



*Third Edition*

**WILL 2023 BE A YEAR OF  
UNEMPLOYMENT, RECESION,  
AND EVEN HUNGER?**

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**CLIMATE CHANGE:  
SHRINKING CONTENT ABOUT  
CLIMATE CHANGE IN TEXTBOOKS**

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**INTERVIEW:**

**ILAINE HENZ:**

FOOD IS ESSENTIAL  
FOR OUR SURVIVAL

**ROBERT E. CATS:**

I LOVE QATAR AND  
QATARY PEOPLE

**HASSEN CHALGHOUMI:**

WORLD HAS BECOME  
A SMALL VILLAGE

GLOBAL TIMES  
**BIG INTERVIEW**

**ROSALIA ARTEAGA**

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## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

# A YEAR OF RISK, BLOOD, SWEAT, AND OPPORTUNITIES

**DEJAN ŠTANCER,**  
CHAIRMAN



*The seal of the Chairman*

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We entered the new year. With the state of our world and daily worries, I believe thoughts of entering the new year have quickly given way to the worries of 2023. We can hope that all worries are unnecessary, and they will prevail in the end, as a famous writer once wrote when he was on the way to say goodbye to this world: "I was afraid of so many things in life and so many things caused me to worry, but only now I realized that I just had to live life".

What we know for sure is that nothing will be like it once was. Of course, we also know that times change all the time and that if it weren't for that, we wouldn't have history either. At least not as turbulent as we know it. Nor would they have learned that wars have never brought anyone anything good. We often emphasize that we know this, but we continue to live in a world of greed, wickedness, stupidity, and everything that always leads to new conflicts.

But, as you know, Einstein once wrote that only two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity. I am sure that one day man will also master the universe; I'm not an optimist when it comes to human stupidity.

But I am very optimistic when it comes to the further growth of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders. As you have been informed, major changes are taking place in the institution. The changes do not mean that everything and everyone was bad, on the contrary, they mean that we have brought the "carriage" to the point from which other people, who are specialists at this next level, drive it forward.

We are starting a year of live events and the first big global conference will be already in the middle of April this year, and we are planning the last event in December. A full year, then, and that's also why I say that 2023 will also be a year of great opportunities.

And as you probably noticed, we are also changing the look of the Global Times Magazine. Better said, we adapt it to needs and expectations. All with the desire to create as readable and high-quality media as possible. I can say that the magazine has exceeded all expectations so far, and we are only at the third edition. All this means that we are doing something right.

You will probably remember my speech from the tense meeting in December when I said that the time for quantity is over, and that from now on it is only time for infinite quality.

I wish you a pleasant reading. And don't forget to get in touch if you think you can contribute to the magazine.

Yours sincerely,

*Dejan Štancer*

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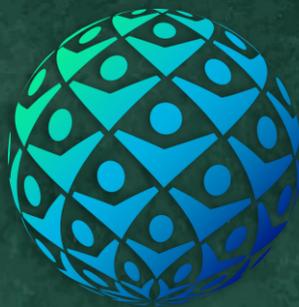
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*Wishing Happy*  
**New Year**

“

May this year bring new happiness,  
new goals, new achievements,  
& many new inspirations to your life.



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Together We Are Shaping the Future



*Thank You!*

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## Second meeting – Red Christmas Party

# IT STARTED AS A PARTY AND ENDED WITH CONCRETE CONCLUSIONS

In the Global Chamber of Business Leaders, we said goodbye to 2022 in a very special and touching way. We organized a special meeting, which we tentatively called the "Red Christmas Party", although it became clear immediately after the meeting began that it would turn into a relaxed in-depth meeting.

All present were first addressed by **Dejan Štancer**, chairman. In the introduction, he presented some of the achievements of 2022, as well as part of the plans for 2023. He also presented some changes that are expected in the year to come, and which should have a positive impact on the further development of our organization.

In the continuation of the meeting, a very vibrant discussion developed, in which the majority of all present executives participated. Many ideas were born, some of which we have already realized and implemented immediately after the meeting. We will try to implement the rest, most of them, in the coming period.

The meeting also concluded that from now on the meeting platform will be open for meetings of executives, and that it will be possible to access it quite easily via the link that each executive received for this meeting.

The fact that a relaxed Christmas party turned into a lively meeting with very specific goals is a sign that should not be overlooked – how important the discussion is and how much we can achieve through joint dialogue.

Year 2023:

# REALLY A YEAR OF UNEMPLOYMENT, RECESION AND HUNGER?

Editory,  
THE GLOBAL TIMES

**A** chaotic year is ENDING, full of global shocks that fundamentally change the world. Geopolitical realignments, growing tension and insecurity, and solving self-imposed problems in the past marked 2022. During the year, three macroeconomic problems began, which will mark the next year as well.

These are the war in Ukraine, inflation and the fight against it, and China's economic slowdown. Each of them has several influences and they are all interconnected. Forecasts of world economic growth have been drastically reduced since the beginning of 2022 for almost all countries in the world, and in some of them, signals have already appeared that a crisis is at the door. As the year went by, the consensus that 2023 would be a crisis grew.

In its report from October this year, the IMF forecast that world GDP will grow by 3.2 percent in 2022, which is much lower than the forecast from a year earlier when GDP growth of 4.9 percent was forecast. This is the third lowest growth in more than two decades, and growth was lower only in 2009 (financial crisis) and 2020 (pandemic).

For this year, the IMF is relatively optimistic and predicts a drop in GDP in only seven countries in the world (if Pacific island countries are ignored); Ukraine, Libya, Sri Lanka, Belarus, Russia, Haiti, and Sudan. Projections for 2023 are somewhat more pessimistic but given the global shocks that occurred or continued in 2022, it is to be expected that all forecasts will be revised downwards quickly.

