

A Taskforce for SDG-related Financial Disclosure

Exploring how the corporate and financial world can support the sustainability agenda

2 - 5 July 2018 at the Findhorn Foundation in Scotland

This event will be a venue for the sharing of ideas, strategy and leadership

FINDHORN
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
FOR SUSTAINABILITY

EVENT COORDINATORS

Paul Dickinson, CDP

Lois Guthrie, WBCSD

Russell Picot, Cambridge Institute for
Sustainability Leadership

Victoria Barron, Newton Investment Management

Gill Emslie, Findhorn Consultancy Services



What role do the corporate and financial sectors have in realising the Sustainable Development Goals?

The formation of the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosure (TCFD) was a breakthrough in the acceptance and normalisation of corporate reporting on environmental performance. Key to this was the agreement on universal standards and the understanding that no sector or business can exclude themselves from disclosure of environmental performance, regardless of the layers of abstraction between their commercial activity and the resource consumption and emissions related to it.

The society and environment that we want and need can only be built by a financial system that shares the goals of labour rights; gender equality; access to affordable housing, education, and several other characteristics recognised as key pillars of a functioning society as represented by the SDGs. As a universally accepted and comprehensive framework, the SDGs can be utilised to establish the standards we expect from businesses and governments alike.

This three day encounter will explore how corporate, financial and other stakeholders can align their actions to support realisation of the SDGs by 2030.

Do we need a taskforce dedicated to SDG-related financial disclosure?

From Monday to Thursday 2-5 July 2018, a select group of influential people from organisations that can collaborate to help answer this question will meet at the Findhorn Foundation in Scotland.

This meeting will offer experts from the corporate, financial, NGO and academic sectors the opportunity to meet together in the stunning setting of the Findhorn Foundation in Scotland: a unique environment which will support new thinking about the role of state and non-state actors and methods for implementing global standards on corporate and investment strategy in support of the SDGs.

Findhorn is a great place to meet and catalyse effective action. In the last five years we have welcomed participants from many organisations including Aviva, BNP Paribas, Carbon Tracker, Climate Bonds, European Climate Foundation, F&C Investments, former US congressman Dennis Kucinich, Friends of the Earth, FTSE Russell, Green Investment Bank, Hermes Investment, Hong Kong University, HSBC, Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales, Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change, Interfaith centre on Corporate Responsibility, Legal and General, L'Oréal, Mercer, New Economics Foundation, Newton Investment Management, Oxford University, RSPB, S&P, UN PRI, UNEP, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres and the We Mean Business Coalition.

The Findhorn Foundation hosted a series of successful events leading up to COP21 in 2015 and the coordinators have developed a network infrastructure to support collaboration on the sustainability agenda since then. The Foundation hosts an annual forum on sustainability as well as regular gatherings for the responsible investment and climate finance communities, and it will now convene a new group focusing exclusively on how we can realise the SDGs.

THE PROGRAMME

Apart from some orientation to the environment of the Findhorn Foundation, content will not be fixed and the event will be participant-led to enable the right dialogues to happen at the right time. As a meeting of expert peers the intention is for participants, supported by expert facilitation, to create content and lead sessions that enable us to:

IDENTIFY POSITIVE STEPS

Champion corporate and regulatory actions such as the TCFD, and appreciate how they have made a difference and how we can build on them.

ASSESS THE GOALS

What currently-missing information do institutional investors require to judge the fundamental soundness of SDG impact investments?

BUILD SOLIDARITY

How can the communities that will play a significant role in achieving our shared sustainability goals support each other?

IDENTIFY OBSTRUCTIONS

What policies, processes and regulations currently impede sustainable business practices? If it is inevitable that SDG-compliant business is going to cost more than irresponsible business, how do we promote policy to level the playing field and make capital cheaper for SDG compliance?

IDENTIFY KEY CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE IMMEDIATE AND LONGER-TERM FUTURE

Could existing projects be used to implement SDG reporting on a scale not yet attempted by current reporting systems? Is there a role for a dedicated industry taskforce?

CONSIDER WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP

How can we support those political, corporate or investment actors already leading the way on sustainability and the SDGs?

MAXIMISE SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE NETWORKS

Determine where there are gaps in our networks and consider how to strengthen existing partnerships and develop new ones.

THE VISION

The short-term vision of the convenors is to facilitate a meeting to focus corporate, investment and environmental actors on the steps necessary to ensure that their linked modes of practice support realisation of the 2030 sustainability agenda, whether through a coalition, a code of practice or multiple independent actions.

The long-term vision is to facilitate productive partnerships and networking opportunities for the corporate, climate finance and NGO sectors in supportive surroundings, such as the Findhorn Foundation, so that new thinking can be nurtured and applied.

You will be attending this event as yourself or representing your organisation. You have been invited because you are an acknowledged leader in this area.



"I am counting on the private sector to drive success. Now is the time to mobilise the global business community as never before. The case is clear. Realising the Sustainable Development Goals will improve the environment for doing business and building markets."

