



GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE FINANCE CONFERENCE

Turning Global Disruption into Investment at Scale

Special Strategic Action Forum

27th – 28th August 2026
Karlsruhe | Germany

In collaboration with

ABA (Asian Bankers Association) and
CACCI (Confederation of Asia-Pacific
Chambers of Commerce and Industry)

STRATEGIC IMPERATIVE

Global disruption is not an exception—it is becoming the defining condition of the global economy.

The question is no longer how to navigate uncertainty, but how to act within it—how to identify where opportunity is emerging, and how to ensure that capital can be deployed into those opportunities at speed and at scale.

GSFC 2026 is designed around this shift: turning disruption into investment by aligning financial systems with real-economy needs and accelerating the creation of investment-ready opportunities.

THE CAPITAL CHALLENGE

The foundations of the global economy are shifting—fast and irreversibly.

Geopolitical tensions, energy shocks, supply chain disruptions, shifting economic power, and rapid technological change are no longer isolated events. They are converging—transforming the global economic landscape in profound and lasting ways. As a result, capital flows, risk dynamics, and business and industrial competitiveness are being fundamentally redefined—changing how economies, financial systems, institutions and businesses operate and compete.

At the same time, a critical gap is becoming increasingly evident: despite high liquidity in global markets, capital is not being deployed into the businesses, industries and infrastructure that drive real economic growth. The issue is not one of supply alone, but of alignment—between financial systems and real-economy needs, between risk expectations and project realities, and between how opportunities are created and how capital is deployed.

GSFC 2026 brings together leaders from financial institutions, businesses, central banks, regulators and the wider ecosystem to address this gap directly. Designed as a strategic action forum, the conference moves beyond analysis to execution—focusing on what must change in practice: how financial institutions must reposition for a new global reality, and how the wider ecosystem can work together to develop investment-ready opportunities and scalable pipelines that enable capital to be deployed with speed, confidence and at scale.

At its core, GSFC 2026 is about ensuring that capital reaches the real economy—efficiently, prudently and at scale. Addressing this challenge requires clear priorities and coordinated action.

ACTION PRIORITIES

GSFC 2026 focuses on what must change in practice.

- **Translate global disruption into clear investment direction**—identifying where capital will flow and where new opportunities are emerging
- **Close the gap between capital and the real economy** by addressing the practical barriers that prevent capital from being deployed at scale
- **Redefine how financial institutions operate**—from managing portfolios to actively shaping and capturing real-economy opportunities
- **Move from isolated deals to scalable pipelines** by advancing approaches that make opportunities investment-ready from the outset
- **Enable coordinated action across finance, industry and the wider ecosystem** to accelerate the creation of investable opportunities and the mobilisation of capital at scale

TENTATIVE GSFC PROCEEDINGS

Session 1: Geopolitics, Geoeconomics and the Emerging Global Order

From conflict and energy shocks to shifting economic power—what today's global tensions mean for portfolios, lending and investment decisions, and for businesses of all sizes worldwide

Today's global environment is being reshaped by conflict, energy volatility, shifting economic power, and the reconfiguration of production, trade, technology and financial systems. These forces are no longer abstract—they are directly influencing where capital is deployed, how risks are assessed, and the competitiveness of businesses across sectors and geographies.

This session will examine how these developments are redefining investment priorities and reshaping financial and business decisions. It will provide a clear, practical understanding not only of the risks and disruptions, but also of the opportunities emerging across regions, sectors and value chains—highlighting where capital is likely to flow, where it may retreat, and how financial institutions and businesses can position themselves to remain resilient, competitive and investable in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

Session 2: Why Trillions Still Don't Reach the Productive Economy

Capital abundance, yet capital misallocation—why capital is not reaching scalable real-economy opportunities, and what must change now to mobilise large-scale investment for high-impact enterprises and infrastructure

Global liquidity is high and investor appetite is strong—yet capital continues to fall short of reaching scalable, high-impact opportunities in the real economy. The issue is not availability, but alignment: between risk expectations, investment structures, and the realities of businesses and projects on the ground.