## The biggest problem – rising prices

Most of the developed world has not had high general price growth in the economy for decades, so the high inflation was a shock. The idea of high inflation in the US and Western Europe sounded so incredible that the central banks were assuring economists for the entire second half of 2021 that it would begin to decrease before the end of the year, and that it was temporary.

But the general rise in prices was not transient, so the US and EU central banks (FED and ECB) were late with policies to fight inflation. At the beginning of 2022, quantitative easing policies, colloquially known as "money printing", were stopped and benchmark interest rates began to rise. The idea behind these policies is to "cool down" the economy, reducing investment and consumption to stop price growth...



During the 2008 financial crisis, central banks lowered benchmark interest rates to almost 0 percent in an attempt to stimulate the economy. But that was not enough, so the so-called policies are being introduced. of quantitative easing, which was a historical novelty (at least on that scale).

This is what is popularly called "money printing": central banks buy government bonds, corporate bonds, and other financial instruments, effectively pumping fresh money into the economy.

But these operations were much smaller than during the 2020 pandemic, when they tried to keep the economy alive, which was mostly forced to a halt due to anti-pandemic measures.

This will only stop in mid-April 2023, when inflation has already flared up in the USA and the EU, but also in many other countries of the world (Canada, Mexico, Brazil, India, and Russia...). Already in the middle of the year, price growth is breaking decades-old records.

### **The fight against inflation causes a crisis**

Restrictive monetary policies of central banks, stopping quantitative easing and raising reference interest rates will lead to a recession. This is also their purpose, to "cool down" the economy and lead to a decrease in investment and consumption, and thus to the cessation of price growth

In the US, whose central bank, the FED, started a fight against rising prices earlier than the European Central Bank (ECB), inflation has already started to fall. In October, it was 7.7 percent compared to the same month last year, which is a drop of half a percentage point compared to September. In the eurozone, it also started to fall, from 10.6 percent in October to 10 percent in November.

If the decline continues, stagflation, i.e. a situation of high price growth with low or negative economic growth, will be avoided. The USA and Europe have not been in such a situation since the 70s of the last century. The probability of avoiding a recession is very small, but it is still much better than stagflation, from which the exit is very painful.

### **A recession is almost certain**

If inflation is reduced in 2023 and thereby avoids stagflation, it will be difficult to avoid a recession. The very tools used to fight inflation, and thus stagflation, is pro-recessionary. The growth of reference interest rates means that the cost of borrowing is higher for the state, companies, and citizens, and this leads to a decline in investment and consumption. Less investment means fewer jobs.

The labor market in the US and EU is still surprisingly strong and unemployment rates are low. At the same time, it shows signs of overheating, many workers have not returned to the labor market after two pandemic years, and real wages are falling under the influence of high inflation.

Similar macroeconomic circumstances in the past show that high inflation reduces real wages, and a reduction in inflation restores positive real growth. wages, but with the growth of unemployment. It can be expected that this is exactly how the situation will unfold in 2023; after high inflation, low unemployment, and a drop in real wages in 2022, inflation will decrease this year, the growth of real wages will return, but the unemployment rate will also increase.

### **The war in Ukraine adds new uncertainty**

Although it is blamed for rising prices and a high rate of inflation, the war in Ukraine has only intensified the process that started back in April 2021. Long-term data simply do not support the thesis that inflation is dominantly the result of war...



There are several reasons for this; inflation in the EU started to rise in mid-2021 (in the USA a month or two earlier), the price of a barrel of crude oil exceeded pre-pandemic levels at the end of 2021, and the World Food Price Index clearly shows that prices have been rising since 2020, and since April in 2022 they even fall.

This does not mean that the war in Ukraine did not have an impact on the rise in prices and the general worsening of the world economic situation, just that it is not the main factor. This is especially true for the EU, which has been building its energy dependence on Russia for decades, for which it is now paying the price.

prices of natural gas on the stock exchange in the Netherlands, the main one in Europe, are currently around 140 euros per MWh for deliveries in January and February 2023, while in the summer months they ranged from 200 to 345 euros per MWh. Warehouses in the EU are well-filled, and a relatively warm winter is forecast.

However, current prices are several times higher than before the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, which led to a large increase in electricity prices across EU member states. The high price of electricity will force households to use less heating, which will result in a higher number of winter deaths than was usual in previous years.

### **High electricity and gas prices could kill more Europeans than the war in Ukraine**

The war has serious economic consequences for the EU, with higher energy prices, weaker consumer confidence, rising costs of production inputs, and disruption of supply routes. Ukraine has become economically linked to the EU since Russia's illegal annexation of Crimea in 2014, especially after signing a free trade agreement in 2016. The war disrupted the country's economy, which supplied some essential components for the EU industry, such as the automotive industry.

Europeans' standards will drop... But even if the war ends soon, the EU's relationship with Russian energy producers is irreversibly disturbed. After years of shutting down nuclear power plants, which only increased dependence on Russia and increased mortality from air pollution on the continent, the revival of such a way of obtaining energy is beginning. Nuclear energy has been considered "green" since 2022, and it is increasingly clear that the energy future of the EU depends on it.

Options to replace Russian oil and gas exist, but they are more expensive. Because of this, it is expected that 2023 will not be much better for the EU in terms of energy sources, and before the fall/winter season, the same problem as these, high electricity prices, will appear. EU countries have fiscal options to soften the blow on the most vulnerable groups in society, but given that debt, interest has risen due to the fight against inflation by raising reference interest rates, it will be expensive.

Care should also be taken not to exaggerate fiscal benefits, as this would conflict with the fight against inflation. Many countries facing rising food and energy prices are introducing price controls, but such policies should be avoided because they will not solve the underlying problem while creating imbalances in the market and disrupting the price mechanism. Any price control only increases demand while reducing or eliminating the price incentive to increase supply, resulting in shortages.

