

FAQ ZUG: International Meeting on Faith in Finance

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When is the meeting?

The meeting will be held in Zug from October 29 to November 1, 2017.

Who is invited?

More than 40 faith finance representatives have been invited, as well as some senior leaders and top proponents of sustainability from within some of the key religions. A similar number of secular delegates will be invited from philanthropies; international agencies such as the UN and NGOs such as The Nature Conservancy (TNC) as well as representatives from particular financial institutions that have become leaders in sustainable and impact investment.

What is the background?

The world's faiths control a significant proportion of the world's assets. They have in recent years become involved in investing according to environmental, sustainable and governance (ESG) principles. To date they have generally applied negative criteria or screening to avoid inappropriate investments from their portfolios. From this year some of the leading faith fund managers will start to work with clearly articulated and formally endorsed ESG criteria

for positive investment. This is backed by a commitment to change the world by aligning their assets with their deepest values and principles. Against a background of political and economic uncertainty in many places around the world, 2017 will see a significant global breakthrough in the emergence of Faith-Consistent Investment (FCI).

More on the guidelines

Every faith group that attends Zug will have completed their own statement of FCI guidelines by June 30, 2017. The Zug event is a commitment to further action on top of considerable work to put these guidelines in place to allow this new market to emerge.

How do you draw up guidelines for your faith?

There is a link to the latest guidelines form on this page:

<http://www.arcworld.org/projects.asp?projectID=674>

What will be launched and achieved?

The meeting will establish the basis for a new movement – the International Faith-Consistent Investment movement. It will launch guidelines by the individual faith traditions for:

- Impact and ethical investing by the faiths through their own investments
- Guidelines for lay believers in each faith to guide their personal use of finance
- New models of finance and the role of economics driven by values and belief
- A portfolio of faith-based projects for ethical investment worldwide.
- Creation of an international centre for Faith-Consistent Investment

What will it lead to?

From Zug onwards the faith investment guidelines will be used as a basis to work with secular agencies and financial services providers to make FCI a reality, and help ensure the faith groups become recognised within the secular community as an important and proactive stakeholder in the transformation towards a more sustainable and just world.

Tell us more about the guidelines on faith-consistent investing

These will be collected before the meeting, from faith investment attendees. They will, as much as possible:

- a. outline the scale and nature of the faith tradition's financial assets in order to begin to truly assess the scale of the role of faiths in the capital market. Guesstimates currently place the faiths as the fourth largest investing group.
- b. outline any current guiding principles that the faith investors have, according to their religion. These will include (for some, not all), principles such as non-usury; ban on armaments, alcohol, gambling etc. Possibly also rules on health products,

- educational products etc.
- c. information on current screening process and practice.
 - d. any existing criteria to direct investments into creating a more sustainable, just and environmental world.
 - e. outlines on what as an organisation you would now be willing to consider for future venture capital or entrepreneurial investing which touch upon the broad range of themes that the SDGs cover. Please see the Appendices One on the SDGs. For example, an historic commitment to water provision would mean that water projects would be a priority for you.
 - f. A consideration of these areas of potential investment interest within a wider context of not just financial assets but also assets such as the role the faith tradition plays in education; in media and information; in health care or in land management. This will help the wider world understand the breadth of engagement faiths have as stakeholders in the planet and its future.

What difference will the guidelines make?

The guidelines will indicate new or revised priorities, which could be guiding principles for active investment in the future. They will:

- Enable clearer policy making within the faith structures;
- Assist lay members of the faith in making their own value judgements;
- Assist the UN and other such bodies in finding allies for sustainable development;
- Open up discussion about alternative models for economics based upon values and the experience of the faiths;
- Enable long-term investments: faiths have a history of such long-term commitments.

What is the link with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

The Zug event arises from work on the SDGs undertaken by ARC with the UN in 2014 and 2015. This led to the September 2015 Bristol Meeting when representatives of the major faiths met with the UN to discuss their response to the proposed goals. The SDGs were adopted officially by the UN later that month. They cannot be funded through conventional grants and aid and will only be possible through investment. This is a major new development for the UN in thinking about the future. The faiths are an obvious group to discuss investment in environmental and sustainable development projects because their investments naturally seek investments that are good in many meanings of the word. This UN therefore commissioned ARC to write a study on faith-consistent investment and the SDGs. The Zug meeting (and launch of a new level of faith investment in environmental and sustainable development) has flowed from that

Why Zug?