This session will examine what is holding capital back—and where current approaches are failing. It will identify the practical constraints in how opportunities are originated, assessed and structured, and how these limit the flow of capital into enterprises, infrastructure and emerging sectors. It will focus on what must change—across financial institutions, businesses and the broader ecosystem—to enable capital to move with speed, confidence and at scale into opportunities that are viable, competitive and capable of delivering sustained economic and long-term value.

Session 3: Repositioning Financial Institutions for a New Global Capital Reality

What financial institutions must do to strengthen balance sheets, profitability and resilience amid seismic global shifts—and realign portfolios and business models with scalable real-economy opportunities and sustainable growth

In a more volatile and structurally changing global environment, financial institutions can no longer rely on conventional models of growth, risk assessment and portfolio construction. Strong balance sheets alone are no longer enough— institutions must fundamentally change how they generate profits, structure their business models, and identify viable opportunities.

This session will focus on what needs to change in practice. It will examine how financial institutions must move beyond fragmented approaches and reporting-driven models, and embed sustainability and real-economy alignment into core business strategies—as drivers of profitability and long-term competitiveness.

It will explore how institutions can strengthen the quality of their investment pipelines, sharpen decision-making, and reposition themselves not only as providers of capital, but as active partners in shaping industries, enterprises and infrastructure—focusing on opportunities that are viable, scalable and future-proof.

Session 4: Shaping Investment-Grade Opportunities at Scale

From funding what exists to shaping what is needed—how financial institutions, businesses and key ecosystem actors can co-create scalable, investment-ready opportunities and unlock capital for the real economy

The challenge is no longer to understand why capital is not flowing, but how to create opportunities and structures that enable capital to be deployed at scale. Financial institutions often lack well-structured, scalable investment vehicles—limiting their ability to mobilise and deploy capital efficiently. Too often, they remain reactive—responding to financing proposals as they arise, rather than helping develop and structure investment-ready opportunities from the outset.

This session will focus on how to operationalise this shift in practice. It will examine how financial institutions, businesses and key ecosystem actors can work together to originate, structure and develop opportunities that are bankable from the start.

It will then address how to move beyond fragmented, deal-by-deal approaches and build a consistent pipeline of high-quality opportunities and investment vehicles. The objective is clear: enable capital to be deployed faster, at scale, and into projects and businesses that are viable, competitive and built for long-term growth.

STRATEGIC PARTICIPANTS

GSFC 2026 brings together senior decision-makers from across the financial system and the real economy—those directly responsible for allocating capital, shaping investment strategies and developing scalable opportunities.

Participants include:

- Board Chairs, CEOs and senior executives from banks, national development financial institutions, asset managers, institutional investors and insurance companies
- Central banks, regulators and public authorities shaping financial and economic policy
- Senior leaders from industry and business

Participation is by invitation only, ensuring a focused group of senior decision-makers with the relevance, authority and capacity to shape outcomes and contribute meaningfully to the dialogue.

IMPACT & OUTCOMES

GSFC 2026 is designed to deliver tangible results—accelerating capital mobilisation, strengthening investment pipelines, and reshaping how financial institutions and businesses act in a rapidly changing global environment.

Key outcomes include:

- **Sharper investment direction**—greater clarity on where capital will move and where scalable opportunities are emerging
- **Stronger alignment between finance and the real economy**, improving the effectiveness of capital deployment
- **Improved quality and scale of investment pipelines**, enabling capital to be deployed more efficiently
- **More effective collaboration across finance, industry and the wider ecosystem**, leading to coordinated action beyond the conference
- **Concrete follow-up initiatives and partnerships** that translate dialogue into concrete investment activity.

ABOUT GSFC

The Global Sustainable Finance Conference (GSFC) is one of the longest-standing international platforms advancing banking and finance as drivers of sustainable economic development.