### **...and Africans will starve**

Poor countries in Africa, which depend on food imports, have already been hit hard by the war in Ukraine. The reason for this is that Russia...



and Ukraine mainly export wheat to poor countries in Africa and Asia. Due to rising prices of cereals, which are a large part of the diet in many poor countries, the growth of malnutrition and the risk of hunger has already occurred and will continue in 2023.

Despite the almost complete write-off of African countries' debts at the beginning of two decades ago, the level of public debt is again very high considering the level of economic development of these countries. The average population in them spends 40 percent of their income on food, sometimes more than 50 percent, so the rise in food prices has disastrous consequences for their standard. Developed countries will fall in standard in 2023, but Africa will starve.

China's slowdown will have repercussions for the whole world. China has made amazing economic progress since the 80s when most of the population was one natural disaster away from starvation. This allowed it to become the second-largest economy in the world, one of the geopolitical powers, and the informal factory of the world.

But that impressive economic growth has slowed down in recent years, and the years of double-digit annual GDP growth are in the past (the last such year was 2010). The IMF estimates that GDP growth in 2022 will be 3.2 percent, the lowest since 1976, excluding the pandemic 2020. Growth of 4.4 percent is predicted for 2023, the lowest since 1991 if pandemic 2020 and 2022 are excluded.

Not only are the days of double-digit GDP growth gone, but in the coming years, China will struggle to achieve growth of 5 percent. There are two direct reasons for this; insisting on a "zero covid" strategy and closing millions of cities/regions due to dozens of cases and problems in the real estate sector.

After mass protests against strict lockdown policies, a gradual easing of measures through 2023 was announced, which instills optimism for economic growth. This is also important in the context of inflation problems in the EU and the USA because higher industrial production in China has a positive effect on reducing price growth. Weakening production in China in 2023 would make the fight against inflation more difficult.

**The possible catastrophic impact of the collapse of the real estate sector in China**

Real estate accounts for between 20 and 30 percent of China's GDP, depending on estimates and the methodology used. This is far more than in Europe and the USA, so a collapse of the real estate sector would have a catastrophic impact. The crisis would quickly spread to the financial sector, and from it to the rest of China's economy. The whole world would feel it.

Several large real estate companies in China during 2022 could not repay their debts, prices are falling, and more than two hundred projects have been stopped. Because of this, tens of thousands of Chinese have stopped repaying the loans they took out from banks for the purchase of the real estate, with which real estate companies planned to start building already purchased real estate.

Due to debts and the general bad business situation, many projects have been stopped, even though the premises in real estate have already been paid for. China's central and regional authorities have started policies that should help in the recovery of the real estate sector, to prevent the spread of the crisis to other parts of the economy.

If China does not end its strict lockdown policies in 2023 and fails to prevent the spread of the real estate crisis, the decline of its economy will have a negative impact on the rest of the world. The competition in the technology sector between it and the USA and Taiwan also creates a problem for it...



Large parts of China's industry, from electronics to the automotive sector, depend on advanced chips. The USA introduced restrictions on the export of such chips, and Taiwan joined those restrictions. The competition between those two powers certainly cannot lead to a favorable global economic environment.

**The world is in an uncertain year**

In its forecast for 2023 and 2024, the IMF singled out four main factors that will act toward the reduction of GDP in that year, in the event of a pessimistic scenario. These are financial conditions (strengthening of the dollar and higher interest on debt), the high price of oil, problems with the real estate sector in China, and reduced manufacturing output due to disruptions in the labor market.

According to the pessimistic scenario, China would achieve the biggest negative difference compared to the average scenario of the economic growth forecast, primarily due to problems with its own real estate sector.

The pessimistic scenario assumes a worsening of the situation with China's real estate sector, with a more pronounced negative impact in 2024 than in 2023.

**The "perfect storm" scenario still exists**

The continued rise in oil prices is a negative risk for everyone, and according to the pessimistic scenario, it would equally reduce the GDP growth of developed countries, developing countries, and China.

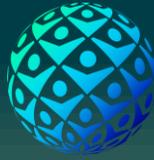
The deterioration of financial conditions, which is related to the strengthening of the dollar and the rise in the price of debt, in the pessimistic scenario affects developing countries the most, in 2024 even more than in 2023.

The world and Croatia are facing an uncertain year, in which a mild and short-term recession is certain, and there is a possibility of a deep and long-lasting recession. But all recessions are better than stagflation, a situation in which prices rise and there is no economic growth.

Inflation started to fall, so stagflation may have been avoided. But there is always the danger that the trend could reverse, making stagflation more likely. And that is the economic version of the "perfect storm", from which the exit is very difficult and painful.

The views expressed in this article are those of the author of the record (Index) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editorial board or staff of the Global Times Magazine or the Global Chamber of Business Leaders in general.





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## H.E. Rosalia Arteaga

# THE ISSUE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IS A FRIGHTENING REALITY

Member of the Board of Advisors

At the Global Chamber of Business Leaders, we are honored to have a range of distinguished individuals with remarkable life stories. Rosalia Arteaga, who was appointed to the position of member of the Board of Advisors in 2022, is one of them.

Rosalia Arteaga is an extraordinary person with a successful political career, the highlight of which was her appointment to the position of president of Ecuador, where Rosalia is from.

According to her status, Rosalia deserves the title "Her Excellency", but since we are all one big family in the Global Chamber of Business Leaders, driven by the desire to create a better tomorrow, we did not use the status in the article, for which we apologize to dear colleague Rosalia.

We present to you the Big Interview with Rosalia Arteaga, which is exclusive and not to be missed.

You were the president of Ecuador. What does it mean to you, the experience of having been the first woman in charge of the country?

Indeed, I was President of Ecuador more than twenty years ago, in 1997. I can tell you that I took the responsibility to open paths for the political participation of women in Ecuador, being –in the early 90's– the first Minister of Education, Culture and Sports and, later on, the first female Vice President of our country.

