

# **Women Corporate Directors Set to Honor Aquafil Group, Midmark Corporation, LIXIL Group, Luiza Trajano, and Henrietta Fore at the 2023 Visionary Awards Celebration**

**New York - May 11, 2023** - Next month, Women Corporate Directors (WCD) will honor Aquafil Group, Midmark Corporation, LIXIL Group, Luiza Trajano, and Henrietta Fore during its 12th annual Visionary Awards Celebration and Dinner held at Casa Cipriani Hotel in New York City on the evening of June 8th.

The award ceremony gathers board directors, c-suite executives, and exhibitors to witness the honoring of companies and individuals who display an exceptional corporate commitment to diversity, inclusion and women's leadership in the boardroom. This year's event marks the most geographically diverse group of award recipients in the foundation's twenty-year history.

The first award, selected for Leadership and Governance of a Public Company, will be presented to LIXIL Group and accepted by Jin Song Montesano, Executive Vice President and Chief People Officer at the company. LIXIL Group, a company dedicated to creating high-quality technology products to transform homes, also has an exceptional record of promoting gender diversity throughout the Japan-based group of companies.

"LIXIL is honored to receive the Women Corporate Directors' Visionary Award for Leadership and Governance of a Public Company," said Montesano. "This recognition aligns with our purpose to make better homes a reality for everyone, everywhere. Better homes mean meeting the different needs of our consumers while positively impacting the environment and society. Driven by our purpose, we are building a culture of transparency and accountability in corporate governance. Our purpose also compels us to foster inclusivity by actively promoting women's participation at all levels of the organization, including leadership positions."

The second award, chosen for ESG Leadership, will be presented to Aquafil Group, accepted by Giulio Bonazzi, serving as the company's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Aquafil Group, a circular economy pioneer and a landmark in quality and innovation, is also known for its sustainability efforts stemming from remarkable corporate governance practices.

"I am honored to receive WCD's 2023 Visionary Award for ESG Leadership," said Bonazzi. "Achieving a more sustainable planet and business requires strong social and governance standards, and Aquafil is a living testimony that breaking the trade-off between profit and purpose is possible."

The third award, chosen for Leadership and Governance of a Private Company, will be awarded to Midmark Corporation and accepted by Anne Klamar, Chair of the corporation. Highly regarded for its clinical environmental design enabling better care for medical, dental, and animal health, Midmark is strongly dedicated to diversity in the healthcare industry.

"I speak for everyone at Midmark when I say we are very honored by this recognition. It is a testament to our commitment to promoting diversity in the healthcare industry, as well as the c-suite and boardroom. While it is important to celebrate our accomplishments, we also know there is still work to be done, and we are eager for the challenge."

The fourth award, selected for Strategic Leadership, will be presented to Luiza Trajano of Magazine Luiza. Trajano, the current chairperson of the board at Magazine Luiza, spearheaded the company's innovation for growth, which accelerated them to being one of the largest retailers in Brazil.

"Receiving an award for strategic leadership from an entity like the Visionary Awards from the WCD Foundation makes me extremely honored and only increases my responsibility in the fight for the defense of women and equity in the number of leaders, both in the private and public sectors," said Trajano.

The final award, the Susan Stautberg WCD Membership Leadership Award, will be presented to Henrietta Fore, Former Executive Director, UNICEF, Former Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID); Former Director, General Mills; Former Director, ExxonMobil and Chairman and CEO of Holsman International. Fore, a founding member of WCD, continues to be a crucial component of WCD's global community and helps to advance its mission.

"Women Corporate Directors has been an important and inspirational part of my education, purpose and love of being a corporate director. As directors, we carry the responsibility to continually learn and perform to the highest standards of ethics and community service," said Fore. "As members, we have an extraordinary community of knowledge, experience and trust. Legislation and research have proven women corporate directors deliver higher performance and results to the corporations they serve."

Karen Mitchell Curran, Office Managing Partner, Ft. Lauderdale, KPMG LLP, and Lead Director of the WCD Foundation said, "KPMG is proud to be the Presenting Sponsor of the 2023 Women Corporate Directors Visionary Awards. This event is special because the spirit of the awards showcases the importance of diversity, equity, and inclusion – ideals that are woven into the fabric of KPMG's corporate culture. We offer sincere congratulations to each of these visionary leaders for their accomplishments and recognize their efforts to achieve financial growth while also investing in their communities, customers, and employees."

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A unique global network, the Women Corporate Directors Foundation (WCD), has served as the place where the most powerful and influential women in the world have convened for over 20

years. We work to increase women's representation and influence in corporate boardrooms worldwide and inspire diverse and visionary boards.

WCD represents the preeminent women leaders in business today. With 70 chapters around the world, WCD members serve on thousands of boards across six continents. With 2500 members serving on 8500 boards, our community includes CEOs, board chairs, lead directors, C-Suite executives, board members, and heads of global divisions in the major indices, such as S&P 500, FTSE 250, DAX, Nikkei, and beyond.