

Ring the Bell for Gender Equality

2023



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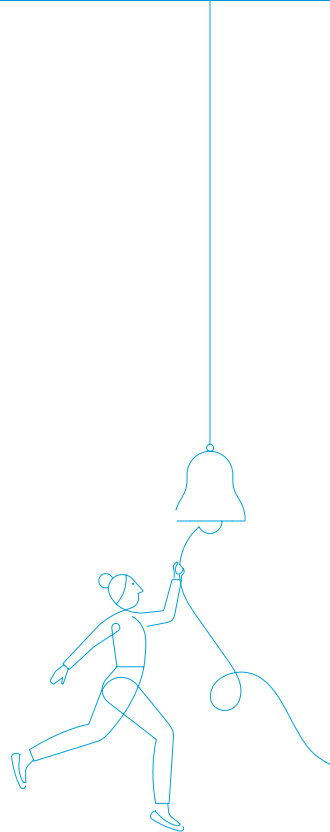
WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT
PRINCIPLES

UN
WOMEN 

Ring the Bell for Gender Equality

2023

UN Women's global Ring the Bell for Gender Equality partners



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

This report was prepared by Anna Falth and Mihwa Park at the Women's Empowerment Principles Secretariat at UN Women HQ with substantive contributions from UN Women regional and country offices, and UN Women National Committees. UN Women is grateful to the collaboration with the global Ring the Bell for Gender Equality partners (IFC, UN Sustainable Stock Exchange Initiative, UN Global Compact, and the World Federation of Exchanges) and participating exchanges across the world.

Design: Oliver Gantner

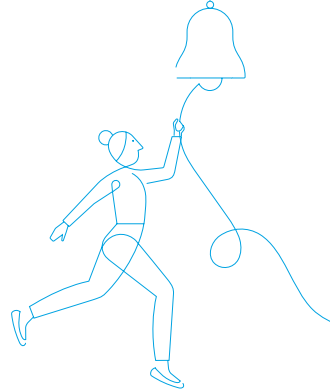
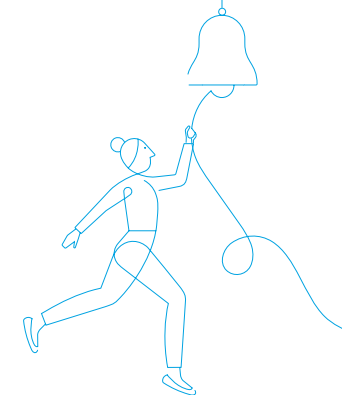


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In celebration of 2023 International Women’s Day, UN Women co-organized *Ring the Bell for Gender Equality* (RTB) for the ninth consecutive year in collaboration with the International Finance Corporation (IFC), UN Global Compact (UNGC), UN Sustainable Stock Exchange Initiative (SSE), and the World Federation of Exchanges (WFE) (“the RTB partners”).

In line with the theme of International Women’s Day ([IWD](#)), the theme of this year’s RTB was *Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality*. The event was celebrated by 117 exchanges and central counterparty clearing houses from 97 different countries, up from just seven exchanges eight years ago. For the full list of participating exchanges [see here](#).

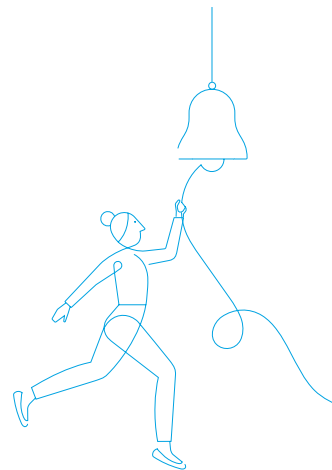
Ring the Bell for Gender Equality 2023

The 117 RTB events across the world represented an opportunity for RTB partners to raise awareness of gender equality and sustainable development in the private sector, and the 2023 IWD theme “Innovation and technology for gender equality.”

The events celebrated achievements of the private sector in advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment in the workplace, marketplace, and community. Showcasing their incredibly influential roles in setting the bar for listed companies to contribute to gender equality, many stock exchanges had adopted gender standards for listed firms and encouraged women to invest in public markets.

In addition to the bell ringing ceremony, many of the RTB events also included panel discussions with experts from various sectors focusing on women’s economic and financial inclusion, as well as on women’s empowerment in digital transformation – given this year’s IWD theme.

Through this global event, the private sector reassured their commitments to and pivotal role for advancing gender equality and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As of March 2023, 35 exchanges are now signatories to the WEPs as part of their commitment to promoting gender equality – an increase of 25 exchanges since 2019.



This year's theme: Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality

This year's RTB theme was "Innovation and technology for Gender Equality", in line with the IWD theme and the priority theme of the 2023 session of the Commission on the Status of Women, emphasizing that technology and innovation are essential for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

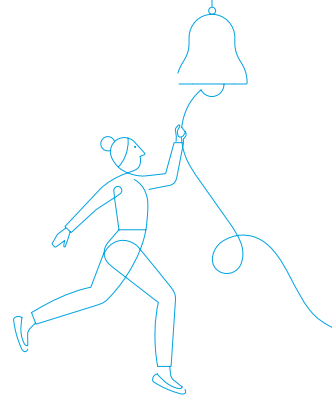
Globally, 37 per cent of women do not use the internet, with 259 million fewer women accessing the internet than men.¹ Removing barriers to access, skills development and leadership in technology and innovation for women and girls can have profound impact on their access to life-long education, and health-care services- especially for those in vulnerable situations.

Transitions towards sustainability and digitalization have also a great potential to advance women's economic empowerment. Digital transformation can create millions of decent jobs for women that could put them on equal footing with men, further contributing to sustainable inclusive growth. It is forecasted that 75 per cent of jobs will be related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) related areas, meaning if women are unable to actively participate in the trend of digital transformation, their opportunities to access decent work will be diminished. Today, women hold only 22 per cent of positions in artificial intelligence, to name just one STEM field.² This unequal pace of digital transformation and access to technology also undermines their ability to become equipped with the knowledge, awareness and skills that allows their safe online experience.

Bringing women into technology fields results in more inclusive solutions with greater potential for innovations that meet women's needs and advance gender equality. Their lack of inclusion, by contrast, comes with massive costs. It is therefore imperative that women and girls are at the center of technology and innovation for sustainable development.

The 2023 CSW agreed conclusions, adopted by consensus by UN member states, laid out the roadmap for advancing "Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls."³

1. <https://www.un.org/en/observances/womens-day>
2. www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2018.pdf
3. www.unwomen.org/en/csw/csw67-2023/session-outcomes



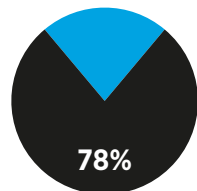
What are exchanges doing to advance gender equality and women's empowerment?

The RTB partners shared a brief survey of four questions with committed exchanges in 2022 to assess their commitment and actions to advance gender equality and women's empowerment in the workplace, marketplace and community. Twenty-three exchanges participated in the survey and shared their status of implementation.

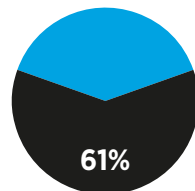
The survey results indicated that there are continuous efforts to advance gender equality and women's empowerment both internally and externally in the market. Notably, 35 exchanges have adopted the WEPs and have been reporting on their progresses on their WEPs journeys.

4. Touch points refer to various channels or platforms through which investors and market participants can interact with the stock exchange and engage in trading activities, facilitate investor participation, market transparency, and the efficient functioning of stock exchanges. They provide avenues for investors to access and engage with the exchange's trading ecosystem, enabling buying and selling of securities.

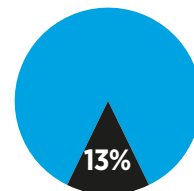
Internally



Had implemented internal gender equality measures

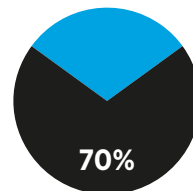


Had evaluated and disclosed its progress on gender equality

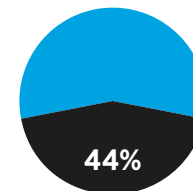


Had reported on their WEPs implementation

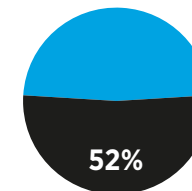
Externally



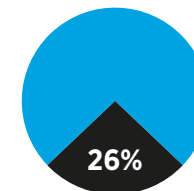
Collaborated to promote broader market action on gender equality



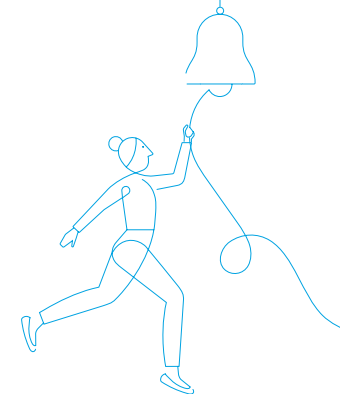
Had built gender equality into its touch points⁴



Promoted transparency on the market's gender performance



Had encouraged listed companies to adopt the WEPs



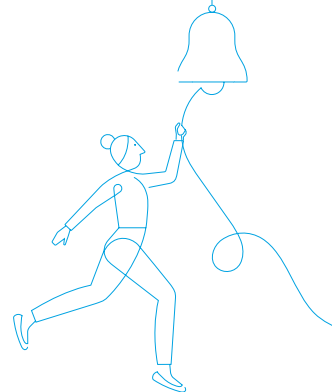
What can your Exchange do?