I would say that, since the very beginning, three decades ago, that experience was extremely complex because of the "machismo" that used to overrule our political and social life. I always consider that occupying political positions is not only a right, but also an enormous responsibility, both for women and men, because we all must rise to the occasion. I think that the public service is truly a service. I am also concerned that, in many situations, politics has been taken as an open door to corruption, something that has degraded the exercise of politics. I have always thought highly of politics, that is why I entered Ecuadorian politics and why I decided to serve my country under those difficult circumstances.

I have also had the opportunity to lead a multilateral organization, the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization, which is based in Brasilia and brings together eight countries. I had the honor of being the first woman to perform the functions of General Secretary in that institution. I believe that women's multitasking capacity, dedication and enthusiasm, can be of great benefit for countries and organizations; in short, for the different types of civil society:



You know politics very well. What do you think is the key experience that politics has given you?

As I stated in the previous question, it has to do with service capacity. I worked in politics for a few years, but I am no longer there because I think that you do not necessarily have to be in a public role to serve the country. I serve it from civil society and from the academic world; I work with several universities and lead some NGOs.

I believe that there are instances in which one can potentiate this service; politics is one of them, of course. Currently, I am also leading a school called the Training Center for the Future, where we try to train the leadership qualities of youngsters ranging from 18 to 35 years of age who have the enthusiasm to participate in politics. We carry on this training work placing a very special emphasis on the issue of values, because we believe that only when those values are rooted firmly in the spirit, the improvement of people's quality of life comes as a positive result. Politics has to properly work on improving the quality of life, which manifests in education, health, job creation, financial management, etc. This is something that the public service does, but it must also be done from the private sector, as we have been doing it, and as the Global Chamber of Business Leaders also does.

You ran for the position of Secretary-General of the UN, and we also supported you in the GCBL. Do you plan to run for this prestigious position after Antonio Guterres' term ends?

That was a wonderful experience. I was granted that nomination from a group of young people from the United Kingdom, and from members of the civil society of other countries, who proposed me for this somewhat special candidacy. Normally, the candidacies come from the countries, from the governments, but this one was something completely different. It came from a group called Forward, led by young people, which allowed me to feel enormous international solidarity. Many sectors, especially young people, academics, and trade unions supported this candidacy. And, of course, I thank the great support of GCBL, which, from the beginning, was interested in supporting me. Of course, there was very little time. There was already a candidacy for re-election, and the president of my country offered to officially endorse my candidacy, but I thought it was better to keep it only from the civil society...

## ABOUT ECUADOR

GLOBAL TIMES  
**BIG INTERVIEW**

**E**cador officially the Republic of Ecuador is a country in northwestern South America, bordered by Colombia on the north, Peru on the east and south, and the Pacific Ocean on the west. Ecuador also includes the Galápagos Islands in the Pacific, about 1,000 kilometers (621 mi) west of the mainland. The country's capital and largest city is Quito.

The territories of modern-day Ecuador were once home to a variety of Indigenous groups that were gradually incorporated into the Inca Empire during the 15th century. The territory was colonized by Spain during the 16th century, achieving independence in 1820 as part of Gran Colombia, from which it emerged as its own sovereign state in 1830. The legacy of both empires is reflected in Ecuador's ethnically diverse population, with most of its 17.8 million people being mestizos, followed by large minorities of Europeans, Native American, and African descendants. Spanish is the official language and is spoken by a majority of the population, though 13 Native languages are also recognized, Quechua and Shuar included.

The sovereign state of Ecuador is a representative democratic republic and a developing country that is highly dependent on commodities, namely petroleum and agricultural products. It is governed as a democratic presidential republic.



As for the second part of the question about running for this position after Antonio Guterrez's mandate, time will tell. It will also depend on the situation in which the government of my country will be, since they should propose the candidacy, as well as the alliances that can be generated at an international level.

I do believe that the time has come for a woman to lead the United Nations for the first time. Since its creation, men have always led it. I also believe that we must update the work of the United Nations, which mainly has been to safeguard world peace. Now, we are facing more complicated scenarios, with varied situations of conflict in different parts of the world.

What do you think the role of the UN should be in the future and what would you change, if or when, you became the leader of the organization?

I believe that the United Nations must worry about some transcendental issues that somehow have been put aside. Of course, world peace is the main one that has to be worked out; it is necessary to strengthen world peace, putting a definite stop to the existing insensate arms' race. It is also important to find more effective and engaged ways of facing the critical issues of climate change, which hangs as one of the great threats that the planet is facing and that, if due attention is not paid and prompt actions are not taken, the planet...

## ABOUT ROSALIA ARTEAGA

GLOBAL TIMES  
**BIG INTERVIEW**

She became Vice President in 1996, following the election of Abdalá Bucaram as President.<sup>[4]</sup> On 6 February 1997, however, President Bucaram was declared unfit to govern by Congress. Arteaga and congressional leader Fabián Alarcón became locked in a dispute over who should succeed Bucaram since the constitution was vague on the issue.

Initially, Alarcón was sworn in with the support of Congress. On 9 February, however, Arteaga, who had insisted that as vice president she should become president, was sworn in instead as Ecuador's first female president. Two days later, however, on 11 February, with the support of Congress and the army, Alarcón was sworn in again, and Arteaga resigned as president and reverted to her post as vice president.

Arteaga continued to clash with Alarcón and resigned from her post as vice president in March 1998. She then ran for president in the elections that were held in May 1998 but received only 3% of the vote.

Arteaga was secretary-general of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization until 2007 and is a member of the editorial board of the Encyclopædia Britannica.<sup>[5]</sup> She continues to receive a lifetime pension from the Ecuadorian government of \$48,690 annually.

With the support of "Forward", a civil society organization, Arteaga announced her intention to seek the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations in the 2021 selection. However, incumbent António Guterres was successfully appointed to a second consecutive term as Secretary-General.



