Geneva, Switzerland, 20 December 2019

The Global Blockchain Business Council (GBBC), the leading industry association for the blockchain technology ecosystem, is proud to announce the appointment of its 2020 regional ambassadors. The GBBC regional ambassadors are a group of innovators who hail from diverse backgrounds and industries – with an emphasis in the fields of technology, entrepreneurship, government, law, finance, environmental sustainability, social impact, and education. Since the GBBC’s founding in 2017, the GBBC ambassadors have been an integral foundation for the Swiss non-profit’s three pillars: education, advocacy, and partnership.

The 80 regional ambassadors span six continents, 52 countries and territories, and includes one subject matter expert in the field of Arts & Music. With the inclusion of several first-time regional ambassador appointees, the GBBC’s global presence will grow to include 22 new jurisdictions: Austria, Bahrain, Bermuda, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Ecuador, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Palau, Rwanda, South Korea, Taiwan, Uganda, and Vanuatu.

This new cohort of 2020 regional ambassadors will be key to advancing the GBBC’s mission to further adoption of blockchain technology by engaging and educating regulators, business leaders, and lawmakers on how to harness this ground-breaking technology to create more secure, equitable, and functional societies.

**Sandra Ro, CEO, Global Blockchain Business Council, said:** “What makes the blockchain ecosystem unique is its spirit of collaboration and inclusion. This very ethos is embodied in the GBBC regional ambassadorship, whereby trusted thought leaders from diverse backgrounds and jurisdictions come together to advance understanding and adoption of blockchain technology for the benefit of society and industry. We are immensely proud to have the support and leadership of some of the world’s leading minds and blockchain advocates as we continue to advance our mission globally.”
2020 Regional Ambassadors by Country, Territory, or Discipline:

1. **Arts & Music**: Matt Sorum Co-Founder, STHORM; Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Inductee, Grammy Award Winning Musician; Former Guns N’ Roses

2. **Middle East**: Mona Hamdy, Teaching Fellow in Applied Ethics, Harvard; Member of MIT Tech Review Global Council

3. **Afghanistan**: Roya Mahboob, President, Digital Citizen Fund

4. **Australia**: Michael Casey, Chief Content Officer, Coindesk; Senior Advisor, MIT Media Lab on the Digital Currency Initiative; Author, The Age of Cryptocurrency, The Trust Machine

5. **Australia**: Dr. Jemma Green, Cofounder and Chair, Power Ledger; Research Fellow, Curtin University

6. **Australia**: Leanne Kemp, Founder and CEO, Everledger; Queensland Chief Entrepreneur

7. **Australia**: Paula Taylor, Cofounder, West Tech Fest, Creative Nations & Western Australian Ocean Foundation

8. **Austria**: Astrid Schober, CIO, Wien Energie GmbH

9. **Bahrain**: Sheikh Mohamed Al-Khalifa, Sector Head, ICT, Bahrain Economic Development Board

10. **Bahrain**: Tala Fakhro, Chief Project Officer, Bahrain Economic Development Board

11. **Barbados**: Gabriel Abed, Founder and CEO, Bitt

12. **Belgium**: Sebastian Vos, Partner and Chair of Global Public Policy, Covington & Burling LLP


14. **Bolivia**: Karen Korponai, Founder, Korponai Consulting

15. **Brazil**: Fernando Carvalho, CEO, QR Capital

16. **Brazil**: Cassio Sergio Damasceno, Head of FMI Products, Câmara Interbancária de Pagamentos (CIP)
17. **Brazil**: Paula Guedes, *Founder and CEO, Jobzi*

18. **Brazil**: Veronica Allende Serra, *Founding Partner, Innova Capital*

19. **Bulgaria**: Talimka Yordanova, *CEO, Global Citizen Forum*

20. **Canada**: Tanya Stephens, *Senior Innovation Leader, Procter & Gamble (P&G)*

21. **Canada**: Matthew Spoke, *Founder, Aion; CEO, Aion Foundation*

22. **China**: Dr. Wei Wang, *Founding Chair of China Mergers & Acquisitions Association (CMAA)*

23. **Denmark**: Michel Avital, *Professor, Copenhagen Business School*

24. **Ecuador**: Ernesto Kruger, *CEO, Kruger Corporation*

25. **Estonia**: Toomas Henrik Ilves, *Cochair of The Global Futures Council on Blockchain Technology; Former President of Estonia*

26. **Estonia**: Kalle Palling, *Cofounder, Cachet; Former MP and Chair of European Union Affairs Committee, The Parliament of Estonia*

27. **France**: Julius Akinyemi, *MIT Media Lab Entrepreneur in Residence; Cofounder and CEO, UWINCorp*

28. **France**: Mariana Dahan, *Founder and CEO, World Identity Network*

29. **Georgia**: George Kikvadze, *Executive Vice Chairman, The Bitfury Group*

30. **Germany**: Bernhard Kowatsch, *Head of Innovation Accelerator, United Nations World Food Programme (UN WFP)*

31. **Greece**: Honorable Eva Kaili, *Member, European Parliament; Head, Hellenic S&D Delegation; Chair, D-Nato; Chair STOA (the Scientific Foresight Unit)*

32. **Haiti**: Jean Philippe Innocent, *Former Conseiller Spécial Blockchain for Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI)*

33. **Haiti**: Laurent Lamothe, *Founding Partner, LSL World Initiative; Former Prime Minister of Haiti*

