The Sustainable Banking Network (SBN) (www.ifc.org/sbn) is a knowledge and capacity-building platform of financial regulators, banking associations, and environmental regulators from emerging markets committed to developing sustainable finance frameworks based on national context and priorities, as well as international good practices.

SBN’s main objectives are to: (a) provide technical assistance to support members in creating an enabling environment through developing and implementing national sustainable finance frameworks; (b) convene a global platform for practitioners to benefit from best practices and deepen collective learning; and (c) provide capacity building and knowledge sharing, with a focus on peer to peer exchanges among members.

As the private sector arm of the World Bank Group, IFC provides technical assistance to SBN members based on its practical experience gained from Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) sustainability standards setting and application, as well as from investing and advising the private sector in emerging markets on green/climate finance innovation. IFC also acts as Secretariat and knowledge partner for the Network and connects SBN with its global network of development partners.

SBN membership now consists of 38 member countries including Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Fiji, Georgia, Ghana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Samoa, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and Vietnam. These countries represent $42.6 trillion in banking assets, accounting for over 85% of the total $50 trillion banking assets in emerging markets¹. SBN member countries have taken different approaches toward sustainable finance. So far 22 countries have developed national frameworks on sustainable finance with IFC/SBN support.

SBN has three thematic working groups:

- **Member-led Measurement Working Group**: Established in 2016, responds to members’ needs for enhanced technical support to design and implement national initiatives and guidance. The 11 member countries and one regional network represent a spectrum of sustainable finance development. In 2017, the group convened member-wide discussions to identify critical components of national initiatives and guidance, to benchmark the findings against a set of common indicators, and to tease out success factors and gaps for improvement. In the process, the group innovated an approach to measure results.

  The SBN Measurement Framework assesses members’ national sustainable policies and principles against environmental, social, and governance integration; green and climate finance; and global alignment and maps countries across a progression matrix. The framework is agreed by all SBN members.


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¹ Data Source: International Monetary Fund, Financial Soundness Indicators, http://data.imf.org/?sk=51B096FA-2CD2-40C2-8D09-0699CC1764DA
Member-led Green Bond Working Group: Established in 2017, responds to members’ interest in the global green bond trend and associated market opportunities. Working group members comprise representatives and observers from 21 countries and 30 organizations—including the International Capital Market Association. In 2018, the group undertook the most comprehensive assessment of green bond market developments to date in over 22 emerging markets and released a practical toolkit for SBN members in developing their own green, social, and sustainability bond markets.

The SBN Green Bond Toolkit includes nine country case studies and a comparison of national frameworks from 11 SBN members as well as the regional framework of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and Malaysia guidelines. Based on member experiences, it also articulates common objectives, a planning matrix, a roadmap, and a capacity-building needs assessment.


Member-led IDA Task Force: Established in 2018, responds to low-income members’ interests in finance for climate change. It aims to deepen the sustainable finance framework development and implementation in IDA member-countries. The task force constitutes 11 countries: three in advanced stages of implementing sustainable finance and eight at the outset of their journeys.

The IDA Task Force aspires to raise environment, social, and governance risk management standards in financial markets, to mobilize financing, particularly from private sector, for climate change mitigation and adaptation in line with the Paris Agreement, and to support capital flows that deliver the Sustainable Development Goals. Private sector finance in emerging markets can make a substantial difference.