

THE WOMEN'S DARING CIRCLES

2020 VISION AND STRATEGY

Many countries and societies have made efforts to narrow the gender gap through best practices and public policies. Women are disproportionately affected by socio-economic and environmental issues but their capacity for leadership and innovation has the potential to be transformational. Indeed, women should be placed proportionally in every sector of the economy and social life than men. Closing the gender gap is not only a question of equity and human rights but also an economic efficient strategy that should be carried out for increasing economic growth. Moreover, in Nordic countries, increases in women's employment accounted for around 10-20% of GDP per capita over the past 40-50 years. As a 2019 OECD report underlines, the global economic cost of gender-based discrimination is USD 6 trillion or 7.5% of global GDP. This significant cost of gender discrimination suggests that much more is required in order to achieve equality between women and men and to challenge the status quo for creating more opportunities for everyone.

The need to close the gender gap is more imperative now than ever, as women play instrumental roles in the on-going global COVID-19 battle. To fully uncover and release the potential of women leadership and innovation, the world needs to invest in women. In the post pandemic world, women will continue to be fundamental in our paths of economic recovery and the process of rebuilding of a prosperous, sustainable world.

Therefore, closing the gender gap must be the priority of any strategy that targets to build a wealthy and sustainable economy. In the light of this, the Women's Forum for the Economy and Society aims to engage for impact by highlighting women's perspectives on today's most pressing global challenges.

How we work: The Daring Circles

In order to reach these ambitious objectives, specific working groups or Daring Circles have been set up in 2018. These working groups convene representatives from business, policymakers, experts, scientists, international organisations, non-governmental organisations and academia to analyse innovative insight and best practices. They provide accurate data and analysis, knowledge based on evidence, and advice on policies and strategies that may be implemented to reach the objective of the Women's Forum mandate.

By bringing together these different participants the daring circles help to develop and implement innovative solutions and forge progress on a range of burning issues where women are more impacted and are at the same time the key solution.

In drawing up the list of members of the Daring Circles, the Women's Forum tried to achieve as good a sectoral balance as possible while keeping the Group reasonably small for ensuring effective discussions. The Daring Circles have met physically three or four times per year since 2018 but the exchanges of fruitful inputs and the dialogue are an ongoing process.

The Daring Circles works through [five working groups](#) - Women and Access to Health, Women and Business, Women and AI, Women and Climate, and Women and STEM - which

cover key challenges and tough issues of our time and fulfill the strategy of the Women's Forum. Working groups bring together partners to share good practices, experiences, innovate, and to develop concrete instruments and recommendations that lead to a positive and powerful change. The Women's Forum Secretariat collects data to provide analysis and formulate recommendations to inform the working groups' discussions.

The main goal of the Daring Circles Members is to bring their professional and scientific expertise to support the vision and the objectives of the Women's Forum to engage for concrete change and to ensure that best practices are shared by all.

These multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder working groups, enable us to explore innovative ideas and best practices across the entire business spectrum. They are built on scientific research and insights developed within the Women's Forum and draw on the collaborative expertise of its partners that allows innovative views and insights into how to generate positive societal and economic outcomes. It is a unique opportunity for business, scientists, experts and institutional partners to share insights and vision for ensuring that successes and challenges in one place can help inform and benefit others.

The 2020 Daring Circles Working Plan

In 2020, intersectional workstreams will be explored in order to link the themes of the Daring Circles. As an example, the challenges of the Daring Circle Women & Climate are closely connected to those of the Daring Circles Women and AI, Women and STEM (i.e. STEM skills and industries, including the application of artificial intelligence, will be vital to a successful green transition) and Women and Business (i.e. Women's green entrepreneurship is a key opportunity in the developing and developed world).

Furthermore, the Daring Circles will enrich other unique initiatives and actions that the Women's Forum will be conducting.

The Women's Forum will draft policy proposals for the G7 in the United States and the G20 in Saudi Arabia based on the work of the Daring Circles and on the contribution of all their members, especially regarding women's role into access to health, in the fight against climate change, in the jobs of the future, in governance and in the economic field, as well as women entrepreneurship.

Moreover, in 2020, the Women's Forum will launch the First Gender Equity in Business, Climate Change, Health, and Tech Barometer – Perception versus Reality. It will be the world's first women's economic leadership statistics that take into account the gap between perception and reality. It will cover female influence in four important sectors of the economy, exploring what drives and encourages positive evolution and how policy makers and policy shapers together can create a favourable environment that leads to narrow the gender gap. To this end, the work of the Daring Circles will be key instruments to compare reality and perception related to female leadership.