

## **Sophie Lavaud: the first Swiss woman to climb all 14 Himalayan and Karakoram peaks over 8000 metres**

*Geneva, 28 June 2023.* **REYL Intesa Sanpaolo is proud to support Sophie Lavaud, a mountaineer who climbed the Nanga Parbat, located in the Himalayan range in Pakistan, on Monday. She reached her goal of climbing both her 14th and final summit of more than 8,000 metres, eleven years after setting it.**

Sophie Lavaud reached the summit of Nanga Parbat (8,125 metres) in Pakistan on Monday 26 June, after a 12-hour climb in challenging conditions, with lots of snow and wind.

The mountaineer, a Swiss, French and Canadian citizen, has been supported by REYL Intesa Sanpaolo since 2017 and is the first woman to climb the 14 peaks over 8000 metres in the Himalayan and Karakoram ranges.

After a career as a manager in the hotel, luxury and event industries in Geneva, Sophie Lavaud made a remarkable entry into the world of mountaineering in 2012. She had successful climbs just ten days apart at Central Shishapangma (8'012 metres) and Cho Oyu (8'201 metres). Her climb of Everest in 2014 and first attempt to climb K2 in 2016 were the subject of films directed by French filmmaker and guide François Damilano ("On va marcher sur l'Everest" and "K2, une journée particulière"). In 2019, she successfully climbed mounts Annapurna, Kangchenjunga and Gasherbrum I. In April 2023 she climbed mount Shishapangma (8027 metres).

Sophie Lavaud is an ambassador for the NGO Terre des Hommes and supports humanitarian projects aimed at improving the chances of survival for pregnant women in the mountainous regions where she leads her expeditions.

Chief Executive Officer François Reyl commented: *"The determination, commitment, adaptation and agility shown by Sophie since the beginning of her adventure are values that we share. They are a real source of inspiration in our entrepreneurial culture. The Bank is proud to support a sportswoman and an adventurer of such calibre, and what is more, the first Swiss woman to achieve this exceptional feat."*

### **About REYL Intesa Sanpaolo**

[www.reyl.com](http://www.reyl.com)

Founded in 1973, REYL & Cie is a diversified banking group with offices in Switzerland (Geneva, Zurich, Lugano), Europe (London, Luxembourg, Malta) and the rest of the world (Singapore, Dubai). It manages assets in excess of CHF 26 billion (CHF 39.2 billion including minority interests) and employs around 400 professionals. In 2021, it entered into a strategic partnership with Fideuram - Intesa Sanpaolo Private Banking, a leading European banking player, pursuant to which Fideuram ISP acquired a 69% stake in REYL & Cie.

Developing an innovative approach to banking, REYL & Cie serves a clientele of international entrepreneurs and institutional investors through its *Wealth Management, Entrepreneur & Family Office Services, Corporate Finance, Asset Services* and *Asset Management* business lines. It has further diversified its activities in the areas of impact investing, through the launch of pure-play impact asset management firm Asteria Investment Managers & Obviam, and of

## Press release

digital banking for mass affluent clients via the incubation of Alpian, an app-based aspiring Swiss bank which obtained its banking license in 2022.

In December 2021, REYL & Cie acquired a 40% stake in 1875 Finance, a Geneva-based multi-family office and independent asset manager with over CHF 13 billion of assets under management for private clients.

REYL & Cie Ltd is licensed as a bank in Switzerland and performs its activities under the direct control of the Swiss Financial Market regulator (FINMA). Its subsidiaries are also regulated by the FCA in the UK, the MFSA in Malta, the MAS in Singapore, the DFSA in Dubai and the SEC in the United States.

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