

ACCELERATING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE GLOBAL WATCH AND JEWELLERY INDUSTRY

A Panel Discussion at VICENZAORO
22 January 2023, 15:00-16:00 CET



Moderator
Iris Van der Veken
Executive Director
& Secretary
General
WJI 2030



Anna Falth
Head of WEPs
UN Women



Mihwa Park
WEPs
Coordinator
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Carlotta Gradin
Vice-President for
Advocacy
ONU Femmes
France



Katrin Wouters
Co-Founder &
Creative Director
Wouters &
Hendrix



Annie Doresca
Co-Founder and
the Board
President
Black in Jewelry
Coalition



Kathryn McConnell
Director of Brand
& Marketing
Monica Vinader



WATCH & JEWELLERY
INITIATIVE 2030



CIBJO and WJI 2030 to host panel discussion in Vicenza about gender equality in the jewellery and watch industry

MILAN, ITALY: JANUARY 19, 2023 – The need and the steps required to action gender equality, as articulated in the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5, will be the subject of a panel discussion organised by the World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO) and the Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030 (WJI 2030) at the VICENZAORO show on Sunday, January 22, 2023.

Women drive 90 percent of demand for jewelry industry products and are they present across the entire value chain, but the roles and opportunities made available to them are still often conditioned by gender inequalities and discrimination. In certain regions, however, there is now a shift towards broader diversity, but a shared challenge for many companies is where and how to start.

This complex and multi-faceted topic will be focus of the panel discussion, which will take place from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM Central European Time in the VIP Lounge at the Vicenza exposition grounds, where the VICENZAORO show is being held.

The discussion will specifically consider gender quality in the jewellery and watch industry from the perspective of the seven Women's Empowerment Principles, as expressed within the framework of the UN Global Compact. These include establishing high-level corporate leadership for gender equality; treating all women and men fairly at work, respecting and supporting human rights and nondiscrimination; ensuring the health, safety and well-being of all women and men workers; promoting education, training and professional development for women; implementing enterprise development, supply chain and marketing practices that empower women; promoting equality through community initiatives and advocacy; and measuring and publicly reporting on progress to achieve gender equality.

Members of the panel will include **Anna Falth**, Head of Women Empowerment Principles (WEPs) at UN Women; **Mihwa Park**, WEPs Coordinator, UN Women ; **Carlotta Gradin**, Vice President of Advocacy, UN Women France; **Annie Doresca**, Co-Founder and the Board President, Black in Jewelry Coalition, **Katrin Wouters**, Co-Founder and Creative Director at the Antwerp-headquartered jewellery brand Wouters and Hendrix; and **Kathryn McConnell**, Director of Brand & Marketing of Monica Vinader, a British jewellery brand. The discussion will be moderated by **Iris Van der Veken**, Executive Director and General Secretary of WJI 2030.

"I am delighted to be in Vicenza with CIBJO, BJOP, UN Women and the WEPs team," said Ms. Van der Veken. "WJI 2030 is starting its first pilot exercise with many members in collaboration with WEPs UN Women team. Gender equality needs to be prioritised as our social fabric in the global jewellery and watch industry. SMEs play a key role in integrating the gender lens in their operations. Looking forward to an insightful discussion with experts and business leaders. The time is now to lead on SDG 5."

"The World Jewellery Confederation enthusiastically joins in this mission," said CIBJO President Gaetano Cavalieri. "To meet our potential as an industry, from a business perspective and certainly as a catalyst for social and economic progress, equality for all is an absolute given. And how can we talk about equality without addressing what clearly has been a case of historic disparity in the opportunities and levels of esteem extended to more than half the population. Women's empowerment in the jewellery and watch industry must not only be a catchphrase, but a principle of policy and we need to work together to operationalize these principles across the value chain."

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The World Jewellery Confederation (CIBJO) is the international jewellery confederation of national trade organisations. CIBJO's purpose is to encourage harmonisation, promote international cooperation in the jewellery industry and to consider issues which concern the trade worldwide. CIBJO's chief mission is to protect consumer confidence in the industry. The World Jewellery Confederation is the sole jewellery industry organisation to have Special Consultative Status with the United Nation's Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) and is a member of the UN Global Compact.

The Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030: Cartier, delegated by Richemont, and Kering launched the Watch & Jewellery Initiative 2030 driven by a common conviction that the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and aspirations for a sustainable industry can only be achieved through collaborative initiatives. The global initiative is open to all watch and jewellery players with a national or international footprint. It is committed to a common core of key sustainability goals in three areas: building climate resilience, preserving resources, and fostering inclusiveness. The association is based in Maison de La Paix in Geneva.