Founded in 2011 in the aftermath of the global financial crisis, GSFC was created to address a fundamental question: how to build a financial system that is not only stable, but capable of delivering lasting economic, social and environmental value.

Over time, the conference has evolved from raising awareness on sustainability to focusing on **practical, implementation-ready solutions**. It distinguishes itself through a clear and consistent approach: moving beyond general discussions and isolated initiatives to address the structural changes required within financial institutions and across the broader financial system.

GSFC challenges conventional approaches that treat sustainability as an add-on or compliance exercise. Instead, it focuses on embedding sustainability into core business models—enhancing profitability, strengthening resilience and delivering real impact.

Today, GSFC is a **closed-door, invitation-only forum** bringing together senior decision-makers from across finance, industry and the public sector to drive collaboration and develop solutions that can be implemented at scale.

Building on this foundation, **GSFC 2026 focuses on a new imperative: turning global disruption into investment at scale—ensuring that capital is effectively mobilised into the real economy to drive sustainable growth, competitiveness and long-term value.**

The conference is convened by the European Organisation for Sustainable Development, in partnership with the host city of Karlsruhe, the Association of African Development Finance Institutions (AADFI), the Association of Development Financing Institutions in Asia and the Pacific (ADFIAP), and the Association of National Development Finance Institutions in Member Countries of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE AWARDS

GSFC 2026 will honour financial institutions and their Presidents/CEOs for outstanding contributions to advancing sustainable banking and finance.

The awards recognise institutions that have successfully embedded economic, social and environmental sustainability into their core business models—demonstrating that sustainability can drive profitability, resilience and long-term value.

They also acknowledge leadership at the highest level, recognising Presidents and CEOs who are actively shaping the transformation of the financial sector.

Through this recognition, the awards aim to:

- **Highlight leading institutions and individuals** driving real impact in sustainable finance
- **Encourage the integration of sustainability into core business strategies**, beyond isolated initiatives
- **Promote the development of sustainable financial instruments and markets**, including green finance, financial inclusion, social finance and innovation-driven investment
- **Inspire broader adoption of practical, scalable solutions** across the global financial system

KARLSRUHE: THE CONFERENCE LOCATION

GSFC 2026 will take place in Karlsruhe, Germany—a city recognised for its strong economic base, innovation capacity and leadership in sustainability.

Strategically located in the Upper Rhine region, Karlsruhe offers excellent international connectivity. Frankfurt International Airport is approximately one hour away by direct high-speed train, with seamless rail and road links across Germany and Europe.

Karlsruhe combines a dynamic business and technology environment with a strong cultural heritage. As the seat of Germany's highest courts and a city known for its commitment to sustainability, it provides a fitting setting for a conference focused on shaping the future of finance and the real economy.

Further travel and logistical details will be shared with confirmed participants.

GSFC 2026 IS WHERE GLOBAL DISRUPTION IS TRANSLATED INTO REAL INVESTMENT OUTCOMES—AT SCALE.



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GSFC 2026 | Executive Expression of Interest
Karlsruhe, Germany | 27–28 August 2026

The Global Sustainable Finance Conference is a senior international forum bringing together decision-makers from banking, finance, business and the public sector. Participation is curated to ensure a high-level, outcome-oriented and strategically relevant dialogue.

1. Institution Details

Institution Name: _____
Country: _____ Website: _____
Primary Contact Person: _____
Title / Position: _____
Email: _____ Telephone: _____

2. Proposed Delegates

Delegate 1: _____
Title / Position: _____
Email: _____
Delegate 2: _____
Title / Position: _____
Email: _____

Additional Delegates (if applicable): _____

3. Strategic Interests (tick as appropriate)

- Sustainable Banking and Finance
- Infrastructure Finance
- Investment Opportunities
- Innovation & Productivity
- Other: _____

4. Participation Interest

- Delegate Participation
- Awards Consideration

5. Brief Note (optional)

Please return completed form to: mail@eosd.org
Subject: **GSFC 2026 Expression of Interest**

Participation is subject to review and confirmation by the organisers.



