

**The Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance at COP28:  
Panel discussion on “Mobilizing private capital to ensure a just transition and deliver on the  
SDGs”**

**Date:** Friday, 1 December 2023

**Time:** 9:30 – 10:30 am (local time)

**Venue:** [SDG Pavilion](#) at the 2023 UN Conference on Climate Change, Dubai, UAE (Blue Zone)

***Draft Concept Note***

**Background**

The 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 13 on Climate Action, provide a blueprint for a green and just transition that balances the opportunities and consequences of climate action. However, only 15 percent of the global SDG targets are on track. Progress on many others is being reversed. Carbon dioxide emissions reached record highs in 2022 and 2023 is set to be the hottest year on record. To achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement to limit the global temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels, and to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, at least \$4.3 trillion in annual finance flows are needed by 2030, a huge increase from the 2011-2020 annual average of \$480 billion.<sup>1</sup>

Developing countries require access to affordable, long-term finance to close this financing gap and invest in sustainable development and climate action. Many countries face limited fiscal space, elevated financing costs, and high debt burdens, which is exacerbated by the costs of climate change. The global cost of climate change damage is estimated to be between \$1.7 and \$3.1 trillion per year by 2050, which will disproportionately impact Least Developed Countries (LDC) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) who have the greatest vulnerability to climate change.

Both public and private finance will be necessary – and are complementary – to closing the financing gap and achieving the SDGs, especially SDG 13 on Climate Action. This is also an enormous opportunity: addressing climate change mitigation in developing countries is expected to unlock business opportunities of at least \$2 trillion up to 2050. The private sector can contribute to this agenda in several ways including:

- ***Scaling up private finance and investment in sustainable development and climate action in developing countries in collaboration with the MDBs***

For example, \$1.7 trillion are needed on an annual basis in renewable energy to achieve the energy transition, while the sector only attracts \$544 billion per year – mostly in developed countries.<sup>2</sup> Development banks can mobilize additional private investment through innovative blended finance mechanisms. The GISD Alliance developed practical recommendations together with the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ),

---

<sup>1</sup> Naran, B., Connolly, J., Rosane, P., Wignarajah, D., & Wakaba, G. 2022. Global Landscape of Climate Finance A Decade of Data: 2011-2020. <https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Global-Landscape-of-Climate-Finance-A-Decade-of-Data.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> UNCTAD 2023, World Investment Report, p.144.

the Sustainable Markets Initiative (SMI), and the Investor Leadership Network (ILN) for MDBs and DFIs that can be implemented in the short term and that also support the long-term reform agenda. GISD is also developing the Sustainable Infrastructure Investment Platform (SIIP), an innovative blended finance vehicle bringing together multiple MDBs to mobilize investment in sustainable and green infrastructure projects, in cooperation with the Global Infrastructure Facility.

- *Aligning business practices with sustainable development and climate goals*  
All companies need to prepare transition plans with credible pathways to cutting emissions. Long-term incentives that are aligned with the SDGs across the value chain can redirect private capital that continues to flow toward extractive industries and fossil fuels. The GISD Alliance is working on solutions that address institutional and regulatory impediments to longer-term investment by the private sector in sustainable development and climate action.
- *Strengthening the accountability and transparency of private businesses*  
The GISD Alliance calls for disclosure requirements to be globally harmonized and extended beyond climate metrics through the inclusion of material SDG-related information. GISD has developed a set of sector-specific SDG-related metrics to help assess the sustainable development impact of companies and allow investors to incorporate this assessment in their investment decisions.

The Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance is a group of leaders of major financial institutions and corporations from across the world. It is convened by the United Nations Secretary-General to deliver solutions that scale up private finance and investment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 13 on Climate Action.

Ahead of COP 28, the GISD Alliance has joined the call to action to Heads of State, Policymakers and Multilateral Development Bank for scaling Private Capital Mobilization, alongside a growing number of financial institutions<sup>3</sup> that are committed to contributing to limiting global warming to 1.5°C in the medium-term, achieving a just transition and helping deliver on SDGs.

### **Objective**

GISD Alliance members will convene at COP28 to discuss the role of the private sector in ensuring a just transition and delivering on the SDGs, focusing on the above three areas. The key deliverables and priorities of the GISD Alliance will serve as the basis for the discussion.

**Format:** An in-person event in Dubai, UAE in the form of a Davos-style moderated panel. The event will also be available online on a live stream.

---

<sup>3</sup> Including participants from the Net-Zero Asset Owner Alliance (The Alliance), Africa Investor, Convergence, the Glasgow Financial Alliance for Net Zero (GFANZ) Capital Mobilization Workstream, Institutional Investors Group on Climate Change (IIGCC), The Investor Leadership Network (ILN), Sustainable Markets Initiative Blended Finance Task Force (SMI), GI Hub Private Sector Advisory Council (GI Hub), Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) and UN Environment Programme Finance Initiative (UNEP FI).

## **Guiding questions**

1. What role is there for the private sector in ensuring a just transition and delivering on the SDGs?
2. What are the greatest impediments to catalyzing private finance and investment for sustainable development and climate action? Why haven't initiatives to date (including blended finance) resulted in private capital mobilization at the scale required?
3. What actions are needed to address the institutional and regulatory impediments to longer-term investment so that businesses can effectively align their practices with sustainable development and climate action? What can the GISD Alliance do here?
4. How can the accountability and transparency of reporting be strengthened to more effectively measure the contribution of the private sector to sustainable development and climate objectives?
5. In the context of the upcoming fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, how can the GISD Alliance leverage partnership to ensure a just transition and deliver on the SDGs?

## **Speakers**

*Moderator:* Loshni Naidoo, Chief Sustainability Officer, Johannesburg Stock Exchange

*Panelists:*

- Shinta Widjaja Kamdani, CEO, Sintesa Group and Co-Chairperson of the GISD Alliance
- Jay Collins, Vice Chairman, Corporate & Investment Bank, Citi
- Marc-André Blanchard, Executive Vice-President and Head of CDPQ Global and Global Head of Sustainability, CDPQ
- Karen Fang, Managing Director, Global Head of Sustainable Finance, Bank of America
- Fred Waithaka, Chief Corporate Affairs Officer, Safaricom