**Ban-Ki-moon, former UN Secretary-General
(2007-16)**

EVENT CONVENERS



Russell Picot

*Senior Associate
Cambridge Institute
for Sustainability
Leadership*

Russell is Chair of the Trustee Board of the HSBC Bank (UK) Pension Fund and a Director of LifeSight, Willis Towers Watson's UK DC Master Trust Board. He joined HSBC in 1993, became a Group General Manager in 2003, and retired as Group Chief Accounting Officer in 2016. Russell was a co-chair of the Financial Stability Board's Enhanced Disclosure Task Force and is a Special Advisor to the FSB's Climate-related Financial Disclosures Task Force. He has supported HRH The Prince of Wales Accounting for Sustainability project since its inception in 2004 and is an ambassador for the International Integrated Reporting Council.

cisl.cam.ac.uk



Lois Guthrie

*Director, Redefining
Value at the WBCSD*

Founder and former Executive Director of the Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB), Lois has over two decades of experience in the field of corporate reporting and sustainability. She has held the roles of Technical Director to the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC), Technical Director (Tax Group) at Zurich Insurance, and Technical Director at CDP. She directs the Redefining Value program at the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, serves on the ACCA's Global Forum on Sustainability and is an advisor to both Carbon Tracker and CDP as well as an Executive Board member of the National Physical Laboratory's Centre for Carbon Measurement.

wbcsd.org



Victoria Barron

*Responsible
Investment Analyst at
Newton Investment
Management*

Victoria integrates ESG into the research, risk analysis, engagement and voting support processes at Newton, a global investment company with over £53.8 billion of assets under management. She has over a decade of experience in the field of environmental, sustainability and responsible investment strategy, having previously held roles at FTSE, CCLA Investment Management, and Hermes as well as being a former member of the 30% Club Investor Group, UK Sustainable Investment and Finance Association (UKSIF) Analyst Committee and Balfour Beatty Stakeholder Committee.

newtonim.co.uk

EVENT CONVENERS



Paul Dickinson

*Co-founder and
Executive Chair of
CDP*

Paul co-founded CDP, a global not for profit that represents 800 investors with US\$80 trillion in assets and utilises this authority to request corporations to disclose detailed information on their greenhouse gas emissions, strategy on climate change and other aspects of sustainability. His book *Beautiful Corporations* introduced Sustainability Product Marketing in 2000. He also helped develop the Environmental Law Foundation and Stonewall Lobby Group. Paul was founder of Europe's largest videoconference booking service and is a Trustee of the Friends Provident Foundation, the Findhorn Foundation and ShareAction.

cdp.net



Dr Gill Emslie

*International
Leadership
Development
Consultant*

Gill has worked throughout Europe, Latin America and SE Asia, running in-depth training programs and facilitating leadership teams. Her work is process oriented and systemic, fostering change in individuals, teams and organisations. She has taught leadership development and conflict facilitation at undergraduate and post graduate levels, is a former senior manager at the Findhorn Foundation and co-founded the Findhorn Consultancy Service where her clients include PricewaterhouseCoopers, Standard Life, National Children's Bureau, Equal Exchange, Business in the Community Ireland and Greenpeace International.

findhornconsultancy.com



WHY FINDHORN?

Findhorn is a world-renowned 55-year-old community fostering the highest in human potential by co-creating with the natural world through inspired action.

For half a century, Findhorn has pioneered what were then new and radical approaches including low carbon and localised, integrated living. Its programmes address both the externals of sustainability and the importance of the inner life of humans in their search for meaning and purpose. Guests from across the world are drawn to the extraordinary combination of low carbon lifestyles with an organisational ethic dedicated to all areas of sustainability.

Designated for Habitat Best Practice by the UN, Findhorn is the 'alternative Davos' providing a holistic, human worldview that stops institutional truths from eclipsing individual truth. Localisation and sustainable economies need to be experienced to be understood and implemented. Findhorn is an ideal place to not only dream dreams but to plan how to make them reality. It is the birthplace and home of seminars and trainings for CIFAL Findhorn, part of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research.

From 55 years of lived experience, Findhorn provides both practical demonstrations of and a viewpoint to alternative modernities.

Jonathon Porritt, Programme Director of Forum for the Future and former Chairman of the UK Sustainable Development Commission has observed: *"Findhorn has long been a beacon for a very different kind of engagement in meeting the challenges that currently confront us. Truly effective action requires thoughtful reflection, and education for transformation requires practical demonstration. But thinking holistically and acting in the spirit of interdependence is not as easy as it sounds! Nowhere has worked harder to give meaning to these precepts than Findhorn, to the benefit of the many thousands of people who have drawn on its inspiration and pioneering leadership.*

fics@findhorn.org

LOGISTICS

The Findhorn Foundation is a Scottish Registered charity that has welcomed more than 100,000 guests over 55 years. The fee for this event is £995 for corporate or for-profit organisations, £795 for NGOs, or £695 for individuals including single accommodation, meals and all expenses. This fee does not include transport to and from the venue.

The Findhorn Foundation, The Park, Findhorn, Scotland, IV36 3TZ

11.30am Monday 2 July to 12.30 Thursday 5 July 2018

Participants are encouraged to take the sleeper train leaving London Euston at 20:25 on Sunday 1 July, returning on the sleeper Thursday evening, arriving London Euston at 7.47 am on Friday 6 July.

The train has extensive First and Second class accommodation (sole use or shared cabins). It also features an agreeable restaurant bar carriage where we can begin the meeting Sunday evening. We have reserved a number of first-class tickets for both the outbound and return journey, please therefore book through us if you would like to join this sleeper train. The price per First Class return journey, including cooked or continental breakfast in bed, is £290. If you are unable to join us on the train the nearest airport is Inverness.

For more information please contact:
jon.ward@cdp.net or paul.dickinson@cdp.net

To book your place please email fics@findhorn.org





We look forward to engaging with you at Findhorn.

