

## MEDIA RELEASE

4th November 2024

### 2024 WOMEN ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT FORUM SET TO DRIVE FEMALE LEADERSHIP AND INCLUSIVE FINANCE

The Uganda Bankers' Association (UBA), in collaboration with partners, will convene the second edition of the Annual Women Economic Empowerment Forum on 6th November 2024 at Mestil Hotel, Kampala, under the theme Accelerating Female Leadership for Gender Inclusive Financial Services.

The forum will continue the momentum established at the inaugural event in 2023, where the Women Economic Empowerment Initiative (WEEI) was officially launched, marking a significant milestone in UBA's commitment to promote gender equality, leadership development, and contribute towards inclusive economic growth.

WEEI is a flagship initiative under UBA, that directly speaks to the "S" or social element of our ESG Agenda and is grounded on four key pillars:

- Leadership and Empowerment.
- Recognition and Reward.
- Access and Inclusivity in Finance.
- Partnerships and Collaborations

The forum will serve as a platform for thought leadership, collaboration, and actionable insights, reinforcing UBA's commitment to achieving a banking and financial services industry which offers women equal opportunities as employees, customers and entrepreneurs.

The 2024 forum is set to deliver in-depth discussions on gender-inclusive financial models, women's leadership, and the challenges women face in accessing capital. Through a keynote address, panel discussions, and networking opportunities, the forum will advance strategies to equip women for leadership and entrepreneurial success.

Key objectives of this year's forum include:

- **Reflection:** Taking stock of progress since the last forum, new developments, and the challenges that persist, in order to enhance collaboration among players in the banking and financial services sector towards gender inclusive industry.
- **Inclusion:** Facilitating knowledge sharing and capacity building among participants on promoting gender inclusive financial leadership.

- **Acceleration:** Promoting the adoption of strategies, practices and partnerships that accelerate female leadership in banking and financial services and supporting the development of products tailored to support growth and development of women-owned enterprises.

Julius Kakeeto, UBA's Chairperson said, "the Women Economic Empowerment Initiative is an intentional strategy for transformative change. By empowering women to lead and participate fully in shaping financial services and products intended to uplift women, we are creating a more resilient, innovative, and inclusive economy".

"This forum exemplifies the Uganda Bankers Association's commitment to promoting best practices and fostering partnerships that drive sustainable development and unlock the potential of women under two categories namely women in banking & finance plus women entrepreneurs)."

WEEI reflects UBA's focus on leadership and empowerment while promoting inclusive economic development through partnership and collaboration. This year's forum will continue to engage key stakeholders, including representatives from financial institutions, development organizations, and the private sector, ensuring that the initiative remains a catalyst for positive change.

The WEEI Forum 2024 will also feature live streaming on LinkedIn, Facebook, and YouTube, providing virtual attendees with the opportunity to engage with the discussions in real time.

In partnership with:



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## **About the Uganda Bankers Association (UBA)**

*The Uganda Bankers' Association is an umbrella organisation for licensed financial institutions supervised by Bank of Uganda. Currently, UBA is made up of 33 members comprising 23 commercial banks, 2 development banks and 8 associate members (Tier 2 & 3 Financial Institutions). The UBA's mission is to promote a sound banking environment through research and innovation, advocacy, good governance and best practices.*