



For Immediate Release:  
Wednesday, February 4, 2016

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## **AIVIS RONIS JOINS GLOBAL FAIRNESS INITIATIVE BOARD**

### **Distinguished former Latvian minister and diplomat joins international team of leaders on the GFI Board of Directors**

Washington, DC – The Global Fairness Initiative (GFI), an International NGO working to create more equitable, sustainable livelihoods for the working poor, has announced that Aivis Ronis will join the GFI Board of Directors. Bringing an extensive career in diplomatic service, Mr. Ronis joins a GFI Board comprised of leaders and luminaries representing government, civil society, labor, and private industry from throughout the globe.

***"It is a distinct pleasure to welcome a fellow diplomat from my region to the Board of Directors," said Former President of Slovenia and GFI Board Chair Danilo Türk. "Mr. Ronis brings both great experience and an essential collaborative spirit to this this excellent organization and he will be a great benefit to GFI's important work."***

Ambassador Ronis is currently an independent business and NATO consultant. Previously he served as Latvia's Minister of Transportation, as Minister of Foreign Affairs of Latvia, as Ambassador to the U.S., and Ambassador to Mexico. He was with the Latvian diplomatic service since its re-establishment in 1991, where he served as Deputy Secretary for Foreign Affairs as well as ambassador to Turkey. Prior to his diplomatic career he was a TV journalist and Latvian youth chess champion. He has also served as Latvia's Ambassador to NATO and has worked in the private sector in Latvia.

***"It has been my privilege to know and work with Ambassador Ronis from many years and it is with great enthusiasm that I welcome him to the GFI Board," said Karen Tramontano, founder of the Global Fairness Initiative. "Aivis joins a Board of distinguished leaders from around the globe representing the multiple sectors central to GFI's work, and we are lucky to have him."***

The Global Fairness Initiative is an International NGO that works to create a more equitable, sustainable approach to economic development, and to make our global economy work for those who need it most, the world's working poor. For over a decade GFI has steadily built a track record of success through innovative programs to reduce poverty, enfranchise informal communities, and advance human rights and livelihoods in all parts of the world.

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### **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 as 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.

## ***Global Fairness Initiative Board of Directors***

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### **H.E. 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.



### **Arne Cartridge (Norway)**

Arne Cartridge is the former Director of Grow Africa, an independent organization launched by the World Economic Forum where he served as Director of Global Partnerships for Food Security. Previously, Mr. Cartridge was the Executive Vice President and Chief Marketing and Communication Officer with Yara International ASA, the world's leading fertilizer company, which he joined after heading Public Relations and Public Affairs for Telenor. Arne also served as Managing Director of the communication company Gazette, as Marketing Manager and Director of Communications of Digital Equipment Corp, and journalist at Publicity AS and Informative AS. Mr. Cartridge holds a B.Sc. degree in International Politics and Middle Eastern history from the University of Bergen.



### **Ambassador Paula J. Dobriansky (United States)**

Ambassador Dobriansky served as Under Secretary of State for Democracy and Global Affairs from 2001-2009. In 2007, she was appointed as the President's Special Envoy on Northern Ireland, service for which she received the Secretary of State's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Medal for her work on global issues and the peace process in Northern Ireland. Other government appointments include Associate Director for Policy and Programs at the United States Information Agency, Deputy Head of the U.S. Delegation to the 1990 Copenhagen Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, and Director of European and Soviet Affairs at the National Security Council, the White House.



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

Jan Jones Blackhurst is Executive Vice President of Communications and Government Relations and Corporate Responsibility for Caesars Entertainment, Corp. In that capacity, she oversees all worldwide government affairs, corporate communications, community relations and corporate-social responsibility programs for the \$9 billion corporation. Prior to joining Caesars in November 1999, 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. She is 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. Jones Blackhurst graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in English.

