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## **GFI WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER AT 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING**

### **Anna Eliasson Schamis, founder of the Eliasson Group, joins Global Fairness Initiative Board**

New York, NY – The Global Fairness Initiative (GFI), a leading NGO committed to social and economic equity for the world’s working poor, gathered in New York City today for the Annual Board of Directors meeting hosted at the Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice. The meeting marked the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of GFI’s founding and was an opportunity to welcome a new Director, Anna Eliasson Schamis. H.E. Danilo Türk, presided the meeting which marker 20 years since the organization was founded. Dr. Türk is the former President of Republic of Slovenia and is the third Head of State to serve as Chair of the GFI Board. He was preceded by former President of Costa Rica, José Maria Figueres, and by former U.S. President William Clinton.

*“My congratulations to GFI for 20 years of pioneering work to uplift impoverished communities around the globe. It has been a pleasure to work alongside the leaders on this Board and I am so pleased welcome Anna to this exceptional organization. GFI has done so much to bring voice to the world’s working poor, and I am proud to be part of their important work.”*

Anna Eliasson Schamis is the founder of the Eliasson Group and a former Vice President at the Atlantic Council. She served as Vice Chair the Board of the United States Association for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the advisory Board of the Americas Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS).

*“We are thrilled to welcome Ana Eliasson to this fantastic Board of Director” said Karen Tramontano, Founder and President of Global Fairness Initiative. “Ana and the entire Board bring deep experience and knowledge to GFI’s work, and it gives me great confidence to have this group of leaders guiding or important work.”*

Since 2002, GFI has partnered with thousands of marginalized communities in Latin America, Africa, and Asia to enhance economic opportunities and build sustainable livelihoods. GFI has developed worker-centered programs that preserve and create jobs, empower women in the economy, advocate for informal worker rights, and build a future for workers is led by workers. By putting workers first and letting local partners lead, GFI helps ensure that communities of promise become centers of prosperity.

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### **Anna Eliasson Schamis (United States)**

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Anna Eliasson Schamis is a fundraising and marketing professional with nearly 20 years of experience in international policy, development and humanitarian issues. Previously, Anna served as Vice President of Development and External Relations at the Atlantic Council where she quadrupled the Council's revenue and led a \$25M fundraising campaign for the creation of the Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security. Anna has also served as development directors of both the Aspen Institute and Cornell University. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the Americas Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). She served until recently as Vice Chair the Board of

Directors of the United States Association for UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). She holds an A.B. from Harvard University and an M.A. and M.Phil. in political science from Columbia University



## GLOBAL FAIRNESS INITIATIVE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



### **Danilo Türk (Slovenia) - BOARD CHAIR**

Dr. Danilo Türk served as President of the Republic of Slovenia from 2007 to 2012. Dr. Türk was the first the Slovenian Permanent Representative to the United Nations and served as non-permanent member of the Security Council as well as a member of UN Human Rights Committee. Later he was appointed UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs before returning to Slovenia where in 2007 he was elected as the third President of Republic of Slovenia where he served until 2012. A former professor and director of the Institute for International Law of the University of Ljubljana, Dr. Türk served on the Constitutional Commission of the Slovenian National Assembly co-wrote the human rights chapter of the 1991 Slovenian Constitution.



### **Jan Jones Blackhurst (United States)**

Jan Jones Blackhurst served two terms as Mayor of the City of Las Vegas. She was the city's first woman chief executive, and among the most popular mayors in its history, having won reelection in 1995 by a 72 percent margin. While in office, Jones Blackhurst presided over an unprecedented period of economic, social and cultural expansion during which Las Vegas became the fastest-growing major metropolitan area in America. Jan was the Executive Vice President of Communications, Government Relations and Corporate Responsibility for Caesars Entertainment, Corp. and oversaw community relations and corporate-social responsibility programs for the \$9 billion corporation. She has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and a member of the Women's Leadership Board at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, as well Nevada Public Radio, the Women's Campaign Fund in Washington, D.C.