Zug, about 35km south of Zurich, has long been known for its low taxes. It is a small town that has developed into a significant cantonment capital. But for the past few years it has also been establishing itself as one of the major international centres for what is often described as ethical or impact investing. The Zug Impact Summit is a standard bearer for this new international profile and role for Zug.

Facts and Figures (March 2016)

Inhabitants:	29,478
Jobs:	33,000 (many occupied by people living outside Zug)
City area:	33.8km ²
Currency:	Swiss Francs
Language:	Swiss German
Nationalities:	123

Tell us more about the history of Zug

In medieval times a castle was built and a customs house where traders had to pay tariffs before they were allowed in to the old town. This led to increased revenues and riches. The city's heyday was the late 15th and early 16th centuries when many of the most significant buildings, including the town hall and St Mary on the wall church were built. During the Reformation, Zug stayed Catholic. In 1814, following the occupation by Napoleon's army, Zug became the capital of its own canton. Over the past 200 years it has moved from small rural town to a modern industrial and service centre, creating an environment in which people of many nationalities can find permits to settle. In 2003 a train connection and station was opened, linking Zug to Zurich easily by public transport.

How do you get there?

There are direct trains from Zurich airport every hour and connecting services (change at Zurich) more frequently. The train takes about 45 minutes.

Who is supporting it?

The meeting is hosted by the Alliance of Religions and Conservation (ARC). It is supported by the United Nations and is being held in cooperation with the Swiss Impact Investment Association (SIIA) and the Triple Bottom Line Investment (TBLI). The initiative is being supported by a range of high level UN delegates, national governments, international environmental organisations like The Nature Conservancy and WWF as well as secular philanthropies, fund managers, fund managers from major religious investment funds, the city of Zug, and the Lassalle Haus Jesuit Centre.

Where is the meeting to be held in Zug?

The meeting will be held at the beautiful modernist Lassalle Haus Jesuit Centre, 10 minutes drive from the historic centre of Zug. The Jesuit Order was founded by Ignatius Loyola in 1540 and is the largest monastic Catholic order, with some 17,000 members. Its main concern has, from the beginning, been intellectual engagement with the modern world and especially science, and Jesuits work in social, spiritual and educational projects around the world. Lasalle Haus is also a centre for Jesuit work with Japanese religion which is why it not only has a chapel but also a Zen meditation hall. It is also the centre for Jesuit studies on entrepreneurship and the monks are keen to support this initiative, which will lead to social, spiritual and educational programmes and improvements.

Tell us more about the architecture of Lassalle Haus

Lassalle Haus was built by celebrated Zurich architect André Studer in 1969. Studer (1926-2007) was lifetime friends with American architect Frank Lloyd Wright and he was greatly influenced by Lloyd Wright's expressive organic forms. He built many sacred structures, as well as residential complexes and even complete town plans. In the 1980s, when he was about 60 years old, he withdrew from his work, closed down his office, and devoted himself to spirituality. Lassalle Haus epitomizes Studer's concept of holistic architecture.

According to Zug architect Georg Frey: "We can approach the Lassalle Haus from different directions; the transition from the surrounding area into the building is very gradual.... The Lassalle Haus does not protect itself with walls, but with designed accesses, which give us time to enter and leave. The rooms lead us, but the direction is not immediately clear. In the interior, the rich design contrasts with the restriction to a few building materials. Visible concrete elements, plastered surfaces, natural stone, wood and glass... The complex rooms exude a calmness which is stimulating. It is a strong architecture that is not narrow, but open."

It is all good symbolism for a successful meeting about new ideas, and finding balance and beauty in combining the worlds of finance, environment, economics and faith.

What is the draft programme?

This section will be filled in closer to the time

29th October: Arrivals (in Zurich and transfer to Zug, 35km south of Zurich). Please do arrive in Zug on the 29th October as the event will begin promptly at 9am on the 30th.

30th October: 9am to 5.30pm Working meeting at the Lassalle Haus Jesuit Centre
Dinner at the Lassalle Haus Jesuit Centre

31st October: 9am Working meeting at the Lassalle Haus Jesuit Centre
Afternoon – celebration combined with the Swiss Impact Investment meeting in Zug when the faith guidelines will be officially launched. Further networking.
Dinner – joint dinner in Zug with delegates from the Swiss Impact Investment meeting

1st November: Morning session to finalise plans for continuing the faith-consistent network
P.M. Departures