



Greening SME Finance: Toward a more sustainable and resilient future
GLOBAL SME FINANCE FORUM 2021
October 18-21, 2021

As governments around the world wrestle to contain the spread of COVID-19 and its unparalleled impact on national economies and people's lives, the crisis also provides a rare opportunity to reimagine the future, and to build a greener, more sustainable and more resilient world by addressing the existential threat of climate change and concordant challenges.

Green finance, which promotes investments and related services for the development and implementation of sustainable business models, and for investment, trade, economic, environmental and social projects, has grown rapidly in different countries and regions. Green finance has become a high priority for many governments and large corporations, largely due to the urgency of climate change.

While significant progress has been made in driving the growth of green finance, little of this has touched SMEs, despite the fact that they contribute substantially to job creation and economic growth, cumulatively accounting for significant environmental and social problems.

The Global SME Finance Forum 2021 will focus on the importance of greening SME finance and its role in promoting more resilient and sustainable growth post COVID-19 and will also address some of the key issues and challenges vis-a-vis greenwashing, data benchmarking, and verification and misalignment of supply and demand.

The event will convene global thought leaders, climate finance advocates, leading experts and practitioners in the field of SME finance to share their vision, insight and experience in promoting green finance for SMEs.

Time In EDT	Monday, October 18 th 8:00-11:00 AM EST
8:00-8:50	<p>Welcome MC - Georja Calvin-Smith, Writer, TV Journalist Matthew Gamser, CEO, SME Finance Forum</p>
	<p>Opening Remarks Speaker: Makhtar Diop, Managing Director and EVP, International Finance Corporation (IFC)</p>
	<p>Keynote Vivek Pathak, Director and Global Head of Climate Business, International Finance Company (IFC)</p>
	<p>Keynote: Green Finance and SMEs – The same path to resilience and sustainability Speaker: Dr. Barbara Buchner, Global Managing Director, Climate Policy Initiative</p> <p>The finance gaps and finance barriers for SMEs share much with green finance. In this keynote, Dr. Barbara Buchner, Global Managing Director of Climate Policy Initiative, will provide an overview of where the world stands on overall global climate finance and why there aren't more green finance activities. She will also outline where the policy and finance communities can focus their collaborative efforts to scale SME finance that is sustainable and resilient and share concrete opportunities to support and scale green SME efforts.</p>
8:50-9:45	<p>Panel: SMEs in a Low Carbon World What role can SME Financiers play in limiting global warming and its impact? This panel will explore the opportunities and challenges for financiers in financing the critical SME sector while supporting greater mitigation activities and practices.</p> <p>Moderator: Anup Jagwani, Manager, Climate Finance and Policy, International Finance Corporation (IFC)</p> <p>Speakers: Rodion Morozov, Deputy Chairman of the Board, UKRGASBANK Jo Ann Bueno-Eala, Vice President & Head, BPI Sustainability Office, Bank of the Philippine Islands, BPI Antoni Ballabriga, BBVA, Global Head of Responsible Business and Co-Chair, UNEP-FI Global Steering Committee</p>
9:45-10:40	<p>Panel: Locating Green Value in SME Lending In this session, participants will discuss ways in which FI's could assess SME environmental sustainability without burdening their SME clients with unreasonable bureaucratic demands. They will then explore how this could help to de-risk portfolios in a world of rapidly changing environmental legislation, rising "green" sentiment among shareholders, and increasing real environmental risk.</p> <p>Moderator: Louise Gardiner, Africa Coordinator, Sustainable Banking Network, International Finance Corporation (IFC)</p> <p>Speakers: Esra Kivrak, SME Banking Consultant Gabby Tomas, Chief Risk Officer and Risk Management Group Head, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC) Mariuz Calvet Roquero, Director of Sustainability and Responsible Investment, Grupo Financiero Banorte</p> <p>Closing</p>

Monday, October 18th

9:00-11:00 PM EST

	<p>Welcome Remarks Matthew Gamser, CEO, SME Financer Forum Alfonso Garcia Mora, Vice President for Asia and Pacific, International Finance Corporation (IFC)</p>
<p>21:00-21:30</p>	<p>Leader Dialogue I: Views from Asia Host: Matthew Gamser, CEO, SME Finance Forum Speaker: Eugene Acevedo, CEO, Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation (RCBC)</p>
<p>21:35-22:00</p>	<p>Leader Dialogue II: Views from Asia Host: Georja Calvin-Smith, Writer, TV Journalist Speaker: Shri Sivasubramanian Ramann, Chairman/Managing Director, Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) (tbc)</p>
<p>22:00-22:50</p>	<p>Panel: Green Tech Solutions This session will present tools and solutions that support SMEs to respond to climate change threats and opportunities while simultaneously addressing the survival of SMEs. Moderator: Arnaud Ventura, Managing Partner, Gojo & Company, Inc. Speakers: Jugnu Pati, Investment Specialist, ADB Ventures Deyi WU, Head of AI Asset Management Business, WeBank Lincoln Yin, Founder and CEO, RootAnt Group</p>
<p>22:50-23:15</p>	<p>Leader Dialogue III: Views from Asia Host: Hector Gomez Ang, Regional Director- South Asia, International Finance Corporation (IFC) Speaker: Jamal Uddin, CEO, IDLC Finance Limited</p> <p>Closing</p>