### **Anna Eliasson Schamis (United States)**

Anna Eliasson Schamis is a fundraising and marketing professional with nearly 20 years of experience in international policy, development and humanitarian issues. Previously, Anna served as Vice President of Development and External Relations at the Atlantic Council where she quadrupled the Council's revenue and led a \$25M fundraising campaign for the creation of the Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security. Anna has also served as development directors of both the Aspen Institute and Cornell University. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the Americas Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). She served until recently as Vice Chair the Board of Directors of the United States Association for UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees). She holds an A.B. from Harvard University and an M.A. and M.Phil. in political science from Columbia University



### **Sarah Fox (United States)**

Sarah Fox is internationally recognized for her work on labor issues in the United States and throughout the world. As Special Representative for International Labor Affairs at the US Department of State 2015 Ms. Fox led the Department's effort to promote workers' rights and improve economic security and working conditions for workers abroad; liaise with the global labor movement, U.S. and multinational companies, and other stakeholders on these issues; and, support and strengthen the labor diplomacy function at American embassies worldwide. Prior to the State Department, Ms. Fox served as legal counsel to the AFL-CIO and as the AFL-CIO's representative to the International Labor Organization (ILO). She was the first Chief Democratic Labor Counsel to the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, and was appointed by President Clinton to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board (1996-2000). Prior to that, she was counsel to the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers Union and was a reporter at the Courier-Express in Buffalo, NY, where she grew up. She is a graduate of Yale University and Harvard Law School.

**H.E. Kabine Komara (Guinea)**

Guinea's former Prime Minister is a well-known banker in the African continent and a former director at the African Export-Import Bank in Cairo, Egypt. Mr Komara is currently the High Commissioner of the Organisation for the Development of the Senegal River (OMVS). Born and raised in North Guinea, Mr. Komara belongs to the Maninka ethnic group. After studying management in Guinea's capital Conakry, and then abroad in France, the United States and Egypt, he began his banking career at Crédit Suisse, Zurich, in 1975. Rising in business and government, he was appointed to the Guinean Conseil Transitoire de Redressement National ruling council in charge of Economic Planning & Cooperation in 1990. He also served as Assistant Director for Personnel in the Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée and as director of the Alumina Company of Guinea Aluminum works at Fria. When he was appointed Prime Minister, he chose not to belong to any political party and formed a government drawing together soldiers and technocrats, an unprecedented case in Guinea's history.

**Reema Nanavaty (India)**

During leave from her position with Indian Administrative Services, Ms. Nanavaty began to work with the Self Employed Women's Association's poor women members. She has assisted in the development of women, and Water and Work campaign, which made women central to regional water decisions. She serves as the role of General Secretary of SEWA, and Ms. Nanavaty has expanded SEWA's membership to over 1,000,000, making it the largest union of informal workers in India. She now manages SEWA's activities through a federation of 100 cooperatives, nine district associations, and a direct outlet of 12,000 artisans. In 2011, she participated in the Women and Agriculture: A Conversation and Improving Global Food Security event that was moderated by New York Times columnist. Likewise, her life and her work continuously make women's voices and contributions central to world trade decisions.

**Andrew S. Natsios (United States)**

Andrew S. Natsios is an executive professor at the Bush School and director of the Scowcroft Institute of International Affairs. Natsios was most recently a Distinguished Professor in the Practice of Diplomacy at the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University and former administrator of the US Agency for International Development (USAID). As USAID administrator from 2001-2006, Natsios managed reconstruction programs in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sudan. He also served as US special envoy to Sudan in 2006-2007. Retired from the US Army Reserves at the rank of lieutenant colonel after twenty-three years, Natsios is a veteran of the Gulf War. From 1993 to 1998, he was vice president of World Vision US, the largest faith-based nongovernmental organization in the world, with programs in 103 countries. Earlier in his career, Natsios served in the Massachusetts House of Representatives for twelve years and as the chief financial and administrative officer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. He also served as the CEO of Boston's Big Dig, the largest construction project in American history, after a cost overrun scandal.