- Make gender equality a core objective in your exchange's day-to-day work
- Lead by example by implementing internal gender equality measures
- Evaluate and disclose your progress on gender equality – internally and externally
- Sign and adopt the WEPs, and report on your progress
- Encourage your listed companies to also sign the WEPs

RTB partners join forces to scale their work with exchanges

IFC and the UN SSE, in strategic collaboration with UN Women, are scaling up their work with exchanges in emerging markets, advancing sound environmental, social, and governance practices and promoting gender equality in listed companies.

In 2022, the three organizations produced a [guidance note](#) on how exchanges can advance gender equality and [three market monitors](#) on gender equality in corporate leadership to rank stock exchanges by the gender balance of these issuers' boards and senior management. The partnership expects to launch training for exchanges and their listed companies focused on sustainable finance, including gender-lens investing, disclosure on gender metrics, and nexus with climate change.



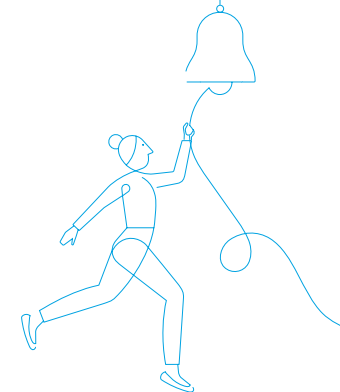
The 2023 bell ringing symphony



UN Women has presence in about 90 countries around the world. Every year, Ring the Bell for Gender Equality events raise awareness of gender equality in the private sector.

This year, UN Women offices co-organized or participated in 48 RTB events during the month of March 2023.

For the full list of participating exchanges, please see [here](#).



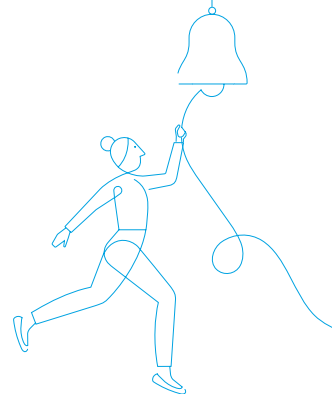
1. Argentina

BOLSAS Y MERCADOS ARGENTINOS 10 March 2023 (virtual)



Within the context of the International Women's Day, UN Women Argentina together with Bolsas y Mercados Argentinos (BYMA), IDB Invest, IFC and Global Compact Local Network in Argentina organized the seventh edition of RTB.

Taking place virtually, the event benefited from a keynote by Patricia Pomies, Global Chief Operating Officer of Globant. The discussion was moderated by Claudio Zuchovicki, Secretary General of the Ibero-American Federation of Stock Exchanges (FIAB) and Director of BYMA.



2. Armenia

ARMENIA SECURITIES EXCHANGE

2 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

SIGNED

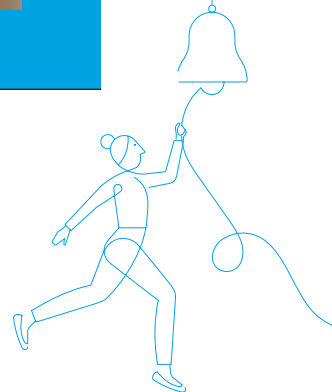
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The RTB event was organized by UNDP Armenia in partnership with the Armenia Securities Exchange (AMX). The Exchange's General Manager, Hayk Yeganyan; UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Armenia, Konstantin Sokulskiy; UN Women Programme Specialist, Dion Battersby; and senior executives of Armenian and Georgian banking sectors welcomed the event participants. At the event, recent WEPs signatories from Armenia had an opportunity to make a joint statement to continue working on their WEPs journey.

“Economic empowerment of women is a big deal. UNDP, together with partners, devote special attention to advancing the Women’s Empowerment Principles and we hope that the signatory companies will become champions in applying WEPs across their activities, prioritizing gender-sensitive practices,” said Konstantin Sokulskiy.



Photo: UNDP Armenia



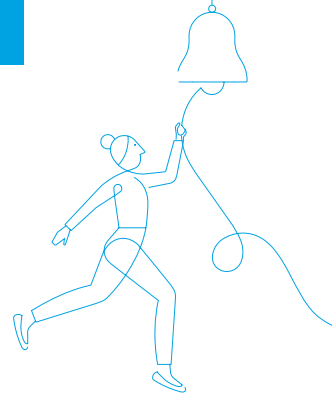
3. Australia

AUSTRALIAN SECURITIES EXCHANGE 8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

In celebration of IWD on 8 March, UN Women Australia National Committee joined the RTB event at the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX). The Exchange welcomed members of the financial community to ring the opening bell and participate in a discussion on attracting, developing and retaining female talent in business, led by ASX's Rob Nash and Rebecca Hill, Co-Head, Wealth Management Australia at Morgan Stanley. Rebecca shared how she forged a successful career in male-dominated sectors and spoke about the women who had mentored her in the early days of her career. She also emphasized the crucial role sponsorship plays and how sponsors can “speak on your behalf when you're not in the room.”



Photo: RTB partners/UN Women



4. Austria

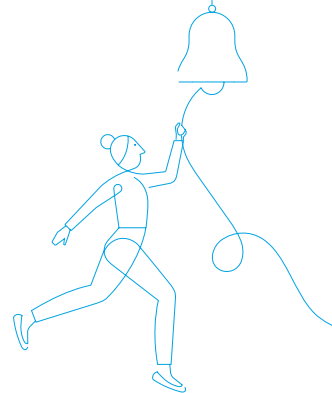
VIENNA STOCK EXCHANGE

8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

UN Women Austria National Committee joined the RTB event at the Vienna Stock Exchange (Wiener Börse) on 8 March 2023. After a welcome by Wiener Börse CFO Andrea Herrmann, 150 women business leaders and entrepreneurs from Austria discussed topics related to women's entrepreneurship, and challenges in the current economic environment and opportunities for financing growth through the capital market.



Photo: Vienna Stock Exchange



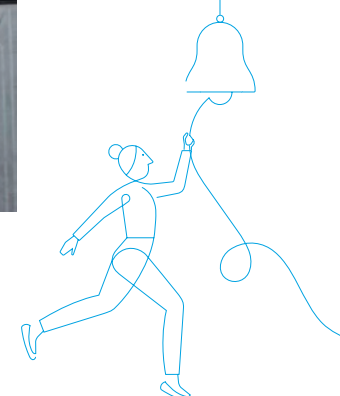
5. Bahrain

BAHRAIN BOURSE 13 March 2023 (Opening Bell)



As part of the regional Gulf RTB tour organized by UN Women, UN Women's Deputy Regional Director in Arab States was invited to attend the fifth RTB event organized at Bahrain Bourse on 13 March. Bahrain Bourse announced its endorsement of the WEPs. The event was attended by representatives of the Supreme Council for Women, the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, the Ministry Finance and National Economy, in charge of Bahrain Bourse, the Central Bank of Bahrain, CEOs of private sector companies, prominent executive women leaders in various listed companies, as well as other key stakeholders. This event marked the first step towards planned WEPs work in Bahrain in 2023.

Photo: Bahrain Bourse



6. Bangladesh

DHAKA STOCK EXCHANGE

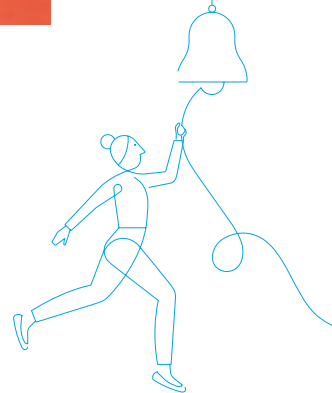
8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

UN Women partnered with the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), IFC, Global Compact Network Bangladesh and the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs to hold the RTB event at the exchange.

“The Dhaka Stock Exchange strongly believes in the good results that gender parity and diversification can bring through the empowerment of women, particularly in the areas of social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure with the help of efficient and productive use of digital technology,” said Professor Dr. Hafiz Md Hasan Babu, Chairman, DSE.



