

## PRESS RELEASE

**Kigali, 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021- Rwanda Stock Exchange**, a member of the Sustainable Stock Exchange (SSE) Initiative in partnership with IFC Rwanda joins Securities Exchanges all over the world to celebrate International Women's Day 2021 and host the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Ring the Bell Ceremony for Gender Equality.

The 2021 Ring the Bell event for Gender Equality marks the 5<sup>th</sup> year of partnership between RSE, the IFC, Sustainable Stock Exchanges (SSE) Initiative, UN Global Compact, UN Women, the World Federation of Exchanges and Women in ETFs, to raise awareness about the business case for women's economic empowerment and the opportunities for the private sector to advance gender equality and sustainable development.

The theme for this year International Women's Day 2021 – **“Women in leadership: Achieving an equal future in a COVID-19 world”** celebrates the tremendous efforts by women and girls around the world in shaping a more equal future and recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

**In his opening remarks, Mr. Pierre Celestin Rwabukumba, RSE Chief Executive Officer** stressed “The world has, through this initiative, once again shown its eagerness to continue supporting gender equality by raising awareness about SDG 5 (“Gender Equality”) and the multiplier effect of investing in women and girls on families, communities, economies and business”.

**Mr. Eric Bundugu, CMA Acting Executive Director** re-emphasized on the role of women in this environment: “Women leaders and women's organizations have demonstrated their skills, knowledge and networks to effectively lead in COVID-19 response and recovery efforts, there is more recognition than ever before that women bring different experiences, perspectives and skills to the table, and make irreplaceable contributions to decisions, policies & laws that work better for all”.

**Mr. Dan Martin Kasirye, IFC Representative**, also re-emphasized the same on the private sector : “I congratulate RSE to bring us together, let's all raise awareness to equality in the private sector, IFC is stepping up its work to facilitate equal opportunities by implementing working conditions that best suit equality”.

**Mrs. Fatou Aminata Lo, UN Women Country Representative**, in her keynote speech “ These global ‘Bell ringing’ aims to bring attention to the pivotal role the private sector can play in advancing gender equality to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and to raise awareness about the Women's Empowerment Principles”.

**ENDS**

### **About RSE**

The Rwanda Stock Exchange Limited was incorporated on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2005 with the objective of carrying out stock market operations. The Company was officially launched on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011. Currently, the RSE has 10 listed companies 5 of which are domestic companies and five cross listed companies from Kenya and South Africa and a standalone fixed income board.