**9 July 2019

IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

WBAF announces 13 High Commissioners and Senators from South America, 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.Argentine, Canada, Egypt, Gambia, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Uganda, UK, Uruguay and USA are now more connected with global investment markets.*

Argentine, Canada, Egypt, Gambia, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Uganda, UK, Uruguay and USA 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 six 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 Argentine, Canada, Egypt, Gambia, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Uganda, UK, Uruguay and USA will soon become countries that can foster the development of their economies in entrepreneurial atmospheres’.

Argentine

Marcelo Roca, Executive Coordinator of Xcala, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Roca will represent Argentine in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

Canada

Kaiser H. Naseem, Digital Transformation Professional & International Development Banker, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator H. Naseem will represent Canada in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

Egypt

Tarek Elkady, Founder & Chairman of The Mediterranean Business Angel Networks., has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Elkady will represent Egypt in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

Gambia

Adramé Ndione, Managing Director of the Gambian Business Angel Network, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Ndione will represent Gambia in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

Japan

Nobuo Sayama, Founder and Co-partner of Integral Private Equity Investment, has been appointed as High Commissioner at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. High Commissioner Sayama will represent Japan in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

Kenya

Esther Passaris, Member of Parliament representing Nairobi County, Republic of Kenya, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Passaris will represent Kenya in the Global Co-Founders Committee of the Grand Assembly.

Nigeria

Yemi Keri, Co-Founder of Rising Tide Africa, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Keri will represent Nigeria in the Global Woman Leaders Committee of the Grand Assembly.

Peru

Javier Salinas, Member of the Board of Directors of Fintech IberoAmerica, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Salinas will represent Peru 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.

Uganda

Egessa Henry Dreadlacks, Director of Africa Graduate University (AGU), has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Henry Dreadlacks will represent Uganda in the Research Committee of the Grand Assembly.

UK

Kal El-Wahab, Former Managing Director of Deutsche Bank, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator El-Wahab will represent UK in the Global Startup Committee of the Grand Assembly.

Uruguay

Isabelle Chaquiriand, General Director of Xcala, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Chaquiriand will represent Uruguay in the Global Research & Intelligence Committee of the Grand Assembly.

USA

Shaillee Chopra, Healthcare Technology Strategist, has been appointed as Senator at the Grand Assembly of the World Business Angels Investment Forum. Senator Chopra will represent Usa 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](http://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/>

**Press Team Head – World Business Angels Investment Forum
Christina Mc Gimpsey****Christina.McGimpsey@wbaforum.org**