Celebrate International Women’s Day
Ring the Bell for Gender Equality

7th Annual “Ring the Bell for Gender Equality” Ceremony

To celebrate International Women’s Day (8 March), Exchanges around the world will be invited to be part of a global event on gender equality by hosting a bell ringing ceremony – or a virtual event – to help raise awareness for women’s economic empowerment.

Objectives:

• Raise awareness of the importance of private sector action to advance gender equality, and showcase existing examples to empower women in the workplace, marketplace and community
• Convene business leaders, investors, government, civil society and other key partners at the country- and regional level to highlight the business case for gender equality
• Encourage business to take action to advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and promote uptake of the Women’s Empowerment Principles (WEPs)
• Highlight how exchanges can help advance the SDGs by promoting gender equality

VIRTUAL OPTION:
Please note that given the current COVID-19 crisis, if in person ceremonies are not possible, partners are welcome to host a virtual event on the online platform we will use to organize a virtual global Ring the Bell for Gender Equality event this year.
## Be Part of a Global Effort

In March 2020, 77 exchanges rang their bells for gender equality — Would have been 101 exchanges, up from 85 in 2019, before COVID outbreak

- Argentina: Bolsas y Mercados Argentinos (BYMA)
- Australia: Australian Securities Exchange (ASX)
- Austria: Vienna Stock Exchange
- Bahrain: Bahrain Bourse
- Bangladesh: Dhaka Stock Exchange
- Belarus: Belarusian Currency and Stock Exchange
- Belgium: Euronext Brussels
- Botswana: Botswana Stock Exchange
- Brazil: B3 (Brasil Bolsa Balcao)
- Canada: Aequitas NEO Exchange
- Chile: Bolsa de Comercio de Santiago
- Colombia: Bolsa de Valores de Colombia (BVC)
- Costa Rica: Bolsa Nacional de Valores
- Côte d’Ivoire: Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières
- Croatia: Zagreb Stock Exchange
- Dem. Rep. of Congo: Democratic Republic of Congo
- Denmark: Nasdaq Copenhagen
- Ecuador: Quito Stock Exchange
- Egypt: The Egyptian Exchange
- El Salvador: Bolsa de Valores de El Salvador
- Estonia: Nasdaq Tallinn
- Ethiopia: Ethiopia Stock Exchange
- Finland: Nasdaq Helsinki
- France: Euronext Paris
- Germany: Deutsche Börse
- Greece: Athens Stock Exchange
- India: BSE
- Indonesia: Indonesia Stock Exchange
- Iraq: Iraq Stock Exchange
- Ireland: Euronext Dublin
- Jamaica: Jamaica Stock Exchange
- Jordan: Amman Stock Exchange
- Kazakhstan: Kazakhstan Stock Exchange
- Kenya: Nairobi Securities Exchange
- Latvia: Nasdaq Riga
- Lebanon: Beirut Stock Exchange
- Lithuania: Nasdaq Vilnius
- Luxembourg: Luxembourg Stock Exchange
- Malaysia: Bursa Malaysia
- Mexico: Bolsa Mexicana de Valores
- Mongolia: Mongolian Stock Exchange
- Namibia: Namibian Stock Exchange
- Netherlands: Euronext Amsterdam
- New Zealand: New Zealand Stock Exchange
- Nigeria: Nigerian Stock Exchange
- Norway: Oslo Bors
- Pakistan: Pakistan Stock Exchange
- Palestine: Palestine Exchange
- Panama: Bolsa de Panama
- Peru: Bolsa de Valores de Lima
- Philippines: Philippine Stock Exchange
- Poland: Warsaw Stock Exchange (WSE)

- In combining efforts and bringing together new partners, exchanges have a unique opportunity to spearhead a global effort to advance women’s economic empowerment
- Be part of this historic United Nations-World Federation of Exchanges-Women in ETFs-IFC partnership!
Opportunities for Exchanges

Opportunities:
Your exchange can set the tone and choose an in-person or virtual event. What is important is for your exchange to show commitment to advancing gender equality:

- If in-person, event should follow required COVID-19 protocols, including limited capacity & social distancing
- If in-person, to simply lend facilities to global partners’ local teams or play a more active role in the organization of the event
- If virtual, there is the option to plan a webinar, panel session, or a short bell opening or closing
- The format of the event – in person or virtual – can range from a simple ceremony with representatives from the private sector, UN and other local stakeholders to a more comprehensive event with time for speakers and further dialogue
- Demonstrate further leadership on gender equality by voluntarily committing to additional action items (i.e. signing the WEPs, hosting additional events on gender equality, developing voluntary reporting guidance with gender sensitive language)

Benefits:

- Demonstrate leadership on gender equality by hosting a market opening or closing ceremony or another virtual event on the week of International Women’s Day with the potential to extend throughout the month of March
- Build stronger partnerships at the local level to advance the exchange’s gender equality and sustainability work
- Receive recognition in all media releases and at the 2021 WEPs Annual Event as an exchange that is committed to achieving gender equality and advancing women’s empowerment
- Contribute to a global conversation on how the private sector and exchanges can support women’s economic empowerment

Commitments:

- Provide market opening or closing slot for event
- Collaborate with global and local organizing partners

Ring the Bell for Gender Equality
While not mandatory, Partners will encourage and challenge stock exchanges to make a commitment as part of their participation in the Ring the Bells for Gender Equality events. Please see the SSE’s report How Stock Exchanges can Advance Gender Equality for detailed recommendations and case examples.

