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**IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE**

**WBAF announces 17 High Commissioners and Senators from Latin America, Caribbeans, North America, Europe, Asia and the Middle East**

An affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) announces new High Commissioners and Senators of the Grand Assembly.

Albania, Bahrain, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, Indonesia, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Silicon Valley (USA), South Korea, St. Lucia, Thailand and Tunisia are now more connected with global investment markets.

Albania, Bahrain, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, Indonesia, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Silicon Valley (USA), South Korea, St. Lucia, Thailand and Tunisia have joined the largest global angel investors forum of the world and will now be able to connect with the global angels market, which will open up splendid opportunities for the joining countries. Now local angel investors, academics, woman leaders, finance markets, innovation ecosystems and aspiring entrepreneurs of these 17 countries will have the opportunity to connect with global leaders in the same field.

The inclusion of these countries in WBAF provides a wide range of opportunities for start-ups, innovators and high growth businesses and opens doors for economic development.  
Baybars Altuntas, Chairman of the WBAF, says ‘WBAF supports start-ups, develops entrepreneurial ecosystems, and helps venture capital and companies connect with international companies, fintechs and other relevant institutions. We are confident about our contribution to the economic development of these countries by facilitating connections with entrepreneurial ecosystems. We strongly believe that Albania, Bahrain, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, Indonesia, Japan, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Silicon Valley (USA), South Korea, St. Lucia, Thailand and Tunisia will soon become countries that can foster the development of their economies in entrepreneurial atmospheres’.

**Albania**Aneida Bajraktari Bicja, Co-Founder & Partner, Balkans Capital, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Bicja will represent Albania in the Global Woman Leaders Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**Bahrain**Feryal Nass, Founder & Chairwoman, Bahrain Entrepreneurship Organisation (BEO), has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Nass will represent Bahrain in the Global Woman Leaders Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**Bahrain**Sonya Janahi, Board Member, Bahrain Chamber of Commerce & Industry, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Janahi will represent Bahrain in the Global Woman Leaders Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**Bolivia**Viviana Angulo, Latin America Director, Pista 8 & Valhalla Private Capital, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Angulo will represent Bolivia in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**Colombia**Rene Rojas, Founder & CEO, HubBOG Angel Investment Club, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Rojas will represent Colombia in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**Ecuador**Ernesto Kruger, CEO & Founder, Kruger Corporation, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Kruger will represent Ecuador in the Global Startups Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**Haiti**Patrick Dessources, Executive Director, Centre d’Appui et de Services aux Entreprises Locales et Internationales (CASELI), has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Dessources, will represent Haiti in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**Indonesia**Dadang Syamsul Munir, Partnership Development, Indonesian Science and Technology Park  Association ( ISTPA), has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Munir will represent Indonesia in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**Philippines**Roger Collantes, Former Director of the Asia-Pacific Learning and Development Center of the Citibank, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Collantes will represent Philippines in the Global Co-Founders Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**Japan**Amy Yoshida, Former Vice President, Goldman Sachs Japan, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Yoshida will represent Japan in the Global Woman Leaders Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**Luxembourg**Fabrice Testa, Board Member, Luxembourg Business Angels Network (LBAN), has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Testa will represent Luxembourg in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**Malta**Angelo Dalli, President, Malta Business Angels Network (MBAN), has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Dalli will represent Malta in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**Netherlands**Carine de Meyere, Investor & Senior Strategy Advisor, Future Planet Capital, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Meyere will represent Netherlands in the Global Woman Leaders Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**Silicon Valley (USA)**Shahid Chishty, Chief Investment Officer, Portola Valley Partners, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Chishty will represent Silicon Valley in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**South Korea**Derik Kim, Founder & Honorary President, Global Entrepreneurs Foundation, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Kim will represent South Korea in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**St Lucia**McHale Andrew, Chief Advisor, Caribbean Business Angels Network (CBAN), has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Andrew will represent St Lucia in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**Thailand**Narong Sirilertworakul, President, National Science & Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), has been appointed as High Commissioner at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. High Commissioner Sirilertworakul, will represent WBAF Thailand in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

**Tunisia**Nazeh Ben Ammar, President, Carthage Business Angels Network, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Ammar will represent Tunisia in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

The World Business Angels Investment Forum interacts with leaders in all areas of society — first and foremost in business and political spheres — to help assess needs and establish goals, bearing in mind that the public interest is of paramount importance. WBAF engages with a wide range of institutions — public and private, local and international, commercial and academic — to help shape the global agenda. WBAF holds that, with the participation of individuals and institutions from multiple sectors and from all parts of society, real progress can be achieved.

One way WBAF does this is through its partnership agreements and joint projects developed with international institutions. Until now, WBAF made agreements with International Finance Corporation of the World Bank Group (IFC), London Stock Exchange Group (LSEG), International Science Parks Association(IASP), World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), The European Trade Association for Business Angels (EBAN), African Business Angels Network (ABAN), The Middle East Trade Association for Business Angels (MBAN).  
WBAF also engages individuals and institutions through its High Commissioners and Senators. Becoming a WBAF High Commissioner or Senator involves embracing activities that are designed to serve the global community and WBAF members. By combining regular, small contributions from the many dynamic High Commissioners and Senators around the world, we all benefit from shared learning, better networks and increased exposure.

High Commissioner: One High Commissioner is appointed for each country.  
Senator: An unlimited number of Senators can be appointed from a given country

Each High Commissioner and Senator will take a role in one of the many WBAF Committees: the Global Women Leaders Committee, the Academic Committee, the Innovation & Science Parks Committee, the Impact Investment Committee, the International Fintech Committee, the World Crowdfunding Committee, the Global Incubation Centers Committee, the Global Co-Working Spaces Committee, the Private Equity Committee, the Wealth Management Committee, the Banking Committee, the Start-ups Committee, the Scale-ups Committee, the Exits Committee, the ICO Committee, the Artificial Intelligence Committee and so on. For a complete list of committees, please contact WBAF headquarters. To have an idea about the current High Commissioners and Senators, please visit the website below.

[www.wbaf-leaders.world](https://www.wbaf-leaders.world/)

You can visit the following link to learn more about how to represent your country at the World Business Angels Investment Forum

<https://wbaf.wufoo.com/forms/world-leaders/>