SPOTLIGHT ON FIVE KEY MULTILATERAL EVENTS IN 2026

Investor briefing

June 2026

An investor initiative in partnership with
UNEP Finance Initiative and UN Global Compact

About this briefing

This document is intended for investors interested in learning about multilateral policy developments relevant for responsible investment, key events and opportunities for engagement.

Multilateral policies can either accelerate or hinder responsible investment at the international, regional and national levels. Well-designed multilateral policies support responsible investment by addressing systemic or system-level risks, creating new investment opportunities, and reducing the regulatory burden on investors. The PRI encourages its signatories to learn more about the role of multilateral policy in advancing responsible investment and to engage in multilateral policy processes through its Global Policy Team.

About the PRI

The Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) works with its international network of signatories to put the six Principles for Responsible Investment into practice. Its goals are to understand the investment implications of sustainability and governance-related issues and to support signatories in integrating these issues into investment and ownership decisions. The PRI acts in the long-term interests of its signatories, of the financial markets and economies in which they operate and ultimately of the environment and society as a whole.

The six Principles for Responsible Investment are a voluntary and aspirational set of investment principles that offer a menu of possible actions for incorporating sustainability and governance-related issues into investment practice. The Principles were developed by investors, for investors. In implementing them, signatories contribute to developing a more sustainable global financial system. For more information, visit www.unpri.org.

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Why multilateral policy matters and how investors can get involved

Multilateral organisations are key players in the responsible investment ecosystem[1]. Many are established or given the mandate to address global sustainability challenges, including those that are systemic or system-level risks that are financially material for investors. Global systems reform is necessary to address these risks, and create new investment opportunities, and investors can drive or shape reforms through multilateral policy engagement.

Multilateral organisations tackle global sustainability challenges in a variety of ways depending on their mandate, including among others:

- Development of international law and policy;
- Research;
- Technical assistance and capacity building;
- Mobilisation and deployment of capital; and
- Convening dialogues and facilitating collaboration between the public and private sectors.

Some multilateral agreements have the potential to advance or reverse progress on responsible investment at the international and regional levels. These agreements whether legally-binding or not can help increase standardisation and harmonisation or inter-operability of sustainable business and finance policies and regulations across the multilateral organisations' member jurisdictions which reduces the regulatory burden on investors. On the other hand, multilateral agreements on sustainability-related issues that are neither science nor evidence-based can create material risks for investors and limit responsible investment opportunities.

Multilateral organisations also help increase coordination and cooperation between Member States which is critical to effective implementation of financial and real economy policies and regulations.

[1] Multilateral organisations designate in this briefing organisations or groups, formal or informal, involving or participated in by more than two States (countries) or supervisory/regulatory authorities in those States. The multilateral organisations that the PRI engages with are grouped in five categories: 1) UN system; 2) International Financial Institutions; 3) Multilateral Development Banks; 4) Non-UN specialised groups; and 5) non-global/regional groups.

They provide a forum for their Member States to, among others:

- Share good practices;
- Address implementation issues that may disadvantage certain States; and
- Identify opportunities for cooperation that can help achieve the desired outcomes of the agreement.

The PRI aims to support investor engagement on multilateral policy in the following ways:

- Coordinate investor input on draft multilateral agreements;
- Incorporate investor views and recommendations in public consultation responses and reports for/with multilateral organisations;
- Facilitate policy dialogue between investors, multilateral organisations, and government representatives; and
- Create or secure speaking opportunities for investors at key multilateral events.

PRI's multilateral policy engagement

Recent multilateral policy engagements

The PRI has worked on multilateral policy for many years. Recent examples include:

- Facilitating direct discussions between investors, the COP 30 Presidency, and Brazil's Ministry of Finance to help shape the COP 30 outcomes[2].
- Engaging with governments on sustainable finance policy in the lead up to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development[3];
- Contributing policy recommendations and facilitating investor input for the G20 in 2025[4]; and
- Engaging with the governments of Japan[5] and Italy[6] on the role of the G7 in sustainable

[2] PRI (2025): PRI at COP 30.

[3] PRI (2025), The Compromiso de Sevilla: A milestone in the growth of sustainable finance policy.

[4] PRI (2025): Key takeaways from the G20 in South Africa.

[5] PRI (2023): The role of the G7 in sustainable finance and economic transition policy reforms.

[6] PRI (2024): The role of the G7 in driving the economic transition.

finance and economic transition policy reforms during their respective presidencies.

Multilateral policy engagement priorities in 2026-2027

The PRI's key multilateral policy engagement priorities in 2026-2027 are:

- The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity Secretariat on climate and nature policy and financial flows;
- The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) on the Financing for Development (FFD) agenda;
- The UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights on the UN Guiding Principles and human rights and environmental due diligence; and
- The World Bank Group and IMF on financial policy reform and mechanisms for increasing financial flows to EMDEs.

