

Role of Financial Institutions in Sustainable Development



25th to 26th of June, 2024
ISTANBUL, TÜRKIYE



**Bridging the Sustainability Gap
for Fast-Tracking Prosperity for All**

Endless initiatives and actions to deliver on the sustainable development agenda have been taken across the globe and new programs continue to be initiated. However, the agenda is still far from being accomplished as major gaps and challenges hindering its implementation have not been addressed and the progress is further slowing down owing, among others, to multiple global crisis, including wars, global supply chain disruptions and threat of trade protectionism.

The conference in Istanbul aims to position financial institutions represented at this two-day event as the leaders in rebooting sustainable development. The uniqueness of this event lies in its focus on a new and holistic approach that enables their countries to create a high-income and sustainable future and without going through the conventional stages of development that takes decades, if not centuries, and in most cases, it remains a mission unaccomplished.

This approach, which also makes financial sector the driver of sustainable development, is essential for realizing prosperity for all nations as it challenges the business-as-usual mindset, modernizes the mobilization and deployment of funds for transforming economies, and capitalizes on emerging technologies to leapfrog to a high-income, socially-inclusive and green economy.

High-ranking central bank and government officials, CEOs and senior leadership of financial institutions are invited to attend this high-level conference.

They will have an opportunity to delve into the challenges of macroeconomic and financial stability, inclusive growth and economic competitiveness. It will also be an occasion to engage in thought-provoking conversation on the interventions needed by the central bank and enter into a critical dialogue on the role of banks, non-bank financial institutions and national development finance institutions (DFIs) to overcome those challenges.

The delegates will explore new solutions to create a robust and resilient financial sector that is responsive to modern-day issues, help addresses macroeconomic challenges, and enables a shift to an inclusive, competitive and green economy.

Another highlight of the conference will be the deliberations on Holistic Sustainability vs. Cherry-Picking. This issue will be discussed against the backdrop of prevailing risks of greenwashing and overselling of sustainability. Through a cherry-picking approach, many organizations focus on greening few selected products, projects, processes or actions while ignoring their overall direct and indirect environmental impact and, among others, exposing themselves to reputational and legal risks. Therefore, the conference will address this growing danger, which is taking focus away from genuine green initiatives, and discuss holistic sustainability that makes delivery of social, economic and environmental sustainability the business of financial institutions, a source of profitability and necessary for future proofing their organizations.

Key Conference Sessions

Opening Session

It will set the stage for the event and will provide an opportunity to hear from the host country. The session will then briefly highlight the key objectives of the conference and emphasize the urgent need for embracing a new mindset for funding sustainable development and deploying new approaches for speedy green economic transformation that ensures prosperity for all.

Central Banking for Sustainability

During this session, the delegates will gain insights of how the cutting-edge Sustainability Standards help in achieving price, interest rate, financial markets and foreign exchange stability. It will highlight the sustainability framework's focus on building a high-value-added sustainable economy, ensuring maximum employment that focuses on green and high-income economic opportunities, ending the national debt spiral and avoiding debt traps, and realizing economic resilience in an increasingly uncertain world.

Financial Institutions as Drivers of Sustainability

This session will demonstrate how the key mandate and goals of the central banks mentioned above can be cascaded to the commercial banks, development banks, microfinance institutions and non-bank financial institutions and make these institutions the co-creators of a new economy. It will provide insights of the holistic Sustainability Standards that enable these institutions to achieve profitability through driving the sustainability agenda in their countries and turning macroeconomic challenges into business opportunities.

Special Sessions

On the sidelines of the conference, special sessions, particularly for the development banking community are planned, because of their mandate to fund sustainable development. To this end, the conference organizers also welcome the shareholders of the member-DFIs, among others, for the following reasons:

- Demonstrate to the shareholders, generally the government ministries, the role DFIs can and shall play in leading the sustainable development in their countries.
- Provide understanding of how DFIs can help address the major macro-economic challenges, including inflation, unemployment and foreign exchange stability, which are the pre-requisites for enabling sustainable development.
- Gain the shareholders' support for member-DFIs to make them strong players in their countries through, for example, enhanced capitalization, more government funding and greater autonomy.

In regard to special sessions, please contact the organizers to discuss further details.

About The Sustainability Standards and Certification Initiative (SSCI)

SSCI delivers cutting-edge Sustainability Standards for value-driven financial institutions, those that are committed to become drivers of social and economic sustainability, and leaders in creating green and resource-efficient economies. By adapting the Sustainability Standards, the certified institutions also make their own organizations future-proof.

The journey of SSCI began in 2018 with the participation of central bank, commercial bank, micro-finance institution, non-bank financial institution and development bank.

The pilot version, the Version 1.0, of the Standards was launched after consultations in 2019, whereby the know-how, knowledge and insights that went into this initiative have been generated over a long period of time, i.e., since 2009. Subsequently, the version 2.0 was developed, which is not only far more comprehensive, but also makes implementation much easier, for example, through Sustainability Compliance Apps for establishing and achieving corporate performance targets and delivering comprehensive framework to generate profits through creating high social, economic and environmental impact.

Since the launch of the Version 2.0 in 2023, the total portfolio of SSCI family today exceeds 60 billion Euros which is managed by over 16,000 male and over 14,500 female management and staff. They serve about 70.5 million customers through about 4,400 branches and outlets. Over 19 billion Euros are deployed as credit and investments in the economy, whereby 14.5 billion Euros are invested in large enterprises and projects.

The SSCI family of passionate financial institutions is creating jobs and powering the real economy by providing over 1.4 billion euros to the primary industry, funding the secondary industry with about 6.5 billion euros to turn the raw materials into valuable finished goods, deploying over 10 billion euros in the tertiary sector and supporting the growth of services industry.

SSCI makes societal well-being, economic development of the countries or regions in which the financial institutions operate as well as the environmental protection a source of corporate profitability and a powerful business case. It makes sustainability the core business of financial institutions and thereby positions them to succeed in a fiercely competitive market place.

This initiative translates sustainability from a buzzword and an abstract term to practical, tangible and achievable step-by-step guide to embrace true and holistic sustainability.



Association of National Development Finance Institutions in Member Countries of the Islamic Development Bank (ADFIMI) is the hosting organization and the European Organisation for Sustainable Development, Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP) and Association of African Development Finance Institutions have joined hands to organize this event.