WOB/2017/001

Happy International Women's Day

International Women's day is a great opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women in all spheres, create awareness of the challenges women face in all areas of life and revisit the gender diversity plans the country and its institutions. As we celebrate we need create effective plans on capacity development for women, opportunities to instill more confidence in women as they face the opposite gender in the workplace.

As we mark the day, we are happy that the results of the survey we conducted on Gender diversity, with the assistance of the British Government will be released before April 2017 and will outline the broad level of interventions that could be considered to improve gender inequality and to empower women at all levels of the organization.

We understand from our findings that board diversity is increasingly being accepted as good business practice and is vital to sound decision-making, more conversant risk management and stronger corporate governance. This is also supported by research conducted around the globe in connecting women on boards and in senior management to better corporate performance.

Since the establishment of WOB we have recommended that all listed companies: establish a diversity policy, disclose a summary of that policy measure, the number of women in leadership positions and set measurable objectives for achieving gender diversity. We are heartened that there is an improvement in the progression of women to board level positions and senior management positions. However, the representation of women in boards and senior positions still remain below the 30 percent target envisaged by the authorities.

We hope to report to you with more positive results in future and we are encouraged by the Government's aim to appoint women to at least 40% of seats in the board of directors at state owned enterprises.   Happy International Women's Day! #BeBoldForChange

Dated: 8th March 2017

Fathimath Shafeega,

 Founder and President