Tuesday, October 19th
8:00-11:00 AM EST

	<p>Welcome MC - Georja Calvin-Smith, Writer, TV Journalist</p>
	<p>Opening Keynote Speaker: Clare Shine, Director and CEO, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL)</p>
<p>8:00-8:50</p>	<p>Leader Dialogue I: Views from the Middle East Host: Matthew Gamser, CEO, SME Finance Forum Speaker: H.E. Dr. Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser, President, Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)</p>
	<p>Leader Dialogue II: Views from the Middle East Host: Momina Aijazuddin, Global Head Microfinance, International Finance Corporation (IFC) Speaker: Shamshad Akhtar, Chairperson, Karandaz Board and Chairperson, Pakistan Stock Exchange</p>
<p>8:50-9:35</p>	<p>Panel: Building Climate Resilient SMEs Climate change introduces dramatic short-, medium-, and long-term physical risks. These risks are particularly significant for SMEs and is a systemic risk to the financial sector. This panel will highlight the unique opportunity to invest in, and scale, climate adaptive businesses and practices. Moderator: Vladimir Stenek, Senior Climate Change Specialist, International Finance Corporation (IFC) Speakers: Ayodele Olojede, Group Head, Emerging Business, Access Bank Karel Nierop, Fund Manager, Triodos Investment Management Simon Schwall, Co-founder & CEO, Oko</p>
<p>9:35-10:00</p>	<p>Leader Dialogue: Views from Africa Fireside chat with senior private sector leader Sérgio Pimenta, Regional Vice President, Africa, International Finance Corporation (IFC) Host: Georja Calvin-Smith, Writer, TV Journalist Speaker: Benedict Okey Oramah, President and Chairman, African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank)</p>
<p>10:00-10:50</p>	<p>Concurrent Panel 1: Financing Green Agriculture and Agribusinesses This session will explore models for financing green agricultural investments in emerging markets, with a particular focus on the role of digital technologies in promoting green finance flows. Moderator: Bettina Prato, Senior Coordinator, Smallholder and Agri-SME Finance and Investment Network (SAFIN), International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) Speakers:</p>

	<p>George Mburu, Head of Agriculture Credit, Equity Bank Rahul Gupta, CEO, Avanti Finance Christine Negra, Principal, Versant Vision</p>
10:00-10:50	<p>Concurrent Panel 2: The Value of Small Business Climate Action: A Collaborative Approach In this session, we will bring together one small business in conversation with a global payment technology company, one sustainability consultancy and one pioneer initiative to address comprehensive support of SMEs in the transition to net zero. Join us to discuss the business and financial incentives motivating SMEs to take climate action, and how together we can support small businesses pushing for near-term change and long-term business viability.</p> <p>Moderator: Lydia Elliot, Supply Chains Manager - We Mean Business Coalition Secretariat, SME Climate Hub Speakers: Liliane Ndananeze, Co-Founder and CEO, WidEnergy Africa Ltd Giulio Berruti, Director, Climate, Business for Social Responsibility (BSR) Doug Sabo, Chief Sustainability Officer, Visa</p>
10:50-11:00	Closing

Time In EDT	Wednesday, October 20th 8:00-11:00 AM EST
	<p>Welcome MC - Georja Calvin-Smith, Writer, TV Journalist</p>
8:00-8:30	<p>Opening Remarks Speaker: Martin Holtmann, Manager, Financial Institutions Group, International Finance Corporation (IFC)</p> <p>Leader Dialogue: Views from Europe Host: Wiebke Schloemer, Regional Director for Europe, International Finance Corporation (IFC) Speaker: Rodion Morozov, Deputy Chairman of the Management Board, UKRGASBANK</p>
8:30-9:25	<p>Concurrent Panel 1: Transition to a Circular Economy - Rewiring Supply Chain Finance Integrating Environmental, Social, and Corporate Governance (ESG) into supply chain finance provides an opportunity to scale-up and promote circular business models, and this panel will feature sustainable practices both upstream and down the supply chain that can improve business longevity and growth opportunities.</p> <p>Moderator: Shona Tatchell, CEO and Founder, Halotrade Speakers: Derrick Loi, General Manager, International Business, Intelligent Technology, Ant Financial Stuart Lendrum, Head of packaging quality and food safety, Iceland Company Ashish Gadnis, Co-Founder & CEO, BanQu</p>

