



# The Sustainability Dispatch 2026 / No. 2

From the frontlines of global change

Literary Lens:

**“Nature craves / All dues be rendered to  
their owners.”**

William Shakespeare,  
*Troilus and Cressida*,  
Act 2, Scene 2

Welcome to *The Sustainability Dispatch* — your quick guide to the latest in sustainability and ESG. From global regulatory developments in finance to cutting-edge research, thought-provoking literature, and policy insights, we bring you news, hot takes, and exclusive access to events and publications. All in one place, across finance, law, science, and the humanities.

## ESG Global Developments



### United Nations General Assembly

A landmark moment for global climate governance occurred on 20 May 2026, as the United Nations General Assembly adopted the resolution to welcome the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion on climate change of 23 July 2025. The resolution, titled “Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the obligations of States in respect of climate change”, prepared by Vanuatu and several other countries, was adopted with 141 in favour, 8 against, and 28 abstentions. It represents not only a political statement acceding to legal findings of the Court but also introduces structures to drive progress in climate diplomacy.

#### Reference

1 United Nations General Assembly, *Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the obligations of States in respect of climate change*, UN Doc A/80/L.65 (13 May 2026).

### Why does this matter?

*A few key points:*

The resolution requests UN Secretary General António Guterres to submit “a report containing ways to advance compliance with all obligations in relation to the Court’s findings”, taking into account “possible gaps in multilateral efforts” to address climate change effects: operative para [10]. This implements the ICJ AO at a policy level.

It also urges States to implement measures to meeting 1.5°C, including by “tripling renewable energy capacity and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030”: operative para [4].

Moreover, it urges a just and equitable transition away from fossil fuels in energy systems: operative para [4]. Recognizing that certain States do not yet have the capacity to fully transition, there is emphasis on an equitable and just change. This suggests a notion that those States least responsible for climate change are the ones bearing the brunt of the ones most responsible, as well as of transition.

Furthermore, it calls upon States to an equitable, equal participation of under-privileged populations in decision-making on climate action: operative para [5]. The language suggests a collective responsibility as well as empowerment toward climate action.






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## Climate Week Zurich 2026

- **250+ events across the city co-creating and scaling climate solutions across sectors: 4-9 May 2026**
- [Read more](#)
- [Watch Recap](#) 

## If you missed it: CCS @ CWZ 2026

### Tue, 5 May 2026

EY's Focus Event: Greenwashing in Financial Services, Keynote, @Westhive, Dr. Tadas Zukas → [Link](#)

### Thu, 7 May 2026

Conference "Sustainable Finance and Climate Finance - From Roots to Innovation", @UZH Careum, Prof. Zacharias Sautner, Prof. Markus Leippold → [Link](#)

### Thu, 7 May 2026

Panel Discussion "Framing Sustainability in the Age of AI: Public Voices, Corporate Strategies, Media Influence", @UZH Digital Society Initiative, Prof. Nadine Strauß → [Link](#)

### Fri, 8 May 2026

Beyond Carbon: Debating the Future: "Green Finance", online, Prof. Debjani Bhattacharyya, Prof. Markus Leippold, Prof. Nadine Strauß → [Link](#)

