



World's Leading Financial Centres urge compatibility, connectivity between new standards for sustainable finance



Halifax, 18 September 2018 – A “shared language” for green and sustainable finance is critical for the growth of new markets, and for compatibility and coherence between jurisdictions, the FC4S Network – the world’s platform of leading financial centres working on sustainability – said in a joint statement released after a G7 meeting on sustainable finance in Halifax.

The Network said new definitions, standards, and classification systems for sustainable finance should be developed to avoid confusion among policy and regulatory authorities and a real risk of increasing transaction costs for financial institutions seeking to provide sustainability-related products and services.

Importantly, several processes to develop “taxonomies” for sustainable finance are currently planned, or already underway – including the establishment by the European Union of a Technical Expert Group to develop a clear classification of economic activities and sectors which can be branded as “sustainable”.

To help achieve convergence, the statement sets out ten principles including the scope, purpose, good practice, proportionality and mechanisms of the taxonomies.

The statement – launched at a high-level Roundtable meeting on the eve of the 2018 G7 Environment, Energy, and Ocean Ministers’ meeting in Halifax – represents the continuation of G7 work on sustainable finance initiated by the Italian Presidency, where



cooperation among financial centres was endorsed and encouraged. The Network itself was then launched by UN Environment in Casablanca in September 2017 with a mission to exchange experience and take common action on shared priorities to accelerate the expansion of green and sustainable finance.

Speaking at the Roundtable meeting, the Honourable Catherine McKenna, Canadian Minister of Environment and Climate Change, said: “The transition to a sustainable global economy represents a \$26 trillion economic opportunity. Financial centres play a significant role in shifting capital to sustainable investment. As host of the G7 Environment, Oceans and Energy Ministers Meeting, Canada welcomes the leadership of the Network of Financial Centres for Sustainability in developing these ten principles, which are an important step to advancing sustainable finance and shifting billions to trillions of dollars to clean investment across the globe.”

Jennifer Reynolds, President and CEO of Toronto Finance International, said: “Toronto is North America’s 2nd largest financial centre and has the opportunity to develop a leading hub for green and sustainable finance – we are proud to have been a leading contributor to the development of this statement. Clear and coherent language for sustainable finance is key if we are to move from niche to mainstream – and this statement sets out how to coordinate this evolving environment.”

Francesco La Camera, Director General for Sustainable Development and International Affairs of the Italian Ministry of Environment, said: “It is remarkable how far the FC4S Network has come since its endorsement by the G7 in Italy last year – bringing in more than ten leading international centres to shape a new agenda for public-private collaboration. We are proud to support the Network as it continues to grow.”

Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment said: “UN Environment works across the sustainability and finance agenda – and I can recognize that the FC4S Network is having a significant impact on the international policy sphere. I hope G7 nations can now take these principles forward by applying them in their own domestic processes.”

Nick Robins, Senior Advisor on Sustainable Finance, said: “These ten principles are an important foundation for the technical discussions that market and policy institutions will face together – and we hope that the FC4S Network can serve as a platform for dialogue on these challenging issues.”

Notes to Editors

The FC4S Statement, “Building Shared Language for Green and Sustainable Finance”, can be found [here](#). The Briefing accompanying the statement can be found [here](#).

For further information, see www.fc4s.org, or contact Jeremy McDaniels (Head of Projects, FC4S Network), at Jeremy.McDaniels@un.org.



About the FC4S Network

The FC4S is a partnership between leading financial centres and the United Nations Environment Programme, which acts as its Convenor and Secretariat. The objective of the Network is to enable financial centres to exchange experience, drive convergence, and take action on shared priorities to accelerate the expansion of green and sustainable finance. Following from endorsement by G7 Environment Ministers under the 2017 Italian G7 Presidency, the FC4S Network was launched in September 2017 with the support of the Italian Ministry of Environment, Land, and Sea. The Network is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.

Current members of the Network include:

- **Astana:** Astana International Financial Centre
- **Casablanca:** Casablanca Finance City Authority
- **Dublin:** Sustainable Nation Ireland
- **Frankfurt:** Green and Sustainable Finance Cluster Germany
- **Geneva:** Sustainable Finance Geneva
- **Hong Kong:** Green Finance Task Force
- **London:** City of London Green Finance Initiative
- **Luxembourg:** Luxembourg for Finance
- **Liechtenstein:** Liechtenstein Bankers Association
- **Milan:** Centro Finanziario Italiano per la Sostenibilita (CFIS)
- **Paris:** Finance for Tomorrow
- **Seoul:** Seoul Metropolitan Government
- **Shanghai:** Lujiazui Financial City
- **Shenzhen:** Shenzhen Green Finance Committee
- **Stockholm:** Stockholm Green Digital Finance
- **Toronto:** Toronto Finance International
- **Zurich:** Swiss Sustainable Finance

Partner organisations include:

- Climate Bonds Initiative
- Climate-KIC
- Principles for Responsible Investment
- Sustainable Stock Exchange Initiative
- UNEP Finance Initiative

The **G7 Bologna Communiqué of Environment Ministers** from June 2017 can be found [here](#).

The **Casablanca statement on financial centres for sustainability** from September 2017 can be found [here](#).



The UN Environment report, **Accelerating Financial Centres' Action for Sustainable Development**, can be found [here](#).

About Toronto Finance International (TFI)

TFI (<https://tfi.ca/>) is a public-private partnership between Canada's three levels of government, the financial services sector and academia. TFI's mission is to lead collective action that drives the competitiveness and growth of Toronto's financial sector and establishes its prominence as a leading international financial centre. (TFI was formerly known as Toronto Financial Services Alliance.)

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