



Ring the Bell for Gender Equality



United Nations
Global Compact



International
Finance Corporation
WORLD BANK GROUP

Ring the Bell for Gender Equality 2017

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, Nairobi...Nairobi Securities Exchange joins 43 Stock Exchanges globally to 'Ring the Bell for Gender Equality' commemorating the International Women's Day (March 8) to raise awareness on the importance of Gender Equality to the Capital Markets.

The 43 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.

In 2017, the celebrations to mark the International Women's Day in Kenya were preceded by a one day training for senior female executives of listed companies. The training targeted senior executives who have the skill, competence and professional experience to join a corporate board. The training was organized by NSE in partnership with International Finance Corporation (IFC), UN Women and the Global Compact Network Kenya.

Speaking during the event, NSE Vice Chairman Mr. Bob Karina reiterated the Exchanges's commitment in improving the number of women represented on the boards of listed companies by one third by 2020. *"Currently at the Exchange 45% of our total workforce are women, 29% of whom are in senior management. We are continuously working on improving these numbers. As a signatory to the UN Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) we have adopted to promote Principle 1 in our Capital Market, which seeks to establish high-level corporate leadership for gender equality. We are working on integrating the Women's Empowerment Principles into our core business operations and value chain to ensure a comprehensive approach to achieving gender equality"*.

Gender equality is essential for advancing the Sustainable Development Goals, and the private sector must play its role by providing equal opportunities for women throughout their operations and value chains. Stock exchanges can have an enormous impact by encouraging gender diversity within listed companies and ensuring accessibility of capital market services to women-owned businesses and female entrepreneurs," Said Judy Njino, Country Coordinator Global Compact Kenya.

This year the event brought together the regulators, listed companies, member firms, civil society and investors. The event was organized by Nairobi Securities exchange in partnership with International Finance Corporation (IFC), UN Women and Global Compact Network Kenya.

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.

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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).

IFC

As a member of the World Bank Group, IFC is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. Working with 2,000 businesses worldwide, we use our six decades of experience to create opportunity where it's needed most. In FY16, our long-term investments in developing countries rose to nearly \$19 billion, leveraging our capital, expertise and influence to help the private sector end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity. For more information, visit www.ifc.org.

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. Follow us on Twitter: @sseinitiative

Global Compact Network Kenya

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 Global Compact Network Kenya is the local focal point working to support companies to integrate the ten principles within business strategy and operations. For more information, visit www.globalcompactkenya.org. Follow us on Twitter: [@GlobalcompactKE](https://twitter.com/GlobalcompactKE)

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. For more information, visit www.unwomen.org

