



*Sustainable  
Stock Exchanges  
Initiative*

THE SUSTAINABLE  
STOCK EXCHANGES

**2016 ACTIVITY PLAN**



Co-organized by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Global Compact, the United Nations Environment Programme Finance Initiative, and the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment



## BACKGROUND

Founded in 2009, the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) initiative has become the main global platform for exchanges to engage with policy makers, investors, companies and regulators. Named by Forbes as one of the “world’s best sustainability ideas,” the SSE is exploring how exchanges can work with these actors to create more sustainable and transparent capital markets. Given the dynamic and cross-border nature of capital markets, stock exchanges can be particularly instrumental for fostering sustainable business behaviour worldwide.

## THE SSE WORKS THROUGH THREE MAIN PILLARS:

### CONSENSUS BUILDING

Convene high-level multi-stakeholder groups to discuss the role of stock exchanges in building sustainable capital markets that can support relevant sustainability agendas.

### RESEARCH

Monitor sustainability related progress among stock exchanges and regulators (ex. the prevalence of guidance on reporting ESG information to investors), conducting original research and breaking down concepts in a way that is most useful for its users.

### CAPACITY BUILDING

Provide guidance and training through documents, assistance and technical workshops to promote best practice among the world’s stock exchanges

# CAPACITY BUILDING

## PROJECT

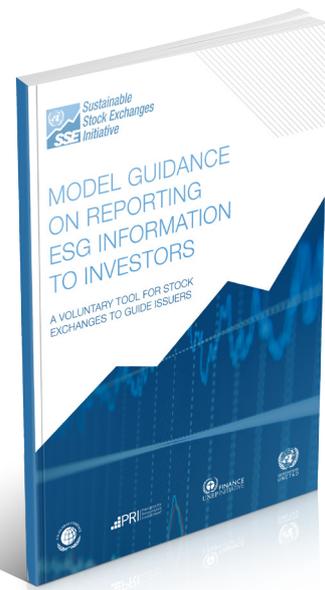
The Campaign to Close the ESG Guidance Gap

## GOAL

Every major exchange in the world provides guidance to its issuers on ESG disclosure

The SSE will assist exchanges by:

- working with investors, companies and to help exchanges build the business case for providing a voluntary reporting guidance;
- providing a peer-to-peer learning platform to share best practices with members who have undergone the process of creating a guidance;
- commenting on ESG guidance drafts and facilitating the sharing of drafts with peers;
- inviting members of the SSE Investor Working Group and the SSE Corporate Working Group to respond to market consultations;
- providing a list of technical experts the SSE has worked with in the past upon request, making it clear the exchange should do its own due diligence before hiring.



[MORE INFORMATION](#)



## PROJECT

Recruitment to the SSE Investor Working Group

## GOAL

Members represent all countries where there is an SSE Partner Exchange

Recruitment for these groups will start in February and continue on an ongoing basis as needed. We will focus on recruiting investors to engage with major exchanges around the world to encourage them to adopt sustainability initiatives such as the guidance on sustainability reporting.

# RESEARCH

## PROJECT

**Stock Exchange Fact Sheets**

## RELEASE DATE

**Maintained throughout the year**

The SSE maintains a comprehensive database of “Factsheets” on stock exchanges sustainability activities.



[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## PROJECT

**2016 SSE Report on Progress**

## RELEASE DATE

**6 September**

This SSE biennial report provides a snapshot of relevant stock exchange and regulatory initiatives, the status of the SSE itself, and other relevant topics related to ESG disclosure, corporate sustainability and responsible investment.

This year's report is expected to include:

- 1) An update on sustainability initiatives implemented by stock exchanges and regulatory bodies around the world
- 2) Highlights of current best practices, trends, opportunities and challenges from exchanges
- 3) Overview of existing and potential areas exchanges can advance the UN's SDGs
- 4) Showcase trends among partner exchanges and their markets
- 5) A deeper look at the impact of the Campaign to Close the ESG Guidance Gap

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



# CONSENSUS BUILDING

## EVENT

**SSE Global Dialogue 2016**

## DETAILS

**Location: Singapore**  
**Date: 6 September**



This year's conference will build on the context of the Sustainable Development 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, China's G20 presidency and the Green Finance Study Group by showcasing the latest trends and innovations in sustainable capital markets from across stock exchanges' global network.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## EVENT

**Executive Dialogue on Green Finance**

## DETAILS

**Location: Nairobi**  
**Date: 20 July**

To evaluate what role stock exchanges can play in the global trend towards green finance, the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges initiative will be holding a roundtable discussion on Green Finance.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)



# CONSENSUS BUILDING



## EVENT

Ring the bell for Gender Equality

## DETAILS

**Location:** Over 30 stock exchanges around the world

**Date:** 7-11 March

To commemorate International Women's Day (8 March 2016), over 30 stock exchanges around the world will join the SSE, the UN Global Compact, UN Women, IFC, the World Federation of Exchanges and Women in ETFs, in raising awareness about the importance of gender equality to sustainable development and business by ringing an opening or closing bell.

[http://www.sseinitiative.org/gender\\_equality\\_bell/](http://www.sseinitiative.org/gender_equality_bell/)



[www.SSEinitiative.org](http://www.SSEinitiative.org)