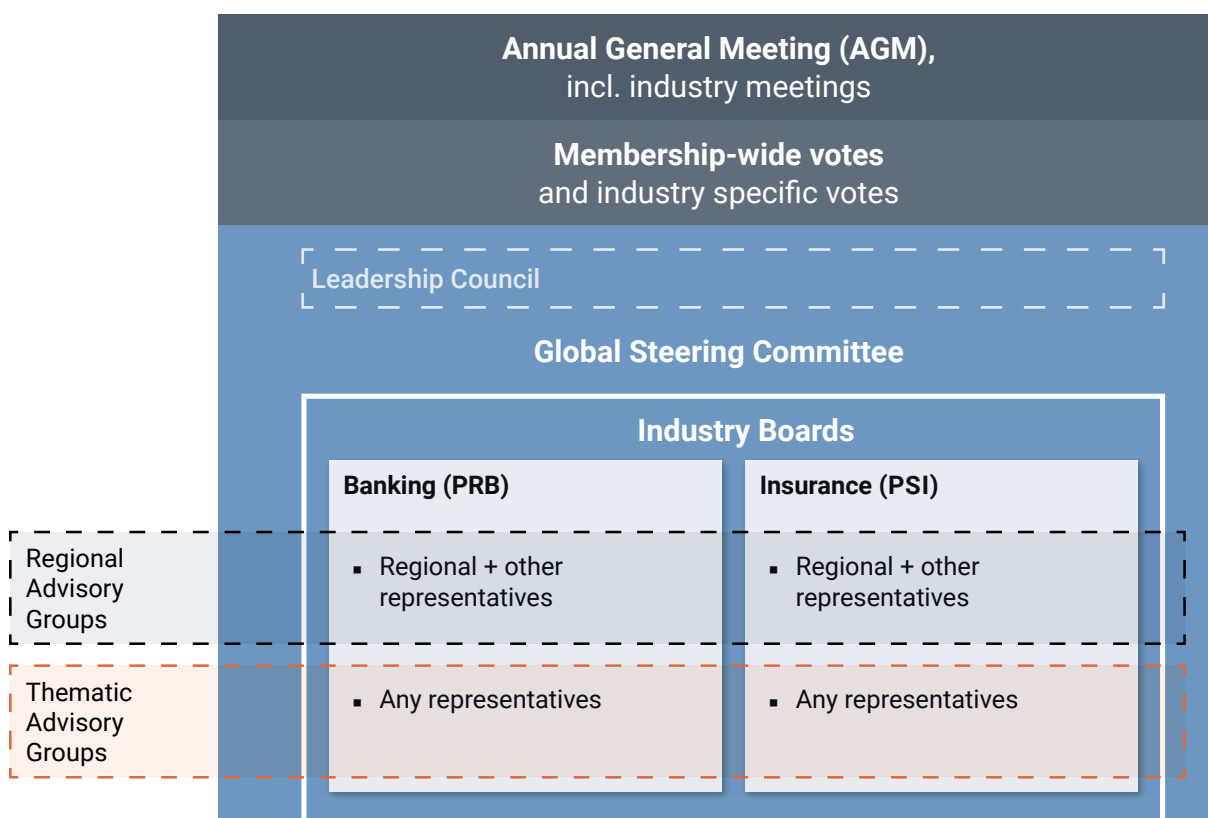
UNEP FI publishes reports and guidance that help financial institutions embed sustainability at the heart of their business strategy.

Publications are sorted by industry, thematic, or region on our website. Follow the link [here](#) to explore.

Directing the work of UNEP FI: UNEP FI's Governance Structure

UNEP FI is a collaboration between the UN and a global network of banks, insurers and investors. The strategy and governance of the organization reflects that status as UNEP FI's work is directed by a global steering committee and approved by the membership at annual general meetings. Banking and insurance industry committees oversee the annual work programme.

UNEP FI's governance bodies are:



Have your say on UNEP FI's governance at the Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting is held online (but can be an in-person event) and every member institution is required to participate at least once every two years.

Read a recap of the 2024 AGM [here](#).

UNEP FI approves membership changes and fee increases in the AGM, so your participation is very important.

The annual contribution is payable on a yearly basis and it covers the calendar year (January to December). The invoice is issued midway through the previous year—i.e. for 2026 membership, we will issue invoices around July/August 2025. The first annual contribution for members joining in the course of the year are calculated pro rata and the invoice is sent in the weeks following the membership confirmation letter.

Should members decide to leave the initiative, this must be notified to the secretariat at least six (6) months before the next invoicing cycle sending a letter signed by the CEO. Beyond this deadline, the invoice already issued is due for payment.

Communicating your achievements

Please share this information with your communications teams

We help amplify your company's sustainability achievements by promoting our members' news where and when relevant. We can also provide social media kits to help our members promote the cutting-edge UNEP FI initiatives that members are involved with and to highlight members' involvement with UNEP FI events. Please send all your company's sustainability news including new sustainable product launches or sustainability commitments to your regional lead.

UNEP FI uses the following social media channels:



linkedin.com/company/124958

Joint communications campaigns

On key initiatives and projects, we work with our members on joint communications campaigns and coordinated social media campaigns. For these projects, it is useful to work directly with your communications teams, so please send details of your communications contacts to your Regional Lead.

Find all the latest news, projects, events and webinars at unepfi.org.



UNEP FI brings together a global network of banks, insurers, and investors to catalyze the transition to more sustainable economies. The initiative has been connecting the UN with financial institutions worldwide to help shape the sustainable finance agenda for more than 30 years. We host the world's leading sustainability frameworks for banking and insurance to help the financial sector address sustainability risks, opportunities and impacts.

UNEP FI provides practical guidance and tools to more than 500 banks and insurers that are individually implementing Principles for Responsible Banking and

Principles for Sustainable Insurance on a voluntary basis. Financial institutions work with UNEP FI to advance responsible banking and sustainable insurance to support clients and customers position their businesses for the transition to a sustainable and inclusive economy.

Founded in 1992, UNEP FI was the first initiative to engage the finance sector on sustainability. Today, the secretariat cultivates leadership and advances sustainable market practice, through global programmes supported at a regional level across Africa & Middle East, Asia Pacific, Europe, Latin America & Caribbean and North America.

 unepfi.org info@unepfi.org [UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative](#)