

DAY 1
20 NOVEMBER, MONDAY 2023
GRAND ASSEMBLY

Main Hall

**WORLD BUSINESS ANGELS INVESTMENT FORUM
AN AFFILIATED PARTNER OF THE G20 GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP
FOR FINANCIAL INCLUSION (GPFI)
2023 GRAND ASSEMBLY**

closed to the public – only WBAF Endorsed Delegates
High Commissioners, Senior Senators, Senators, International Partners

Durban ICC International Convention Center,
20 November 2023, Monday, 10am – 5pm, Durban, South Africa

Master of Ceremonies
Andrew Work, WBAF Senator for Hong Kong

10.30am Opening Session

The World Business Angels Investment Forum advances its agenda at the G20 level through its affiliation with the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), chaired by Queen Maxima of the Netherlands. The WBAF also hosts World Business Angel Investors Week, which is celebrated every year under a global theme.

The World Business Angels Investment Forum supports economic development of countries by (1) stimulating and supporting the establishment and growth of early-stage ventures, (2) easing access to finance for entrepreneurs, (3) assisting digital transformation of startup ventures and SMEs in 'the new normal', (4) accelerating the life cycle of early-stage companies by compressing years of learning by doing, (5) easing access to quality education, mentorship, coaching and consultancy for entrepreneurs, startups and SMEs, (6) introducing new markets for global entrepreneurs, (7) easing access to world-class investments for world-class startups and qualified investors, (8) supporting countries in creating national champions of their startup ecosystems, (9) increasing financial inclusion, and (10) contributing to job creation and economic development around the world.

It accomplishes its mission through the WBAF Financial Inclusion Center, the WBAF Business School, the WBAF Global Startup Investment Promotion Agency, and the WBAF Angel Investment Fund.

Welcome Speech

Baybars Altuntas, Executive Chairman, World Business Angels Investment Forum

Special Remarks

Dr Nikhil Agarwal, Executive Investment Committee Member, WBAF Angel Investment Fund

10.50am Roundtable: Global Impact of WBAF International Committees

WBAF holds that, with the participation of individuals and institutions from multiple sectors and from all parts of society, real progress can be achieved. WBAF Committees comprise the world leaders of the World Business Angels Investment Forum — High Commissioners, Senators and International Partners who represent diverse regions and industries — who are committed to the idea that interaction between multiple stakeholders can be a positive force in creating change.

Committee members work in close cooperation with each other to help shape regional and global agendas in the global and regional investment markets. Through this cooperation, they all contribute to the global knowledge base and benefit from it as they develop the focus of Forum initiatives.

There are 4 committees you can join if you are a High Commissioner, Senator or International Partner:

- Global Women Leaders Committee
- Global Startup Committee
- Global Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Committee
- Ethical Governance, Quality Leaders & Standards of Excellence Committee

By contributing to better policymaking, sharing best practices, and engaging stakeholders beyond commercial objectives, the committees of the World Business Angels Investment Forum do have a real impact on issues of worldwide concern.

Moderator

Baybars Altuntas, Executive Chairman, World Business Angels Investment Forum

Maryam Najafi, Global Startup Committee

Maria Marengo, Ethical Governance, Quality Leaders & Standards of Excellence Committee

Dr Ingrid Vasiliu-Feltes, Global Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Committee

Deborah Walliser, Global Women Leaders Committee

11.30am Coffee Break & Networking

12pm The Global Women Leaders Committee – Annual Meeting 2023

Mission statement: The Global Women Leaders Committee of the World Business Angels Investment Forum is committed to leveraging unique access to the world's most influential women leaders, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and artists—uniting these global forces to harness their collective knowledge, address today's critical issues, and generate innovative solutions to empower the world economy.

Remarks by the 2023 Annual Meeting Chair:
Deborah Walliser, Global Women Leaders Committee

Global Exchange Roundtable: Nation-specific Perspectives on Advancing Gender Equity

Moderator

Deborah Walliser, Global Women Leaders Committee

Marcelle Abrahams, Senator, South Africa
Allyson Reneau, Senator, USA
Bhuva Shakti, Senator, USA
Amritaa Singh, International Partner, Australia

12.45am Lunch Break

1.30pm The Global Startup Committee – Annual Meeting 2023

Mission statement: The Global Startup Committee of the World Business Angels Investment Forum is committed to helping the next generation of great companies move forward and to showcase the world's top startups and scaleups (typically, funded companies in the process of raising €100K–€1M) at the Global Fundraising Stage (GFRS), establishing a superior deal flow pipeline that connects investors with superior startups, and through training and mentorship, to help the next generation of companies that are seeking to raise funding in order to grow and scale their businesses, bridging qualified investors and entrepreneurs and creating a global community that attracts the best deal flow, the most knowledgeable experts and fosters continuous and evolving interactions amongst community members. The Global Fundraising Stage is an international co-investment platform for angel investors, startups, scaleups and high-growth businesses.