GLOBAL
SUSTAINABLE
FINANCE
CONFERENCE

GSFC 2026

TURNING GLOBAL DISRUPTION
INTO INVESTMENT AT SCALE

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

27 – 28 AUGUST 2026
KARLSRUHE, GERMANY



GLOBAL
PERSPECTIVES



CAPITAL
MOBILISATION



SUSTAINABLE
GROWTH



LEADERSHIP
IN ACTION

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

While conventional conference formats provide a platform for sharing perspectives, they do not always create the conditions for sustained, decision-focused engagement among senior leaders.

GSFC 2026 is therefore deliberately designed differently.

It brings together leaders from financial institutions, central banks, regulatory authorities, businesses and the public sector, across diverse policy environments and facing real strategic challenges – particularly in emerging and developing economies.

Each session is designed to move beyond general discussion and towards:

- a shared understanding of the key shifts shaping capital flows and investment
- direct engagement with the practical challenges of mobilising and deploying capital at the institutional and country level
- clear direction on what must change in practice

Sessions are structured to drive focused, outcome-oriented exchange. They begin with a clear framing of the issue, followed by direct engagement among senior leaders based on real institutional experience, and focused contributions that challenge assumptions and sharpen decision-making.

The emphasis throughout is on substance, clarity and what this means in practice for institutions, rather than general discussion.

GSFC 2026 is designed as a working forum, built around active engagement among participating leaders, providing a clearer view of how capital can be mobilised and directed more effectively in the context of global disruption, and what this requires in terms of institutional positioning, strategic direction and execution – particularly in advancing national and regional priorities in emerging markets.

It is a high-level leadership forum where decision-makers engage directly with the practical challenge of turning disruption into investment and shaping real-economy outcomes.

Designed as a working forum rather than a conventional conference, it is built around peer-level exchange and active engagement among participating leaders, rather than a sequence of presentations, with discussions focused on practical outcomes and what this means in practice.

DAY 1 | 27 AUGUST 2026**08:55 | Arrival of Delegates****09:00 | Opening Session**

- Opening Statement by Tom Hoyem, Board Member EOSD International Council of Sustainability Standards for Value-Driven Financial Institutions and Ex-Cabinet Minister, Kingdom of Denmark
- Welcome Remarks by Dr. Frank Mentrup, Lord Mayor of Karlsruhe, Germany and Chairman of the Board of Sparkasse (Local Savings Bank)
- Inaugural Address by Arshad Rab, Chairman, International Council of Sustainability Standards for Value-Driven Financial Institutions and CEO, European Organisation for Sustainable Development, Germany

09:40 | Group Photo**10:00 | Session 1: Geopolitics, Geoeconomics and the Emerging Global Order**

This session examines the structural forces reshaping the global economic and financial landscape, including geopolitical fragmentation, supply chain realignment, and the changing geography of capital. It focuses on how these shifts are influencing:

- capital allocation decisions
- risk perceptions
- the role of financial institutions in national and regional development

The session also considers how these global shifts are shaping national economic strategies, investment priorities and policy responses.

Executive Dialogue:

How should financial institutions and policymakers position themselves as the global economic and geopolitical landscape is reshaped?

10:55 | Refreshment Break

11:25 | Continuation of Session 1

12:45 | Lunch

14:00 | Session 2: Why Trillions Still Don't Reach the Productive Economy

This session addresses the persistent disconnect between global capital and real-economy investment, despite significant liquidity. It explores structural constraints including:

- risk allocation, pricing and perception
- limited pipelines of investment-ready opportunities
- institutional and market misalignment

The session focuses on why capital does not flow where it is most needed, and what must change.

It also considers the implications for governments in attracting and directing investment into priority sectors such as infrastructure, industry and the real economy.

It further examines how national financial systems can support the transition towards higher-value, technology-driven and sustainable economic activity and investment.

