

PRESS RELEASE

**Helios Joins 2X Global Network**

*The partnership reinforces Helios' commitment to diversity and aligns with its mission to deliver growth with impact.*

**19 February 2024.** Helios Investment Partners (“Helios”), a leading Africa-focused alternative investment manager, is pleased to announce that it has joined 2X Global, a global industry body that aims to increase the volume and impact of capital directed towards women’s economic empowerment worldwide.

As a member of 2X Global, Helios will build on its existing work to advance diversity and inclusion, applying 2X gender-based criteria to future funds and strategies. This will include pursuing initiatives such as investing in women-led businesses, supporting gender-smart businesses and leaders through coaching/mentoring and capacity building, supporting women into senior positions and collaborating with other network members to share best practices and lessons learned. Through its investments, the firm aims to support women’s economic empowerment and contribute towards more equitable economies in Africa.

Helios believes that companies with strong ESG standards and performance will generate superior financial returns. As part of this, it recognizes the important role that gender-smart investments play in achieving both financial success and driving positive impact<sup>1</sup>, and consistently strives to ensure gender-balanced management teams for its portfolio management companies.

With a strong track record of delivering impact over the past 20 years, Helios is looking forward to contributing to 2X Global community, helping to build capacity, advance standards, and mobilize more capital towards gender-smart investments.

**Tope Lawani, Co-Founder and Managing Partner of Helios Investment Partners, commented:**

*“As a B Corp certified and impact-driven investor, we are excited to join 2X Global. Our mission has always been to deliver globally competitive investment returns and measurable impact. Our two decades of investing in African markets has taught us the power of purposeful investing and we are dedicated to improving the lives of women across sectors. Joining 2X Global is therefore a natural progression for us and we look forward to collaborating with other members to help shape a future where gender-smart investing and inclusivity are at the core of financial decisions.”*

**CEO of 2X Global, Jessica Espinoza expressed her delight at Helios becoming a part of the 2X Global community, commenting:**

*“Helios has already been recognized and rewarded within the industry for their impact-driven investments. So, we feel that joining 2X Global is a very natural next step - they will certainly find community within our membership! We are thrilled that they are now part of 2X Global and we’re really looking forward to the*

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<sup>1</sup> Companies that rank in the top quartile of their industry for executive team gender diversity typically demonstrate an annual revenue growth approximately 2% higher and EBITDA margins around 3% higher than companies in the bottom quartile (Bain & Company and EcoVadis, 2023).

*cross-pollination of their insights and expertise and the opportunities for collaboration with and learning from our other members.”*

- ENDS -

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**About Helios Investment Partners**

Established in 2004, Helios Investment Partners is among the largest Africa-focused private investment firms, with a record that spans creating start-ups to providing expanding companies with growth capital and expertise. The firm has over \$3.0 billion in assets under management and is led and managed by a predominantly African team based in London, Lagos, Nairobi and Paris, with the language skills and cultural affinity to engage with local entrepreneurs, managers, and intermediaries on the continent. Helios leverages its local and global networks to create attractive proprietary investment opportunities, with an emphasis on building market leaders in core economic sectors and driving performance through a highly engaged approach to portfolio operations. The firm’s unique combination of a deep knowledge of the African operating environment, a singular commitment to the region and a proven capability to manage complexity, is reflected in its diverse portfolio of growing, market-leading businesses, and its position as a partner of choice in Africa. Helios is the second mainstream private equity firm globally, and the largest emerging markets focused private equity firm, to achieve B Corp certification. B Corp status recognizes the firm’s longstanding commitment to sustainability and responsible business practices.

**About 2X Global**

2X Global is a membership network and field building organization for investors, capital providers and intermediaries working in public and private markets, across both developed and emerging economies. Its mission is to equip and engage the full spectrum of investment actors to transform finance through the deployment of gender smart capital across asset classes and markets.

Its flagship initiative is the 2X Challenge which has invested and mobilized \$28 billion in gender smart investments under the 2X Criteria since its launch at the G7 Summit 2018.

This standard setting work is set to progress through 2X Certification, a rigorous and independent certification mechanism which is currently being developed and will be launched later in 2024.

2X Global is also the fund manager for USAID’s Climate Gender Equity Fund, a public-private fund to increase climate finance for women-led, and women-benefiting organizations.

Members can access peer learning networks, knowledge, co-investment platforms, partnership and training opportunities and innovative investment and financing tools to advance their gender smart strategies.