

Hannover, 8 January 2025

## **iF Design Foundation appoints Karenina Schröder to the Board**

Karenina Schröder, who has been active in leadership positions in many areas of civil society for over 20 years, has been appointed to the Board of the iF Design Foundation in Hannover with effect from 1 January 2025. She replaces long-standing board member Prof. Fritz Frenkler, who has been a member of the iF Industrie Forum Design e.V. Board since 1995 and a member of the iF Design Foundation Board since April 2018.

Karenina Schröder has been a member of the management board of Wider Sense, a Berlin-based consultancy that supports companies and foundations in effectively implementing their social and ecological commitment, since October 2020. Prior to this, she spent three years on the management board of the Deutsche Kinder- und Jugend Stiftung, where she was responsible for strategy development and strengthening effectiveness.

Karenina Schröder has a passion for a vibrant and, above all, effective civil society. After studying philosophy, art history and business administration, she took on responsibility for strategy development on the board of Transparency International Germany. During this time, she built up the Transparent Civil Society Initiative, which almost 2,000 civil society organizations have joined to date.

This was followed by positions as Deputy Executive Director of the International Civil Society Center and Managing Director of Accountable Now. Both organizations are an association of around 30 of the world's largest NGOs working together to achieve greater impact. One focus of the Center was to collectively influence the development of the Sustainable Development Goals at the United Nations. As part of her work at Accountable Now, Karenina developed the first global standard for CSO accountability with civil society alliances on five continents.

With her effective and innovative strategies, Karenina Schröder ensures that social change is rethought on a daily basis: "Civil society in the form of foundations, NGOs, associations and initiatives is more important than ever – in an increasingly polarized world. Where it works, shared visions of the future are shaped, and social cohesion is strengthened. A foundation that promotes precisely this smart, joint design of a sustainable society is a great opportunity for a better future. I am very pleased about my new role at the iF Design Foundation!"

For Christoph Böniger, Chairman of the Board of the iF Design Foundation, the appointment of Karenina Schröder to the Foundation's Board is an important step forward: "This year, the iF Design Foundation is completing the major research project 'Impulses for a new design curriculum' and turning its attention to new projects. Their impact will play a central role for the foundation and the entire board is looking forward to Karenina's expertise. On behalf of the entire Board, we would like to extend a warm welcome to her! At the same time, we would like to thank our founding board member Prof. Fritz Frenkler, who has stepped down from his position on 31 December 2024, for the trusting and inspiring collaboration!"

### **About the iF Design Foundation**

As a non-profit foundation, the iF Design Foundation, based in Hannover, is dedicated to design as a phenomenon and practice in the context of education and culture, science and business, politics and society. It promotes the development of design-specific discourse and supports the exchange of design-relevant knowledge and findings. The Foundation's Board consists of Christoph Böniger (Chairman), René Spitz (Vice Chairman), Annette Diefenthaler and Karenina Schröder. The foundation is the only shareholder of iF International Forum Design GmbH, which presents the world-renowned iF DESIGN AWARD.

You can find out more about the iF Design Foundation at [if-designfoundation.org](https://if-designfoundation.org).

### **For further information and images, please contact:**

Annegret Wulf-Pippig  
Press spokesperson

iF Design Foundation  
Bahnhofstrasse 8 / 30159 Hannover  
Phone: +49.511.54224-218  
[annegret.wulf-pippig@ifdesign.com](mailto:annegret.wulf-pippig@ifdesign.com)

[if-designfoundation.org](https://if-designfoundation.org)