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will become unlivable for the human race. Then, other issues having to do with the concerns of young people, such as access to decent employment and absolute equality between men and women. Equity is a very important issue that should be worked on within the United Nations Organization. Similarly, many pending tasks in education and quality health for all show us that inequality continues to predominate in our planet despite all the efforts exerted worldwide to brace it down.

If it's not a secret, what do you do today besides being a member of the board of advisors?

I like this question; it's not a secret. There are many things that I am currently doing. I am the President of the Foundation for the Integration and Development of Latin America, which works on many issues, all of them are somehow linked to the education sector. We have the School of Leadership that I mentioned before, and we organize an international contest for Ibero-American teachers of elementary and high school, which pretty much stimulates self-esteem and quality of education amongst educators. We also work with migrants, especially Venezuelan migrants in Ecuador.

I am also President of UNIR, which is the International University of La Rioja, a completely online university; it is very rewarding seeing how the university can reach different sectors. I am part of an international advisory committee of the University of Miami. I also belong to the boards of other universities, such as the University of Otavalo and the International SEK University. I participate very actively in other instances and other groups. Until recently, I was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Library of Alexandria. I had the great honor of having been a member of the Editorial Board of the Encyclopedia Britannica. I also belong to the G100 group, which is a group dedicated to valuing women's work. I am also a writer. I write poetry, and children's and youth literature. I spend part of my time giving lectures to various sectors. I am Chairman of the Advisory Board of KREAB- Ecuador, which is a communications company, based in Stockholm, Sweden. All in all, I feel my life is quite complete, and I love what I do.

How do you see the Global Chamber of Business Leaders?

I see the Global Chamber of Business Leaders as an excellent opportunity, not only to do networking, which is valid and quite useful at present, but also to look at a community of interests, and internationalization of companies from smaller countries such as mine, Ecuador, with the possibility of mutual learning on business issues. I believe that the business field must also be addressed in regards to issues of social and environmental responsibility. There are many experiences that can be communicated within a global chamber like this one of business leaders, and so much that can be exchanged. I believe that this chamber emerged as an international necessity, and it seems to me that it will have an increasingly important role in the world.

What does it mean to you to be appointed to such a prestigious position as a member of the advisory board?

Well, when Dejan Stancer asked me to be a member of the advisory council of this important and prestigious institution, the Global Chamber of Business Leaders, I did not hesitate to accept because even though I have a complicated agenda, I believe that it is important -as a personal duty- to put my experience, accumulated over the years in both the public and private sectors, to contribute to the ...



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growth of prominent organizations such as this Chamber. Perhaps I should add that I am an active journalist, that I also have a television program every week, that I write for several newspapers, and that we also publish two magazines at the Foundation, one on paper and online, and the other exclusively online, and that through all these mechanisms we can support the initiatives of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders.

At GCBL, we know that the idea is based on placing values high above people, but how do you see the continuous growth of the number of active executives in more and more countries of the world?

I totally agree with the assertion that values are transcendental. I would say that they are immutable as well, since it just cannot go out of style to respect others, to respect life, to be honest and fair to others, etc. So, I am convinced that values are, of course, universal and are above people. You also must think that the common good is above any individual one.

Yes, I am looking forward to the growth of the number of executives in more countries. Executives also have jobs that allow them to be in contact with other executives. I believe that this is one of the reasons for the existence of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders; in this sense, I think that from Latin America we can also contribute to this growth.

Given the crisis of values in the world, division, and even war, how do you think GCBL can contribute to a better tomorrow?

Definitely, one of the things that moves the world is business, this has been so for much of our history. If we take a look at human relationships, many times they have been moved precisely by the desire to do business, to exchange products at the time when trade prevailed, until nowadays, when we are talking about virtual currencies. I think it is important, now, that I mention the topic of the virtual world, to know that the most important values must also be present in this digital landscape, the ones that have to do with honesty and not harming others.

That is why I believe that the Chamber could serve as that space for discussion of joint work, but also of initiatives to organize events and congresses. Events in which we can exchange ideas and, from that, could also come communications addressed to other leaders, addressed to other peoples -- manifestos in which the importance of values is highlighted, as well as the importance of the proper relationship between human beings, between companies, and between corporations.

And finally, a very classic question: where, in what direction, and how do you think the GCBL should develop in the future?

The world has, we could say, contradictory predictions. On the one hand, the pressure that human beings are exerting on the planet has endangered the stability of life on Earth itself. The issue of climate change is a frightening reality.

I am also concerned that sometimes at the level of intergovernmental meetings - for example, what has just happened at the COP22 - there is no consensus, or the agreements that should prevail among the large powers, among the great countries; that is why I have emphasized that each human being has to learn to be more responsible, that perhaps the authorities at the subnational level can give those voices a platform...

But why not think of a Chamber like the Global Chamber of Business Leaders, that can be such an important voice in this complicated and uncertain world for various issues that have to do with employment, climate change, financial stability among countries, etc., and with the importance of advancing science and technology.

I believe that the Chamber must be very much at the forefront in everything that means communication between leaders, the possibility of acting together, and also being an international voice of conscience.



## POST-PRESIDENCY

GLOBAL TIMES  
**BIG INTERVIEW**

Rosalía Arteaga was secretary-general of the Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization until 2007 and is a member of the editorial board of the Encyclopædia Britannica. She continues to receive a lifetime pension from the Ecuadorian government of \$48,690 annually.

With the support of "Forward", a civil society organization, Arteaga announced her intention to seek the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations in the 2021 selection. However, incumbent António Guterres was successfully appointed to a second consecutive term as Secretary-General.

Since 2020, Rosalía Arteaga is a distinguished member of the board of advisors of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders (GCBL).

A P R I L 2 0 2 3



JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

# WORLD TOURISM BUSINESS

A WORLD CONFERENCE ON FUTURE OF BUSINESS COOPERATION, FOOD SECURITY, TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY



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# Climate change: CLIMATE CHANGE CONTENT SHRINKS IN US UNIVERSITY TEXTBOOKS

Editory,  
THE GLOBAL TIMES,  
NATURE.COM



University biology textbooks published in the United States in the 2010s contained less climate-change content than those published in the 2000s, despite the increasing urgency of the climate crisis.

