



Ring the Bell for Gender Equality



NSE signs the Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs)

March 3 2016, Nairobi... Today, Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) joins 34 stock exchanges globally to 'Ring the Bell for Gender Equality' commemorating International Women's Day (8 March) and raising awareness on the importance of gender equality to capital markets.

The 35 exchanges are supported by a global partnership between the [Sustainable Stock Exchanges \(SSE\) Initiative](#), [UN Global Compact](#), [IFC](#), [UN Women](#), [Women in ETFs](#) and the [World Federation of Stock Exchanges](#). NSE, as a partner to the SSE initiative, joins this global collaboration to highlight the business case for women's economic empowerment, as well as opportunities for the private sector to advance gender equality and sustainable development.

Nairobi Securities Exchange becomes the first Exchange to Ring the Bell for Gender Equality with the series concluding on 11 March at Bursa Malaysia. The events will range from stand-alone bell ceremonies to half-day educational programs on topics such as gender diversity on boards and management of listed companies, as well as women's entrepreneurship in the market.

Speaking during the bell ringing ceremony Ms Zebib Kavuma Country Director, UN Women Kenya applauded NSE for signing the Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs), urging other Listed Companies to join in. She further called for the implementation of the Principles in Kenya through specific action plans involving voluntarily reporting to stakeholders on achievements, future goals and partnerships for action in realization of the recently unveiled Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "Investing in women and girls, and enabling their full economic participation is important for business and society" said Ms Kavuma.

NSE Chairman reiterated these remarks saying "The Exchange remains committed to championing Gender Equality in realization of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As we sign the WEPs today, I urge other capital market players to take their own steps towards promoting gender equality".

The event which brought together investors, regulators and civil society was organized by the NSE in partnership with UN Women Kenya, Global Compact Network Kenya, The International Finance Corporation (IFC) World Bank and Technobrain.

These events are in line with the SSE's larger effort to contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. In September 2015, the SSE published an [SDG briefing document](#) in advance of its [SDG Leaders' Luncheon](#) at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) which identified Goal 5, Gender Equality, as one of four goals stock exchanges are best positioned to support.

To view a full list of participating exchanges click [here](#).



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About the Partner Organizations

Nairobi Securities Exchange

The Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE) is the principal securities exchange of Kenya. Besides equity securities, the NSE offers a platform for the issuance and trading of debt securities. The NSE is a member of the African Securities Exchanges Association (ASEA) and the East African Securities Exchanges Association (EASEA). It is an affiliate member of the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE), an associate member of the Association of Futures Markets (AFM) and a partner Exchange in the United Nations Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative (SSE).

The Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative

The SSE is a peer-to-peer learning platform for exploring how exchanges—in collaboration with investors, regulators, and companies—can encourage sustainable investment and enhance corporate transparency, and ultimately performance, on ESG (environmental, social and corporate governance) issues. The SSE is convened by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the UN Global Compact, the UN Environment Program Finance Initiative (UNEP FI), and the Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). For more information on specific exchanges' sustainability efforts, how to become a Partner Stock Exchange, and further opportunities to advance the integration of sustainability within capital markets, visit www.sseinitiative.org

UN Women

UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide. UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to implement these standards. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality. To learn more at: <http://www.unwomen.org/>

Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPIs)



In 2010, the UN Global Compact, in partnership with UN Women, launched the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) – seven Principles for business on how to empower women in the workplace, marketplace, and community. The WEPs provide a ready-made platform to mobilize corporate action and catalyze partnerships and collaborations that have the potential to deepen and accelerate impact. The WEPs are endorsed by over 1140 companies from over 50 countries globally with 11 companies from Kenya . www.weprinciples.org.

UN Global Compact

The United Nations Global Compact is a call to companies everywhere to align their operations and strategies with ten universally accepted principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and to take action in support of UN goals and issues embodied in the Sustainable Development Goals. The UN Global Compact is a leadership platform for the development, implementation and disclosure of responsible corporate practices. Launched in 2000, it is the largest corporate sustainability initiative in the world, with more than 8,000 companies and 4,000 non-business signatories based in over 170 countries, and more than 85 Local Networks. www.unglobalcompact.org

IFC

IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. Working with more than 2,000 businesses worldwide, we use our capital, expertise, and influence, to create opportunity where it's needed most. In FY15, our long-term investments in developing countries rose to nearly \$18 billion, helping the private sector play an essential role in the global effort to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity. For more information, visit www.ifc.org.