**Pablo Muñoz (Colombia)**

Mr. Muñoz is the senior Vice President and President of North America for Avon Products Inc. Formerly, Mr. Muñoz was the Group President for Tupperware Brands Corp where he worked for 18 years, holding multiple positions of increasing responsibility such as Area Vice President Latin America, Vice President Global Strategy, and Vice President Global Product Development. Previous to Tupperware, he was Executive Director of Strategy at Sara Lee Corporation, Senior Manager at Booz Allen & Hamilton, and Abbott Laboratories. Mr. Muñoz has a Bachelor's of Industrial Engineering and a Master's of Science, both from Georgia Institute of Technology. Working alongside various GFI programs, he strives to build business strategies and social investment programs that are aligned to empower women.

**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.

**Richard Nordstrom (United States)**

Mr. Nordstrom is the CEO and Co-Founder of Northstream Global Partners, a biotechnology company. Previously, he was the President of Idis Pharma, a global services partner to biotech and pharmaceutical companies. With Idis Pharma, pharmacists and physicians developed long-term strategic solutions to creating access to life saving medicines around the world. Prior to Idis, Mr. Nordstrom served as the Global Chief Executive of McCann Health. He also worked with the Chicago-based Corbett Healthcare Group where healthcare industries are offered global e-solutions, study rescue programs, and medical education services as well. Previously, he was the Vice President Account Director at Klemtner Advertising and Brand Manager at Marion Merrell Dow.

**H.E. Jose Ramos-Horta (Timor-Leste)**

Dr. José Ramos-Horta served as President of his native country of Timor-Leste from 2007 to 2012 and is the recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize for his work towards a just and peaceful solution to the former conflict in Timor-Leste. Before serving as President, Dr. Ramos-Horta was well known as a peacemaker and the international voice of the Timorese people. As a founder and former member of the Revolutionary Front for an Independent East Timor (FRETILIN), Ramos-Horta served in exile as spokesman for the East Timorese Resistance to the United Nations (1975-1999). After East Timor achieved independence in 2002, Ramos-Horta was appointed as the country's first foreign minister. He served in this position until 2006 when he was named and sworn in as the second prime minister of East Timor. The following year he was elected as the second President of Timor-Leste and held the Presidency until 2012, leading the country through a period of growth and stability remarkable in the history of post-conflict nations. Today he serves as United Nations' Special Representative for the Secretary General and Head of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau.

**Albina Ruiz (Peru)**

Dr. Albina Ruiz is the founder of Peru's Ciudad Saludable (Healthy City Group) and is internationally renowned as the "Godmother of Recycling." Dr. Ruiz began Ciudad Saludable out of concern for the health and environmental threats posed by inadequate public-sector solid waste disposal services, and miserable conditions faced by workers in the waste sector. Her ideas to transform the waste sector led to a movement around waste as an enterprise, and has helped innovate garbage processing, reduce waste volume and generate income for thousands of "waste-pickers" throughout Latin America. Dr. Ruiz has consulted for cities, industrial firms, and international development agencies to bring her innovative approaches to the global challenge of waste and recycling, and through her organization Ciudad Saludable, Dr. Ruiz has organized thousands of waste collectors, creating employment and improving health and living conditions for workers in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Mexico, Venezuela, India, and her home of Peru. A Chemist by training, Dr. Ruiz has been the recipient of several international awards including the 2011 Fairness Award from GFI.

**Elizabeth Shuler (United States)**

As a graduate of the University of Oregon with a degree in journalism, Elizabeth (Liz) Shuler, like many young people today, pieced together part-time jobs, lived at home and struggled to find her way into the world of work. That was in 1992. Since then, Liz has used every job as an opportunity to stand up for the underdog. Today, as secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO, the second-highest position in the labor movement, Shuler serves as the chief financial officer of the federation and oversees six administrative departments. Shuler not only is the first woman elected as the federation's secretary-treasurer, she also holds the distinction of being the youngest officer ever to sit on the federation's Executive Council.

**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 publicprivate 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.