

International Seminar on Greening Africa's Financial System

24-26 June 2019, Casablanca, Morocco

In 2016, the G20 Green Finance Study Group co-chaired by China and the UK developed seven recommendations on scaling up green finance, which were adopted by the G20 Leaders. Since then, more than 50 countries, regions and financial centers have launched their roadmaps and policy initiatives for greening their financial systems. Central banks and regulators from 29 countries/regions began to explore policy options to promote green finance through the NGFS, which has now become a global network for green finance policy discussion.

Economies include China, EU, and the UK, are at the forefront of establishing operational guidance, disclosure requirements, new products and incentives for green finance. Many other countries, including Morocco, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa, and Ghana from Africa, are also initiating green or sustainable finance roadmaps, and are attempting to explore the possibility of establishing a common green finance market in Africa.

While green finance will likely be a major driver for developing the green economy in Africa via mobilizing hundreds of billions of dollars for investment in sectors such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, as well as water and solid waste treatment, green finance remains a relatively new topic for many countries in Africa. Knowledge exchange and capacity building on this topic will help accelerate the pace for Africa to formulate an effective policy framework and develop the right products for green finance.

In response to this growing global demand for green finance knowledge, the Research Center for Green Finance Development at Tsinghua University (China) and the IFC-supported Sustainable Banking Network jointly initiated the Global Green Finance Leadership Program (GFLP) in 2018. The GFLP provides a global platform for knowledge sharing on green finance, with objectives to inspire innovation, scale up sustainable finance and facilitate the sustainable transformation of the global economy. The GFLP has hosted several global events since 2018 and attracted more than 250 participants from 48 countries, mostly developing economies, who were keen to learn from global experiences on green finance.

This Seminar on Greening Africa's Financial System is hosted by Casablanca Financial City and the GFLP, with support from Bank Al-Maghrib, UNEP, and the UK BEIS. This Seminar will focus on raising awareness of the importance of green finance, exchanging international experiences and best practices, discussing barriers and options for green finance development in Africa, and explore the possibility of launching a common African green finance (or green bond) market. It will convene 150-200 financial regulators, policy makers, senior members of financial institutions and other key stakeholders from the African region, as well as international experts from China, UK, EU and international organizations, with a view to inspiring and creating momentum for deepening green and sustainable finance development in Africa.

DRAFT AGENDA

Monday 24 June 2019

12:00-18:00	Registration Location: tbc , Morocco
19:00-21:00	Welcome Reception Location: tbc

Tuesday 25 June 2019

08:30-09:00	Arrival and Coffee
09:00-09:30	<p>Welcome Remarks</p> <p>Moderator: Manal Bernoussi, Director of Strategy, Marketing & Comms, CFC, Morocco</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governor, Bank Al Maghrib - Said Ibrahimi, CEO, Casablanca Financial City, Morocco - Ma Jun, Chairman of China Green Finance Committee, Director of Research Center for Green Finance Development Tsinghua University - Eric Usher, Head of UNEP FI, UN Environment - Senior Representative, UK BEIS
09:30-10:00	Coffee Break and Family Photo
10:00-11:00	<p>Session I: Green/Sustainable Finance Global Initiatives and Partnership</p> <p><i>To address environment issues and climate change, many global initiatives and partnerships in relation to green and sustainable finance have been created, including the G20, NGFS, UNEP and SBN, as well as regional/national green finance bodies in the EU and China. This session will invite representatives from these global initiatives and update us on latest international developments on green finance, discuss ways to strengthen international collaboration, and options to support Africa's green finance development.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ma Jun, Director of Research Center for Green Finance Development Tsinghua University, Chairman of China Green Finance Committee</p> <p>Panel Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative, UNEP - Zhang Rong, Global Coordinator, SBN/IFC - Michael Sheren, co-chair of G20 GFSG/Bank of England - Morgan Despres, NGFS Secretariat/Banque de France - Maarten Vleeschhouwer, EU - Representative, China
11:00-12:00	Reflections by Participants and Roundtable Discussion

