



GLOBAL
SUSTAINABLE
FINANCE
CONFERENCE

Turning Global Disruption into Investment at Scale

Special Strategic Action Forum

27th – 28th August 2026
Karlsruhe | Germany



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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