

# Stakeholder Forum

## FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Vurehout 373 • 1507 EC Zaandam • NL & 2 The Links • Herne Bay • Kent • CT6 7GQ • UK  
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### About Stakeholder Forum for a Sustainable Future & Our 2020 Activities

[Stakeholder Forum](#), in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) since 1996, is an international NGO working to advance sustainable development, the environment, and good governance in the context of multilateralism at all levels. Our work promotes open, accountable, and participatory decision-making on sustainable development and environmental governance through enhancing the involvement of all stakeholders, with a particular focus on the effective engagement of stakeholders with international policy processes.

For nearly 30 years Stakeholder Forum has been a bridge between those who have a stake in sustainable development, and the international forums where decisions are made in their name. To this end, we work with diverse stakeholders, globally, on international policy development and advocacy, stakeholder engagement and consultation, governance, communications, and capacity building, including in-person and online training - all to promote progressive outcomes for their key issues through an open and participatory approach.

The organization's name reflects the broad range of activities that it undertakes. For example, in December 2019 Stakeholder Forum and the [United Nations Environment Programme](#) renewed a multi-year memorandum of understanding (MOU) to further their shared goals and objectives in regard to enhancing open, accountable and participatory international decision-making and making on the conservation and protection of nature, the environment, and sustainable development.

While 2020 began with the shock of the Coronavirus pandemic, Stakeholder Forum - like many of its partner institutions - pivoted to quickly adapt to the world of home working and virtual meetings. While that shift was challenging in the early days of the pandemic, the SF team, Board of Directors, and Associates quickly adopted the new resources, skills, and flexibility required to maintain our ongoing mission, our contracted work, and other obligations.

### Our Governing Structure, Methodologies, and Some News

The Stakeholder Forum Board of Directors is a hybrid of two board types: A Competency Board, where members are chosen for their expertise, and a Working Board wherein members engage in the organization's operations as needed. Our Working Board delivers some of the organization's ongoing and contractual work according to their skill-sets. We are also advised by a cohort of experts in governance and stakeholder engagement in sustainability and environmental policy processes on the global, regional, and local levels. These Stakeholder Forum Associates share the organisation's vision to advance the organisation's objectives at all levels. Collectively, they bring decades of experience from within all levels of government, academia, business and industry, the NGO community, and the global inter-governmental environment and development processes.

The decision to operate in this manner was informed by lessons learned after the Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2002, Rio+20 in 2012, and the post-Rio+20 period that led to the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. Each of those periods of plentiful funding was followed by funding downturns, and our new operating modality was designed as an effective way to navigate future challenges. This has proven to be effective; we remain financially sound with an expanding project portfolio. Under this operating modality, some projects are delivered via short-term agreements with individuals or organizations with expertise in the given area, with the active participation of Board Members and Associates, or in cooperation with partner organisations and governments. As a result, project work does not always flow through our management accounts.

### 2020 Activities

A highlight of Stakeholder Forum's 2020 was the addition of two new Associates joining our ranks, Prof. Daniella Tilbury, HM Gibraltar's Commissioner for Sustainable Development and Future Generations in September, and Mr. Tanner Glenn, a political scientist and urban planner - SF's first Generation Z Associate - in June. They bring a wealth of knowledge and fresh ideas to the SF family.

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Another was the Inaugural Meeting of the Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies. [Launched as an SDGs Acceleration Action at the September 2019 SDGs Summit](#), the Global Forum is a platform for national councils for sustainable development and similar multi-stakeholder bodies. From 18-20 February 2020, in Bogotá, Columbia, nine African, three Asia-Pacific, sixteen European and North American, and twenty-eight Latin America and the Caribbean organisations, and thirty other guests including a broad range of stakeholders from within Columbia convened to take part in an initiative that aims to spark a revolution in SDG acceleration during the United Nations Decade of Action and Delivery of the United Nation Sustainable Development Goals.