	<p><i>During roundtable discussions, participants will have a chance to engage speakers and are encouraged to raise questions. All participants will break into a group of 20 at two tables for discussion of 30min. Speakers of the previous session will sit at a respective table, moderate discussions and encourage involvement of participants. Each table will send a representative to reflect on and summarize their discussions.</i></p>
12:00-13:30	Lunch Break
13:30-14:30	<p>Session II: African Green Finance Leadership</p> <p><i>Many African countries, such as Morocco, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya and Ghana, are also very active in promoting green and sustainable finance. This session will invite representatives from these countries, including from central banks, regulators and market participants, to share their views on how African countries should promote green finance and sustainable development in a more coordinated way, and the feasibility of establishing a common green finance market in Africa.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Manal Bernoussi, Director of Strategy, Marketing & Comms, CFC, Morocco</p> <p>Panel Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morocco - Nigeria - Ghana - South Africa - Kenya - UNEP/UNDP African Regional Office
14:30-15:30	<p>Reflections by participants and Roundtable Discussion</p> <p><i>During roundtable discussions, participants will have a chance to engage speakers and are encouraged to raise questions. All participants will break into a group of 20 at two tables for discussion of 30min. Speakers of the previous session will sit at a respective table, moderate discussions and encourage involvement of participants. Each table will send a representative to reflect on and summarize their discussions.</i></p>
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-17:00	<p>Session III: Green Banking: Relevance to Africa</p> <p><i>As one of the most important financial instruments for green finance, green lending has played a very important role in many countries in financing the green economy. But in order to scale up green loans, it is important to have definitions and taxonomies on green assets, a process for assessing and managing ESG risks for lending, and disclosure requirements. This session will invite representatives from China, France and Africa to share their experience in green banking, and discuss barriers and options for advancing green banking practices throughout the Africa region.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Eric Usher, Head of UNEP FI Economy Division, UN Environment</p> <p>Panel Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative, ICBC

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Credit Agricole/BNP Paribas - Representative from one African commercial bank - Representative from one African commercial bank
17:00-18:00	<p>Reflections by Participants and Roundtable Discussion</p> <p><i>During roundtable discussions, participants will have a chance to engage speakers and are encouraged to raise questions. All participants will break into a group of 20 at two tables for discussion of 30min. Speakers of the previous session will sit at a respective table, moderate discussions and encourage involvement of participants. Each table will send a representative to reflect on and summarize their discussions.</i></p>

Wednesday 26 June 2019

08:00-08:30	Arrival and Coffee
08:30-09:30	<p>Session IV: Green Bond Market: Relevance to Africa</p> <p><i>As one of the fastest growing green financial instruments, the global issuance of green bond has increased by almost 15 times over the past 6 years, where Europe and China are among the largest green bond markets. A green bond market appears also a low-hanging fruit for Africa. This session will invite experts from Europe, China/Hong Kong and African institutions to share their view on the development of green bond market, and explore how African can develop a common green bond market (with unified definitions/taxonomies, disclosure requirements, verification services, and incentives) with international support.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Ma Jun, Director of Research Center for Green Finance Development Tsinghua University, Chairman of China Green Finance Committee</p> <p>Panel Discussants (5min each):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Christopher Kaminker, SEB - Huang Chaoni, Vice President, Hong Kong Green Finance Association - Representative from Africa - Representative from Africa
09:30-10:30	<p>Reflections by Participants and Roundtable Discussion</p> <p><i>During roundtable discussions, participants will have a chance to engage speakers and are encouraged to raise questions. All participants will break into a group of 20 at two tables for discussion of 30min. Speakers of the previous session will sit at a respective table, moderate discussions and encourage involvement of participants. Each table will send a representative to reflect on and summarize their discussions.</i></p>
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:00	<p>Session V: Capacity Building and Partnership for Africa</p> <p><i>Many developing countries expressed strong interests in developing green and sustainable finance. However, most of them are in need for capacity building at both the policy and product levels. This session will invite experts from Mongolia, Pakistan, Kazakhstan and Africa to share their experiences in building capacity for green finance and sustainable</i></p>

	<p><i>development, and discuss the roles that GFLP, SBN and IOs can play in assisting capacity building. Speakers are also invited to share their views on how African countries can work together to building capacity in the region.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Zhang Rong, Global Coordinator, SBN</p> <p>Panel Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Representative, Mongolia Sustainable Finance Association - HBL Bank, Pakistan - Representative, Kazakhstan - Representative from South Africa - Representative from Africa
12:00-13:00	<p>Reflections by Participants and Roundtable Discussion</p> <p><i>During roundtable discussions, participants will have a chance to engage speakers and are encouraged to raise questions. All participants will break into a group of 20 at two tables for discussion of 30min. Speakers of the previous session will sit at a respective table, moderate discussions and encourage involvement of participants. Each table will send a representative to reflect on and summarize their discussions.</i></p>
13:00-14:30	Lunch Break and Certificate Awarding Ceremony
14:30-	Site visit to a local green project