**Sally Painter (United States) - Treasurer/Secretary**

Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Blue Star Strategies LLC, she has over 27 years' experience advising corporations, governments, NGOs and multilaterals on international investment opportunities, poverty reduction and on foreign and security policy issues. She has served as a founder of the US Committee on NATO, as Executive Director of the Business Coalition for US-China Trade -- where she helped secure passage of Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China, as a Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Commerce in the Clinton Administration, and as the Director of International at Tenneco Inc., a fortune 500 company. A number of government's have honored Painter for her work including the Minister of Defense award for her work on NATO enlargement by the Latvian government and the Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit for by the Hungarian government.

**Aivis Ronis (Latvia)**

Ambassador Ronis is currently an independent business and NATO consultant. Mr. Ronis has served with distinction in the Latvian diplomatic service since its re-establishment in 1991 after Latvia restored its full independence. His civil service to Latvia has included multiple leadership positions within government including as Latvia's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Transportation Minister, and Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs. He has also had a robust career representing Latvia as a diplomat in the Foreign Service, holding positions as Ambassador to the United States, Ambassador to Mexico, and Ambassador to Turkey, as well Latvia's Ambassador to NATO in Brussels. Ambassador Ronis has worked actively in Latvia's private sector since his government service, and serves as a consultant to multiple companies and organizations representing Latvia's interests and promoting investment and engagement in Latvia's public and private sector. Early in his career Ronis was a TV journalist and a Latvia youth chess champion.

**Lamia Senousi (Egypt)**

Lamia Senousi is the former Global Head of External Communications at the London Business School, where she oversaw a team of public relations and government affairs experts in London, New York, Dubai and Hong Kong. Senousi was previously a Global Communications and Strategic Partnership Leader at EY (formerly Ernst & Young), where she worked under the former Secretary of State for Finance in Spain and led the development and implementation of a global communications and partnership agenda for the Global Climate Change & Sustainability Practice. Previously, she worked at Deloitte, LLP in London and at PR Newswire. She was also the Campaign Manager & Election Agent in 2015 for the Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Cities of Westminster and London. Senousi has served in a number of advisory roles, including as a Communications Advisor to the Womanity Foundation, and Policy Development Director for the International Self-Care Foundation.

**Rashad Shawa (Kuwait)**

Rashad Shawa is Founder and Chairman of the Board, and Chairman of the Founders Committee of the International Water Bank - IWB Holdings. Mr. Shawa also serves as Chairman of the Board of Mai Resources International (Switzerland) AG, and is a Member of the World Water Council in France, and of the Arab Water Council (Egypt). A Senior Executive and International Banker, Mr. Shawa has held a number of positions on the Executive Board and Head of the Middle East of several International Banks in the UK and Switzerland. He was also formerly the Chairman of The International Organization of Private Bank owners and was a Senior Advisor to Bank Privée Edmond de Rothschild. Mr. Shawa serves as a Member of the Board of a number of regional and international institutions and companies, including as past a Member of the International Advisory Board of Babson College in Boston, USA, the world's number one university for business leaders and entrepreneurs. He also currently sits on the Board of Medurable in France, the International Organization focused on sustainable development goals, climate change and water resources management.

**Charles Nik Slingsby (United Kingdom)**

Nik Slingsby joined Amazon-owned Twitch two years ago, and was its first international legal counsel. He was given the task of building and leading the international legal team to safeguard the company as it went through hypergrowth. Nik also works as a lawyer helping the Legal Action for Women Network which provides free legal service for low income women, advising on domestic abuse and parental custody issues. He is also involved in the People to People Project building accommodation and sanitation facilities for refugees from the Syrian conflict. He has a degree in Mandarin Chinese and has spent a number of years living and working in Asia. He was the Labour Parliamentary Candidate for Cities of Westminster and London in 2015 and Chairman of the Westminster Constituency Labour Party.