Photo: RTB partners/UN Women

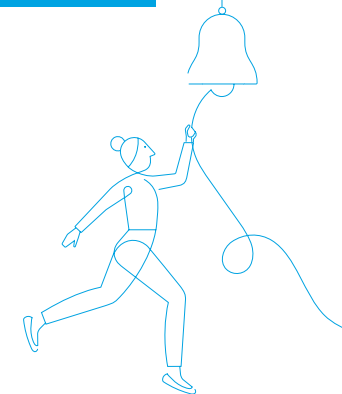


BOLSA BOLIVIANA DE VALORES

8 March 2023 (Closing Bell)

On 8 March 2023, UN Women participated in the RTB event held at the Bolivian Stock Exchange (BBV). The event was co-organized by UN Women, Global Compact Network Bolivia and the Confederation of Private Entrepreneurs of Bolivia.

At the event, BBV reaffirmed its commitment to gender equality. For the past three years, BBV has been promoting gender equality through training for the financial and stock markets. BBV has also made efforts to train their employees on issues of women's empowerment and leadership, in addition to providing them with equal opportunities for their professional development. In her opening remarks, Nidya Pesántez, UN Women Representative in Bolivia emphasized the gap in women's access to financial services in Bolivia. She pointed out the positive correlation between financial inclusion, poverty reduction and development, and their link with innovation and technology.



8. Brazil

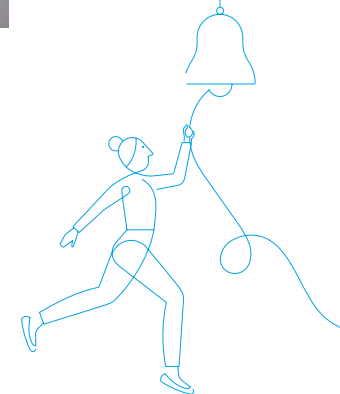
B3, SÃO PAULO STOCK EXCHANGE 8 March 2023



RTB in Brazil event included a panel on Black Women: the racial barriers for gender equality. The session was moderated by Carolina Bandeira, lawyer and leader of the BL4CK nucleus at B3. The panelists spoke about the challenges of black women in the labour market, and highlighted the importance of taking an intersectional lens to efforts to advance gender equality. They drew attention to the need for a systemic approach by the private sector and that systemic solutions should be adopted accordingly. This includes the importance of engaging partners and influencing their networks to join the commitment of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.



Photo: São Paulo Stock Exchange



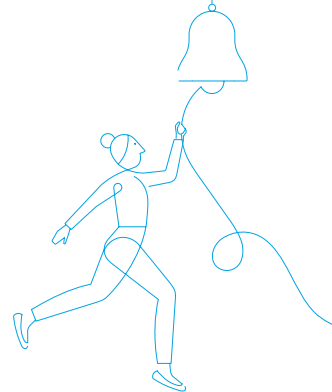
9. Costa Rica

BOLSA NACIONAL DE VALORES 15 March 2023

UN Women in Costa Rica and Global Compact Network Costa Rica co-organized RTB with Bolsa Nacional de Valores (BNV) on 15 March 2023. The forum was titled “Women Leaders of 2023 – What should companies do to promote women’s leadership” to recognize women’s leadership in Costa Rica.



Photo: RTB partners/UN Women

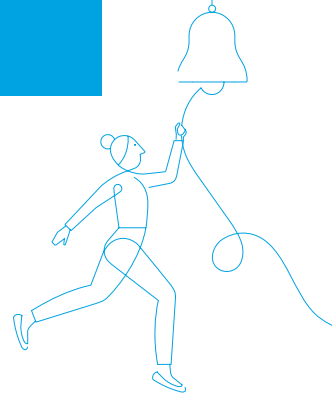


10. Cote d'Ivoire

BOURSE RÉGIONALE DES VALEURS MOBILIÈRES **8 March 2023 (Opening bell)**

On 8 March 2023, UN Women and the Bourse Régionale des Valeurs Mobilières (BRVM) brought together prominent women business leaders, directors of companies and financial institutions, and presidents and managers of women's foundations and associations to the RTB at BRVM's HQ in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire.

In his opening remarks, BRVM Managing Director paid tribute to women contributing to Cote d'Ivoire's development and to West Africa's financial sector and called for action in capital market to achieve gender equality. Ms. Dior Latifa Diack, Deputy Director of Innovation and B2B Solutions, Orange, Cote d'Ivoire, delivered the keynote speech emphasizing the need to guarantee access to digital technology for all. UN Women's Representative, Antonia Ngabala-Sodonon, said "The participation of women and girls in the technology sectors results in more creative solutions and offers the greatest potential for innovation that meets the needs of women." She emphasized that the exclusion of women and girls from the digital world has debited \$8 million from GDP in middle-income countries over the past decade, and that this loss could reach over a US\$1 billion by 2025 if nothing is done.



BOLSA DE VALORES DE QUITO

28 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

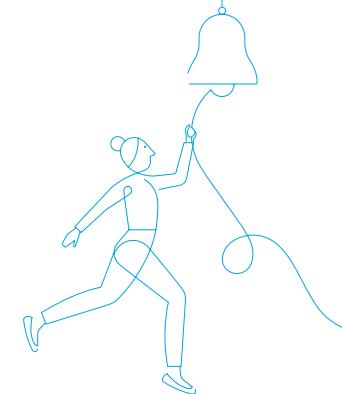
In Ecuador, UN Women, Bolsa de Valores de Quito and IDB Invest co-organized the RTB event. The event focused on the need to mobilize private financing to close the existing gender inequality gaps in the market, promoting compliance with the 2030 Agenda. Lena Savelli, UN Resident Coordinator in Ecuador; Ana Elena Badilla, UN Women Representative in Ecuador; Diana Torres, President of the Quito Stock Exchange; and Juan Carlos de la Oz, Representative of IDB Invest, spoke at the event.

In this fourth edition of RTB for Gender Equality in Ecuador, a round table was held to analyze the progress and results of gender bonds. The three financial institutions with this kind of financial instruments – [Banco Pichincha](#), [Banco Solidario](#) and Cooperativa Chibuleo – discussed the response of the financial market to the issuance of their bonds and how these products are empowering both women-owned businesses, and projects led by and for women. Within this framework, Lena Savelli highlighted that RTB for Gender Equality draws attention to gender gaps in the private sector and motivates the sector to take action.

Ana Elena emphasized the importance of inclusive development, the need to close the digital gender gap, and promote women and girls' access to STEM education and employment. The private sector has an important role in closing the digital gender gap through initiatives that promote innovation, technological change and education in the digital age to achieve gender equality.



Photo: RTB partners/UN Women



12. Egypt

THE EGYPTIAN EXCHANGE

8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

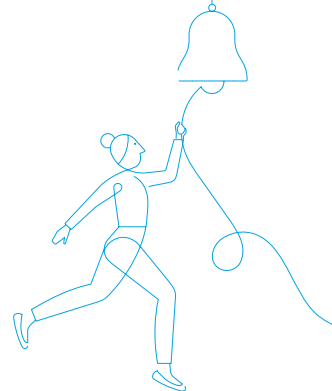


In Egypt for the ninth year, UN Women joined the Egyptian Exchange (EGX), Egypt Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA), and external stakeholders from the private and public sector, and the international community to celebrate the International Women's Day. The event focused on encouraging the private sector to create more employment and leadership opportunities for women and to bridge the digital gender gap. Speeches were delivered by senior representatives of EGX, FRA, Embassy of Sweden, IFC, UN Women Egypt, Global Compact Network Egypt and the Parliament.

In his remarks, Dr. Mohamed Farid, FRA Chair, highlighted measures to increase Egyptian women's corporate board representation by at least 25 per cent, including through capacity building. Mr. Rami El-Dokany, EGX Executive Chair, emphasized the increase from 93 to 100 per cent of listed SMEs that have at least one woman on their board. Ms. Christine Arab, UN Women Country Representative, highlighted that closing the gender digital gap is critical to achieving gender equality and called for improvement in online safety for children, adolescent girls and boys, and women.



Photo: RTB partners/UN Women



13. El Salvador

BOLSA DE VALORES DE EL SALVADOR

29 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

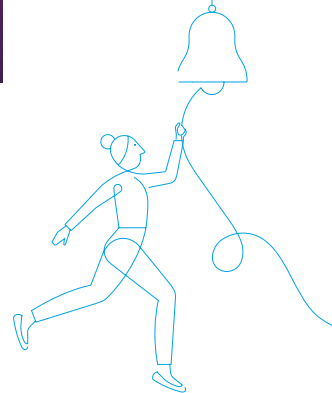


On 29 March 2023, UN Women participated in the RTB event jointly organized by El Salvador Stock Exchange (BVES), and IDB Invest. In her opening remark, Maria Noel Vaeza, Regional Director for the Americas and the Caribbean, emphasized the role of the stock exchanges in influencing their listed companies to advance gender equality and women's empowerment. She also thanked and congratulated BVES for being a WEPs signatory.