Key multilateral events and engagement opportunities for investors in 2026

Several key multilateral events are taking place over the second half of 2026, and some encourage the participation of the financial sector. The PRI is prioritising the following events based on their potential impact on sustainable finance and responsible investment:

- Selection of the next UN Secretary-General (Fall 2026);
- UN CBD COP 17 (October 2026);
- UNFCCC COP 31 (November 2026);
- UN Forum on Business and Human Rights (November 2026).

Whilst the UN FFD Forum and SDG Investment Fair have already passed, we are including them here as some of the conference outcomes and government statements are notable developments in multilateral policy.

Selection of the next UN Secretary-General

The next UN Secretary-General (UNSG) will be selected and appointed by the end of this year, with UN Security Council discussions starting in late July and the UN General Assembly expected to make its decision in the Fall[7]. The UNSG leads the United Nations and his or her office has both administrative and political functions. Aside from managing the organisation, the UNSG also has the authority to bring matters of international peace and security to the attention of the UN Security Council, and may perform other functions as determined by the principal organs of the UN. In practice, the UNSG plays a vital role in thought leadership, preventing and resolving international disputes, managing reforms to the organisation, and coordinating 31 UN entities.

The selection of the next UNSG comes at a critical juncture for the UN where multilateralism is under threat, the rules-based international order is eroding, and the foundations of sustainable development are being challenged. The next UNSG will help shape the post-2030 agenda for sustainable development, and s/he will have significant influence on the level of priority given to sustainable finance and responsible investment within the UN system. The PRI is monitoring the race for the next UNSG, but we are not actively engaged in the political process. The PRI will seek to collaborate with whoever is selected as the next UNSG on shared priorities relating to sustainable development and responsible investment.

UN FFD Forum and SDG Investment Fair

The 2026 ECOSOC Financing for Development Forum (FFD Forum) and SDG Investment Fair took place the week of 20 April[8]. The FFD Forum is an annual inter-governmental conference and a key mechanism of the UN Financing for Development process. The 2026 conference was the first since the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) in June 2025 and one of the four action areas under review was domestic and international private business and finance. The PRI contributed to two events – a session on sustainable business and finance policy and regulation and a side event on aligning business and finance with sustainable development impact.

UN Member States agreed to some supportive language on sustainable finance in the FFD Forum Outcome Document such as committing to work with institutional investors to improve the availability,

[7] UN (2025): Selection and Appointment of the Next Secretary-General.

[8] UN DESA (2026): 2026 FFD Week.

quality and accessibility of risk and impact data to support additional investments in developing countries[9]. The UK and Indonesia explicitly endorsed the Sevilla Platform for Action Paragraph 34 Initiative which was launched by UNEP FI, UN DESA, UNDP, PRI, and GRI at FFD4. The Initiative aims to contribute to building a more coherent corporate and financial sustainability policy and regulation ecosystem by enabling UN Member States to engage in a well-informed manner in relevant global policy processes taking place at the UN in New York. The UK signalled support for improving interoperability across standards and Indonesia signalled support for scaling usable frameworks and impact products.

PRI and our partners will continue to engage with UN Member States on these and other areas of sustainable business and finance policy and regulation in the FFD process, and other relevant fora, and PRI signatories will be invited to share their perspectives in meetings and events with policymakers, standard-setters and other relevant stakeholders.

UN CBD COP17

COP17 will take place in Yerevan, Armenia from 19–30 October, and it will be the first global review of collective progress on the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF)—the world's plan to halt and reverse nature loss by 2030[10]. The key negotiation topic at COP17 is likely to revolve around how the global community will react towards the findings of the stocktake, including what actions to take in response to implementation gaps. Key GBF targets relevant to investors include Target 14 on aligning financial flows, Target 15 on private sector disclosure, Target 18 on incentives reform, and Target 19 on resource mobilisation. Other implementation-related topics such as resource mobilisation, monitoring and reporting, and the climate-nature nexus will also be discussed.

The PRI will support an investor delegation in Yerevan and are currently exploring potential engagement opportunities such as policy dialogues with governments ahead of COP17 and investor events during Finance Day. Key biodiversity events will also take place in the lead up to COP17, and those at London Climate Action Week (20-28 June)[11] and PRI in Person (13-15 October) will welcome financial sector participation. PRI participated in the invitation-only Resource Mobilisation Workshop in February and a CBD-organised Technical Information Exchange session in June.

UNFCCC COP31

COP31 will take place in Antalya, Türkiye from 9-20 November, under a Turkish Presidency, with Australia leading the negotiations[12]. The focus will be on implementation, as pledges and targets give way to the challenging, but critical work of transitioning economies and delivering investable opportunities. Despite the recent US withdrawal from the UNFCCC and the ongoing challenge of reaching consensus on issues like fossil fuel transition, countries are pressing ahead with designing policies, pipelines and vehicles to minimise overshoot of the 1.5°C threshold and build resilience. This is being done through the multilateral negotiation process as well as voluntary processes such as the 'Action Agenda'[13], which plays a key role in enabling implementation, and multi-stakeholder coalitions.