<p>8:30-9:25</p>	<p>Concurrent Panel 2: Promoting SME Finance for Renewable Energy This panel will provide insights into how to foster access to finance for SMEs operating in the renewable energy sectors in Rwanda and Mozambique. A special focus will be put on how the work with the demand side (SMEs) is linked to the work with the supply side (financiers).</p> <p>Moderator: Sebastian von Wolf, Head of Finance Advisory, GET.invest GIZ Speakers: Jeannetta Craigwell-Graham, Finance Catalyst Advisor, GET.invest Tony Francis Ntore, CEO, Rwanda Bankers Association Ancha Omar, Head of Business Development, Banco Nacional de Investimento (BNI)</p>
<p>9:30-10:00</p>	<p>Leader Dialogue I: Views from Latin America Host: Allen Forlemu, Regional Industry Head, Financial Institutions Group for Latin America and the Caribbean, International Finance Corporation (IFC) Speakers: Mario Pardo, CEO, BBVA Colombia</p>
<p>10:00-10:50</p>	<p>Concurrent Panel 1: Unlocking Green and Inclusive Investment through Financial Approaches Panelists will discuss new and emerging products and financial approaches that can drive and support growth and liquidity in green and sustainable markets to mobilize financing for sustainable development.</p> <p>Moderator: Marisela Alvarenga, Chief Financial Intermediaries Division, IDB Invest Speakers: Miriam Koreen, Senior Counsellor on SME, OECD Annabel Ross, Senior Program Manager, Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership Manuel Davila Lazarus, Executive VP, Banco Atlántida</p>
<p>10:00-10:50</p>	<p>Concurrent Panel 2: Green Credit Guarantees A long-standing hurdle for SMEs has been the lack of appropriate forms of finance, with the severity of financing constraints varying across countries and sectors. These financing constraints and barriers to private capital have an even more decisive impact on innovative low-carbon SMEs who have developed solutions to mitigate GHG emissions as well as SMEs looking to deploy solutions to reduce their operations' carbon intensity. This panel will explore the role of credit guarantee institutions in promoting green finance for SMEs and addressing this particular finance gap.</p> <p>Moderator: Bill Briggs, Former Acting Associate Administrator, US Small Business Administration Speakers: Simon Cureton, CEO, Funding Options Nagla Bahr, Managing Director, Credit Guarantee Corporation (CGC), Egypt Syed Abdul Momen, Deputy Managing Director & Head of SME Banking, BRAC Bank</p>
<p>10:50-11:00</p>	<p>Closing</p>

Time In EDT	Thursday, October 21 st 8:00-11:00 AM EST
8:00-8:30	<p>Welcome MC - Georja Calvin-Smith, Writer, TV Journalist</p>
	<p>Opening Keynote: Facilitating Green and Inclusive Solutions through Technology Speaker: Vint Cerf, Vice President and Chief Internet Evangelist, Google Tamara Singh, Board Member, People-Centered Internet Justin Rice, Vice President of Ecosystem, Stellar Development Foundation</p>
8:30-9:20	<p>Panel: The Role of Green Bonds in Serving SMEs and Unlocking Value for FIs This session will focus on providing a fundamental understanding of what green bonds are, how they are a good instrument to mitigate climate change and how they can be used to bridge the gap in financing for SMEs for green projects and to spur innovation in the sector.</p> <p>Moderator: Kaikham Onedamdy, Operations Officer, Climate Finance, International Finance Corporation (IFC) Speakers: Francisco Avendano, Operations Officer, International Finance Corporation (IFC) Claire Hobbs, Chief Treasurer, Bank Windhoek Dirk Dijksma, Head of Innovation Investments, Symbiotics Hari Rajagopal, Vice President, Capital Markets and Strategic Initiatives, Samunnati</p>
9:20-10:10	<p>Panel: DFIs Championing the Greening of SMEs DFIs play an important role in providing knowledge, expertise, and funding to accelerate green finance portfolio growth. This panel will elaborate on what have been the successes and challenges and what more can be done to support green finance.</p> <p>Moderator: Matthew Gamsler, CEO, SME Financer Forum Speakers: Gema Sacristan, CIO, IDB Invest Elina Kamenitzer, Head of the Climate Office, European Investment Bank (EIB) Vivek Pathak, Director and Global Head of Climate Business, International Finance Company (IFC) Jean Claude Iliboneye, Head of Business, Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD)</p>
10:10-11:10	<p>Global SME Finance 2021 Awards Ceremony Winners of the 2021 Global SME Finance Awards will be announced. MC: Jessica Schnabel, Global Head, Banking on Women, International Finance Corporation (IFC)</p>
	<p>Keynote Green Economy: A great business and investment opportunity to build a better and more equitable world Speaker: Juan Verde, Policy Expert, Corporate Strategist and Advocate for the Green Economy</p>
	<p>Closing Remarks Paulo de Bolle, Senior Director, International Finance Corporation (IFC)</p>