

RFI Summit 2019 opening keynote will highlight critical social dimensions and the role for business in achieving sustainable development

H.R.H. Princess Sarah Zeid, a passionate advocate for maternal and newborn health will deliver a keynote address on the urgent need for humanitarians, business leaders and the financial sector to work together to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

London, United Kingdom, 21 April 2019 –The Responsible Finance & Investment Foundation and Swiss Arab Network are honoured to announce a keynote address by H.R.H. Princess Sarah Zeid, a global advocate for women’s, newborn, child and adolescent health and wellbeing in humanitarian and fragile settings at the RFI Summit 2019. The RFI Summit 2019, which will be held at Abu Dhabi Global Market on 29 April 2019, will discuss a roadmap for creating “A New SRI,” at the intersection of sustainable, responsible & Islamic finance.

Princess Sarah Zeid is a UNHCR Patron for Maternal & Newborn Health, Special Advisor to the World Food Programme on Maternal & Child Health and Nutrition, and Co-Chair of the Newborn Health in Humanitarian Settings Initiative. Princess Sarah supports efforts to reduce maternal, child and newborn mortality and morbidity in populations affected by violence and conflict, and champions the health, wellbeing, empowerment and contribution of girls and women in fragile and humanitarian settings.

Princess Sarah’s opening keynote address will kick off a pre-Summit roundtable hosted by INSEAD on “Strategic Philanthropy and Islamic Finance” on 28 April with strategic partners Dubai Islamic Bank and Finocracy, and strategic philanthropy partner UNHCR. The objectives of the roundtable will be to bring together leading humanitarian, development and Islamic finance organisations for a discussion about how Islamic financial institutions can become more strategic with their philanthropy.

Princess Sarah commented: “I greatly appreciate the invitation to address the RFI Summit 2019 in Abu Dhabi and commend the organisers for their focus on the important theme of “A New SRI”. I look forward to constructive discussions that lead to impacts that will continue after the Summit concludes.”

Blake Goud, CEO of the RFI Foundation, commented: “We are honoured to have the participation of Princess Sarah Zeid at the RFI Summit 2019. Opening the Summit with an inspiring speech about the important role for business and finance to consider their social impacts are essential to play a part in achieving the Global Goals for sustainable development.”

Mounir Khouzami, Executive Board Member, Chairman of the Advisory Board and Co-Founder of Swiss Arab Network added: “There is tremendous scope for business and the financial sector, especially Islamic financial institutions, to increase their support for the Sustainable Development Goals, and we look forward to getting inspiration towards action from Princess Sarah.”

For more information about the RFI Summit and to register please visit www.rfisummit.org/.

About the Responsible Finance & Investment Summit 2019

The RFI Summit will be held at Abu Dhabi Global Market (ADGM), a broad-based international financial centre for local, regional and international institutions, on 29 April 2019 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. A pre-Summit roundtable hosted by INSEAD on “Strategic Philanthropy and Islamic Finance” on 28 April with strategic partners Dubai Islamic Bank and Finocracy, and strategic philanthropy partner UNHCR will be followed by a CDIT Initiative roundtable organised with the MENA FinTech Association hosted by DDCAP Group at the Four Seasons Abu Dhabi at Al Maryah Island.

The RFI Summit 2019 will bring together key stakeholders within responsible finance to build connections to new growth opportunities and more measurable impact. It plays a vital role in connecting representatives from across the global responsible finance industry to build on the growing cooperation between SRI, ESG and Islamic finance. Now in its fourth year, the RFI Summit is an initiative of the RFI Foundation and Swiss Arab Network to build awareness of shared values that can bring socially responsible investing (SRI), environmental, social and governance (ESG) and Islamic finance together to increase their positive impact.

About RFI Foundation

The RFI Foundation is a non-profit organisation with a mission to identify a neutral, nonpartisan and universal value proposition that encourages convergence of responsible finance practices. RFI evolves Sustainable, Responsible, Impact Investing (SRI), Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and the Islamic finance sectors towards a convergence of their shared standards, and engages stakeholders to build the responsible finance industry as a catalyst to support equitable, inclusive and sustainable economic development. Visit us at www.rfi-foundation.org

About Swiss Arab Network

The Swiss Arab Network (SAN) is a non-profit networking organisation with headquarters in Zurich and affiliations in the Arab world that strives to bridge gaps, promote sustainable exchange and intensify the mutual understanding among Swiss and Arab people. SAN is a networking platform and organises events and gives speeches on topics like Swiss and Arab finance, business, culture, art and film. Established and high-profile organisations from Switzerland and the Arab world are members of the network. Visit us at www.swissarab.org

Media Contacts

- Blake Goud, Chief Executive Officer, RFI Foundation:
blake.goud@rfi-foundation.org, www.rfi-foundation.org
- Mounir Khouzami, Executive Board Member, Chairman of the Advisory Board and Co-Founder of Swiss Arab Network:
mounir.khouzami@swissarab.org, www.swissarab.org