

PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

LuxSE and UN Women join forces to advance gender finance

Luxembourg 6 May 2022: The Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE) and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen their cooperation and promote joint initiatives to advance financing for gender equality and women's empowerment.

The cooperation was announced yesterday during a signing ceremony at the exchange in the presence of HRH Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg, Luxembourg Minister of Finance Yuriko Backes and Luxembourg Minister of the Economy and Development, Cooperation and Humanitarian Affairs Franz Fayot.

Reducing the gender gap

The MoU sets an agenda of joint work to advance sustainable debt for gender equality and promote gender lens investing. The overarching goal of these efforts is to mobilise capital flows to meaningfully contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and in particular to SDG 5, "Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls."

Ms. Anita Bhatia, Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women commented: "Today's partnership really matters because we are bringing innovation to the area of gender equality. I am so pleased that we are going to be able to build on the long-standing partnership that we have with Luxembourg to really push the envelope and to try to make substantive and visible change in the lives of women by unleashing the power of finance."

LuxSE and UN Women will work together to promote sustainable debt instruments which raise financing for projects advancing gender equality and women's empowerment across the world. The guidelines issued by UN Women, the International Capital Market Association and the International Finance Corporation in November 2021 entitled [*Bonds to bridge the gender gap: A practitioner's guide to using sustainable debt for gender equality*](#) serve as a framework for these efforts. LuxSE commits to fostering awareness of gender-focused bonds in Luxembourg and beyond, especially among issuers of sustainable securities and impact-conscious investors, with the objective of becoming the reference exchange for gender-focused bonds. UN Women and LuxSE are

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committed to making this collaboration a turning point in the way gender equality and women's empowerment is financed globally.

The CEO of LuxSE, Ms. Julie Becker stated: “By entering this MoU with UN Women, we commit to contributing to gender equality and women’s empowerment by better linking finance and gender. In many parts of the world, women are still excluded from economic activities and financial services. If we want to reduce the gender gap in the global economy, we need to make sure women have access to education, opportunities and financing. This is why gender finance and gender lens investing are so important.”

Highlighting gender-focused bonds

LuxSE is home to the Luxembourg Green Exchange (LGX), the world’s leading platform for sustainable securities encompassing more than 1,300 green, social, sustainability and sustainability-linked bonds, raising a total of EUR 693 billion for specific green and social projects and sustainable development across the world.

As part of its new commitments to linking gender and finance, LuxSE is now flagging sustainable debt instruments displayed on the Luxembourg Green Exchange which raise financing for projects advancing gender equality and women’s empowerment. By highlighting securities that allocate all or a portion of their financing to concrete projects and strategies that contribute to gender equality objectives, LuxSE makes it easier for investors to identify gender-focused bonds.

Gender-focused bonds are social, sustainability or sustainability-linked bonds which allocate all or part of their proceeds or set clear KPIs related to advancing gender equality in their issuer documentation and carry post-issuance reporting attesting to the issuer’s concrete actions.

In addition to flagging gender-focused bonds on LGX, as part of the collaboration with UN Women, LuxSE will also leverage the LGX Academy to specifically promote and raise awareness of gender finance, coordinate work with relevant institutions in Luxembourg to better link finance and gender as well as promote superior gender equality practices within the exchange itself.

To learn more about gender-focused bonds on LGX, visit:

<https://www.bourse.lu/gender-focused-bonds>

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About UN Women

UN Women is the United Nations' entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. The entity recognizes the importance of collaborating and cooperating with partners to achieve its mission and strategic objectives. Aligned with the United Nations' Financing for Development agenda, UN Women plays a critical role to identify credible projects, initiatives and partnerships that can increase capital flows towards SDG 5. This includes working with market participants to set standards, providing capacity building to partners in the public and private sector, and convening key stakeholders to raise awareness about and advance financing for gender equality.

For more information, visit www.unwomen.org

About the Luxembourg Stock Exchange

The Luxembourg Stock Exchange (LuxSE) is the gateway to access international investors. With more than 37,000 listed securities, including 33,000 debt instruments, from 2,000 issuers in 100 countries, LuxSE is one of the world's leading exchanges for the listing of international debt securities and offers a unique and integrated service offering covering listing, trading and information services.

In 2016, LuxSE launched the Luxembourg Green Exchange (LGX) and became the first exchange in the world to operate a platform dedicated entirely to sustainable securities. LGX has become a meeting place for issuers of sustainable products and impact-conscious investors, and encompasses more than 1,300 green, social, sustainability and sustainability-linked bonds from 230 issuers in 50 countries.

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