That's not the only shift. In a survey of dozens of widely used introductory biology textbooks from the past 50 years, researchers also found that passages on climate change moved farther back in the books, and that the amount of information about its impacts grew, whereas the space devoted to solutions shrank. The work was published on 21 December in *PLoS ONE*.

These textbooks — some of which are also available outside the United States — explain how the changing climate affects a range of complex biological systems, from agriculture to human health. And because they are assigned during entry-level classes, many students reading these books might never take another course that touches on the topic. "This may actually be the last content on climate change that they get in their formal education," says study co-author Jennifer Landin, a science-education researcher at North Carolina State University in Raleigh. "And if it's three pages, that's not nearly enough."

## Reading between the lines

The researchers assessed 57 textbooks published between 1970 and 2019. They counted the sentences in the books' climate-change passages — identified by phrases such as 'global warming' and 'greenhouse gas' — and found that the median number of sentences per passage rose until the 2000s (see 'A textbook change'). It peaked in that decade at 52, but then dropped to 45 in the 2010s. (The authors deemed the median a better value to use than the average because of the wide range in passage length.)

Furthermore, the median position of sections about climate change moved from the last 15% of pages in the 1970s — when many scientists first became convinced that the planet was warming — to the last 2.5% in the 2010s. Controversial topics are usually placed at the end, Landin says, because "it allows teachers to 'run out of time' and then not have to teach them" topics in the climate-change passages also shifted. Since the 1990s, the proportion of sentences devoted to solutions has dwindled, whereas content

on the effects of climate change, including extreme weather and worsening diseases, has grown. Landin praises this more holistic portrayal of the impacts. But with the simultaneous decrease in solutions, she says, the balance of content skews towards hopelessness.

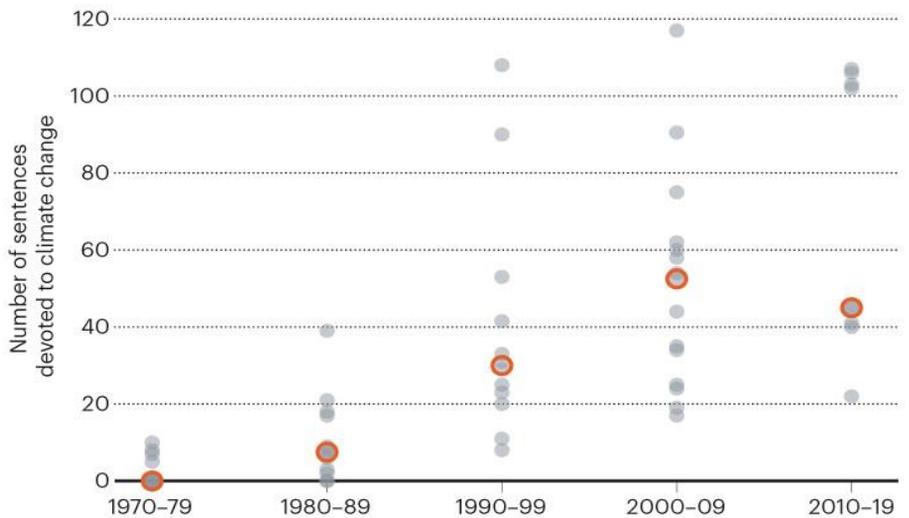
### Useful but limited

“It’s incredibly useful data,” says Mariëlle Hoefnagels, a science-education specialist at the University of Oklahoma in Norman and author of two general biology textbooks, one of which was analysed in the study. She says that the paper’s insights concerning climate-change solutions will help her to shape a forthcoming edition of one of her books. However, “books can’t continue to grow indefinitely”, she adds.

## A TEXTBOOK CHANGE

Between the 1970s and the 2000s, the median number of sentences devoted to climate change increased in university-level introductory biology textbooks published in the United States, according to a study of 57 textbooks. But the number declined from the 2000s to the 2010s.

● Individual textbook ○ Median value for decade



Hoefnagels says that sections on climate change expanded in the 2000s because of a growing understanding of global warming’s impacts. But that rise has tapered off now that the fundamentals are well covered in introductory biology textbooks; adding more information would “muscle something else important out of the way”, she says.

Landin suggests that the controversy surrounding climate change might be behind its decline in textbooks. But Hoefnagels says she has never felt pressured by her publisher McGraw Hill to tone down ‘contentious’ subjects. She says that climate science has remained at the back of books because instructors prefer textbooks that progress from small-scale to large-scale topics, such as from molecular biology to ecology.

Textbook content might not be a reliable guide to how much students are learning about climate change, says Eric Plutzer, a political scientist at Pennsylvania State University in University Park who has surveyed how public-school teachers in the United States cover climate change<sup>2</sup>. Instructors could be spending more time on climate change than textbooks indicate, he adds.

“Textbooks alone give us some valuable information but don’t tell us the whole story,” Plutzer says.



**THEN AND NOW**

Comprehensive analysis of particulate matter and nitrogen dioxide levels in Delhi in 2014 and 2015. **PM2.5** rose from 191 to 281. **PM10** rose from 418 to 66. **Ozone** fell from 18 to 16. **NO2** rose from 18 to 21.

**Pollution level rising, gov't turns a blind eye**

**SHOCKING FIGURES** Study finds three-fold increase in air pollution across world in 10 years. In Delhi, toxic demands rise by up to 57%

**WHY DOES POLLUTION**

Global air quality index (AQI) shows that the pollution levels in Delhi are among the highest in the world. The AQI is a measure of the overall air quality, taking into account the concentration of various pollutants. In Delhi, the AQI is consistently high, indicating poor air quality.