The PRI will ensure the voices of responsible investors help shape multilateral negotiations in the lead up to COP31 through consultation responses and policy dialogues with governments, whilst also sharing investor insights through the Action Agenda and catalysing regional action. Building on extensive engagement during the road to COP30, our key focus areas include economic and sustainable finance policies that address climate mitigation, adaptation and nature issues as well as capital mobilisation to EMDEs.

Our engagement so far includes submitting consultation responses to formally mandated UNFCCC workstreams such as the 'Veredas Dialogue' [14], which is focused on enabling the alignment of financial flows with the Paris Agreement and how this complements public finance obligations toward developing countries, as well as the Just Transition Work Programme[15]. We have also submitted consultation responses on the deforestation [16] and fossil fuel[17] roadmaps, and actively engaged in the June UN climate meetings in Bonn which play a key role in shaping COP31 priorities.

[9] UN ECOSOC (2026): Economic and Social Council Forum on Financing for Development Follow Up, Intergovernmentally Agreed Conclusions and Recommendations.

[10] UN CBD (2026): Seventeenth Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

[11] PRI (2026): The PRI at London Climate Action Week.

[12] UNFCCC (2026): The Road to Antalya.

[13] Climate High-Level Champions (2025): What is the Action Agenda?

[14] PRI (2026): PRI response to consultation on the organisation of the Veredas Dialogue.

[15] PRI (2026): PRI consultation response on the Just Transition Mechanism under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

[16] PRI (2026): PRI response to COP 30 consultation on the roadmap for tackling deforestation.

[17] PRI (2026): PRI response to the COP 30 consultation on the transition roadmap.

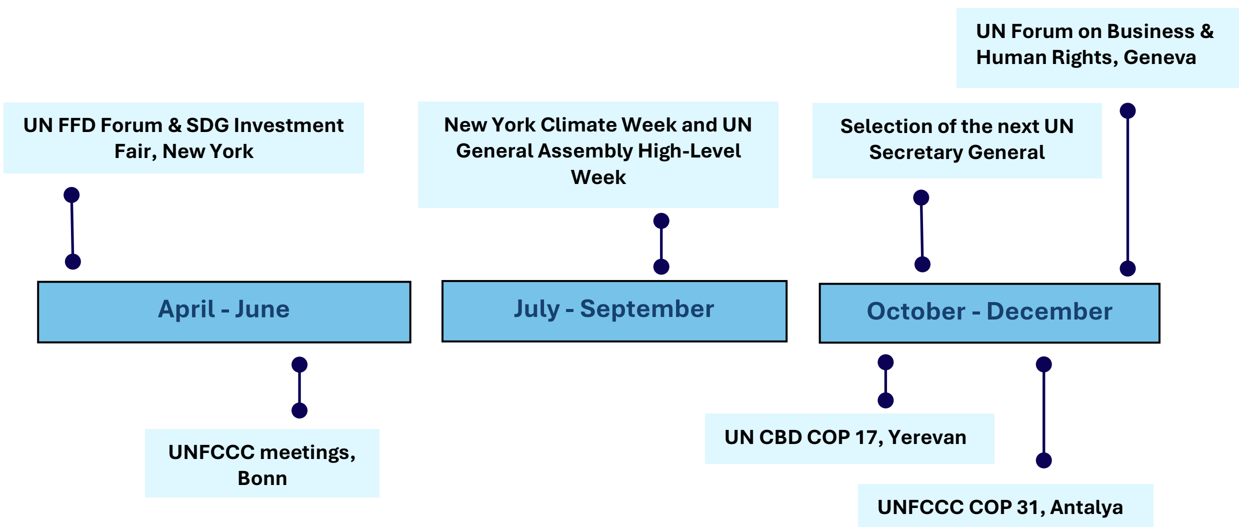
In addition to supporting policy engagement, PRI will support an investor delegation at COP31 in Antalya and facilitate signatory participation at key climate events during the second half of this year such as London Climate Action Week and New York Climate Week (20-27 September)[18].

UN Forum on Business and Human Rights

The 15th UN Forum on Business and Human Rights will take place in Geneva, Switzerland from 23-25 November[19]. The Forum is organised annually by the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, with the goal of accelerating action on business and human rights, especially implementation of the UN Guiding Principles. While the event does not hold ministerial dialogues, it is an influential forum for a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society, businesses and policymakers, and has attracted an increasing number of PRI signatories over the years.

The PRI will convene signatories and provide access to the Working Group and policymakers in attendance. We will also organise events during and on the margins of the main conference, with a focus on human rights and environmental due diligence, inequality, and investments in conflict and high-risk areas.

Timeline of Multilateral Events



[18] PRI (2026): PRI Investor Day at New York Climate Week.
[19] UN OHCHR (2026): 15th United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights.