

## The Women's Forum for the Economy & Society Introduces its Strategic Committee

*A group of key international players will accelerate the Women's Forum ambition of 'Bridging humanity'.*

**Paris, 2 May 2018** – The Women's Forum for the Economy & Society announced today that **BNP Paribas, Google, L'Oréal, Microsoft, Publicis Groupe and Sanofi** have joined as the inaugural members of its Strategic Committee.

As members of the Strategic Committee, these companies will play an important role in defining the strategy and delivery of the programmes of the Women's Forum. They will bring their expertise and influence to collect insights and develop the best practices, solutions and projects to add value to the Forum's year-round ambition to "engage for impact".

*"The Women's Forum is going beyond convening by generating positive solutions," said Chiara Corazza, Managing Director of The Women's Forum. "The Strategic Committee will strengthen our ambition to bridge humanity by creating new connections between different groups, generations, beliefs, issues, geographies and leaders – we will collectively not only deliberate but create a more inclusive world."*

"Creating a respectful environment which offers equal opportunities for all employees is a fundamental prerequisite for any successful organisation. By joining the Strategic Committee of the Women's Forum, after reinforcing our commitment in the 'HeForShe' initiative, we want to continue to contribute collectively to ensure the right conditions for all women by taking concrete actions to advance toward gender parity", declared Marie-Claire Capobianco, BNP Paribas Executive Committee Member and Head of BNP Paribas French Retail Banking.

Anne-Gabrielle Heilbronner, member of the Directoire of Publicis Groupe, who is also responsible for the Groupe's corporate social responsibility actions and The Women's Forum for the Economy & Society since August 2017, commented: *"Publicis Groupe is committed to connecting diverse profiles, cultures, backgrounds and generations throughout its agency network and in the work we do for our clients. Like the Women's Forum, we are bridge builders. Our role on the Strategic Committee, in addition to our support as the organizers of the Women's Forum, allows us to work collaboratively with other business leaders to find inclusive responses to the most pressing global issues facing our society."*

"The tech industry needs more women, both in tech and management roles, and this is a priority for Google", says Carlo d'Asaro Biondo, President EMEA Partnerships Google, "We are becoming a Global Strategic Member of the Women's Forum Strategic Committee with the aim of learning what more we can do and share what we have learned so far in addressing the challenge."

"Our decision to join this Strategic Committee is motivated by our longstanding to empower women and promote gender equality, both within our company and beyond. Women account for half of the L'Oréal Board and women lead 58% of our brands," said Alexandra Palt, L'Oréal Chief Corporate Responsibility Officer. "For 20 years, the programme 'For Women in Science'

led by our Foundation promotes a better gender representation in science. Recently, L'Oréal became the founding partner of the C40 Women4Climate initiative. We are convinced that women need to play a major role in the design of humanity's future and the Women's Forum is going to be a circle for thought leadership and action in which we want to take part."

"At Microsoft, we believe that diversity enriches our performance and products, the communities where we live and work, and the lives of our employees," said [Shelley McKinley, head of Microsoft's Technology and Corporate Responsibility Group](#). "We value diverse teams that lead to greater innovation and better business outcomes. We're excited to work with the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society to share our experiences and also learn from this dynamic group."

"Sanofi has partnered with the Women's Forum for seven years. During this time, our commitment to support women achieve more at Sanofi and in society has grown stronger every day," said [Karen Linehan, Sanofi Executive Committee member and a founding member of the Sanofi's Gender Balance Network](#). "Women play a critical role in business, in their communities and in facilitating access to healthcare. We are proud of the work Sanofi has done to champion the voice of women and look forward to making even more of a difference as a founding member of the Women's Forum Strategic Committee."

The Strategic Partners will go on to lead the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society's new Initiative **the Daring Circles** and inform the rich agenda of the various Meetings through permanent conversations and positive societal outcomes.

**Women's Forum Canada, 10-11 May 2018** in Toronto, will encourage the G7 to take action on not just gender issues but human issues. Topics will range from economic inclusion to climate change guided by the theme *Bridging the gap: A call to the G7 for inclusive progress*.

Later in the year, the Strategic Committee will leverage the vision of its change-makers in a world disrupted by innovation and technology under the theme of *Bridging worlds for inclusive innovation* at **Women's Forum Singapore on 12-13 September 2018**. Its efforts will culminate to inform the **2018 Women's Forum Global Meeting, convening 14-16 November 2018** at the Carrousel du Louvre in Paris under the theme *Bridging humanity for inclusive progress*.

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