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**IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE**

**WBAF announces that HRH Princess Dr Nisreen El-Hashemite of the Royal Academy of Science International Trust, known worldwide as ‘the science princess’, has been recognised as WBAF High Commissioner for encouraging innovation in science and technology globally. Dr El-Hashemite is the granddaughter of Faysal I, the first king of modern Iraq. It was upon her recommendation that United Nations declared February 11 as ‘International Day of Women and Girls in Science’.** **Dr El-Hashemite established the UN's World Women's Health and Development Forum.**

*HRH Princess Dr Nisreen Bint Prince El-Sharif Mohammed Bin King Faisal (I) Bin El- Sharif Hussein El-Hashemite’s origins combine history, religion, politics and education, as she is from the Hashemite family, considered the holiest family in the Arab world.*

*In addition to many achievements in the international arena, in 2015, t**he Science Princess, as she is often referred to, HRH Dr Nisreen is the first academic professional and CEO of an NGO to be credited with creating a United Nations international day. She drafted a resolution which was accepted by the United Nations, resulting in their declaration of February 11 as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.*

*In 2016, Princess Dr El-Hashemite founded an international campaign for Science in Diplomacy, followed Women in Science in Diplomacy, which has led to the appointment of more women in science to diplomatic and senior governmental positions.*

Dr El-Hashemite (HRH Princess Dr Nisreen Bint Prince Mohammed Bin King Faisal (I) Bin El-Sharif Hussein El-Hashemite) is an Iraqi scientist and activist who is active in the promotion of women in science and women's health and development. Born in Kuwait, she has a degree in biomedical sciences, is a medical doctor (MD), and holds a PhD in human genetics. She worked at University College London, where she developed a technique to diagnose genetic disorders, and at Harvard Medical School, where she investigated tuberous sclerosis.

In 2016, Dr El-Hashemite founded an international campaign for Science in Diplomacy, followed by Women in Science in Diplomacy, which has led to the appointment of more women in science to diplomatic and senior governmental positions.

As the founder and president of the Women in Science International League, she is an advocate for gender equality in science. She is associated with the UN's sustainability agenda, where she works towards the inclusion of female talents in science. In 2015, Dr El-Hashemite was credited with creating the United Nations International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

Dr El-Hashemite established the UN's World Women's Health and Development Forum. She is founder of the MUTE International Program, whose aim is to promote, protect and ensure equal human rights for the deaf and hearing-impaired; she is also a co-founder of Culture for Peace Program, which promotes peace through the arts.

WBAF is delighted to announce that HRH Princess Dr Nisreen El-Hashemite will represent the field of science, technology and innovation industry at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum as High Commissioner. Science, technology and innovation, thanks to her presence, will now be more connected with global investment markets.

Baybars Altuntas, WBAF Chairman, says*, ‘’I believe that the participation of High Commissioner HRH Princess Dr Nisreen El-Hashemite in WBAF will bring a wide range of opportunities for startups, scaleups and high-growth businesses that are innovating in science and technology industries and that more doors will open for economic development. Innovators around the world in science and technology will now be able to connect more easily with the global investors market, which will in turn open up splendid opportunities for the world economy*.

*As an affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnerships for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), the WBAF supports startups, 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 countries by way of facilitating connections with entrepreneurial ecosystems.*

***Welcoming HRH Princess Dr Nisreen El-Hashemite*** *It is with sincere pleasure that WBAF welcomes HRH Princess Dr Nisreen El-Hashemite to the world’s early-stage equity and capital markets. The world economy will be enhanced by espousing the values of HRH Princess Dr Nisreen El-Hashemite.*

*With its 91 High Commissioners, Senators and International Partners in 58 countries and by working together across borders, with a common vision, and with these smart dynamics in mind, we are well placed to bring about positive change in the global economy and to help create new jobs, social justice and freedom all around the world.’’*

**About the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF)**

An affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) is an international organisation aiming to ease access to finance for businesses from start-up to scale-up, with the ultimate goal of generating more jobs and more social justice worldwide. It is committed to collaborating globally to empower world economic development by creating innovative financial instruments for innovators, start-ups, and SMEs. The 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 a wide range of institutions, both public and private, local and international, commercial and academic to help shape the global agenda.

[www.wbaforum.org](http://www.wbaforum.org)

**About GPFI**

The Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) is an inclusive platform for all G20 countries, interested non-G20 countries, and relevant stakeholders to carry forward work on financial inclusion, including implementation of the G20 Financial Inclusion Action Plan endorsed at the G20 Summit in Seoul. Queen Maxima of the Netherlands is the Honorary Patron of the GPFI.

[www.gpfi.org](http://www.gpfi.org)

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