

## **FSD Africa Investments joins 2X Collaborative**

*Membership to 2X Collaborative paves way for FSD Africa's participation in the co-creation of the 2X Certification mechanism and enhances FSD Africa Investment's co-investment, networking and partnership opportunities on gender lens investing*

**Nairobi, Kenya, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2022**– FSD Africa Investments (FSDAi), the investment arm of FSD Africa has today joined the 2X Collaborative. Launched at the UN Generation Equality Forum 2021 in partnership with GenderSmart and the Investor Leadership Network (ILN), the 2X Collaborative is a leading industry body for gender lens investing. Its mission is to convene and equip investors to increase the volume and impact of capital flowing towards women's economic empowerment.

FSDAi's membership to 2X Collaborative will provide access to peer learning networks, knowledge, co-investment platforms, partnership and training opportunities, and innovative investment tools. These benefits are useful for FSDAi in applying a gender lens investing framework through its investments such as Nyala Venture which provides a facility for local capital providers that are mostly women-led or apply a gender lens in their approach.

FSD Africa has been at the forefront of supporting gender bond transactions in Africa – with more than USD 50million having been raised in the past six months by private sector financial institutions in Morocco and Tanzania. Through FSD Africa Investments' membership in 2X Collaborative, FSD Africa will take part in the co-creation process of the 2X Certification mechanism which was publicly announced at the G7 Summit 2022. The 2X Certification mechanism is an industry endorsed certification scheme that create more transparency, accountability and credibility in the global field of gender lens investing by differentiating between different levels of rigor, providing a benchmarking of where different actors stand compared to their peers and where concrete areas of improvement lie. 2X Certification shall be available to 1) companies (differentiating for SMEs and corporates), 2) funds, 3) financial institutions, 4) institutional investors and 5) instruments and products like gender bonds or sustainability-linked loans.

– Commenting on FSD Africa Investments' membership to 2X Collaborative:

**Jessica Espinoza, Chief Executive Officer 2X Collaborative** said:



“We are thrilled to welcome FSD Africa Investments as a member of the 2X Collaborative. FSD Africa has been a strong partner of 2X in co-creating innovative finance solutions such as Nyala Ventures and 2X Ignite as well as spearheading thought leadership on capital markets development and gender bonds. We’re excited about this next chapter in our collaboration.”

**Anne-Marie Chidzero, Chief Investment Officer – FSD Africa Investments** said:

“There is a huge opportunity to finance inclusive and accelerated green growth in Africa by tapping into the economic participation of women. We are therefore delighted to join the 2X Collaborative and shine a light on GLI investing to advance innovations that demonstrate the investment case for gender smart finance.”

—ENDS—

**For more information, please contact:**

**FSD Africa**

Nelson Karanja

Director, Strategic Communications and Engagement

+254722678844

Email: [nelson@fsdafrica.org](mailto:nelson@fsdafrica.org)

**2X Collaborative**

Jessica Espinoza

CEO, 2X Collaborative

Email: [press@2Xcollaborative.org](mailto:press@2Xcollaborative.org)

**Notes to editors:**

- The 2X Collaborative is a leading industry body for gender lens investing, launched at the UN Generation Equality Forum 2021 in partnership with GenderSmart and the Investor Leadership Network (ILN) of global pension funds. It builds on the 2X Challenge, launched at the G7 Summit 2018 as a joint commitment, which has invested and mobilized more than US\$ 11 billion under the 2X criteria since. The 2X Collaborative now brings together the full range of investors deploying capital with a gender lens all over the world: DFIs/IFIs, pension funds, family offices, financial institutions, asset and wealth managers, private equity and venture capital funds, and other capital providers and mobilizers. It provides members with access to peer learning networks, knowledge, co-investment platforms, partnership and training opportunities, and innovative investment tools.
- FSD Africa Investments is the investment arm of FSD Africa. FSDAi provide early-stage, risk-bearing capital to inventive financial organisations that permit more capital to flow for green economic growth benefiting people and planet. It uses a range of investment instruments designed fit for purpose to take the early-stage commercial risk, drive high market development impact, and a financial return on investment.



- FSD Africa is a specialist development agency making finance work for Africa's future. Based in Nairobi, FSD Africa's team of financial sector experts work alongside governments, business leaders, regulators and policy makers to design and build ambitious programmes that make financial markets work better for everyone. Established in 2012, FSD Africa is incorporated as a non-profit company limited by guarantee in Kenya. It is funded by UK aid from the UK government.