

## Concept Note

### **"Ring the Bell for Gender Equality 2019" –**

**A collaboration between the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong, WE and UN Women Asia and the Pacific to advance gender equality in businesses**

***Hong Kong, 8 March 2019***

In celebration of International Women's Day (IWD) on 8 March 2019, stock exchanges around the world will join the United Nations Global Compact, Sustainable Stock Exchanges initiative, UN Women, the International Finance Corporation, World Federation of Exchanges, and Women in ETFs to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality in both business and sustainable development. The aim is to have exchanges around the world ring their market opening or closing bell to draw attention to the critical role business and markets can and must play in closing the gender gap.

The global theme for IWD in 2019, **"Think equal, build smart, innovate for change"**, provides an excellent opportunity for the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong and listed companies to demonstrate their commitment to gender equality and showcase the innovative solutions that work for women in business, non-formal education, infrastructure and other areas.

#### **THE "RING THE BELL FOR GENDER EQUALITY" INITIATIVE**

For the commemoration of International Women's Day on 8 March, the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong (HKEX), UN Women and Women in ETFs will organize a "Ring the Bell for Gender Equality 2019" event in Hong Kong. The objective is to engage Hong Kong business leaders in building awareness, sharing good practices and inspiring other businesses to empower women, including through innovative solutions that advance gender equality. The private sector is an important ally in promoting gender equality and women's empowerment, as drivers of innovation, job creators and providers of essential capital.

#### **Key Objectives:**

- To raise awareness in the private sector about the gender equality gap, and about the role the private sector can play in promoting gender equality, including promoting women's leadership and advancing safe and enabling working environments for women, and the Women's Empowerment Principles;
- To position HKEX as a driver of positive change that promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women in the business sector;
- To inspire the private sector to make meaningful changes in their business operations to empower women;
- To promote women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making as well as the multiplier effect of investing in women and girls on in families, communities, economies, and business.

The event is expected to draw participants from the private sector and the media.

## PROGRAM

**Venue:** HKEX Connect Hall  
1/F, One & Two Exchange Square  
Central  
Hong Kong

**Date and time:** 8 March 2019, 12.00 pm – 1.45 pm

12:00 PM	Registration & Light Lunch	
12:45 PM	Welcome Address	
	Mrs. Laura Cha Chairman HKEX	
12:50 PM	Opening Remarks	
	Mohammad Naciri Regional Director UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	
12:55 PM	Market Open Ceremony - Bell Ringing for Gender Equality	
1:05 PM	Survey Insights: Gender Diversity in the Hong Kong Financial Services Sector	
	Presenter: Ivy Au Yeung Convenor, Women Chief Executive Group of Hong Kong CEO, Hong Kong, Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited	
1:20 PM	Fireside Chat: How to be an Innovative Change Maker	
	Speaker: Amy Cho CEO, Hong Kong & Head of Intermediary Clients, Asia Pacific Schroder Investment Management (Hong Kong) Limited	Moderated by: Kylie Wong Managing Editor Ignites Asia
1:40 PM	Closing Remarks	
	Hazel Lai and Sophia Leung Co-Heads, Asia Pacific Chapter Women in ETFs	
1:45 PM	Event concludes	

## ABOUT 2019 THEME

International Women’s Day (IWD) 2019 focuses on innovative ways in which we can advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, particularly in the areas of social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure. The global theme for IWD 2019 is “**Think equal, build smart, innovate for changes**”, speaks to key negotiations taking place at the 63<sup>nd</sup> Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York in March 2019.<sup>1</sup> The IWD 2019 also highlights innovation and technology as one of the key drivers for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The achievement of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs requires transformative shifts, integrated approaches and new solutions, particularly when it comes to advancing gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. Based on current trajectories, existing interventions will not suffice to achieve a Planet 50-50 by 2030. Innovative approaches that disrupt “business as usual” are central to removing structural barriers and ensuring that no woman and no girl is left behind.

Innovation and technology provide unprecedented opportunities, yet trends indicate a growing gender digital divide and women are under-represented in the field of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and design. It prevents them from developing and influencing gender-responsive innovations to achieve transformative gains for society. From mobile banking to artificial intelligence and the internet of things, it is vital that women’s ideas and experiences equally influence the design and implementation of the innovations that shape our future societies.

It is in this context that the "Ring the Bell for Gender Equality 2019" initiative has been conceptualized, with a key focus of engaging businesses in building awareness, sharing good practices and enhancing commitments in the corporate sector towards creating enabling environments for the advancement of gender equality, including through innovations that work for women.

The “Ring the Bell for Gender Equality” event series is a partnership of the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative, together with the United Nations Global Compact, UN Women, the IFC, Women in ETFs and the World Federation of Exchanges to raise awareness about the opportunities for the private sector to advance gender equality and sustainable development.

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<sup>1</sup> Priority Theme of CSW 63 is “Social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls”.