



- ACCELERATING FINANCE FOR BUSINESSES -

## Press Release

### Queen Maxima and Turkish Deputy PM Launch SME Finance Network

**Antalya, Turkey, November 15, 2015** - The SME Finance Forum launched its global member network in a ceremony hosted by Queen Maxima of the Netherlands, Special Advocate for the Secretary General of the UN for Inclusive Finance for Development, and Cevdet Yılmaz, the Deputy PM of Turkey. The Forum's founding members include banks, technology "disruptors", regulators and development finance institutions from around the world committed to accelerating financing for small businesses.

Established by the G-20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII) and managed by IFC, the SME Finance Forum brings together private and public sector players to share knowledge, spur innovation, and provide a new voice in policy discourse. Its ultimate goal is closing the enormous SME finance gap, estimated at over \$2 trillion worldwide.

"The Forum has come a long way in the three short years since it opened its doors," said Jin-Yong Cai, the CEO of the International Finance Corporation, the private sector arm of the World Bank Group. "With the launch of the global member network, the SME Finance Forum is even better positioned to advance public-private dialogue and help ensure that small businesses can access the finance they need to thrive."

"Our founding members are diverse in terms of the type of organization as well as their size and regional focus," said SME Finance Forum CEO, Matthew Gamser. "However, they have one thing in common – they are all helping small businesses grow."

"The timing has never been better to finally reduce inequities in the credit market and close the credit gap," said Queen Maxima, who is also Honorary Patron of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion. "Together, policymakers, fintechs, and financial institutions of all shapes and sizes, can create the conditions necessary for the market to offer affordable and convenient financial services for small businesses."

The launch of the member network took place during a two-day conference implemented by the SME Finance Forum and CapitalPlus Exchange. This meeting brought private and public

sector participants came together to discuss innovative partnerships which can accelerate small business finance. The event took place alongside the G20 Leaders' Summit in Antalya, Turkey and drew over 200 global leaders from the private and public sector, joined by G20 representatives and other policymakers.

**About:** The SME Finance Forum, an initiative of the G20, works to expand access to finance for small and medium businesses. The Forum operates a global membership network that brings together financial institutions, technology companies, and development finance institutions to share knowledge, spur innovation, and promote the growth of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Managed by IFC, the SME Finance Forum was established in 2012. Member list available through [www.smefinanceforum.org](http://www.smefinanceforum.org)

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