

# 3rd Global Summit on Climate Changes and Sustainability

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## Sustainable Finance: Shaping a Better World

In the face of accelerating climate change and growing environmental instability, the financial sector plays a pivotal role in steering society toward sustainability. This presentation explores the critical intersection of climate risk and financial risk, underscoring why investors must care about the global transition to a low-carbon economy. With a focus on sustainable finance and macro stewardship, the talk outlines how capital markets—valued at \$456 trillion—can be mobilized to meet the \$110 trillion transition cost to net-zero by 2050.

The session covers the fundamentals of sustainable finance, including the integration of ESG factors into investment decisions, the impact of physical, transition, and litigation risks, and the emerging evidence that ESG performance enhances financial returns. It further examines systemic challenges such as regulatory inconsistencies, greenwashing, and structural incentives within the financial system that hinder progress.

The presentation concludes with a call to action: finance professionals and future leaders must be bold, curious, and impactful in reshaping investment practices and driving systemic change. Sustainable finance is not a trade-off between profit and purpose—it is the foundation for long-term value creation and global resilience.

### Biography

Diana George is a Doctoral Practitioner in Sustainable Finance at the University of Surrey, where her research focuses on the impact of institutional investors' macro stewardship on financial system stability and sustainability. With over 25 years of experience in global finance, including roles in investment banking and hedge funds, Diana brings a practitioner's insight into sustainable investing. Diana held senior roles at leading investment banks and hedge funds, specializing in event-driven strategies. She has also launched and scaled start-ups in alternative investments and executive coaching initiatives, and currently collaborates with Aviva Investors on policy-focused research. Diana holds an MBA with Distinction from University of Surrey, is a Sustainability Fellow at the Institute for Sustainability, and is an active lecturer and speaker on sustainable finance.