



# UNEP Finance Initiative

## Membership Information

### JOINING UNEP FI: Conditions & Benefits

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4. Appendix: UNEP Statement of Commitment by Financial Institutions on Sustainable Development

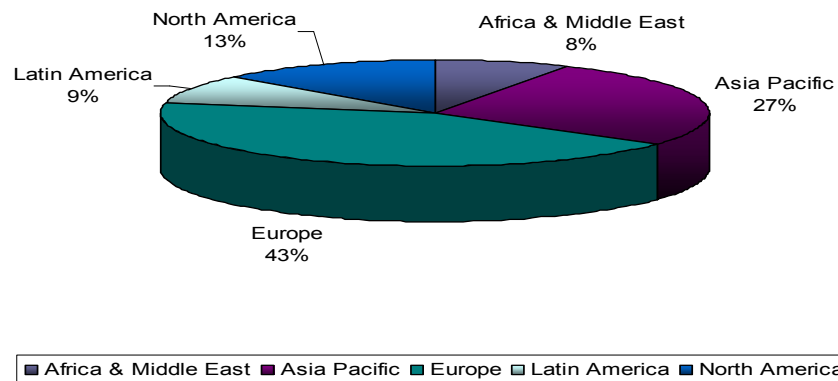
## Who are we? General Information about UNEP FI

The United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) is a unique global partnership between the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the global financial sector.

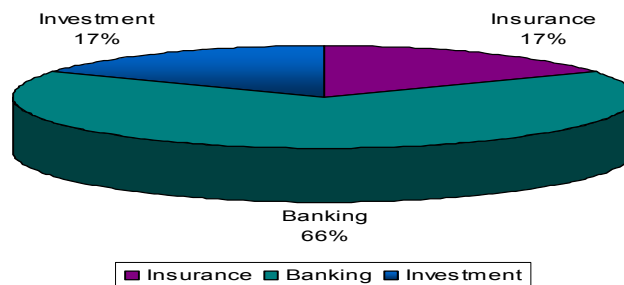
UNEP FI works closely with over 200 financial institutions who are Signatories to the UNEP Statement (see Appendix), and a range of partner organizations to develop and promote linkages between sustainability and financial performance. Through peer-to-peer networks, research and training, UNEP FI carries out its mission to identify, promote, and realise the adoption of best environmental and sustainability practice at all levels of financial institution operations.

Our members are financial institutions from the banking, insurance and investment sectors. Below is our membership composition by geographic location and industry focus:

### Signatories by Region



### Signatories by Industry



## What do we do? UNEP FI Activities and Initiatives

UNEP FI seeks to fulfil its mission in four principal ways, all of which are fundamental to raising awareness within the financial sector and across key stakeholders regarding the core role of financial institutions in sustainable development:

- Standard-setting
- Research
- Capacity-building
- Policy engagement

### Some of our biggest achievements to date:

- UNEP FI was the first dedicated finance and sustainability network ever established.
- The Initiative remains the only finance and sustainability network embedded in the UN system.
- UNEP FI is the only finance and sustainability network covering all constituencies within the financial sector (i.e. banking, insurance and investment) and across all geographic regions.
- The Initiative instigated and led the global dialogue and research on the materiality of ESG issues in investment decision-making.
- It also led dialogue and research on fiduciary responsibility and the integration of ESG issues into investment decision-making.
- UNEP FI conceptualised and delivered the Principles for Responsible Investment.
- The Initiative has become the go-to name for training on banking and sustainability, offering uniquely practical training on both a constant (regular) and diverse (format and languages) basis.
- It put human rights on the map of the sustainable finance agenda by delivering a unique tool on human rights related risk for banking practitioners.
- UNEP FI has led dialogue and research on ESG issues in the context of the insurance industry, a precursor to the delivery of the Principles for Sustainable Insurance.
- UNEP FI co-developed and launched the Financial Sector Supplements of the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI)
- The Initiative has set unique UN system and financial sector precedent for long-term engagement with international policymakers on the role and needs of the financial sector on key sustainability issues such as climate change and biodiversity.
- The Initiative has been holding the agenda-setting, biennial, Global Roundtable since 1994.

# Why and how to get involved? Joining the Initiative

## Why get involved?

Financial institutions (FIs) are under closer scrutiny than ever before. Investors and regulators are increasingly asking challenging questions about corporate governance, the social and environmental impacts of operations and investments and how FIs support their local communities.

Answering these questions is not easy and requires institutions to change policies and practices. This may seem a daunting task. Membership in the United Nations Environment Program Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) has proved invaluable, helping hundreds of signatories since 1992 to understand stakeholder concerns, exchange best practice and stay on top of the issues.

Membership in UNEP FI is not only about surviving this public scrutiny; it is also about learning how to turn it into an opportunity for growth and shaping the sustainable finance agenda as it develops.