Rolando Duarte, President of BVES, stated that "Our commitment to advancing living conditions of women in El Salvador is reinforced every day. We see more companies are realizing the importance of this agenda and we see them struggling to continue the path to gender equality. We will continuously be giving them support to advancing women's career in the private sector of El Salvador".



Photo: UN Women

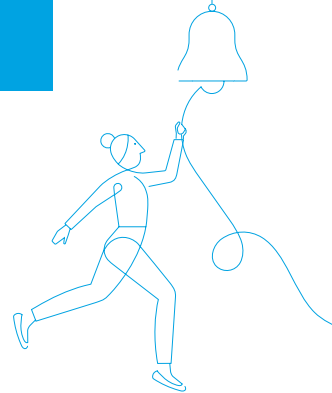


14. Finland

NASDAQ HELSINKI
8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)



Photo: RTB partners/UN Women



15. Georgia

GEORGIAN STOCK EXCHANGE

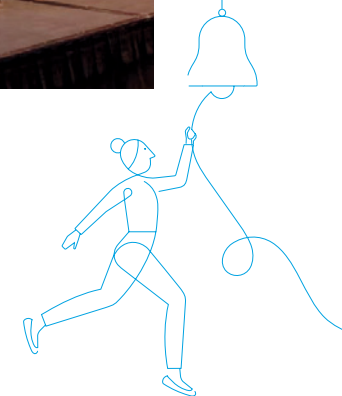
31 March 2023 (Closing Bell)

The RTB event in Georgia was held in partnership with the Georgian Stock Exchange (GSE) with support from UN Women and IFC. This event provided an opportunity to highlight the significant role of the banking and finance sectors in achieving gender equality. The event was attended by representatives of the diplomatic corps, government agencies, the UN system, international and local financial institutions, companies and business associations alongside civil society.

As Kaori Ishikawa, the UN Women Country Representative in Georgia underlined: “This is the sixth RTB event in Georgia. The initiative highlights the importance of gender equality to economic growth and the power of the private sector to bridge diversity gaps and lead by example. Access to gender-sensitive financial services remains a challenge for women and especially for women entrepreneurs in Georgia. To address this challenge, this year the topic of this annual event was dedicated to the importance of designing inclusive financial products and services for women.”

The event was part of the women’s economic empowerment component of the “Good Governance for Gender Equality in Georgia” project, which is supported by the Government of Norway.

Photo: RTB partners/UN Women

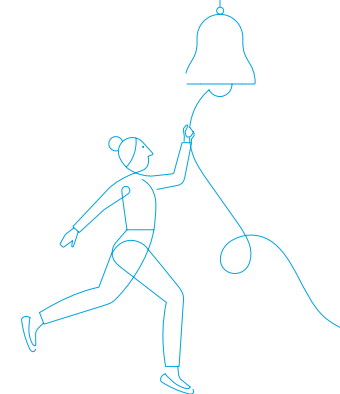


16. Germany

BÖRSE FRANKFURT 8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)



Photo: RTB partners/UN Women



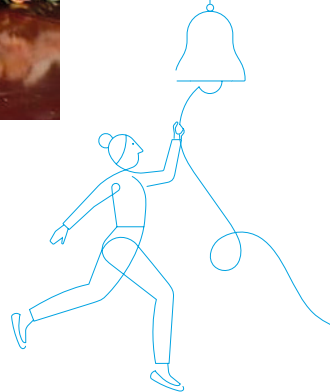
17. Guatemala

BOLSA DE VALORES NACIONAL S.A. 16 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

On 16 March 2023, UN Women in Guatemala joined Bolsa de Valores Nacional S.A to ring the bell for gender equality. The RTB event involved in panel discussion on innovation and technology to align with this year's IWD theme.



Photo: RTB partners/UN Women



18. Iceland

NASDAQ ICELAND

8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

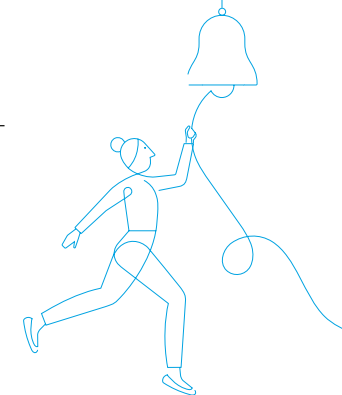


UN Women National Committee Iceland celebrated the IWD with Nasdaq Iceland, Confederation of Icelandic Employers and the Association of Businesswomen in Iceland by ringing the opening bell for gender equality on 8 March 2023. The event took place at Nasdaq Iceland and women CEOs of listed companies in Iceland rang the bell this year.

The stated theme for the day was “DigitAll: Innovation and technology for gender equality”, referring to the importance of innovation, advancement in technology and education to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls around the world.



Photo: RTB partners/UN Women



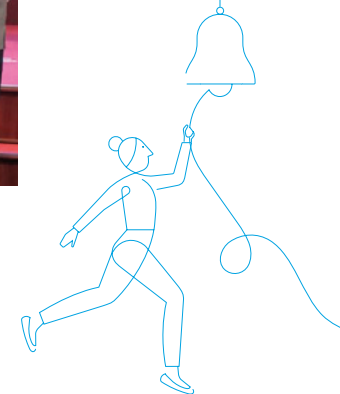
BOMBAY STOCK EXCHANGE

6 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

On 6 March 2023, UN Women participated in the RTB event held at the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE). The event included panel discussions where speakers emphasized that women need increased access to capital, assets and support to achieve their leadership potential. They recognized the crucial role of the private sector in advancing the SDGs. A new programme “FinEMPOWER: Empowering Women towards Financial Security” was launched. It is a year-long joint capacity building programme of BSE and UN Women to empower women through financial security.

India currently has a total of 372 WEPs signatories, and interest from the corporate sector in signing and adopting the WEPs has grown almost sixfold from 54 signatories in April 2019, a month after the WeEmpowerAsia programme was launched.

Photo: RTB partners/UN Women



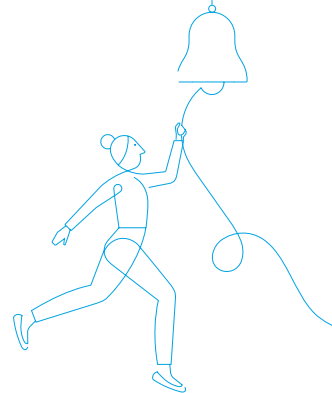
INDONESIA STOCK EXCHANGE

8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

The Indonesia Stock Exchange organized the RTB ceremony on 8 March 2023 to mark International Women's Day. That same day, Indonesia Business Coalition for Women's Empowerment (IBCWE) convened a workshop for the companies on how to watch out for gender bias. The workshop was held as part of this year's RTB ceremony organized by the Indonesia Stock Exchange in collaboration with UN Women, IBCWE, IFC, and Indonesia Global Compact Network to encourage listed companies to advance gender equality. UN Women's representative, Dwi Faiz, Head of Programmes, emphasized the importance of partnerships with the private sector to advance gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community. She also highlighted the growing number of WEPs signatories in Indonesia, which is fostering collective action.



Photo: RTB partners/UN Women



21. Jamaica

JAMAICA STOCK EXCHANGE

8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

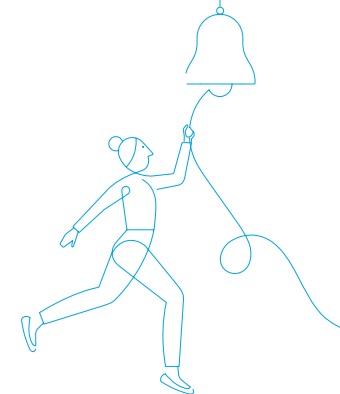


On 8 March 2023, UN Women participated in the RTB event held at the Jamaica Stock Exchange (JSE). Ms. Tonni-Ann Brodber, Representative of UN Women Multi Country Office, Caribbean, welcomed the audience by introducing a recent [report](#) published by Sustainable Stock Exchange in coordination with UN Women and IFC on how stock exchanges can advance gender equality.

In her remarks, Dr. Marlene Street Forrest, JSE's Managing Director, stated, "This year's RTB theme recognizes that the beginning of the digital age (third revolution) was more skewed towards men. While the fourth revolution provides numerous positive outcomes, it must be managed properly so that the shifts in employments and skills do not further displace women and increase gender inequality."



