

Swiss private-sector development finance message for SDG capital mobilization

Geneva, 2 October 2019 – Some 50 representatives from the development finance private sector have called upon Swiss financial authorities in a [joint message](#) for greater support to scale private-sector investment in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and leverage the country's position as global business hub for impact investing.

The message, which received support from [Swiss Sustainable Finance \(SSF\)](#), addressed to the Swiss Federal Council, Federal Parliament and financial regulator (FINMA) is entitled "Putting Switzerland at the heart of SDG financing". It recommends to improve the enabling environment around private sector investments into development finance strategies, while underscoring the already pivotal role of agencies such as the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC). Among a number of recommended measures, the message encourages the Federal Council to: review the general framework conditions that facilitate Swiss institutional and retail investors' ability to invest in advancing SDGs; promote Switzerland internationally as an impact investing business hub; and to create a national centre of excellence in development finance investments.

"The message to our authorities is a strong bottom-up statement from the private sector to join forces towards the common goal of positive social and environmental impact in developing countries, job creation and employment in the Swiss financial sector, and sound financial return for investors," said Roland Dominicé, Chief Executive Officer of [Symbiotics](#) and board member of SSF.

Switzerland already enjoys a leading position in the global market for private-sector development finance, with a 32% market share of global impact assets under management (AuM), according to the [2019 Swiss Microfinance & Impact Investments Report](#). These impact assets have grown by 18.5% per annum since 2010, from a base value of USD 2.4 billion to USD 9.3 billion at the end of 2018.

"Our country is home to many of the world's leading impact fund managers," said Jean-Philippe de Schrevel, Founder and Managing partner at [Bamboo Capital Partners](#). "Today's convergence of the private and public sectors is a great opportunity we must seize."

The signatories are holding a panel discussion on the topic and the joint message. The event, co-hosted by Symbiotics and Bamboo Capital Partners and open to the public, will be held at the [Graduate Institute](#) on October 8th from 5:30-8 p.m. in the context of the [Building Bridges Week](#).

"I believe this joint declaration will serve as a roadmap for further policy dialogue that will strengthen the Swiss sustainable finance space for greater impact," said Frédéric Berney, impact investing workgroup leader at Sustainable Finance Switzerland and Chairman of the [BlueOrchard](#) Microfinance Fund.

Find the full agenda and registration link here: <https://www.eventbrite.fr/e/switzerland-at-the-heart-of-sdg-financing-registration-73536259933>

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Symbiotics is the leading market access platform for impact investing. Over the past decade, the company has originated and structured nearly 4,000 investment transactions, worth more than USD 5.3 billion, on behalf of more than 450 companies in 83 emerging and frontier markets, all serving a measurable sustainable and inclusive finance objective, purchased by 50 different investment funds and institutional investors. Symbiotics is a registered asset manager in Switzerland, a registered investment adviser in the United Kingdom, and has further office presence in Mexico, the Netherlands, Singapore, South Africa and the United States, regrouping more than 150 employees worldwide. For more on us, see: www.symbioticsgroup.com or follow @SymbioticsNews.

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Bamboo Capital Partners is an impact investing platform founded in 2007 by Jean-Philippe de Schrevel which provides innovative financing solutions to catalyse lasting impact. Bamboo bridges the gap between seed and growth stage funding through a full suite of finance options – from debt to equity – which it activates unilaterally or through strategic partnerships. Bamboo aims to generate lasting impact and improve the lives of the world's most marginalised communities while delivering strong financial returns. Since its inception, Bamboo has raised over \$4,000m for developing countries, positively impacting over 152 million lives and creating over 40,000 jobs through its investments in over 30 countries. The firm has a team of 30 professionals active across Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia.

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