## What are the benefits of joining UNEP FI?

Members enjoy a range of benefits from their involvement with UNEP FI:

- Keep abreast of the **latest trends, tools and practices** relating to sustainable finance.
- Be part of an international network of financial institutions and engage in **peer-to-peer information and experience sharing**.
- Take part in **shaping the global sustainable finance agenda** by participating in the Initiative's various sectoral, thematic and regional/country groups.
- Gain preferential access to the ground-breaking **research, capacity-building** offered by UNEP FI.
- **Demonstrate leadership** on a global level by endorsing and participating in UNEP FI's various conferences, seminars and training workshops.
- Gain **access to key stakeholders** such as governments, civil society organisations and academia.

## **What are the terms and conditions of joining UNEP FI?**

### **A. Show your commitment to the principles of sustainable finance:**

\* Sign the UNEP Statement of Commitment by Financial Institutions on Sustainable Development (see appendix). Note: subsidiaries of multinational institutions are welcome to join as an independent UNEP FI Members.

### **B. Get actively involved in the UNEP FI network and the Initiative's activities:**

\* Availability to exchange experiences / best practice and to participate in the Initiatives groups / activities (one or several focal points should be established, with availability and authority to participate in meetings, conference calls as well as to travel to relevant events, in particular UNEP FI's Annual General Meetings.

### **C. Tell us about your progress:**

\* Submit a brief report annually, on implemented or planned sustainable development policies and measures, as well as the most updated reports that your company has produced on these issues, including Sustainability and/or other related reports (the information will not be divulged).

### **D. Pay a membership fee.**

\*Membership fees are annual. They are calculated based on the total assets of your company, or "asset under management (AUM)", if an asset management company. Note: Subsidiary Members' annual contribution fees are determined taking into account the total asset of the subsidiaries themselves, excluding that of the parent company.

### **Interested? Contact us.**

It's easy; just write to us at [signatory@unepfi.org](mailto:signatory@unepfi.org)

Don't forget to check our website: <http://www.unepfi.org>

You will find our Membership Package online in English, French and Spanish, as well as information on:

- Structure and governance
- Members
- Activities by sector, theme and region
- Publications (free to download)
- Events worldwide
- Training activities

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## UNEP FINANCE INITIATIVE

### UNEP Statement of Commitment by Financial Institutions on Sustainable Development

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We members of the Financial Services Sector recognize that economic development needs to be compatible with human welfare and a healthy environment. To ignore this is to risk increasing social, environmental and financial costs. We further recognize that sustainable development is the collective responsibility of governments, businesses and individuals. We are committed to working collectively toward common sustainability goals.

#### 1. Commitment to Sustainable Development

1.1 We regard sustainable development - defined as development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs - as a fundamental aspect of sound business management.

1.2 We believe that sustainable development is best achieved by allowing markets to work within an appropriate framework of cost efficient regulations and economic instruments. Governments have a leadership role in establishing and enforcing long-term priorities and values.

1.3 We regard financial institutions to be important contributors to sustainable development, through their interaction with other economic sectors and consumers and through their own financing, investment and trading activities.

1.4 We recognize that sustainable development is an institutional commitment and an integral part of our pursuit of both good corporate citizenship and the fundamentals of sound business practices.

1.5 We recognize that the sustainable development agenda is becoming increasingly inter-linked with humanitarian and social issues as the global environment agenda broadens and as climate change brings greater developmental and security challenges.

#### 2. Sustainability Management

2.1 We support a precautionary approach to environmental and social issues, which strives to anticipate and prevent potential negative impacts on the environment and society.

2.2 We will comply with all applicable local, national and international regulations on environmental and social issues. Beyond compliance, we will work towards integrating environmental and social considerations into our operations and business decisions in all markets.

2.3 We recognize that identifying and quantifying environmental and social risks should be part of the normal process of risk assessment and management, both in domestic and international operations.

2.4 We will endeavor to pursue the best practice in environmental management, including energy and water efficiency, recycling and waste reduction. We will seek to form business relations with customers, partners, suppliers and subcontractors who follow similarly high environmental standards.

2.5 We intend to update our practices periodically to incorporate relevant developments in sustainability management. We encourage the industry to undertake research accordingly.

2.6 We recognize the need to conduct regular internal reviews and to measure our progress against our sustainability goals.

2.7 We recognize the need for the financial services sector to adapt and develop products and services which will promote the principles of sustainable development.

#### 3. Public Awareness and Communication

3.1 We recommend that financial institutions develop and publish a statement of their sustainability policy and periodically report on the steps they have taken to promote the integration of environmental and social considerations into their operations.

3.2 We are committed to share relevant information with customers, as appropriate, so that they may strengthen their own capacity to reduce environmental and social risk and promote sustainable development.

3.3 We will foster openness and dialogue relating to sustainability matters with relevant stakeholders, including shareholders, employees, customers, regulators, policy-makers and the public.

3.4 We will work with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to further the principles and goals of this Statement, and seek UNEP's active support in providing relevant information relating to sustainable development.

3.5 We will encourage other financial institutions to support this Statement. We are committed to share with them our experiences and knowledge in order to extend best practices.

3.6 We recognize the importance of other initiatives by the financial services sector in forwarding the aims and objectives of sustainable finance and will seek to assist such initiatives in an appropriate manner.

3.7 We will work with UNEP periodically to review the success in implementing this Statement and expect all Signatories to make real progress.