



Africa: Growth, Poverty and Governance

On May 23, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia, hosted the Africa Day Forum in collaboration with The Boris and Inara Teterev Foundation and the Global Fairness Initiative. The forum featured discussion on the current developments in the African continent, drawing attention to the issues of governance, security and development. The multi-stakeholder discussion brought together professionals, non-profits and government representatives from around the world.

Mr. Andris Spruds, the EU Commissioner for Development moderated the two structured panel discussions. The first panel, "Diversity of Growth in Africa and opportunities for Cooperation," included keynote speakers; H.E. Berhane Gebre-Christos, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; Mr. Pēteris Ustubs, Director for West and Central Africa at the Foreign Ministry of Latvia; Mr. Arne Cartridge, Director of the Global Partnerships for Food Security, World Economic Forum; and Mr. Richard Freeman, Member of the Task Force on Poverty and Economic Development, United Nations Millennium Project.

The second panel, "Governance and Development," featured guests speakers; Dr. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, Former President of the Republic of Latvia, President of the Club of Madrid; Dr. Danilo Tūrĸ, Former President of the Republic of Slovenia, Member of the Club of Madrid; Mr. Boris Teterev, Founder of The Boris and Inara Teterev Foundation and donor to the Global Fairness Initiative; Mr. Nick Westcott, Managing Director for Africa, EEAS; and Mr. Viktors Makarovs, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia.

H.E. Jose Ramos-Horta, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Guinea-Bissau, Member of the Club of Madrid, also appeared as a special keynote speaker for the Africa Day Forum.

The Forum was a great success bringing together thought leaders and international stakeholders to address the opportunities and barriers for engagement in the African Continent and to discuss moving ahead with Euro-African relations, investments and future developments within the Continent. Latvia will take over presidency of the Council of the European Union in 2015.

In Picture (left to right): Mr. Viktors Makarovs, Mr. Boris Teterev, Dr. Vaira Vīķe-Freiberga, Mr. Andris Spruds, Dr. Danilo Tūrĸ, Mr. Nick Westcott.



Tunisia: Conference on Informality

On April 15, 2014, the Global Fairness Initiative in collaboration with the Tunisian Association of Management and Social Stability (TAMSS) held a national conference on informal employment in Tunisia to present the recommendations developed under the Tunisia Inclusive Labor Initiative (TILI). The goal of the conference was to present these recommendations and the "Guidebook to Formalization for Informal Workers" to TILI stakeholders, the media and general public. The conference included stakeholders focused on informality including representatives from the Tunisian government, Labor Unions, civil society, academia, and informal workers.

GFI President Karen Tramontano and Board Chair, Dr. Danilo Türk, spoke at the conference and participated in meetings to discuss the TILI program with President Marzouki (President of Tunisia); Minister of Employment, Hamed Lamouri; President of the General Union of Tunisian Workers (UGGT), Hassine Abbasi; Minister of Trade and Handicrafts, Najla Harrouche; Minister of Social Affairs, Ahmed Ammar Younbaï; Minister of Finance, Hakim Ben Hammouda; and the President of the Constituent Assembly, Mustapha Ben Jafar.

Centered on TILI, the focus of these meetings was to discuss informality in the country as well as the need for extending protections into Tunisia's larger informal sector and creating systems to help facilitate formalization.

Tunisia News Network broadcasted the conference on April 15, 2014, which can be viewed [HERE](#).

TILI Roadmap for Tunisian Leadership and the Guidebook to Formalization

This May, the Tunisia Inclusive Labor Initiative (TILI) released the "Roadmap for Tunisian Leadership: Integrating the Informal Economy". The roadmap addresses the economic exclusion of informal workers in Tunisia and presents strategies for incorporating the informal sector into the formal economy, with an emphasis on extending social safety and protections to informal workers and strengthening the government's capacity to develop policies and services targeting inclusion of the sector.

The roadmap offers both practical steps and long-term opportunities to reduce informality and extend key services to Tunisians. It will serve as a tool for government, CSOs and other stakeholders to generate and implement solutions to better integrate the informal sector into Tunisia's formal social and economic structures. In addition, the Tunisian Association for Management & Social Stability (TAMSS), in partnership with the Global Fairness Initiative, released the "Guidebook to Formalization for Informal Workers". This document serves as a resource for Tunisian workers and entrepreneurs to understand the process and implications of registration and offers important information on rights and responsibilities under Tunisian law.

TAMSS, GFI and Partners for Democratic Change are the founding partners of the Tunisia Inclusive Labor Initiative (TILI), which has worked for two years to create a more inclusive legal and economic framework for informal Tunisian workers, and to provide workers with access to decent work and government-mandated protections.

Read the full [Roadmap for Tunisian Leadership](#) and the [Guidebook to Formalization](#).

Sally Painter, GFI Board of Director, receives "Golden Laurel"



On April 29, 2014, GFI Board Member, Sally Painter, received the "Golden Laurel" award from the Republic of Bulgaria for her work with the nation on its entry into NATO. Ms. Painter joined Senator Richard Lugar, Vice President Biden, and Ambassador Daniel Fried as recipients of this highest civilian honor conferred by Bulgaria.

Ms. Painter is the Co-Founder and COO of Blue Star Strategies and has been a member of the GFI Board of Directors since it's founding over a



decade ago. She has held positions as a founder of the US Committee on NATO, Executive Director of the Business Coalition for US-China Trade, Senior Advisor to Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown during the Clinton Administration, and as the Director of International at Tenneco Inc. Ms. Painter has received numerous awards for her work,

including The Officer's Cross of the Order of Merit from the Republic of Hungary and The Minister of Defense's Award for Distinction from the Republic of Latvia. [Read Sally Painters Full Bio...](#)

To hear Ms. Painter's speech upon receiving Bulgaria's Golden Laurel award click [HERE](#).



In 2003 GFI was founded with one core goal: to make our global economy work for the countless working poor that globalization has left behind. A decade later we are proud to be an organization that has steadily built a track record of success through innovative programs that reduce poverty, enfranchise informal communities, and advance human rights and livelihoods. In 2014 we are celebrating this decade of impact by looking back at what we have done and learned, and looking ahead at the challenges and commitments we will take on in the decade to come.

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