UNEP Finance Initiative

#GRT2018
GLOBAL ROUNDTABLE

Highlights
UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI) and Finance for Tomorrow, an initiative of Paris EUROPLACE, joined forces to stage three days of action on sustainable finance in the city where decisive action on climate change was finally taken in 2015.

UNEP FI’s biennial Global Roundtable and Climate Finance Day were held in Paris from 26–28 November 2018, which together were the major global rendez-vous in 2018 dedicated to mobilizing the financial sector to deliver a sustainable financial system. More than 1000 delegates and 150 speakers saw the launches of major initiatives that will help accelerate the financing of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Climate Agenda.

View agenda and session videos here.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>3 days</th>
<th>5 media partners</th>
<th>6 partners</th>
<th>9 sponsors</th>
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<td>15 side events</td>
<td>26 sessions</td>
<td>150 international speakers</td>
<td>430 participants at the Gala dinner</td>
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1000+ delegates from more than 44 countries
Highlights
AXA Group calls for industry to scale up climate ambition through collective action

The AXA Group, the French global insurer and founding signatory to the Principles for Sustainable Insurance (PSI) announced that its newly acquired subsidiary, XL Group—now known as AXA XL—will no longer underwrite the construction and operations of coal plants, coal mines, oil sands extraction and pipelines, as well as Arctic drilling. With its acquisition of XL last March, AXA is now the world’s largest commercial lines insurer, with a strong presence in North America. This commitment represented over €100 million of premiums and it will be effective January 2020. Read more here. Watch Thomas Buberl making announcement here.

Shaping the future of banking: launch of the public consultation on UNEP FI’s Principles for Responsible Banking

To define the banking industry’s role and responsibilities in shaping a sustainable future, UNEP FI and 28 banks from around the world launched the public consultation for the Principles for Responsible Banking for a 6-month period. The 28 banks represent over USD 17 trillion in combined assets and 9 of their CEOs attended the launch. Watch the panel session with the banks’ CEOs at the Global Roundtable or find out more here.

Launch of “Rethinking Impact to Finance the SDGs”, a report by UNEP FI’s Positive Impact Finance Initiative

UNEP FI unveiled a new report entitled “Rethinking Impact to Finance the SDGs”, a position paper on bridging the gap in financing for the Sustainable Development Goals. The report was launched at a session introduced by Frédéric Oudéa, CEO of Société Générale, a member of the initiative. The paper identifies a US$2.5 trillion financing gap in emerging markets and developing economies, and calls for the business and finance sector to embrace business models that focus on impact. Read more about the report and accompanying tools here.

“The role of banking is about building the future. We are committed to the positive transformations of our economies and societies. We welcome collective approaches and best practice frameworks such as the Principles for Responsible Banking to pave the way for a positive impact together with our stakeholders.”

Frédéric Oudéa, CEO, Société Générale
Launch of UN Environment’s flagship Emissions Gap Report 2018

Global emissions are on the rise as national commitments to combat climate change come up short. But surging momentum from the private sector and untapped potential from innovation and green-financing offer pathways to bridge the emissions gap. Those findings along with a sweeping review of climate action and the latest measurements of global emissions were presented by authors of the 2018 Emissions Gap Report. Read more here.

Launch of the France Roadmap for Sustainable Finance

The latest in a series of market analyses from the Fiduciary Duty in the 21st Century programme was published at a session introduced by Bruno Le Maire, Minister of Economy and Finance, France and featuring Brune Poirson, Secretary of State, Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition. The roadmap set out recommendations for the French market to build upon its leadership position and achieve further progress in mainstreaming responsible investment. Read more here.

Launch of ENCORE: A new tool to help financial institutions assess the economic risks of environmental degradation

The world’s first comprehensive tool linking environmental change with its consequences for the economy was presented for the first time. The new web-based tool, called ENCORE (Exploring Natural Capital Opportunities, Risks and Exposure), will help global banks, investors and insurance firms assess exposure to the risks that environmental degradation, such as the pollution of oceans or destruction of forests, cause for economic activity. ENCORE’s comprehensive database covers 167 economic sectors and 21 ‘ecosystem services’, i.e. the benefits that nature provides to enable or facilitate business production. Read more here.

Bell ringing ceremony to open the financial markets

Hosted at Palais Brongniart by Paris Euronext, and with Eric Forest, Head of Listing France for Euronext, Philippe Zaouati, Chair of Finance for Tomorrow and CEO of Mirova, Martin Skancke, Chair of the PRI, Eric Usher, Head of UNEP FI, and Satya Tripathi, Assistant Secretary-General and Head of the New York Office of the United Nations Environment. Read more here.

“Awareness on climate emergency has progressed... The financial sector must play the game. We need finance to make a successful energy transition. I call on banks, insurers and asset managers to make commitments to stop financing mines and coal-fired power plants. These commitments must be controlled and transparent. If these commitments are not met, they will be made binding.”

Bruno Le Maire, Minister for the Economy and Finance of the French Republic

Read full summaries from Day 1 and Day 2.
"When talking about finance, we’re talking about household savings. It is very tangible. That’s why citizens are asking for more transparency on how their money is used. People are ready to encourage renewable energies and at the same time, they can’t understand that their savings are used to finance new gasoline pipelines. They want more than financial returns, they want positive impacts. This is why we need to mainstream sustainable finance."

Brune Poirson, Secretary of State, Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition of the French Republic
Media

70 Journalists on site

246 Press articles

Social Media impressions:

#CFD2018
4.8k mentions | 33.6m Impressions

#GRT2018
3.6k mentions | 23.5m Impressions

#GetUpScaleUp
3k mentions | 19.4m Impressions

View best of Twitter on Day 1 and Day 2

View photos from the Global Roundtable Day 1 here and Day 2 here