News Release

WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

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World Economic Forum Announces Young Global Leaders for 2012

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Español ¦ Português

- The Forum has honoured 192 young leaders from 59 countries for their outstanding leadership, professional accomplishments and commitment to society
- Of the selected young leaders, 19 are from Latin America
- Young Global Leaders are selected from a variety of sectors such as business, government, academia, media, non-profit organizations and arts and culture, and from all regions of the world
- Young Global Leaders engage in initiatives that address specific challenges of public interest with the objective of shaping a better future

Geneva, Switzerland, 6 March 2012 – The World Economic Forum has announced its Young Global Leaders (YGLs) for 2012.

The honour, bestowed each year by the Forum, recognizes up to 200 outstanding young leaders from around the world for their professional accomplishments, commitment to society and potential to contribute to shaping the future of the world. Past YGLs include **Maria Bartiromo**, Anchor, Closing Bell, and Anchor and Managing Editor, Wall Street Journal Report, CNBC, USA; **David Cameron**, Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; **Esther Duflo**, Professor of Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, USA; **Larry Page**, Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Google, USA; **Zhang Xin**, Chief Executive Officer, SOHO China, People's Republic of China.

For 2012, the Forum has selected 192 YGLs from 59 countries and all sectors of society (including business, civil society, social entrepreneurs, politics and government, arts and culture, and opinion and media). The new class originates from East Asia (38), South Asia (19), Europe (46), Middle East and North Africa (15), sub-Saharan Africa (18), North America (37) and Latin America (19).

" In the last few years, the world has seen the biggest recession in almost a century and we now face daunting global challenges, " said Klaus Schwab, Founder and Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum. " Recovery and innovation will require new, unique ideas and an environment where the best minds, ideas and leadership can thrive. The most important determinant of this will be how we use human talent. Within the World Economic Forum community, the Young Global Leaders represent the voice for the future and the hopes of the next generation. I am particularly proud of this year's honourees, who I believe will address the challenges we face in a meaningful way through fresh thinking and true multistakeholder engagement. "

Drawn from a pool of several thousand candidates, the 2012 YGLs were chosen by a selection committee, chaired by H.M. Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and comprise respected international leaders from business, government and media.

The 2012 YGLs reflect different types of leadership in different parts of the world and society. Those from Latin America include: **David Hertz**, Founder and Managing Director, Gastromotiva, Brazil; **Gina Badenoch**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ojos que Sienten, Mexico; **Facundo Garreton**, Chief Executive Officer, Invertir Online, Argentina; **Maickel Melamed**, Athlete, Venezuela; **Maria Nelly Rivas**, Assistant Resident Representative - Programme, United Nations Development Programme, Nicaragua; **Felipe Kast**

Sommerhoff, Presidential Delegate for Chilean Reconstruction, Ministry of Housing and Urbanism, Chile.

" When I got an e-mail saying I had been chosen to be a YGL, I felt all kind of emotions; happiness, excitement and fear because I knew this was a great opportunity, full of responsibility and challenges, " said **Gina Badenoch**, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Ojos que sienten, Mexico. " I feel proud and thankful for all those who have believed in me and will assure I take advantage of this opportunity to make a difference. "

Another recently selected YGL from El Salvador, **Diego de Sola**, Chief Executive Officer, Inversiones Bolivar, commented: " For years, I have been reflecting on my possible contribution to the well-being of my country and region. Given the paralyzing polarization we face as societies (political, socio-economic, religious and otherwise), I see trust-building as crucial to the development of Central America. For this reason, my endeavours both for-profit and not-for-profit have focused on getting people together for a common purpose, thereby allowing them realize first-hand that we are all far more alike than we are different. From what I have heard about the YGL, this same mission is at the very heart of the initiative, but on a global scale. I was surprised and feel very privileged to have received this invitation from the World Economic Forum. I cannot wait to meet other YGLs to ask them many, many questions. My only hope is that I contribute to the network as much as I will surely get out of it. "

The 2012 honourees will become part of the broader Forum of Young Global Leaders community that currently comprises 713 outstanding individuals. The YGLs convene at an Annual Summit, which will be held this year in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, on 14-18 April. YGLs are actively engaged in the community, are integrated into events organized by the World Economic Forum, and organize events of their own, as well as launch and lead their own innovative initiatives and task forces. These activities enable YGLs to learn from and with each other; build knowledge and engender a better understanding of global challenges and trends, risks and opportunities; and further enhance their unique role as leaders within their own organizations, the World Economic Forum and the broader global community.

" Having just returned from my first Annual Meeting in Davos, I am now even more appreciative of the amazing opportunity it has been to become part of this community. My fellow YGLs, the new Global Shapers and all other Forum members have struck me with their desire to improve our ever more challenging world, and have inspired me to push even further on my projects, " said **Salvador Biguria** (YGL 2010), Head of New Businesses, Pantaleon Sugar Holdings, Guatemala.

" One of the unique aspects of the YGL Community is that it is the first generation of leaders who are truly global citizens: they have all lived, studied and worked in different countries throughout their careers, " said David Aikman, Head of The Forum of Young Global Leaders. " They see themselves as being fundamentally interconnected and have the cross-cultural leadership skills to be successful in a globalized world. Thanks to the incredible diversity of the group, they are able to collaborate across complex systems and build informal coalitions to facilitate action on the biggest challenges facing the world today. This entrepreneurial approach to public good is the best way to move the world forward. We look forward to integrating the 2012 YGLs into our discussions and initiatives. "

Notes to Editors

More information about the Forum of Young Global Leaders at http://www.younggloballeaders.org/
List of YGLs honoured in 2012
List of the YGL community
Visit our YGL YouTube channel at http://www.youtube.com/yglvoices
Follow us on Twitter at http://twitter.com/YGLvoices
Nominate a potential Young Global Leader through our website

The World Economic Forum is an international institution committed to improving the state of the world through public-private cooperation in the spirit of global citizenship. It engages with business, political, academic and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

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