

Mobilising Private Capital for a Global Just Transition

Wednesday 8th September 2021

14:00 – 16:00 BST | 15:00 – 17:00 CEST

CONCEPT NOTE

Policy makers and investors have recognised the urgent need to work together to finance a transition to a net-zero carbon economy to prevent the impending climate emergency. As a result, green finance has witnessed a sustained rise in the last few years. The UK government is issuing its first sovereign green bond and according to a projection from the Swedish bank SEB, governments and companies, globally, are expected to issue \$500bn in green debt in 2021, nearly half the total that has been raised since the asset class's introduction more than ten years ago. In the first 11 months of 2020, global borrowers sold \$270bn of green debt.

The pandemic and its devastating consequences on communities across the globe, particularly those that were already disadvantaged, has shown that it is crucial to ensure that the transition to a net-zero world is inclusive and socially beneficial. The concept of a 'Just Transition' has been gaining momentum across policy, private and philanthropic circles: there is now a mainstream recognition that efforts to tackle the climate emergency, including through the increasing deployment of 'green finance' instruments, must incorporate consideration of the impact on people, societies, livelihoods, health and living standards.

Mark Carney, United Nations Special Envoy for Climate Action and Finance has referred to a net-zero carbon economy as one of the greatest commercial opportunities of our time. And there is no doubt that we need a significant increase in private funding if we are to globally achieve a Just Transition. Impact investing – investment that delivers a positive, measurable social or environmental impact alongside a financial return – is therefore a key enabler. Investors can drive solutions that address both the environmental and social challenges of climate change.

The need for more financing for a Just Transition is a national as well as a global concern. In the UK, a Just Transition is directly linked to the Government's levelling up agenda, which looks to address the entrenched inequalities that exist between and within places and regions, from education and job opportunities to housing and health. Evidence shows that place-based investments that build on the existing strength of local communities and infrastructure present good opportunities for institutional investors, such as pension funds, to contribute to a Just Transition while securing financial returns.¹

The effective deployment of blended finance and the strategic use of development finance and philanthropic funds to mobilise private capital flows to emerging and frontier markets, will be critical to crowding in private capital at the necessary scale. This need will be particularly acute in the Global South, where there are specific, and significant, challenges associated with financing a Just Transition in developing countries. These stem from longstanding barriers to mobilising more private capital towards sustainable development, exacerbated by factors such as lower local public and private investment capacity and, now, by the economic and social impact of the pandemic.

¹ [White Paper: Scaling Up Institutional Investment for Place-Based Impact](#)

Purpose of the event:

The purpose of the event is to raise awareness of the importance of financing a Just Transition and bring together relevant decision makers from across governments and the financial service industry, as well as researchers and experts who can provide the necessary evidence that shows that the environmental and social impacts of climate change need to be addressed in a joint and coordinated manner, in order to achieve the SDGs.

The event will:

- Increase awareness amongst policymakers that the transition to a net-zero carbon economy must be a Just Transition, focusing on mitigating the negative, and optimising the positive, social impacts alongside environmental impacts.
- Increase awareness amongst policymakers of the need to leverage private capital in the fight against climate change, with its environmental and social consequences.
- Show the investment opportunities provided by financing for a Just Transition.

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AGENDA

Welcome Remarks

John W.H. Denton AO, Secretary General, International Chamber of Commerce

What are the social impacts of the transition to a net zero world?

Dame Elizabeth Corley, Chair, Impact Investing Institute

Panel Discussion: How to mobilise private sector capital to deliver a Just Transition?

Moderator:

Sarah Gordon, Chief Executive, Impact Investing Institute

Panellists:

Amal-Lee Amin, Director, Climate Change, Value Creation Strategies, CDC Group

Bogolo J. Kenewendo, Economist & Managing Director, Kenewendo Advisory

Jaclyn Dove, Managing Director & Head of Strategic Initiatives | Sustainable Finance,
Standard Chartered Bank

Zoë Knight, Managing Director & Group Head of the Centre of Sustainable Finance, HSBC

What it means to transform your business to align with a Just Transition

Alberto De Paoli, Chief Financial Officer, Enel Group

Closing Remarks