

## Creation of the *Women & Access to Health Daring Circle*: A Call for Initiatives to reduce the health access gap for women

*A Daring Circle of partners will seek to provide concrete support for start-ups improving and promoting women's access to health.*

Paris, November 16, 2018 - The **Women's Forum for the Economy & Society** has announced the creation of the **Women & Access to Health Daring Circle**. Led by **Sanofi and AXA**, in collaboration with BNP Paribas and Google, and in association with RB and Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, this circle of partners aims to improve and promote women's access to health.

In both developed and developing countries, this coalition will support entrepreneurs leading health tech projects with strong potential to reduce the gap in access to health for women. Women around the world continue to face multiple obstacles to safe and quality healthcare: limited awareness or access to information; limited physical access to care; a lack of confidential or reliable health records or identification; a lack of means to pay or time to arrange access, as well as a lack of access to proper mental health resources.

For each of these barriers, there are emerging tech solutions. The Daring Circle's first initiative is a call for projects from health-tech entrepreneurs working on improving women's access to health. Selected entrepreneurs will receive active mentorship provided by the Daring Circle's partners, increased visibility for their businesses through the partners' global communications channels, an enabling community of entrepreneurs with shared experiences and funding to help their businesses scale up.

After this first step, members of the Daring Circle will continue to work closely together to support new initiatives helping health-tech entrepreneurs to reach the next level.

*"The Daring Circles are initiatives of the Women's Forum that last throughout the year. They bring together an ecosystem of partners to have a tangible impact on issues where women's leadership is crucial and where women are especially impacted,"* commented **Chiara Corazza**, Managing Director of the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society.

*"Collectively, we want to support tech entrepreneurs who are improving and promoting access to health for women, thus empowering women to help their families and communities thrive,"* said **Karen Linehan**, EVP Legal Affairs and General Counsel, member of the Executive Committee at Sanofi and member of the Women's Forum Strategic Committee.

*"We are very happy to launch this coalition and engage to improve women's access to health all around the world. As a global health insurer, we know that we have a key role to play in enhancing women and their families' overall health, a prerequisite for them to build their lives and reach their goals,"* said **Ulrike Decoene**, Chief of Staff to Group CEO & Women in Insurance Initiative Lead at AXA Group and member of the Women's Forum Strategic Committee.

### Contact:

For any media inquiries and interview request, please contact Delphine Marçais ([delphine.marcais@womens-forum.com](mailto:delphine.marcais@womens-forum.com)).

**About the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society**

*Since 2005, the Women's Forum for the Economy & Society has been a global platform committed to bringing a gendered perspective to the social and economic issues affecting all people around the world. With the Daring Circles, our ambition is to drive new, innovative solutions at scale and at pace through collaboration between businesses, public entities, NGOs and the media to have impact on issues where women are disproportionately affected and are where their leadership is paramount. The Daring Circles and their lead partners are: Women & AI (Microsoft), Women & Access to Health (AXA, Sanofi), Women & Climate (BNP Paribas & L'Oréal), Women & STEM (Google), Women & Supplier Diversity (P&G).*