Executive Dialogue:

Why does capital still fail to reach businesses, industry and infrastructure at scale, and what structural shifts are required to change this?

15:15 | Refreshment Break

15:30 | Continuation of Session 2

17:00 | Executive Exchange & Networking

18:00 | Karlsruhe Sustainable Finance Awards Ceremony
Convened by Dr. Frank Mentrup, Lord Mayor of Karlsruhe, Germany

19:30 | End of Day 1

DAY 2 | 28 AUGUST 2026

09:20 | Arrival of Delegates

09:30 | Session 3: Repositioning Financial Institutions for a New Global Capital Reality
Building on the global and market dynamics explored on Day 1, this session focuses on how financial institutions must redefine their strategic positioning, institutional architecture and operating frameworks.

It examines how institutions can move beyond incremental adjustments toward systematic approaches that align strategy, governance, and operations with long-term value creation and capital mobilisation.

The session further considers how institutions can adopt more structured approaches to:

- embedding sustainability as a core driver of competitiveness and performance
- aligning institutional practices with emerging global expectations and standards
- strengthening credibility, transparency and long-term positioning

It also examines how policy frameworks, regulatory approaches and financial institutions can be better aligned to support investment, competitiveness and long-term economic development.

It further considers how financial institutions can actively shape business and industrial development, supported by regulatory and supervisory approaches that strengthen resilience and enable long-term capital mobilisation.

Executive Dialogue:

What institutional and policy shifts are required to align financial systems with long-term economic strategy and investment priorities, and enable the mobilisation and deployment of capital at scale?

10:45 | Refreshment Break

11:15 | Continuation of Session 3

12:45 | Lunch

DAY 2 | 28 AUGUST 2026

14:30 | Session 4: Shaping Investment-Grade Opportunities at Scale

This session focuses on how institutions can move from responding to investment opportunities to actively originating and shaping them.

It examines how data, technology and institutional processes can be used to:
translate market demand into investment-ready opportunities
strengthen origination, structuring and pipeline development
improve the alignment between capital supply and investment demand

The session highlights how more integrated approaches can support institutions in constructing pipelines and portfolios aligned with emerging economic priorities. It also examines how countries can strengthen the development of investment-ready pipelines aligned with national priorities and capable of attracting long-term capital. It further considers how long-term institutional investors can be better integrated into these pipelines and aligned with real-economy opportunities.

Executive Dialogue:

How can institutions and countries work together to move from financing what exists to shaping and scaling investment opportunities, and better align capital with real-economy demand?

15:30 | Refreshment Break

**16:15 | Closing Exchange
From Insight to Institutional Direction**

This session consolidates key insights from the conference and focuses on their practical implications.

It focuses on identifying the most critical shifts required at the institutional level, clarifying strategic priorities, and reinforcing a shared understanding of how to move from discussion to action.

The objective is to ensure that the exchange at GSFC 2026 translates into clearer institutional direction and practical follow-through.

17:00 | End of Conference

KARLSRUHE: THE PROGRAM LOCATION

The conference will be held in Karlsruhe, Germany, a city in southwest Germany, located near the Rhine River, nestled between the Palatinate and Vosges mountains and the world-famous Black Forest.

1. Getting to Karlsruhe

- By Air - Frankfurt International Airport (FRA)
- The most convenient gateway to Karlsruhe is Frankfurt International Airport, one of the world's largest and best-connected airports.
- Direct high-speed ICE trains operate from Frankfurt Airport's long-distance station to Karlsruhe Main Station.
- Total travel time from Frankfurt Airport to Karlsruhe is approximately 1.5 to 2 hours, including transfer time.
- Train schedules, tickets, and platform information are available through Deutsche Bahn (German Railway).

2. Arrival in Karlsruhe & Local Transport

- Karlsruhe offers an efficient and environmentally friendly public transport network.
- Trams & Buses: Extensive, reliable, and easy to navigate.
- Taxis: Readily available at the station and throughout the city.
- Bicycles: The city is very bike-friendly with rental options available.
- Walking: Karlsruhe's central areas are pedestrian-friendly and pleasant to explore.