**Zohreh Tabatabai (Iran)**

Zohreh Tabatabai is a familiar face in the diplomatic and global business arenas, having spent many years in high profile positions in the United Nations (UN) system. As the chief coordinator of the UN's Fiftieth Anniversary Celebration, she created new strategies for assembling public/private partnerships to assure the success of the event, and she coordinated the activities of more than 100 heads of state who travelled to New York to participate. During her 20 years at UN headquarters, Ms. Tabatabai also served as Focal Point for Women and as Chief of the Public Services Section. Throughout her tenure, she pioneered methods for bringing in outside partners to work on extending the UN's visibility and effectiveness across a broad range of initiatives. In the year 2000 Ms. Tabatabai moved to Geneva to take up the post of Director of Communication and Public Information at the International Labour Organization, the Geneva-based UN agency that promotes rights at work. Upon leaving the United Nations System, she created a communications and marketing company with special emphasis on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). She undertakes various CSR projects for a number of Global companies. Ms. Tabatabai currently serves on the boards of a number of non-governmental organizations, non-profit institutions and charitable foundations.

**Karen Tramontano (United States) - Founder and President**

Karen A. Tramontano is the Founder and President of the Global Fairness Initiative (GFI), a non-profit organization working to promote a more equitable, sustainable approach to globalization to ensure its benefits reach all people, including the working poor. Before founding GFI, Ms. Tramontano served as Deputy Chief of Staff to President Clinton and counselor to two Chiefs of Staff, Erskine Bowles and John Podesta. Ms. Tramontano's White House portfolio encompassed a wide range of issues, including international trade, transatlantic relations, as well as economic and financial issues involving the U.S. Treasury and Commerce Departments. She played a major role in shaping policy concerning the WTO, OECD and other multi-lateral institutions, while handling public policy issues involving the World Bank and the IMF. Other specific accomplishments include spearheading the successful White House initiative to bring the Child Labor Convention into law and leading the team that developed the Comprehensive Steel Plan to rationalize global steel production. Additionally, she managed many of President Clinton's international trips, including his visits to India, Pakistan, and Viet Nam. In 2001, she served as Chief of Staff for President Clinton's transition, where she established his office and presence in New York.





**Katerina Tsirimpa (United Kingdom)**

Katerina Tsirimpa is the Head of Corporate Finance at National Grid in London, England, where she currently resides. In this role, she manages a portfolio of strategic funding activities across the United Kingdom and the United States playing a vital role in delivering gas and electricity to millions of people.

Katerina's experience spans across a variety of complex corporate and asset financing transaction and has held positions in BP where she oversaw energy projects in the EMEA region. She holds a Master of Arts in European Politics and Policies and a Master of Science in International Business Economics from Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium.

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***Emeritus Board Chairs***



**William Jefferson Clinton (United States) – Founding Board Chair**

Bill Clinton served as the 42nd President of the United States from 1993 to 2001, an era in which the U.S. enjoyed more peace and prosperity than at any other time in its history. Since leaving office, President Clinton has continued his work on many of the issues that defined his administration, including world trade, the economic empowerment of the poor, and the fight against AIDS around the world. His active involvement in issues of public concern is evident in his work of various foundations and organizations such as the Clinton Presidential Foundation.



**José María Figueres (Costa Rica) – Board Chair Emeritus (2008-2013)**

José María Figueres served as President of Costa Rica from 1994 to 1998. He was the youngest President of a Central American country in modern times. During his tenure he created a comprehensive Sustainable Development strategy through investment in human development and the implementation of innovative environmental policies. Prior to serving as President he was Costa Rica's Minister of Foreign Trade (1987-1988) and Minister of Agriculture (1988-1990). Has also served as President of the Carbon War Room and has been a leading voice behind the Paris Accords and international climate cooperation.