

PRESS RELEASE
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CLINTON, WORLD LEADERS LAUNCH NEW GLOBALIZATION INITIATIVE
Designed to Support Free Trade, Fair Standards

Washington—Former President Bill Clinton will chair the Global Fairness Initiative (GFI), a newly formed international organization designed to encourage free trade while preserving important environmental, labor and human-rights standards.

Joining President Clinton on the GFI board are former Costa Rican President José Maria Figueres, AFL-CIO President John Sweeney, former Bulgarian President Petar Stoyanov, General Secretary of the Self Employed Women's Association in India Reema Nanavaty, Carlos Murillo Rodriguez, Secretario General Consorcio Interuniversitaria para el Desarrollo Sostenible and Director of the Center for International Cooperation at New York University, Shepard Forman.

“Through responsible trade and investment, we can create jobs and economic opportunity around the world, bettering the lives of millions while protecting local environmental, human rights and fair labor standards,” President Clinton said.

For many, free trade and fair standards are often seen as mutually exclusive, with proponents touting only the benefits and opponents seeing only the negative implications of globalization. GFI is designed to bring these disparate interests together.

“The Global Fairness Initiative is designed to offer fresh ideas and shift the dialogue from ‘whether to globalize’ to ‘how to globalize,’ so that everyone shares in its benefits” President Clinton added.

GFI will focus on two primary areas:

- * Working with key stakeholders to identify, develop and highlight innovative models for globalization. These models will be based upon studies of real life examples where businesses, governments, and communities work together to ensure that foreign investment and greater trade improve the lives of all.

- * Creating international forums for discussion between developing and developed nations about fair standards, profitable engagement, policy initiatives, potential alliances, and the positive and negative impacts of globalization. These will be designed to create catalysts for the next generation of debate on trade globalization.

Over the next few months, other former government leaders, CEOs, labor leaders, environmental activists, human rights advocates, and academic practitioners will be joining GFI's Board.

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