Stock Exchanges can take action to support SDG5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) by:

**Reporting:**
- Encouraging listed companies to publicly report on relevant gender metrics including, but not limited to: board/management composition, parental leave return rates, and turnover rates by gender

**Promoting gender diversity among stock-exchanges’ own workforce:**
- Making an internal commitment to advance gender equality within the organization and support women’s leadership; this could include conducting a firm-level gender assessment/apply for a gender certification; establishing a women’s leadership program; ensuring that anti-sexual harassment mechanisms are effective, supporting adequate family-friendly policies; establishing a mentoring/training program, etc.

**Advocacy and Partnerships:**
- Encouraging listed companies to implement the Women's Empowerment Principles, a holistic framework to advance gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community
- Becoming an SSE partner exchange and champion gender equality as a key dimension of sustainable development
- Incorporating gender equality and the empowerment of women into guidance, training, and events
- Conducting business case research on gender equality across listed companies
- Offering training/capacity building courses for (nominee) executive board directors that target a minimum number of female participants
- Ensuring that training offerings include content on the business case for women’s business leadership/diversity & inclusion
**IFC**
IFC—a member of the World Bank Group—is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets. We work in more than 100 countries, using our capital, expertise, and influence to create markets and opportunities in developing countries. In fiscal year 2020, we invested $22 billion in private companies and financial institutions in developing countries, leveraging the power of the private sector to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity. For more information, visit [www.ifc.org](http://www.ifc.org).

**The Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative**
The SSE initiative is a peer-to-peer learning platform for exploring how exchanges, in collaboration with investors, regulators, and companies, can enhance corporate transparency — and ultimately performance — on ESG (environmental, social and corporate governance) issues and encourage sustainable investment. The SSE initiative is co-convened by four organisations – UNCTAD, UNEP FI, UNGC and PRI. To learn more about becoming a Partner Stock Exchange or participating as a regulator or investor, visit [www.sseinitiative.org](http://www.sseinitiative.org).

**United Nations Global Compact**
As a special initiative of the UN Secretary-General, the United Nations Global Compact is a call to companies everywhere to align their operations and strategies with ten universal principles in the areas of human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. Launched in 2000, the mandate of the UN Global Compact is to guide and support the global business community in advancing UN goals and values through responsible corporate practices. With more than 11,000 companies and 3,000 non-business signatories based in over 160 countries, and 68 Local Networks, it is the largest corporate sustainability initiative in the world. Learn more at [https://www.unglobalcompact.org/](https://www.unglobalcompact.org/).
About the Organizations

**United Nations Entity for Gender Equality (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](http://www.unwomen.org) and [https://www.weps.org](https://www.weps.org).

**Women in ETFs**
Women in ETFs is the first women’s group for the ETF industry. Founded in January 2014, WE is a non-profit organization that brings together over 5,600 members, including women and men, in chapters in major financial centers across the United States, Canada, EMEA and Asia Pacific to: 1. CONNECT: Create opportunities for professional advancement of women by expanding connections among women and men in the ETF industry, 2. SUPPORT: Offer guidance for the current and next generation of women in ETFs and 3. INSPIRE: WE achieves this by organizing events at our chapters globally that support our goals of education, networking, philanthropy and idea sharing across the industry and beyond. For more information, visit: [www.womeninETFs.com](http://www.womeninETFs.com) to learn more, join, or sponsor. Follow us on Twitter @WomeninETFs and on LinkedIn.

**World Federation of Exchanges**
Established in 1961, the WFE is the global industry association for exchanges and clearing houses. Headquartered in London, it represents over 250 market infrastructure providers. WFE exchanges are home to nearly 48,000 listed companies, and the market capitalisation of these entities is over $74.4 trillion (at end 2018). The WFE is the definitive source for exchange-traded statistics and publishes over 350 market data indicators. Its statistics database stretches back more than 40 years, and provides information and insight into developments on global exchanges. The WFE works with standard-setters, policy makers, regulators and government organisations around the world to support and promote the development of fair, transparent, stable and efficient markets. Follow us on Twitter: [@TheWFE](https://twitter.com/TheWFE) and on LinkedIn: WFE
WE WELCOME YOUR PARTNERSHIP!