**Sixty-Third session of the Commission on the Status of Women**

**SIDE EVENT**

**Co-organised by CEDAW and UNWOMEN**

**“Women’s Rights and the 2030 Agenda:**

**40 Years of Empowering Women with a View of Sustainable development**

**UNHQ, New York, 18 mars 2019**

**Statement by**

**Ms. Anne-Claire Berg**

**Danone Culture and Engagement Director in charge of Inclusion & Diversity**

Thank you for welcoming Danone today. The private sector has a huge role to play to be part of the solution and contribute to building a better and more sustainable future, along with many other like-minded partners: it’s a privilege to be amongst you today.

We at Danone firmly believe that the health of people and planet are interconnected. Both need to be nourished and protected. In line with our ‘One Planet. One Health’ vision and to adequately respond to the challenges and opportunities of the ongoing food revolution, we have defined our Danone 2030 Goals. The integrated set of 9 long-term goals embeds Danone’s business, brand and trust models. The Danone 2030 Goals are aligned with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, thus adopting a language that is universally understood. Our conviction is that we should grow in an inclusive way, empowering our people and working with partners to create and share sustainable value.

Our conviction is that the impact at scale can only be reached if we all speak the same language and that’s why the announcement of the GEEIS-SDG today is such a positive way forward. It helps all of us anchor SDGs at the heart of business plans. We have decided to become a member of Arborus because we believe that the GEEIS label is a unique management support tool to foster gender equality in the workplace. It certifies the level of resources mobilized by the company to achieve equality at work, as well as the successful deployment of the related human resource policy. It also aims at ensuring a good harmony of practices between the parent company and its certified subsidiaries. By now having a SDG GEEIS, Arborus continues to be a forward thinking non profit organization that dares and puts its plans at the service of companies that believe in continuous improvement.

Diversity and inclusion means a better future for everyone and that everyone has a role to play to make that a reality. Danone's approach to Diversity & Inclusion including gender equality is bottom-up, empowering local teams to take actions relevant to their business & cultural realities. Danone empowers more than 200 champions around the world making things happen at the local level. Some examples of local practices: Italy (full implementation of gender-neutral parental policy - equal number of men & women taking the leave); Turkey (improve no of women in factories & distribution centers - 3% increase since 1-year implementation); France also obtaining great scores at the latest index publication. With all these local efforts around the world Danone has reached in 2018 gender parity at managers, directors and executives.

But we know that ensuring diversity is a work that starts again every morning. To continue pushing together. To not loose the momentum. To continue tracking progress and challenging ourselves to fully play our role. That’s why I am so proud and delighted to be with you this morning alongside Arborus and the newly formed SDG GEEIS to put SDGs at the heart of our plans.

Thank you.