Photo: Jamaica Stock Exchange



AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE

13 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

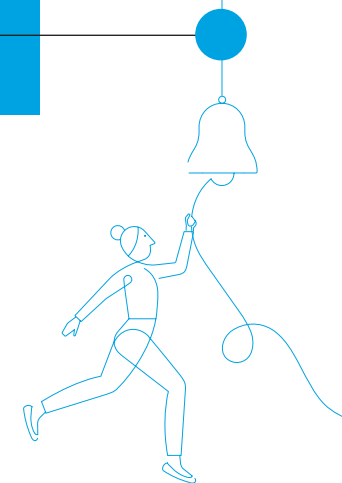


UN Women co-organized the RTB event – held at the Amman Stock Exchange – with IFC and the Global Compact Network Jordan on 13 March 2023. The Jordanian Minister of Investment, Her Excellency Kholoud Saqqaf, participated in the event. The CEO of the Amman Stock Exchange, Mazen Wathaifi, highlighted their efforts to spread a culture of sustainability and achieve the SDGs. The Exchange had joined the WEPs to further their efforts into advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment and called on listed companies to make a public commitment to the WEPs and promote gender equality listing criteria and gender data disclosure in sustainability reporting.

Speakers highlighted the links between gender equality, closing the digital gender gap and achieving sustainable development. They recognized women’s contributions in the advancement of transformative technology and highlighted the challenges and costs of excluding women from the digital world. “Technology and innovation offer new pathways towards women’s economic empowerment under the Government’s Economic Modernization Vision. An inclusive digital economy that enables greater access and affordability, online safety, and digital education opportunities is essential for advancing gender equality in the labour market. UN Women is committed to working with the private sector to close the digital gender divide,” said Nicolas Burniat, UN Women Representative in Jordan.



Photo: RTB partners/UN Women



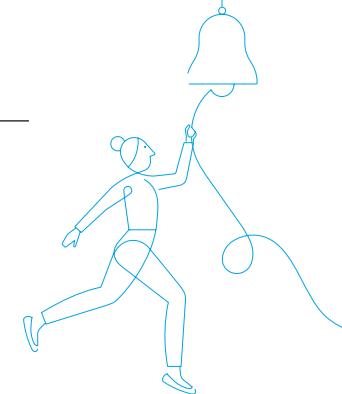
23. Kazakhstan

KAZAKHSTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

6 March (Opening Bell)

UN Women participated in RTB Kazakhstan on 6 March 2023 at the Kazakhstan Stock Exchange. Umut Shayakhmetova, Chairperson of the Management Board of Halyk Bank JSC, and Maria Dotsenko, Representative of UN Women in Kazakhstan, opened the trading with a blow to the gong. A discussion on the subject “DigitALL: Women in FinTech” was held with the participation of leading experts in the field of digital technologies and fintech. They discussed topics related to supporting gender inclusiveness in the context of development of digitalization and IT technologies.

Photo: RTB partners/UN Women



NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

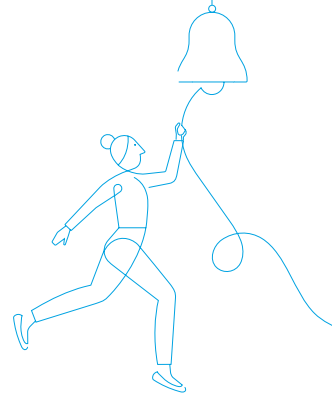
8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)



This RTB event in Kenya was organized by UN Women – in partnership with the Nairobi Securities Exchange (NSE), Global Compact Network Kenya, and the IFC – on 8 March at the NSE. “As a stock exchange, we are uniquely positioned to influence our market in a way few other actors can. We play a central role in the economy in which we operate,” said NSE Chief Officer, Human Resources and Administration, Ms. Lucy Kamar. UN Women Kenya, Women’s Economic Empowerment Team Lead, Elizabeth Obanda said “We know that technology and innovation are essential to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. We also know that digitalization has the potential to create millions of decent jobs for women towards the achievement of sustainable inclusive growth.”



Photo: RTB partners/UN Women



25. Kuwait

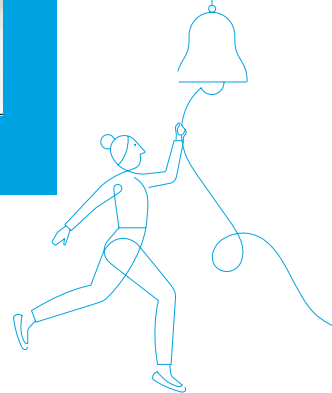
BOURSA KUWAIT 7 March 2023 (Closing Bell)



As part of the regional Gulf RTB tour organized by UN Women, the Kuwait Women's Economic Empowerment Platform (WEEP) event took place on 7 March 2023. The event was organized by the Supreme Council for Planning and Development and the Women's Research and Studies Center at Kuwait University, in collaboration with the United Nations in Kuwait, UNDP and UN Women. The Kuwait Stock Exchange was among the participants. The WEEP Kuwait comes together to advance women's leadership and participation in Kuwait's private sector by sharing good practices, collaborating on the WEPs implementation, and supporting women-owned and led businesses and start-ups.



Photo: Bursa Kuwait



26. Kyrgyzstan

KYRGYZ STOCK EXCHANGE (KSE)

3 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

The RTB event in Kyrgyzstan was co-organized jointly by the Kyrgyz Stock Exchange, UN Women and IFC. The speakers discussed the impact of digital technologies on women and girls, their access to digital finance and the opportunities provided by digital innovations to advance gender equality in Kyrgyzstan.

The event featured representatives from the Kyrgyz Presidential Administration, Ministry of Digital Development, the Financial Market Regulatory Service, the Embassy of Switzerland, and UN Women Kyrgyzstan.



Photo: KSE (Kyrgyzstan Stock Exchange)



27. Malaysia

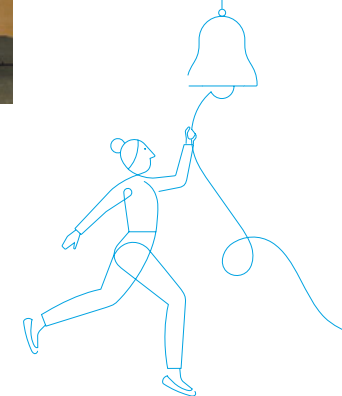
BURSA MALAYSIA 8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)



At exactly 9:00 am on 8 March 2023, UN Women joined Bursa Malaysia and key partners to ring the bell at the exchange. This RTB event was held as part of the 'IWFCIM Investment Forum 2023,' organized by the International Women's Federation of Commerce and Industry in Malaysia (IWFCIM). The inaugural IWFCIM Investment Forum – supported by Bursa Malaysia, Capital Markets Malaysia, UN Women and Alliance Bank – brought together 22 speakers to discuss women entrepreneurs and women in business focusing on three key themes: Investment and fundraising; Technology and innovation; Sustainability and ESG.

UN Women spoke in the panel 'A Business Case for Sustainability: Investing in Women Entrepreneurs,' highlighting UN Women's work in Malaysia through the WEPs Activator Campaign, and how to support gender-inclusive entrepreneurship, through the WeRise toolkits for entrepreneurs and the UN Women Care Accelerator programme. The Forum attracted nearly 150 participants, with representation from key business stakeholders, including banks, academic, civil society, social enterprises, and investors.

Photo: RTB Partners/UN Women



BOLSA INSTITUCIONAL DE VALORES, BOLSA MEXICANA DE VALORES

7-8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

There were two RTB events held in Mexico to commemorate IWD. The first one took place on 7 March 2023, at the Institutional Stock Exchange (Bolsa Institucional de Valores, BIVA). The second event was convened on 8 March 2023, at the Mexican Stock Exchange (Bolsa Mexicana de Valores, BMV).

7 March event

Representatives of UN Women, the Government of Mexico, IDB Invest, IFC, Global Compact Network Mexico joined BIVA's General Director and the Deputy Governor of the Bank of Mexico for the event.

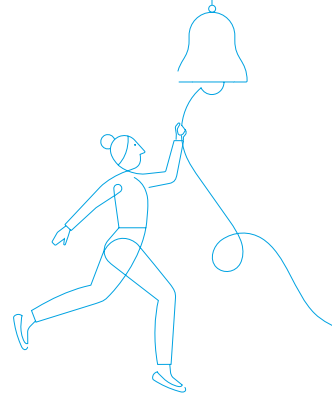
In her remarks, Lourdes Colinas, UN Women National Officer in Mexico, highlighted the important role of stock exchanges in accelerating progress on sustainability and influencing companies to reduce gender gaps in the workplace, marketplace, and community, including the gender pay gap. She invited BIVA and all the companies present to become WEPs signatories and to develop new products, such as sustainability-linked bonds with gender criteria and gender bonds. She emphasized UN Women as their ally to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

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Photo: BIVA



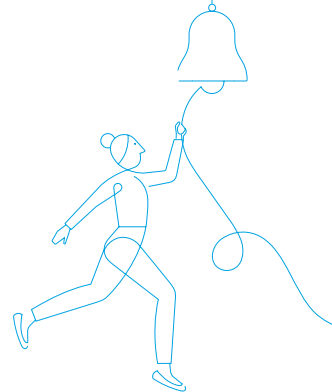
8 March event

Representatives of UN Women and the Ministry of Finance were joined by BMV's General Director, two Deputy Governors of the Bank of Mexico, the President of the National Banking and Securities Commission, the Secretary of Women of Mexico City, the President of the Global Compact Network Mexico, and the President of Women in Finance at the event organized by the Bolsa Mexicana de Valores.

