

2022 Financing for Development Forum

Side Event: Understanding the impact of SDG investments by refining sustainability reporting

Thursday, 28 April 2022, 8 am – 9 am (EST)

The Global Investors for Sustainable Development (GISD) Alliance comprises a group of global business leaders convened by the UN Secretary-General to catalyze financing for sustainable development. In its first two years, GISD has proposed solutions to facilitate the scaling up of private finance and investment for the SDGs. These include recommendations for to align investments with the SDGs such as the definition of Sustainable Development Investing (SDI) and a set of SDG-aligned sector-specific metrics to enhance corporate sustainability reporting.

A review of reporting standards and metrics widely used in corporate sustainability undertaken by the GISD Alliance found that existing frameworks could not be used for comparing performance within sectors. To address this gap, a set of SDG-aligned sector specific metrics were designed by GISD to increase transparency and promote standardized impact measurement of SDG investments. It is intended for these metrics to be integrated into existing reporting structures to enable a deeper view into the contribution of business activities towards the global goals.

Since the launch, these sector-specific metrics have been adopted by leading investors including members of the GISD Alliance. To increase their uptake in the industry, lessons learnt must be shared by early adopters so that best practices can be codified and propagated more widely. For this purpose, a policy spotlight session will be held in the sidelines of the Financing for Development Forum in which members of the GISD along with other industry peers will engage in a panel discussion on streamlining measurement of sustainable development investments. During this session, panelists will present their experiences of integrating the sector-specific metrics in their reporting frameworks and debate the following questions:

1. What are some of the challenges faced by companies that undertake in-depth sustainability reporting?
2. What is the role of investors in improving impact measurement practices within businesses?
3. Can sector-specific metrics clarify company contributions to sustainable development?
4. What strategies might be useful in ensuring industry-wide adoption of sector-specific metrics?

Proposed format:

- Welcome remarks to briefly introduce the metrics and frame the discussion – **10 minutes**
- Davos-style panel discussion with GISD Alliance CEOs and key industry actors to debate and answer the questions identified above – **40 minutes**
- Audience Q&A – **10 minutes**