**LET US BREATHE**  
Stop Poisoning Delhi's Air

**DEATH BY BREATH** AN EXPRESS INVESTIGATION, PART TWO

**Leave Delhi**

That's what doctors are prescribing to a record surge of patients with serious respiratory ailments triggered by the city's toxic air

**DEATHS INCREASED: 200% RISE IN CASES OF LUNG AND RESPIRATORY AILMENTS**

HOW MANY MORE LOVED ONES  
DO WE HAVE TO LOSE BEFORE WE FINALLY ACT?

**POLLUTION IS KILLING**

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

New levels of respiratory illness in South Asia

**LET US BREATHE**  
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**DEATHS INCREASED: 200% RISE IN CASES OF LUNG AND RESPIRATORY AILMENTS**

**Worrying rise in no. of non-smokers getting lung cancer**

Environmental health experts say that the rise in lung cancer cases among non-smokers is a worrying trend. This is due to the increasing levels of air pollution in urban areas, which is causing respiratory ailments and lung cancer.

**THE TIMES OF INDIA**

**Delhi's polluted air may force Obama to stay indoors**

**SMOKING IN DELHI**

Delhi's air quality is so poor that it may force President Obama to stay indoors during his visit. The pollution levels in Delhi are among the highest in the world, and this is a major concern for the health of the President and his entourage.

**Environmental News**

**Globally, Death Toll has Gone Up by 30%, Solely due to Air Pollution**

A study has found that the global death toll due to air pollution has increased by 30% over the past decade. This is a significant increase and highlights the urgent need for action to reduce air pollution.

**Air pollution kills 30K in Capital every year**

**SHOCKING** CSE study says air quality in capital was bad throughout November, with focus on reorganizing city's transport system and reducing use of solid fuels

**STATE OF HEALTH**

The state of health in the capital is a major concern. The air quality is so poor that it is causing a significant number of deaths every year. This is a major public health issue that needs to be addressed.

**India's Polluted Air**

**Global NEWS**

India's air pollution is a global concern. The air quality in India is among the worst in the world, and this is causing a significant number of deaths every year. This is a major public health issue that needs to be addressed.

**THE HEALTH COST OF AIR POLLUTION**

Air pollution is a major public health issue. It is causing a significant number of deaths every year and is also causing a wide range of other health problems. This is a major public health issue that needs to be addressed.

**I Want to Breathe**

Air pollution is a major public health issue. It is causing a significant number of deaths every year and is also causing a wide range of other health problems. This is a major public health issue that needs to be addressed.

**How Much Evidence Do You Need?**

**Data Science to Inform Environmental Policy During the COVID-19 Pandemic**

The use of data science to inform environmental policy is a major public health issue. It is causing a significant number of deaths every year and is also causing a wide range of other health problems. This is a major public health issue that needs to be addressed.

**HOW MUCH POLLUTION IS IN THE #AIRWESHARE?**

Air pollution is a major public health issue. It is causing a significant number of deaths every year and is also causing a wide range of other health problems. This is a major public health issue that needs to be addressed.

**92% of people worldwide do not breathe safe air**

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**Air pollution hurts the planet with increasingly deadly effects on all life**

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**83% of Londoners think that tackling air pollution should be a priority**

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**AIR POLLUTION**

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**Poor air quality can be damaging**

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**BREATHELIFE**

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**Air Pollution An Emerging Life Threat**

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**NEARLY 50% of serious health issues in the U.S. related to air pollution occur in California**

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**92% of world population breathes polluted air: WHO**

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**Clean Air Catalyst**

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**AIR POLLUTION is a world-wide challenge**

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**Karadeniz'de ağır metal kirliliği tehlikeli**

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**Air Pollution, the Greatest Environmental Risk to Health**

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**Leave Delhi**

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**Nepal's air pollution fourth-worst in the world**

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**AIR POLLUTION is a world-wide challenge**

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**Air Pollution Accelerating Deaths**

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**TYPE OF POLLUTION, DEATHS CAUSED**

Air Pollution	173,515
Water pollution	24,874
Occupational pollution	12,309
Land pollution	30,777
Total pollution	211,482

Traditional pollution (household and water pollution): 125,635  
Modern pollution (landfill, chemical, occupational and noise): 114,469

**CLEAN THE AIR**

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**WHY IS CLEAN AIR SO EXPENSIVE?**

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**Air quality is getting worse**

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**Why Air Pollution Poses the Greatest Threat to Human Health**

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**IT STATES THAT IN 2016, 9.6 MILLION PEOPLE DIED FROM RESPIRATORY INFECTIONS CAUSED BY POLLUTED AIR**

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**The Guardian**

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**#LETSCLEARTHEAIR**

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**Air Pollution and Immune Function**

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**'Air pollution causes 8m deaths/yr'**

China Accounts for 1.5m Fatalities from Indoor Pollution, India for 1.3m: WHO

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**UNBREATHABLE THE FIGHT FOR HEALTHY AIR**

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**DANGERS of Air Pollution**

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## Ilaine Henz

# FOOD IS ESSENTIAL FOR OUR SURVIVAL AS HUMAN BEINGS

Senior Advisor for Food & Water Security



The Global Chamber of Business Leaders has been warning for a long time how important food security and self-sufficiency will be in the future. And that's why we recently appointed a new Senior Adviser for Food & Security at GCBL. Ilaine Henz became the newly appointed senior advisor for this important department.

In the last 7 years, Ilaine has held Public Office, including those of - Chief of the Civil House of the Municipality of Rorainópolis, Secretary of State of the Secretary of Cities as well as, on an interim basis, the roles of Secretary of International Relations in the Government of Roraima, Administrative Superintendent and Advisor to the Presidency of the Legislative Assembly of Roraima.

Ilaine Henz is also the managing partner of Henz Produção de Seedlings and Services Ltd. As an agricultural entrepreneur, she is the creative entrepreneurial manager of Plant Nursery/Fruit Seedlings, an agricultural company that works with various government agencies to improve fruit trees in Northern Brazil.

