

PRESS RELEASE

**DSE JOINS 50+ STOCK EXCHANGES TO RING THE BELL
FOR GENDER EQUALITY**

DAR ES SALAAM, 8 March 2018: Starting off this year's International Women's Day national commemorations, over 20 private sector companies listed at the Dar Stock Exchange (DSE), joined **UN Global Compact** and **UN Women** to **Ring the Bell for Gender Equality**, for the first time ever in Tanzania, today morning in Dar es Salaam.

A global initiative with over 50 Stock Exchanges participating worldwide, Ring the Bell for Gender Equality was held for the first time at the DSE, with an aim to raise awareness about the importance of gender equality to both business and the sustainable development agenda. Led by UN Global Compact Network Tanzania and UN Women Tanzania, Ring the Bell for Gender Equality highlights the business case for achieving gender equality in the workplace, marketplace and community.

The campaign emphasizes the critical role business can play in promoting women's economic empowerment and financial inclusion, linking gender equality and the attainment of Global Goals as a prerequisite. It also promotes women's full and effective participation, and equal opportunities for leadership, at all levels of decision-making. Private sector companies and stock exchanges are encouraged to make tangible commitments to advance gender equality; in addition to taking an integrated approach to unlocking the power of women in business and society.

Honoring the occasion, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elders and Children, Ms. Sihaba Nkinga, called on all private sector companies listed at DSE to step up their efforts to promote gender equality: their role in job creation, investment and innovation, is indispensable in advancing women's economic empowerment.

Speaking at the event, United Nations Resident Coordinator Mr. Alvaro Rodriguez, said, *"If we are to make the promise of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality, and leave no one behind, what we need is urgent action on gender equality and the empowerment of women, and especially in the private sector"*.

Highlighting on the pace of progress in bridging the global gender pay gap, UN Women Representative (OIC) Ms. Hodan Addou said, *"We know that even though the private sector recognizes advancing gender equality through business operations and value chains means better talent, higher productivity, more customers, and a stronger bottom line, progress remains slow. Research by the World Economic Forum suggests that, at today's pace, it would take 217 years to resolve the economic gender gap globally. We simply cannot wait that long to shatter the glass ceiling: The Time is Now."*

Leading the private sector engagement with the UN, the national coordinator for the UN Global Compact Network in Tanzania, Mr. Emmanuel Nnko called on all *"companies and businesses to act responsibly by embedding the Women's Empowerment Principles into their strategies and operations; to find opportunities through innovative actions and UN initiatives, such as Sustainable Development Goals; and lastly, to become ambassadors of Gender Equality through inspiration and action"*.

For more information, please contact

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