34. **Hong Kong**: Richard Byworth, *CEO, Diginex*

35. **Hong Kong**: Cristina Ventura, *Chief Catalyst Officer, The Lane Crawford Joyce Group*

36. **Hong Kong**: Nydia Zhang, *Cofounder and Chair, Social Alpha Foundation*

37. **India**: Bhagwan Chowdhry, *Professor Finance, Indian School of Business; Research Professor, UCLA Anderson*
38. **India**: Jayesh Ranjan, IAS, *Principal Secretary to Government of Telangana, Industries & Commerce Department, Information Technology, Electronics and Communications Department*

39. **Ireland**: Dr. Piyush Verma, *Senior Energy Markey Analyst, International Energy Research Centre*

40. **Israel**: Netta Korin, *Cofounder, Orbs; Founder, Hexa Foundation*

41. **Italy**: Bruno Michieli, *Managing Member, Openlot Ventures*

42. **Jamaica**: Alexandra Chong, *CEO and Founder, Jacana*

43. **Japan**: Makoto Takemiya, *CEO, Soramitsu*

44. **Kazakhstan**: Governor Kairat Kelimbetov, *Astana International Financial Centre; Former Governor, National Bank of Kazakhstan*

45. **Latvia**: Val Vavilov, *CEO and Founder, The Bitfury Group*

46. **Mongolia**: Saruul Ganbaatar, *CEO, Bogd Bank*

47. **The Netherlands**: Rutger Van Zuidam, *Founder and CEO, Odyssey.org, The Netherlands*

48. **The Netherlands**: Ton van't Noordende, *Founder, PHX; Investor-in-Residence, Techleap*

49. **New Zealand**: Chris O'Neill, *Senior Impact Consultant, Ākina Foundation*

50. **Nigeria**: Pat Nwobodo, *CEO, Rowet Group Nigeria*

51. **Nigeria**: Aisha Oyebode, *CEO, Murtala Muhammed Foundation*

52. **Palau**: Jennifer Koskelin, *Cofounder, Palau Pledge*

53. **Peru**: Hernando de Soto, *President, Institute for Liberty & Democracy; Author The Mystery of Capital, The Other Path*

54. **Puerto Rico**: Dante Disparte, *Vice Chair and Head of Policy Communications, Libra Association; Chairman, Risk Cooperative*

55. **Russia**: Alexey Blagirev, *CIO and Head of Investor Relations, Sensorium Corporation*

56. **Rwanda**: Norbert Haguma, *Cofounder, AfricaGen; CEO, AfrOrient Group*

57. **Singapore**: Yew Kiat Phang, *Vice Chair and CEO, Chong Sing Holdings FinTech Group Limited*

58. **Singapore**: Mahendra Singh Rathore, *Vice President, UOB Group*
59. **South Africa**: Tanya Knowles, *Business Manager, Adhara; Chairperson, South African Financial Blockchain Consortium; Former Managing Executive, Strate (Pty) Ltd*

60. **South Africa**: Vinny Lingham, *Cofounder and CEO, Civic Technologies*

61. **South Africa**: Nasia Seria, *General Manager, Fintech Risk & Compliance, MTN*

62. **South Korea**: Junhaeng Lee, *Cofounder and CEO, Streami*

63. **Switzerland**: Daniel Gasteiger, *Founder and CEO, Procivis AG*

64. **Switzerland**: Fiorenzo Manganiello, *Professor of Blockchain Technologies, Geneva Business School; Board Member, LIAN Group*

65. **Taiwan**: Honorable Jason Hsu, *Legislator and Crypto Congressman*

66. **Tunisia**: Ghazi Ben-Ahmed, *Founder and President, Mediterranean Development Initiative*

67. **Tunisia**: Dr. Sami Benjamaa, *Managing Executive Officer and CIDO, JERA*

68. **Turkey**: Muhammed Yesilhark, *Founder, Chief Investment Officer, Q2Q Capital*

69. **Uganda**: Dr. Cornelius Kalenzi, *Post-Doctoral Researcher, Korea Policy Center for the Fourth Industry Revolution at KAIST*

70. **Ukraine**: Aivaras Abromavicius, *Partner Senior Advisor and Fund Manager, East Capital Asset Management AB*

71. **Ukraine**: Mark Ginzburg, *President, Ukrainian Federation of Robotics*

72. **United Arab Emirates**: Sheikh Zayed Al Nahyan

73. **United Kingdom**: Glenn Hall, *Partner, Head of Government Relations & Public Policy, Norton Rose Fullbright*

74. **United Kingdom**: Alexander Tai, *Founder and CEO, Earth Sentinel; Former Special Director, Virgin Group; World Record holder*

75. **United Kingdom**: Lawrence Wintermeyer, *Board Co-Chair, Global Digital Finance; Former CEO, Innovate Finance*

76. **United States**: Rod Beckstrom, *Former President and CEO of ICANN*

77. **United States**: Jim Newsome, *Founding Partner, Delta Strategy Group; Former President and CEO, NYMEX; Former Chairman, CFTC*

78. **United States**: Bill Tai, *Board Chair, ACTAI Global; Venture Capitalist*
79. **United States**: Jason Weinstein, *Partner, Steptoe & Johnson LLP; Former Department of Justice (DOJ)*

80. **Vanuatu**: Sandra Uwantege Hart, *Pacific Cash & Livelihoods Lead, Oxfam*


Visit the GBBC About page for additional information about the GBBC and its Regional Ambassadors: [https://gbbcouncil.org/about/](https://gbbcouncil.org/about/)

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