



WomenCorporateDirectors
A Foundation Inspiring Visionary Boards Worldwide

Sponsor Spotlight: International Finance Corporation

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About International Finance Corporation

IFC—a member of the World Bank Group—is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets.

With a global presence in about 100 countries, a network consisting of hundreds of financial institutions, and about 2,000 private sector clients, IFC is uniquely positioned to create markets and opportunities where they are needed most.

In fiscal year 2020, IFC delivered more than \$22 billion in long-term financing for developing countries, leveraging the power of the private sector to end extreme poverty and boost shared prosperity.

For more information, visit www.ifc.org



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IFC Nominee Directorship Program

IFC nominates directors to serve on the boards of client companies in which IFC invests equity to add value to such client companies' operations and create shareholder value consistent with IFC's development mandate.



IFC seeks to promote best practices in corporate governance so that boards of directors exercise objective and independent judgment. IFC Nominee Directors are expected to commit adequate time and attention to their board responsibilities and act on a fully informed basis, in good faith, with due care, and in the best interests of their respective company and its shareholders.

IFC is building capacity, raising awareness, and expanding the discussion about gender diversity on boards of directors and in business leadership in emerging markets in promotion of the overall environmental, social, and corporate governance standards. IFC has developed a comprehensive approach to strengthening the role of women on the boards of their investee companies and aims to progressively develop a strong cadre of women IFC Nominee Directors, sourced internally and externally.

IFC's ambition is to achieve nominee director gender parity by 2030. Pro-active and more diverse sourcing of qualified candidates has enabled IFC to make rapid progress and the IFC is well on its way to meeting their target of 50% women IFC Nominee Directors by 2030. As of the end of November 2020, 47% of IFC nominated directors were women.

Investing for Impact

In 2019, IFC and other impact investors unveiled the Operating Principles for Impact Management, a set of clear market standards for how to manage investments aiming to

achieve positive impact alongside financial returns. This was a major step forward in bringing transparency and discipline to the practice of impact investing.

For the diverse range of public and private institutions pursuing impact across different asset classes and geographies, the Operating Principles provide a basis for comparability and convergence toward best practices.

As background to this milestone, IFC published the Creating Impact report, which projected significant growth for the impact investing market in coming years. The report also summarized what IFC knew about the emerging practices of impact investors in managing and measuring impact.

Following the definition laid out in that report, we define impact investments as investments made in companies or organizations with the intent to contribute measurable positive social or environmental impact, alongside a financial return. Specifically, the definition encompasses three observable attributes of impact investors that can distinguish them from other investors: Intent, Contribution and Measurement.

Women on Boards and in Business Leadership

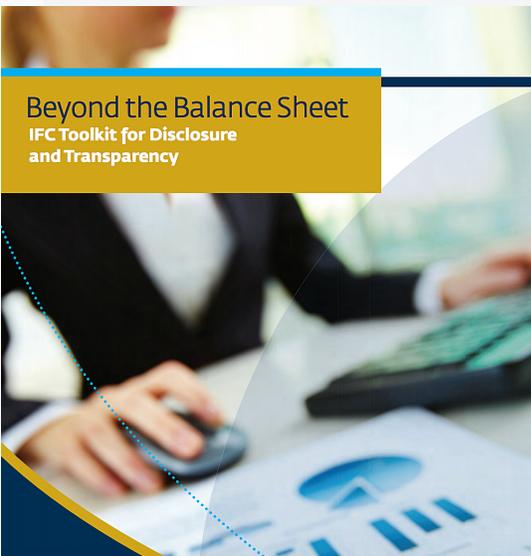
Good corporate governance helps firms improve performance, drive growth, manage risks, attract and retain investors, and weather financial crises. To be truly effective, a board requires a diversity of skills, cultures, and views to make smart decisions with lasting impact.

A growing body of research shows a range of business benefits associated with gender diversity on boards and in senior leadership—and with a robust pipeline of female management talent. Benefits include improved financial performance and shareholder value, reduced risk of fraud and corruption, increased customer and employee satisfaction, greater investor confidence, and enhanced market



knowledge and reputation. Studies also point to the positive influence of gender-diverse management and boards on a company's sustainability profile.

The push toward greater diversity—and especially, gender diversity at the top—is already happening. It's driven by a growing number of qualified women, male champions, investors and shareholders, legislation and governance codes, and an overall awareness that companies must better reflect the markets they serve. IFC is contributing to this push by building capacity, raising awareness, and adding to the knowledge base on the value of gender-diverse boards and business leadership in emerging and frontier markets; part of its environment, social and governance work.



Thought Leadership

- [IFC Toolkit for Disclosure and Transparency](#)
- [Environmental, Social and Governance \(ESG\)](#)
- [e-Economy Africa 2020 - Africa's \\$180 Billion Internet Economy Future](#)
- [IFC and COVID-19 \(Corona virus\)](#)

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