Despite a reduction in activities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, further highlights of our 2020 work, as outlined below, included cooperation and project engagement with partners UNDESA and UNEP. Through its ongoing cooperative work with the UN, its agencies, and Member State partners, Stakeholder Forum continued to support the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- January-December: Stakeholder Forum representatives attend weekly and monthly Civil Society Resource Center briefings and UNDESA events at the United Nations in NY, then virtually due to COVID-19.
- January-March: Under contract with German development agency [GIZ](#), SF delivered a contract to support the [German Council for Sustainable Development](#) to develop and prepare for the inaugural meeting of the Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies, including a draft communications strategy.
- February 4-5, New York: Stakeholder Forum & partner SurfWEC LLC team members attended the Prep Com for the 2020 UN Ocean Conference; scheduled for June 2020, the conference was later postponed.
- February 18-20, Bogotá - In its capacity as the interim secretariat for the Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies, SF Chairman Charles Nouhan attended the Global Forum inaugural meeting.
- May - With the support of the Finnish National Commission on Sustainable Development and funding from the Prime Minister's Office, Stakeholder Forum received a four-month grant to continue as interim secretariat and to support the early activities of the Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies.
- May: SF and the Civil Society Unit of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) sign an agreement for SF to deliver train-the-trainer webinars in 2020 to create capacity among Major Groups and Other Stakeholders to engage with UNEP and the United Nations Environment Assembly leading to UNEA-5 in February 2021.
- June 3: Special Advisor Jan-Gustav Strandenaes & consultant Felix Dodds deliver SF's first webinar, ['Act#ForNature - Capacity Building for the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly \(UNEA 5\)'](#).
- 7-16 July: SF attends the 2020 United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, convened online. In week one SF delivered the side event ['The role of oceans as a sustainable resource that can contribute to the global energy transition,'](#) jointly hosted by the Permanent Mission of Barbados to the United Nations. It provided updates from the [Global Partnership for Ocean Wave Energy Technology \(GPOWET\)](#) to the international community. In week two, SF Chairman Charles Nouhan delivered an NGO statement on behalf of GPOWET and other stakeholders during the 2020 SIDS Partnerships Dialogue, ['Fostering effective partnerships to realize the Decade of Action in the context of COVID-19 and Beyond'](#). And on 13 July SF delivered its first 'pop-up side event,' ['Future of the HLPF: Lessons from the proposal for a Sustainable Development Council for the UN General Assembly from Rio+20 for the future of the High-Level Political Forum'](#) to HLPF delegates around the world.
- 9 September: SF conducts the first of two peer-learning webinars, ['Engaging the Private Sector in the 2030 Agenda and Delivery of the SDGs'](#), a deliverable of the grant from the Finnish Prime Minister's Office to support the early activities of the [Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies](#).
- 10-11 & 17-18 September: SF Senior Advisors Leida Rijnhout and Jan-Gustav Strandenaes, with Felix Dodds, Adjunct Professor, the University of North Carolina, conducted two 2-day 'Train-the-Trainer' webinars, ['Capacity Building for the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly \(UNEA 5\).'](#) The sessions were delivered to stakeholders in the Asia-Pacific and European UNEP regions under the UNEP contract.
- 7 October: The second in the series of peer-learning webinars for the Global Forum for National SDG Advisory Bodies, ['What are the Structures, Relationships, and Other Factors Needed to Establish Effective and Enduring Subnational and Regional Multi-Stakeholder Sustainable Development Councils and Similar Bodies?'](#), was delivered to support the early activities of the Global Forum.
- 3-4 December: The third and final set of workshops for the ['Capacity Building for the Fifth United Nations Environment Assembly \(UNEA 5\)'](#) series was held from 3-4 December, in Spanish, for the Latin America and Caribbean UNEP region.

