

The 4th Annual Global Impact Investment Conference Conference – May 16th, 2019 – Mövenpick Hotel - Geneva

Welcome All and thank you for joining us.

The ESAFON conference this year is built upon 3 main pillars that ensure the structure of today's agenda.

The first pillar is the imperative to change course in order to finance the UN SDG's and will address the need for new models to scale innovative solutions in impact investment. The impact investment market remains fragmented around 3 models VP/VC/PE and is still lacking scalability with a long term perspective.

The second pillar is a deliberate choice we also made at the level of the Swiss Impact Initiative to support SDG 14 and the protection of oceans.

Oceans do sustain us, they are critical to the survival of mankind.

3 billion people rely on a healthy ocean for food and jobs.

The Blue economy in itself is set to become the 7th largest economy of the world by 2030. To grow and develop, the blue economy needs to be sustainable. Therefore, there is a great interest to support SDG 14 and a big opportunity for investment "at scale" into technology to serve the blue economy.

Last but not least, the 3rd pillar is a bottom-up approach at corporate level to ensure that the backbone of capital markets – the multinationals and mid-caps are well aligned towards the UN agenda. The so called SDG dashboard. They need engagement, commitment, reporting and transparency to enable the growing number of investors - who want to invest with purpose - to make a well-informed decision.

In portfolio management, we are about to reach ESG watermark for listed companies.

This is a first step in the right direction but we need to be more ambitious to meet 2030 targets and businesses and policy makers need to re-align on di-carbonisation. In the process, we may be cautious to avoid green washing which is never far away from capital market's behaviour. Thankfully, the next generation is on watch!

In a nutshell, turning narrative into action & reality is what this conference is all about.

Thank you.

François Golbery, Chairman, ESAFON