Lourdes Colinas, UN Women National Officer in Mexico, highlighted this year's theme for the International Women's Day, and the importance of harnessing technology and innovation to empower women and girls. She emphasized the crucial role of stock exchanges in accelerating progress on sustainability and influencing companies to reduce gender gaps in the workplace, marketplace, and community. Therefore, she congratulated the BMV on becoming a WEPs signatory and an ally for promoting gender equality in the sector and invited all the companies present to sign the WEPs and work towards gender equality and women's empowerment.



Photo: Pacto Mundial Red México

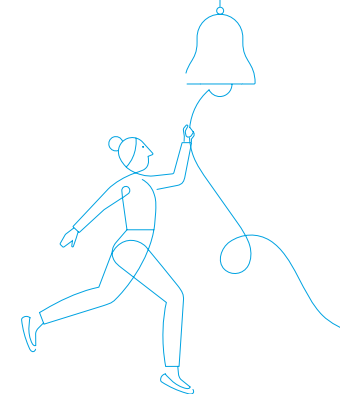


NEPAL STOCK EXCHANGE

9 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

UN Women collaborated with the European Union, IFC, Global Compact Network Nepal, and the Nepal Stock Exchange (NEPSE) for this year's RTB event. Focusing on the theme of Digitization for Financial Inclusion, the event brought together women entrepreneurs, women working in the digital sector, the banking and financial technology sectors in Nepal, and representatives from NEPSE. Participants discussed how the gender divide has further left women and girls behind, particularly in terms of their economic empowerment, and ways to address it. The event also called on private companies to show their commitment for gender equality by joining the WEPs community.

Photo: RTB Partners/UN Women



30. Netherlands

EURONEXT NETHERLANDS

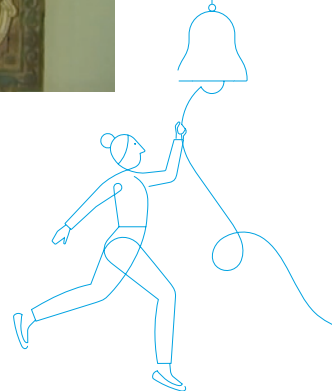
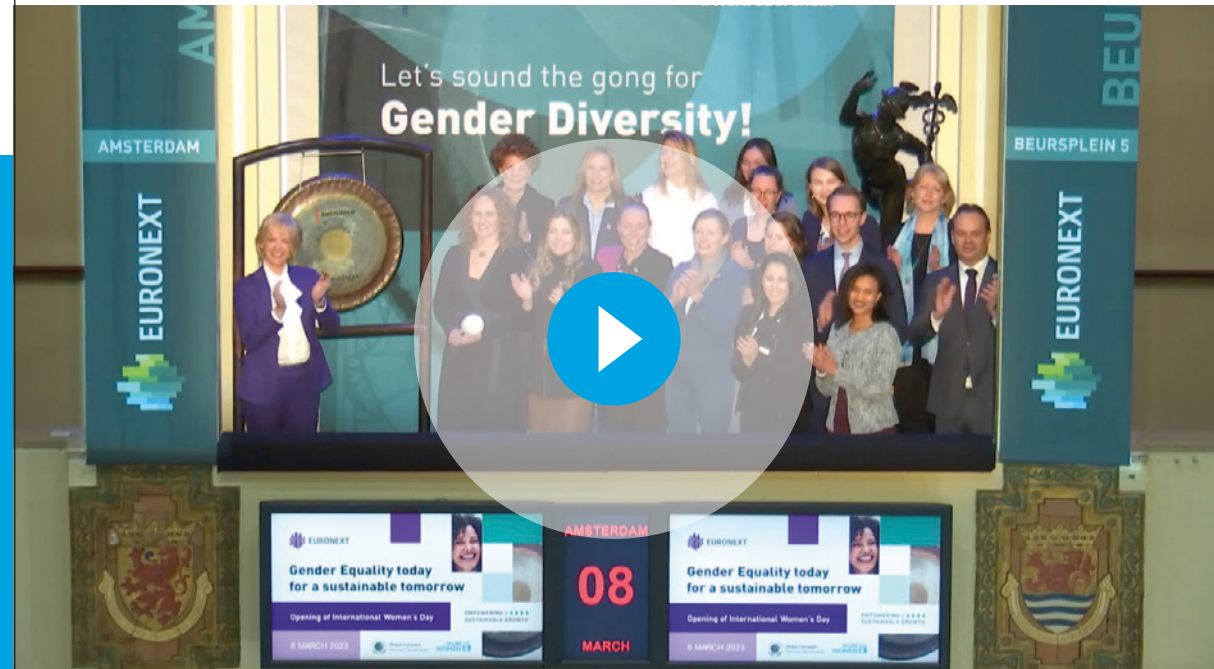
8 March 2023 (Opening and Closing Bell)



On 8 March, the UN Women National Committee in the Netherlands rang the bell for gender equality, together with Euronext Netherlands and Global Compact Network Netherlands.

The day evolved around the theme 'Investing in women, investing in the future' and was filled with various events, speeches and panel sessions with leading voices like Dr Eva de Mol, Researcher at the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Chantal Korteweg, Dutch UN Womens' Representative 2023 and leaders from listed companies that have been advancing gender equality in their workplace and beyond.

Leading up to the IWD, large companies in the Netherlands signed and committed to the WEPs, including Euronext.

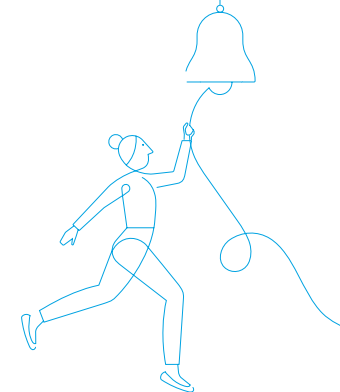


31. Nigeria

NIGERIAN EXCHANGE GROUP 8 March 2023 (Closing Bell)



Photo: RTB Partners/UN Women



32. Pakistan

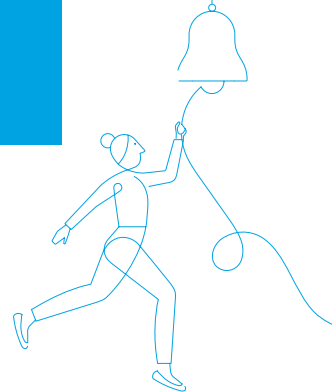
PAKISTAN STOCK EXCHANGE

8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)



UN Women collaborated with the Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX), IFC, Pakistan Institute of Corporate Governance (PICG) and Women on Board for the RTB event on 8 March. Distinguished women leaders and professionals from the tech sector; eminent women entrepreneurs, innovators, and women corporate leaders, and men advocating for gender equality and inclusion participated in the celebration. This year's celebrations included both the bell ringing and panel discussions on gender equality and women's empowerment.

Photo: RTB Partners/UN Women



33. Palestine

PALESTINE EXCHANGE 13 March 2023



In Palestine, UN Women partnered with Palestine Exchange, the Palestine Capital Market Authority and IFC to organize the RTB on 13 March 2023. The event marked the fifth RTB event in Palestine. Participating private sector partners presented their innovative models and solutions through technology to narrow the gender gap in terms of access to policies and services, including electronic business development platforms, e-banking services digital financial services and e-service packages and products, to enhance women and youth financial inclusion and access to sustainable and gender responsive services, with a focus on women and youth.



Photo: UN Women



34. Panama

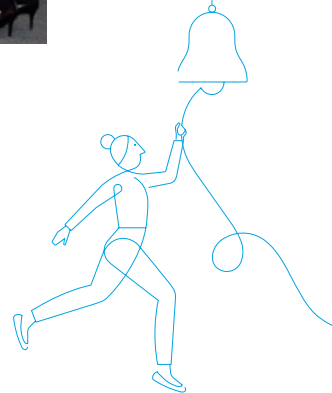
LATIN AMERICAN STOCK EXCHANGE

8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

UN Women participated in the RTB in Panama held on 8 March 2023 at the Latin American Stock Exchange (Latinex). The event highlighted a recent joint report “[The Sustainable Stock Exchange Market Monitor](#)” jointly produced by UN SSE, IFC, UN Women and FIAB. The report provided a first of its kind analysis on the issue of gender balance in the boardroom in nine of the main markets in Latin America, including Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama and Peru.



