

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations has a critical role in supporting the mobilization of finance for sustainable development. The Secretary-General's Strategy sets out the key elements of this role, and the United Nations will take to help accelerate and deepen the transformation of financial systems to provide development finance efficiently.

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Private finance can foster this by requiring companies in which they invest to disclose sustainability profile and impact and their efforts to integrate sustainability considerations into their business decisions. Together, these efforts will shift business investment and capital allocation decisions into alignment with the sustainable development agenda.

OBJECTIVES

The Strategy aims to accelerate progress in key areas where the leadership of the Secretary-General galvanize action from the global to the local arena. This calls for:

1. Aligning global economic policies and financial systems with the 2030 Agenda.
2. Enhancing sustainable financing strategies and investments at the regional and country levels.
3. Seizing the potential of financial innovations, new technologies and digitalization to promote equitable access to finance.

1: Aligning global economic policies and financial systems with the 2030 Agenda.

1.1 Public policies that are firmly and consistently formulated to achieve sustainable development can realign incentives and alter market perceptions of risk. These policies influence private decisions on capital allocation, investment, location and sourcing, and also help to limit excessive conjunctive swings and financial volatility, and can incentivize the financial system, and private individuals, to build up their resilience to eventual economic and financial shocks.

1.2 These changes to the policy framework must ensure specific financial sector policies and regulations that encourage the rising demand for, and supply of finance for sustainable activities. This will include removing obstacles to the mobilization of longer-term resources. At the same time, appropriate balance must be struck between measures to preserve systemic stability and reduce vulnerability to economic, financial and climate shocks, and steps to encourage financial innovations that mobilize resources more efficiently and promote more inclusive financial systems that provide financial access to all.

1.3 While there are fragmented standards, there are still no globally agreed definitions of concepts such as impact and sustainable investing, despite growing private interest in them; and existing sustainability principles have not yet led to adoption of globally accepted standards to guide the evolution of innovative financial instruments for sustainable

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1.6 Private financial institutions, for their part, have been working with the United Nations to understand today's environmental, social and governance challenges and why they matter. This has led these actors to consider explicitly how sustainability can be better woven into the core business models of private enterprise and finance.

2: Enhancing sustainable financing strategies and investments at the regional and country levels.

2.1 The United Nations development system will support the development of sustainable financing strategies at the country and regional level, in particular through its country offices and regional teams. This role will include providing advice and support for: creating investible projects; supporting countries in negotiating complex contracts with private entities; building enabling environments; deepening domestic financial markets; and developing integrated financing strategies. Member states will thus be better equipped to attract the capital they need to implement the SDGs.

2.2 Countries must also strengthen and increase the effectiveness of their tax systems to generate the domestic resources for funding the government contribution.