



For Immediate Release:  
November 28, 2025

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## **FORMER PRESIDENT OF MALAWI TO CHAIR GFI BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

*H.E. Joyce Banda, Former President of Malawi and celebrated grassroots activist, to lead the Global Fairness Initiative as Chairperson of the Board of Directors*

**Washington, DC** – The Global Fairness Initiative (GFI), a leading NGO committed to creating more equitable, and secure livelihoods for the working poor, announced today that Former President of Malawi, Joyce Banda will head the GFI Board of Directors replacing outgoing Chair H.E. Kabine Komara, Former Prime Minister of Guinea.

“We are honored to welcome President Banda as Chairperson of the GFI Board of Directors,” said H.E. Komara. “She has been a champion of working people in Malawi and throughout Africa, and her deep intellect and practical experience will bring great benefit to the important work of GFI and our grassroots partners throughout the world.”

Joyce Banda served as the 4<sup>th</sup> President of the Republic of Malawi from 2012 to 2014 following over a decade in public service as Vice President, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister for Gender and Community Services and a Member of Parliament. Dr. Banda was Malawi’s first female Head of State and the 2nd in Africa. During her Presidency she championed reforms that exemplified good governance, and the democratic rule of law. She is the recipient of numerous international awards and accolades and is celebrated for her work to tackle global challenges ranging from hunger to maternal health. Through her Joyce Banda Foundation she has supported primary and secondary school education of some of Malawi’s most vulnerable children. The Joyce Banda Foundation also feed and provide head-start education to over 10-thousand children across the country. The Foundation’s other key activity has been building climate-resilient houses for the vulnerable across the country, with recent focus being on those who lost their homes to the four Cyclones that have hit Malawi in recent years.

“It is a privilege to have President Banda as the new Chair of the GFI Board of Directors,” said Karen Tramontano, Founder of Global Fairness Initiative. “She has been a true advocate and partner to the grassroots, and we look forward to collaborating on our shared work to uplift working poor communities in Malawi and throughout the world.”

Global Fairness Initiative is a US-based INGO committed to creating a more equitable, sustainable approach to economic development through programs to reduce poverty, enfranchise informal workers, and create a more just, secure future for workers. Founded by Karen Tramontano with Former President Bill Clinton as founding Chair, GFI has implemented programs that strengthen rights and livelihoods for the working poor in nations across the Global South.

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