Photo: RTB Partners/UN Women



35. Philippines

THE PHILIPPINES STOCK EXCHANGE

8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

UN Women participated in the RTB event held at Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. (PSE) on 8 March. The PSE in rang the bell to raise awareness on the importance of gender equality and women empowerment. “This activity is also a call to action for capital market stakeholders to work together on the advancement of gender equality,” said PSE President and CEO Ramon S. Monzon in his welcome remarks. The following day, a session on the WEPs was organized for PSE employees in partnership with UN Women.



Photo: The Philippine Stock Exchange



36. Portugal

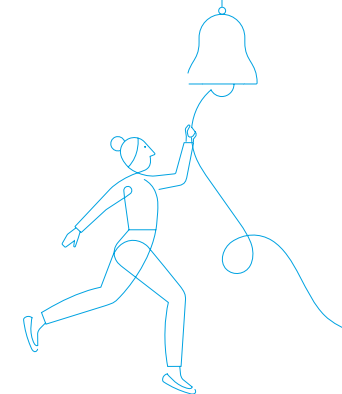
EURONEXT PORTUGAL 8 March 2023 (Closing Bell)



On 8 March 2023, EuroNext Portugal rang the bell for gender equality. The event was organized by Global Compact Network Portugal and Euronext Portugal with the participation of UN Women. At the event, held at their technology and innovation center in Porto, panelists from various sectors participated to discuss gender equality. Mihwa Park, WEPs Coordinator at the WEPs Global Secretariat at UN Women HQ called on participating companies to join the WEPs network.



Photo: UN Women



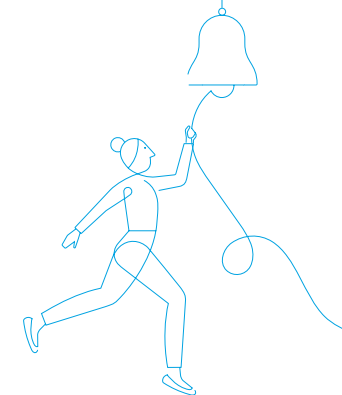
RWANDA STOCK EXCHANGE

17 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

UN Women teamed up with Rwanda Stock Exchange (RSE), and RTB partners for the seventh year to co-organize the RTB event. Opening the event, Mr. Pierre Celestin Rwabukumbi, Chief Executive Officer of RSE, stressed the role stock markets around the world can and must play in advancing gender equality.

Tikikel Tadele Alemu, Liaison Specialist at UN Women in Rwanda, emphasized the role of the public and private sectors to cooperate to close the gender digital divide. She further called upon stock exchange stakeholders in the private sector to adopt the WEPs, highlighting the important role of private sector in advancing gender equality and women's empowerment.

Photo: UN Women Rwanda/Pearl Karungi



38. South Africa

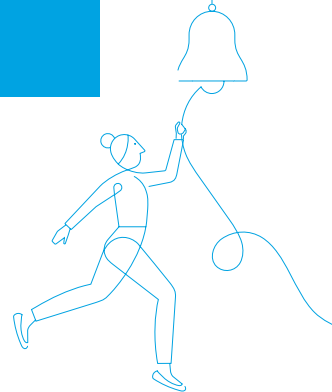
JOHANNESBURG STOCK EXCHANGE

10 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

UN Women in South Africa celebrated IWD at the Johannesburg Stock Exchange (JSE) on 10 March. Celebrations started with the JSE's Chief Operating Officer, Itumeleng Monale, welcoming attendees and reaffirming JSE's commitment to achieving a progressive, inclusive and sustainable future for all, as well as to support initiatives aimed at driving education, women empowerment and inclusion. She recognized the importance of the public and private sectors working together to unlock and fast-track initiatives that will drive digital integration and transformation. The keynote address was delivered by Nonkululeko Gobodo, Chief Executive Officer at Awakened Global, who highlighted the importance of women releasing themselves from self-limiting beliefs and find their authentic power to innovate and be at the forefront.



Photo: RTB Partners/UN Women



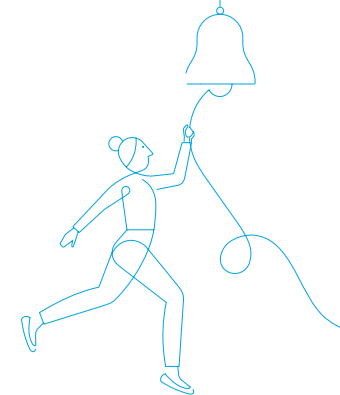
39. South Korea

KOREA EXCHANGE 8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

On 8 March 2023, the UN Women Centre of Excellence for Gender Equality in the Republic of Korea (the Centre) jointly hosted the RTB event with Korea Exchange (KRX), Global Compact Network Korea and IFC at the KRX building in Seoul. “While digitalization has great potential to advance the well-being of societies, we need to provide women with safer and more affordable access to digital tools,” Jeongshim Lee, Director of the Centre, said in her remarks. She added, “We would like to encourage investments in technology and innovation with the clear intention to generate positive, measurable impact on the wellbeing of women and girls.” She also encouraged participating companies to sign and implement the WEPs, and to disclose gender data and leading by example on important issues such as women’s leadership, equal pay between women and men, and prevention of sexual harassment.



Photo: UN Women/Jaeyeon Jeong



COLOMBO STOCK EXCHANGE

7 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

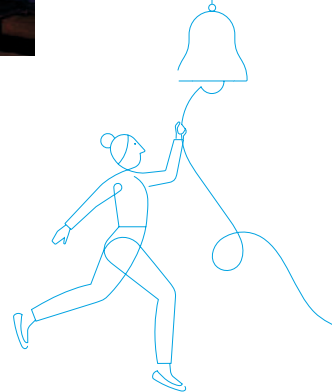
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UN Women co-organized the RTB event held at the Colombo Stock Exchange (CSE) on 7 March together with World Federation of Exchanges, Global Compact Network Sri Lanka, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, IFC, and SSE. Thirteen of the leading companies listed on CSE pledged their support to increase women's representation at both their management and board levels.



Photo: Colombo Stock Exchange



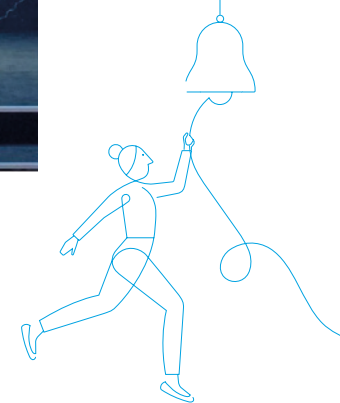
THE STOCK EXCHANGE OF THAILAND

9 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

UN Women joined the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) on 9 March for the RTB event. The bell ringing ceremony was followed by a panel discussion on improving women's inclusion in value chains. The event – co-organized with Thailand's Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the Australian Embassy in Thailand and UN Women – was part of a campaign to celebrate the 2023 International Women's Day.

"I strongly believe that through initiatives like RTB, our work with private sector organizations will help raise awareness about the WEPs, and I would like to take this opportunity to invite all of you to co-create more equal playing field for women in the business world. The actions you can take would include developing supplier diversity policies and providing fair opportunities for women-owned businesses to participate in procurement markets." said Sarah Knibbs, Regional Director ad interim, UN Women Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

Rinjai Chakornpipat, SET's Senior Executive Vice President and Head of the Market Division, emphasized the Exchange's commitment to gender equality. "SET is committed to increasing women's participation in the capital market, particularly among listed companies, by collaborating with agencies that focus on corporate governance assessment. We provide guidelines on increasing the proportion of women on boards and issuing anti-discrimination policies."



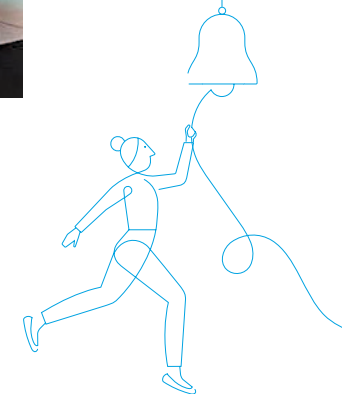
CENTRAL ASIAN STOCK EXCHANGE 17 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

Tajikistan's first ever RTB event took place on Friday 17 March 2023. It was co-organized by the Central Asia Stock Exchange (CASE), UN Women and IFC. The event was supported by the Ministry of Finance of Tajikistan, the Deputy Finance Minister and Director of the Agency for Securities Market Development, and the Head of the UN Women Tajikistan.

The event theme was “Sustainable Development and Women in Leadership in Tajikistan”. Speakers included the Chair of CASE, the Chair of Bank Eskhata, the CEO of Alif Bank, Baiterek Holding’s Director of Strategy and Corporate Development (Kazakhstan) and Tajikistan’s national gender experts. The discussion was moderated by the Director of IMKON Consulting, Zamira Samadova.