### Fri, 8 May 2026

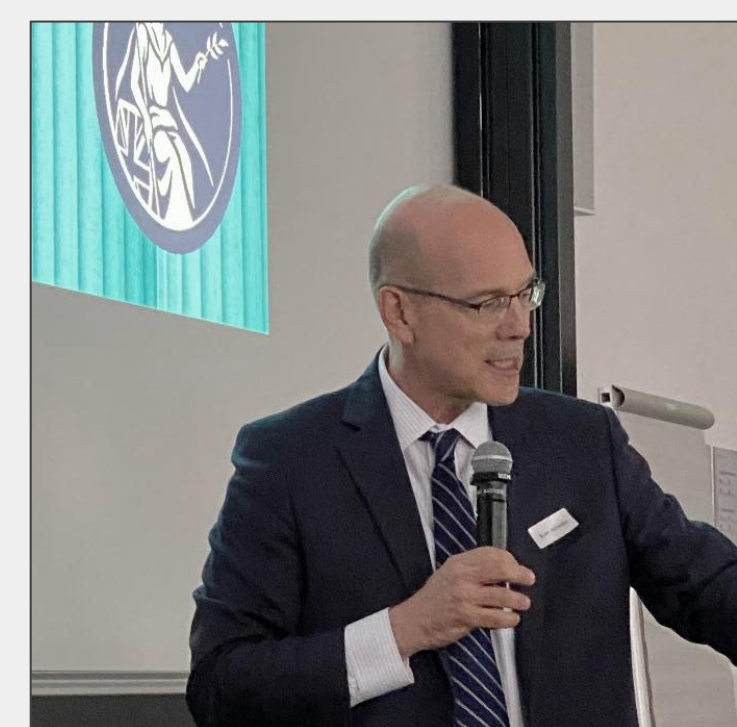
Conference "The Role of Sustainability in Central Banking", @UZH KOL-F-101, Prof. Kern Alexander et al. → [Link](#)

## Conference & Book Launch

### The Role of Sustainability in Central Banking 8 May 2026

**Hosted by:** Prof. Dr. Kern Alexander (UZH CCS) & Prof. Dr. Seraina Grünewald (ILE-HSG)

**Expert speakers & chapter authors:** Elsie Addo Awadzi, Fabian Amtenbrink, Will Bateman, Elia Cerrato García, Nik de Boer, Paul G. Fisher, Sarah Jane Hlásková Murphy, Pierre Monnin; **Keynote:** Danae Kyriakopoulou (Bank of England)

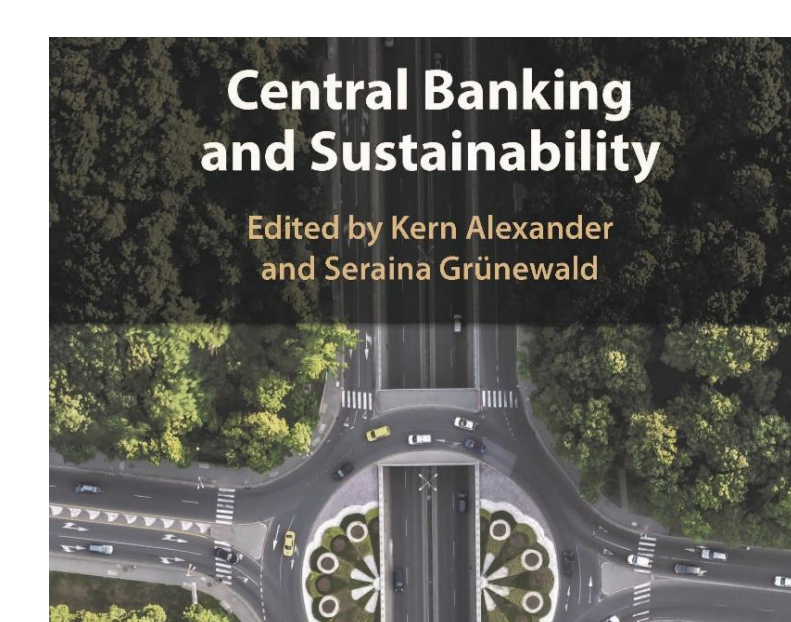


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## Key Takeaways:

- *Sustainability is increasingly being viewed not as an "add-on," but as a core consideration for financial stability and monetary policy.*
- *Climate risk, transition risk, and greenwashing are becoming central concerns for regulators and financial institutions alike.*
- *Central banks face growing pressure to balance traditional mandates with the realities of climate transition and long-term systemic resilience.*
- *Interdisciplinary collaboration between academia, policymakers, and industry is essential to shape credible and actionable frameworks for sustainable finance.*
- *Innovative financial products and the use of technology such as AI and other tools enable advancement of sustainable finance solutions, despite certain limitations of finance in addressing climate change.*



**Book Editors**  
Kern Alexander (UZH) & Seraina Grünewald (HSG), Cambridge University Press, 2026

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