Remarks by the 2023 Annual Meeting Chair:
Maryam Najafi, WBAF Global Startup Committee

Global Exchange Roundtable: Insights on Facilitating Entrepreneurial Access to Finance

Moderator

Maryam Najafi, WBAF Global Startup Committee

Kuntal Dave, Senator, India
Jerome E Sheldon Jr, International Partner, Liberia
Catalina Valentino, Senator, UK
M Ayub Khan Zakor, Senator, Pakistan

2.15pm The Global Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Committee – Annual Meeting 2023

Mission statement: The Global Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Committee of the World Business Angels Investment Forum is committed to connecting innovators with smart finance, creating a better environment for innovation, helping inventors commercialize their inventions, fostering the kind of creative thinking that leads to innovation by open learning and skill development, and accelerating technology transfer around the world.

Remarks by the 2023 Annual Meeting Chair:

Dr Ingrid Vasiliu-Feltes, Secretary General, WBAF Global Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Committee

Global Exchange Roundtable: Insights on Nation-Specific Strategies for Fostering Innovation Ecosystems that Facilitate Invention Commercialization

Moderator

Dr Ingrid Vasiliu-Feltes, Secretary General, WBAF Global Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Committee

Dr Sindhu Bhaskar, Senator, India

Dr Birgul Cotelli, Senator, Switzerland

Wassim Jarkas, Senator, Bahrain

Tony Moroney, Senator, Ireland

3pm The Ethical Governance, Standards of Excellence, and Quality Leadership Committee 2023

Mission Statement: The Ethical Governance, Standards of Excellence, and Quality Leadership Committee of the World Business Angels Investment Forum aims to strategically position WBAF's wide spectrum of tasks to (a) promote WBAF's corporate culture ideologies within a robust Circle of Trust that encompasses good individual and communal conduct, (b) contribute to and enhance the focal principles of a superior Code of Conduct, Core Values, and Behaviour Drivers, (c) support the active engagement of all stakeholders by facilitating access to necessary resources so as to enable proper multi-dimensional adherence and (d) encourage the universal entrepreneurship ecosystem to endorse these essential standards and adopt a practical path for their successful global implementation.

Remarks by the 2023 Annual Meeting Chair:

Maria Marengo, Secretary General, WBAF Ethical Governance Committee

Global Exchange Roundtable: Harmonizing Corporate Governance for the Common Good: Region-Specific Insights and Stakeholder Engagement Strategies

Moderator

Maria Marenco, Secretary General, WBAF Ethical Governance Committee

Enrico Fiore, Senator, Italy

HyungSup(HS) Kim, Senator, South Korea

Shadi Kuzam, International Partner, UAE

S M Zillur Rahman, Senator, Bangladesh

3.45pm Coffee Break & Networking**4pm WBAF World Leaders Induction Ceremony**

WBAF pursues its goal to empower the world economy through innovation by supporting startups and qualified investors and encouraging cooperation at both individual and institutional levels. WBAF holds that, with the participation of individuals in multiple sectors and from all parts of society, real progress can be achieved. The WBAF World Leaders Programme includes High Commissioners, Senior Senators, Senators, and International Partners. Becoming a WBAF High Commissioner, Senior Senator, Senator or International Partner involves embracing activities that are designed to serve the global community.

WBAF World Leaders are a diverse group of top global innovators and disruptors that range from niche market leaders to regional champions, all of whom collaborate to address key issues. They are tasked with identifying emerging trends and furthering the Forum's mission of easing access to finance globally.

WBAF believes that by combining regular, small contributions from numerous dynamic High Commissioners, Senior Senators and International Partners around the world, we all benefit from shared learning, better networks, and increased exposure.

4.30pm Closing Remarks

Baybars Altuntas, Executive Chairman, World Business Angels Investment Forum

5pm Family Photo**8pm Chairman's Reception for Grand Assembly Members 2023**

Radisson Blu Hotel