



PRESS RELEASE

OSLO SUMMIT AIMS TO MAKE FINANCIAL EXCLUSION HISTORY

- 27 Nordic financial technology companies to showcase solutions
- Speakers from Mastercard, World Bank, World Economic Forum, Better Than Cash Alliance and prominent Nordic financial technology companies

OSLO, 10 FEBRUARY 2019: Global leaders, innovators and financial institutions are to gather in Oslo to discuss how to identify practical steps to end financial exclusion worldwide.

The **Financial Inclusion Summit** on **28th March 2019** aims to identify ways in which the Nordic region can contribute to reducing poverty and driving growth by creating a dialogue for a long-term solution to financial inclusion, aided by latest advances in financial technology.

The summit – arranged by **Fintech Mundi**, a prominent fintech accelerator for the Nordic region, **in partnership with Mastercard and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs** – will involve key government representatives, development agencies and private organisations from across the Nordic region and beyond.

Fintech Mundi CEO Susanne Hannestad explains: “Access to banking and financial tools is proven to relieve barriers to poverty reduction, economic growth and empowerment of entrepreneurs, often women. Yet, 73% of adults earning less than \$2 a day are still unbanked because of costs related to setting up services and the, often burdensome, requirements involved in opening a bank account. Financial technology and access to finance are critical drivers which Nordic fintechs are in the process of addressing.”

At the summit, 27 financial technology companies from across the region will showcase concrete solutions addressing the specific challenges faced by almost 2 billion adults who are still excluded from formal financial products and services.

“The Nordic region’s success in humanitarian efforts, building a cashless society, and global reputation for transparency, openness and design-led thinking, puts it in a strong position to help solve one of society’s most intractable challenges,” says Dag-Inge Ulstein, International Development Minister, Norway

Mr Ulstein highlights, “By convening an international gathering of stakeholders from Government and the public sector, together with private sector leaders from business and technology, the Nordics can contribute to reducing poverty and driving growth by creating a dialogue for a long-term solution to financial inclusion, aided by latest advances in financial technology.”

Headline speakers already confirmed include **Ann Cairns**, Vice-Chairman and President International Market of Mastercard; **Greta Bull**, Chief Executive Officer CGAP (World Bank); **Drew Propson**, Financial Inclusion Director of the World Economic Forum; and **Ruth Goodwin-Groen**, Managing Director of Better Than Cash Alliance.

Leaders from financial technology companies represented on stage include **Antti Pennanen**, CEO of Moni, **Thea Sommerseth**, CEO of Diwala, **Selma Kvelm** from Bright, **Jens Gladsø** of Blockbonds and **Sofie Blakstad** of Hiveonline.

This invitation-only event will:

- Deepen understanding of financial health and the ecosystem drivers that enable prosperity through financial inclusion
- Identify funding gaps for reducing exclusion and explore opportunities for private-public sector partnerships to tackle these
- Highlight Nordic and global fintech innovations which can address unbanked customers and identify a roadmap to maximise their impact
- Devise policy recommendations for government, multilateral agencies and the public sector.

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