

Media release

Switzerland is a leader in private investment solutions for sustainable development

Zurich, 17 January 2018

Swiss asset managers have a leading position in providing investment solutions that support the achievement of the sustainable development goals. This was demonstrated by an international conference held by Swiss Sustainable Finance in Zurich on 16 January. Some 240 participants from 12 countries seized the opportunity to inform themselves about innovative partnerships for development investments. Keynote speaker Karin Finkelston, Vice President Partnerships at the International Finance Corporation (IFC), presented concrete examples illustrating how private investment can improve livelihood while delivering attractive returns.

Globally, USD 2-3 trillion of additional annual investments in climate-efficient infrastructure, energy, agriculture, health, education, and other sustainable issues are needed to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), based on estimates*. Swiss financial service providers play a key role in providing appropriate investment solutions and mobilising private funds, as demonstrated at a Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) conference.

Cooperation between development banks and private investors creates added value

Six examples of targeted partnerships for investments for development illustrated the opportunities resulting from such cooperations. De-risking through development banks, government technical assistance, local industry knowledge of companies, and financing of advisory programs by foundations or other partners help create investment tools contributing to achieve the SDGs while generating attractive returns.

Swiss specialists as valued partners

Both Karin Finkelston and Ambassador Raymund Furrer, Head of Economic Cooperation and Development at SECO, emphasised in their contributions that Swiss know-how is particularly in demand, in addition to other speakers from a total of 8 different countries. Market data confirms this view, as CEO of SSF Sabine Döbeli explains: "Almost a third of all global investments for development are managed in Switzerland according to an SSF study **. In addition, multilateral and national development banks often cooperate with Swiss specialists, which speaks for their innovative strength in a forward-looking area."

*[Investment Needs to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, Understanding the Billions and Trillions](#), Guido Schmidt-Traub, SDSN Working Paper Version 2, 12 November 2015
**[Swiss Investments for a Better World](#), Swiss Sustainable Finance, April 2016

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Additional Information:

- > [Informationen on keynote by Karin Finkelston](#)
- > [IFC film on investments for development](#)
- > Summary of event with further presentations (available as of 17 January, 14:00 h):
www.sustainablefinance.ch
- > [Event website with description of the sessions and speaker biographies](#)
- > Event images can be requested: sabine.doebeli@sustainablefinance.ch

- > [Newsletter SSF](#) twice a month
- > [Twitter @SwissSustFin](#)
- > [LinkedIn Swiss Sustainable Finance](#)

Swiss Sustainable Finance (SSF) strengthens the position of Switzerland in the global marketplace for sustainable finance by informing, educating and catalyzing growth. The association, founded in 2014, has representation in Zurich, Geneva and Lugano. Currently SSF unites 96 members and network partners from financial service providers, investors, universities and business schools, public sector entities and other interested organisations. An overview of Swiss Sustainable Finance's current members and network partners can be found [here](#).