Photo: IFC



43. United Arab Emirates

ABU DHABI SECURITIES EXCHANGE

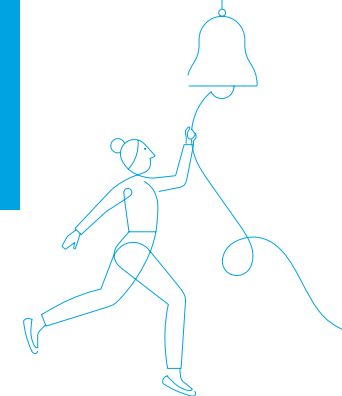
8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

UN Women took part in a subregional tour of Gulf countries to explore private sector engagement at the occasion of the International Women's Day ([see more here](#)). The Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange (ADX) rang the bell for gender equality with two guests of honor: Janneke van der Graaff-Kukler, Deputy Regional Director of UN Women in the Arab States and Ms. Hana Al-Rostamani, CEO of the First Abu Dhabi Bank (FAB) ([see here](#)). The regional event included speeches from UN Women and Al-Rostamani on the importance on gender equality in the private sector and the role of Arab women in the financial sector at large; from the importance of financial inclusion for women entrepreneurs, to the power of representation of women in decision making positions in the financial sector.

“UN Women recognizes the need to mobilize private capital markets to finance gender equality. Applying a gender lens enables finance to be transformative for women and girls around the world. Increasingly investors and private sector partners are looking to us for ways to provide concrete, measurable impact through their investments. One such avenue is UN Women’s regional approach to surge women’s labour force participation in the Arab States by five per cent by 2030,” highlighted Janneke van der Graaff-Kukler during her speech.



Photo: Abu Dhabi Securities Exchange

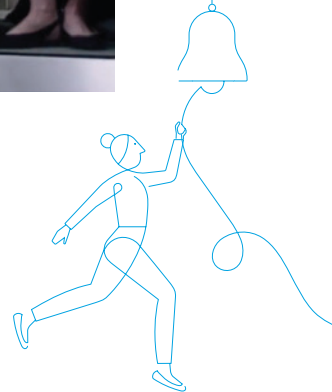


44. United Kingdom

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

UN Women National Committee in the United Kingdom joined invited guests at the London Stock Exchange to ring the bell for gender equality. Catherine Johnson, General Counsel and Global Chair of Diversity & Inclusion, London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG); Murray Roos, Group Head of Capital Markets, LSEG; and Charlie Bronks, Head of ESG at Crown Agents Bank, and Board Member of UN Global Compact Network addressed the importance of investing in women-led organizations and achieving gender diversity among stock exchange employees. This would contribute to healthy sustainable markets.



45. United States of America

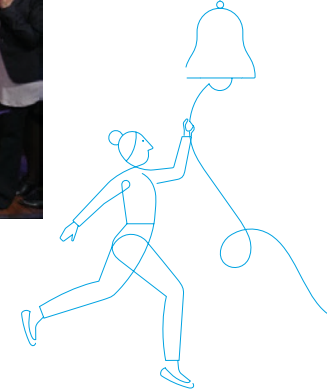
NASDAQ

8 March 2023 (Opening Bell)



UN Women participated in the RTB event held on 8 March 2023 at Nasdaq MarketSite in Times Square, New York. In honor of the occasion, Anita Bhatia, then Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women, rang the opening bell. Anna Falth, Global Head of the WEPs Global Secretariat at UN Women also participated in the event.

Photo: Nasdaq



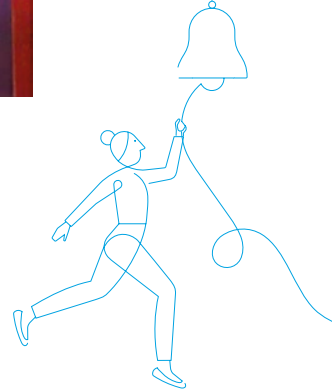
46. Uruguay

BOLSA DE VALORES DE MONTEVIDEO S.A. 9 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

At the occasion of the International Women's Day, the RTB event was held on 9 March at the Montevideo Stock Exchange (BVM). This fourth consecutive edition of RTB in Uruguay was promoted locally by UN Women, IDB, IDB Invest, the Montevideo Stock Exchange and the Global Compact Network Uruguay. H.E. Omar Paganini, the Minister of Industry, Energy and Mining, led the bell ringing ceremony together with BVM. UN Women was represented by Magdalena Furtado, Country Programme Coordinator at UN Women Uruguay. Following the opening remarks, a panel discussed the importance of digital education, the participation of women in STEM careers, the role of women entrepreneurs in technology and the financing of technological projects.



Photo: RTB partners/UN Women

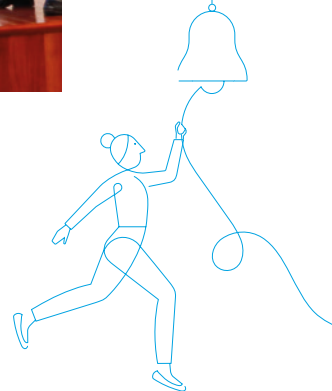


47. Viet Nam

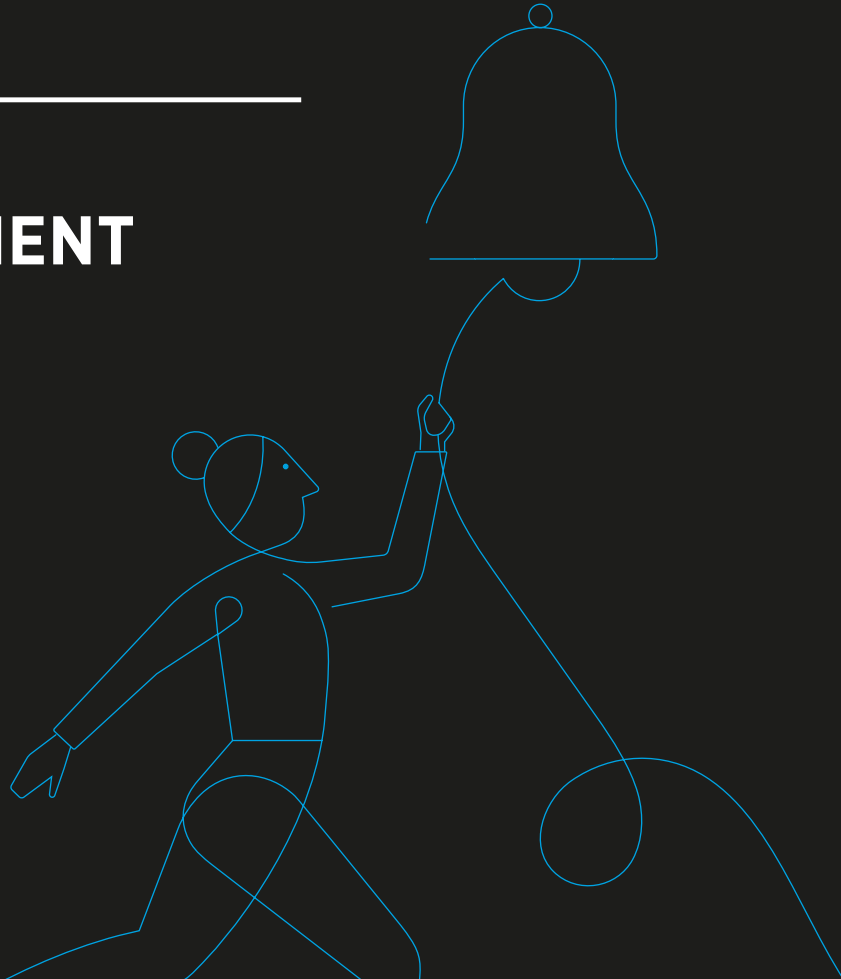
HO CHI MINH STOCK EXCHANGE


9 March 2023 (Opening Bell)

UN Women joined Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange (HOSE) for RTB on 9 March. Various organizations from public and private sector participated, including the companies listed on HOSE, and women-owned businesses in Ho Chi Minh City and neighboring provinces.



WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT PRINCIPLES




 weps.org

 weps@unwomen.org

 LinkedIn

 @WEPrinciples

 @WEPrinciples

 YouTube

1 
PRINCIPLE

**High-level
corporate
leadership**

2 
PRINCIPLE

**Treat all women
and men fairly
at work without
discrimination**

3 
PRINCIPLE

**Employee health,
well-being and safety**

4 
PRINCIPLE

**Education and
training for career
advancement**

5 
PRINCIPLE

**Enterprise
development,
supply chain and
marketing practices**

6 
PRINCIPLE

**Community
initiatives
and advocacy**

7 
PRINCIPLE

**Measurement
and reporting**