3. Explore Karlsruhe: Culture, Landmarks & Experiences

Karlsruhe offers a rich blend of history, modernity, and art.

Cultural Highlights

- Karlsruhe Palace & Badisches Landesmuseum
- A stunning Baroque palace surrounded by sprawling gardens, hosting the region's largest cultural history museum.
- ZKM | Center for Art and Media
- One of Europe's leading institutions for media art, digital culture, and creative technologies—often compared to a “digital Bauhaus.”

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- State Art Gallery (Staatliche Kunsthalle)
Exhibits European paintings and sculptures from the Middle Ages to modernity.
- Botanical Garden
A serene and beautifully landscaped oasis behind the palace.

Places of Interest & Things to Do

- Karlsruhe Pyramid at Market Square (Marktplatz)
The city’s most iconic structure and the symbolic heart of Karlsruhe.
- Turmberg Hill & Funicular
A short trip east of the city offers sweeping views over the Rhine plain and Black Forest.
- Schlossgarten (Palace Gardens)
Ideal for peaceful walks or morning jogging.
- Durlach Old Town
A charming historic district with narrow streets, boutique shops, and traditional cafés.

4. Dining in Karlsruhe

Karlsruhe offers an impressive variety of culinary experiences:

- Local Specialties: Flammkuchen (Alsatian-style flatbread), Maultaschen (Swabian filled pasta), Seasonal Dishes, Regional Wines from Baden, one of Germany’s premier wine regions
- International Cuisine
The city’s diverse food scene includes:

- International Cuisine
The city's diverse food scene includes:
 1. Italian, French, and Mediterranean restaurants
 2. Middle Eastern, Turkish, and Lebanese cuisine
 3. Japanese, Korean, Chinese, and Thai options
 4. Modern vegetarian and vegan dining

5. Shopping in Karlsruhe

Karlsruhe is an excellent city for shopping, offering a mix of international brands and regional boutiques.

Where to Shop

- Kaiserstraße: Karlsruhe's main shopping boulevard with fashion, electronics, cafés, and department stores.
- Ettliger Tor Shopping Center: Over 130 shops under one roof, including fashion, beauty, and international brands.
- Postgalerie: Smaller shopping centre with specialty shops and food options.
- Marktplatz & Side Streets: Ideal for discovering local designers, gourmet shops, and artisanal products.
- Shops are generally open Monday to Saturday, with most closing by early evening.

6. Weather Conditions (27 – 28 August)

Karlsruhe in late August typically experiences warm summer conditions, with daytime temperatures ranging between 22°C and 28°C. Weather is generally pleasant, with a mix of sunshine and occasional cloud cover. Light rain showers are possible but not frequent.

Days remain relatively long, with sunset around 20:15–20:30, providing extended daylight.

Conditions are generally stable for the season; however, some variation may occur.

7. Recommended Clothing (Outdoor)

For time spent outdoors, light and comfortable clothing is recommended due to warm daytime temperatures. A light jacket or layer may be useful for early mornings or late evenings. While rainfall is not expected to be frequent, a compact umbrella or light rain protection may be advisable.

The programme dress code remains formal business attire.

7. Other Useful Information

Currency & Payments

The currency is the Euro (EUR). While major establishments accept credit and debit cards, smaller shops, cafés, and taxis may prefer cash. It is advisable to carry some cash for convenience.

Language

German is the official language; however, English is widely spoken in hotels, restaurants, and business environments.

Electricity

Germany uses Type C and Type F plugs with a standard voltage of 230V. International visitors may require an adapter.

Time Zone

Karlsruhe operates on Central European Summer Time (CEST), which is UTC+2 during the conference period.

Safety & Emergency

Karlsruhe is considered a safe city with very low crime rates. In case of emergency, the general emergency number in Germany is 112 (ambulance and fire services). The police can be reached at 110.