**STAKEHOLDER FORUM FOR A SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE**

**UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**STAKEHOLDER FORUM FOR A SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE**

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FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

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**STAKEHOLDER FORUM FOR A SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE**

**COMPANY INFORMATION  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**DIRECTORS:**

C A Nouhan  
F A Osborn  
Ms C LaRue  
J-G Strandenaes

**REGISTERED OFFICE:**

2 The Links  
HERNE BAY  
Kent  
CT6 7GQ

**REGISTERED NUMBER:**

05243470 (England and Wales)

**ACCOUNTANTS:**

McCabe Ford Williams  
Chartered Accountants  
2 The Links  
HERNE BAY  
Kent  
CT6 7GQ

STAKEHOLDER FORUM FOR A SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE (REGISTERED NUMBER: 05243470)

BALANCE SHEET  
31 DECEMBER 2020

	Notes	2020 £	2019 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Debtors	4	12,180	315
Cash at bank and in hand		25,614	28,289
		<u>37,794</u>	<u>28,604</u>
<b>CREDITORS</b>			
Amounts falling due within one year	5	12,648	2,995
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>25,146</u>	<u>25,609</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<u>25,146</u>	<u>25,609</u>
<b>RESERVES</b>			
Income and expenditure account	6	25,146	25,609
		<u>25,146</u>	<u>25,609</u>

The company is entitled to exemption from audit under Section 477 of the Companies Act 2006 for the year ended 31 December 2020.

The members have not required the company to obtain an audit of its financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020 in accordance with Section 476 of the Companies Act 2006.

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for:

- ensuring that the company keeps accounting records which comply with Sections 386 and 387 of the Companies Act 2006 and
- preparing financial statements which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at the end of each financial year and of its surplus or deficit for each financial year in accordance with the requirements of Sections 394 and 395 and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 2006 relating to financial statements, so far as applicable to the company.

The financial statements have been prepared and delivered in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the small companies regime.

In accordance with Section 444 of the Companies Act 2006, the Income Statement has not been delivered.

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors and authorised for issue on 27 April 2021 and were signed on its behalf by:



C A Nouhan - Director

J-G Strandenaes - Director



The notes form part of these financial statements

**STAKEHOLDER FORUM FOR A SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**1. STATUTORY INFORMATION**

Stakeholder Forum For A Sustainable Future is a private company, limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales. The company's registered number and registered office address can be found on the Company Information page.

The presentation currency of the financial statements is the Pound Sterling (£).

**2. ACCOUNTING POLICIES**

**Basis of preparing the financial statements**

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 "The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland" including the provisions of Section 1A "Small Entities" and the Companies Act 2006. The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention.

**Turnover**

Grants receivable are recognised in the income statement on a time apportionment basis over the duration of the project.

**Taxation**

Current tax is recognised at the amount of tax payable using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the balance sheet date and is not discounted.

**Foreign currencies**

Assets and liabilities in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rates of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date. Transactions in foreign currencies are translated into sterling at the rate of exchange ruling at the date of transaction.

Exchange differences are taken into account in arriving at the operating result.

**Pension costs and other post-retirement benefits**

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. Contributions payable to the company's pension scheme are charged to profit or loss in the period to which they relate.

**3. EMPLOYEES AND DIRECTORS**

The average number of employees during the year was 4 (2019 - 3).

**4. DEBTORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	<b>£</b>	£
Other debtors	<b>12,180</b>	315

**5. CREDITORS: AMOUNTS FALLING DUE WITHIN ONE YEAR**

	<b>2020</b>	2019
	<b>£</b>	£
Trade creditors	<b>12,648</b>	2,995

**STAKEHOLDER FORUM FOR A SUSTAINABLE  
FUTURE**

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - continued  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020**

**6. RESERVES**

	<b>Income and expenditure account £</b>
At 1 January 2020	<b>25,609</b>
Deficit for the year	<b>(463)</b>
At 31 December 2020	<b><u>25,146</u></b>

**7. CONTROLLING PARTY**

The company is limited by guarantee with more than one member, none of whom have a controlling interest in the company.

**8. LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

The company is a private company limited by guarantee and consequently does not have share capital. Each member is liable to contribute to an amount not exceeding £1 towards the assets of the company in the event of a liquidation.