Ilaine Henz also leads the implementation of production units with monitoring by Embrapa researchers in collaboration with universities and technical schools. She is also the operations manager for the company's workforce planning and monitoring.

How do you see the Global Chamber of Business Leaders today?

I can't imagine anything more powerful than a network formed of professionals, leaders and entrepreneurs, drawn from every Continent, coming together with the objective of making the world a better and safer place in which to live and work.

A forum in which to discuss and identify solutions to the great problems facing all nations. Unity makes us stronger and enables us to pool and share our unique skills and experiences to confront global challenges, rather than duplicating effort by operating in isolation.

Sharing our experiences, listening to others, and being inspired by their stories inspires us to move forward and grow both, as individuals and nations. The GCBL has the potential to be pivotal in this process of transformation by following its commitment to establishing a culture of globally sustainable development, responsible stewardship, and social inclusion.

What does it mean to you to be appointed as a Senior Advisor for Food Security of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders?

Agriculture in Brazil is, globally, one of the most efficient and is currently among the five largest food producers in the world. From being a food importer, in a few decades, we have become major producers and exporters. The world's food security is, undoubtedly, on the agenda of...



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the world's leaders and global economic blocs and it gives me an immense satisfaction to be leading this agenda at the GCBL.

We need to discuss, debate, and develop a coherent strategy for feeding the planet's population, which already reaches 9 billion people. The expansion of Agriculture and food security go hand in hand, it is not only a case of producing more, but to do so in a responsible and sustainable way, and it is therefore necessary to produce while reducing socio-environmental impacts, caring for and managing environmental ecosystems.

We need to achieve a balance between development, social inclusion, increased yields, nature and food security. Despite conflicts, massive inequalities of access to resources, opportunity and investment, I believe that it is possible to make real advances through dialogue, compassion and commitment together with a clear and realistic vision of what is achievable; this is what I intend to bring to the Committee and take to the world.

What was the response of the local environment to your appointment to the position in the GCBL?

Being part of the GCBL is a great challenge as well as being an immense honor to be part of an institution that seeks, through its network of relationships, to attract experts, executives and leaders who can help build a better world.

I truly believe that the inclusion of a Brazilian woman in this project is testimony to a commitment to recruit individuals from diverse industries and backgrounds who possess the relevant skills and experience.

Many people have already exhibited that essential precursor of learning - 'curiosity' - in seeking information about the GCBL. Indications are that people see our core values as being in line with those of the GCBL and that being in tune with a 'global movement' validates their endeavors.

Brazil is a country of continental dimensions and expressions, it has an enormous forest and landscape biodiversity, natural, economic, and cultural beauty, and it is a country of happy, hardworking and welcoming people. We are doing a more intense job of publicizing GCBL in the north of Brazil and very soon the whole country will know about our organization.

What do you think we need to do in GCBL to contribute to a better tomorrow?

The GCBL has immeasurable opportunities by harnessing its greatest asset - the committed enlightened government leaders, CEO's, executives, entrepreneurs, business leaders from different sectors and investors at its heart.

It needs to be attuned to the political, social and technological transformations that affect our society as a whole and seek to use its network of global connections to create an improved tomorrow for all. The GCBL needs to be a trusted source of both innovative ideas and current best practice.

Access to the unified communication networks that span the globe is one of the most powerful tools available when seeking to inform and educate but, unless these networks are secure, we are exposed to the...

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perils of subversion and disinformation. Communication moves the world, connectivity brings us together, but its abuse can divide and destroy collective efforts to bring about change for the common good, the dissemination of this message is of paramount importance.

“Strategic, well-coordinated work, people with the right skills and competencies can take this organization to surprising places. Congratulations to our Charmain and his Team who masterfully seek to expand the activities of the GCBL. Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Committee on Agriculture and Food Security.”

How do you think GCBL should respond to the challenges of the times and what would be your advice to the management for the growth of the organization in the future?

The world is experiencing unprecedented, coincidental, challenges – pandemic and post-pandemic disruption, climate change and a war in Europe with global impact. The destructive effects of these are felt by all nations, whether affluent or emerging and are not only measured in macro-economic terms – but in human suffering at its most basic level.

Food is essential for our survival as human beings, society needs to provide its people with the means to obtain food to eliminate hunger and malnutrition and thereby improve human health, but food production, as with all human activity, impacts on the natural world. A balance must be achieved.

Drawing on the expertise of its membership the GCBL must use its resource to define the choices, their relative merits and the possible consequences of their adoption and then seek to influence accordingly.

The GCBL must be vigilant in order to remain relevant and address complacency and inaction wherever it exists, we are, after all, part of a global family, dependant on each other for survival. The GCBL needs to make full use of the proven creative skills of its members and advisors to take the lead and be proactive force for change.

## ABOUT THE FOOD SECURITY

**F**ood security speaks to the availability of food in a country (or geography) and the ability of individuals within that country (geography) to access, afford, and source adequate foodstuffs. According to the United Nations' Committee on World Food Security, food security is defined as meaning that all people, at all times, have physical, social, and economic access to sufficient, safe, and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life.

The availability of food irrespective of class, gender or region is another element of food security. There is evidence of food security being a concern many thousands of years ago, with central authorities in ancient China and ancient Egypt being known to release food from storage in times of famine. At the 1974 World Food Conference, the term “food security” was defined with an emphasis on supply; food security is defined as the “availability at all times of adequate, nourishing, diverse, balanced and moderate world food supplies of basic foodstuffs to sustain a steady expansion of food consumption and to offset fluctuations in production and prices”. Later definitions added demand and access issues to the definition. The first World Food Summit, held in 1996, stated that food security “exists when all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

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THE  
**TAFIDA RAQEEB**  
FOUNDATION



## **ABOUT THE TAFIDA RAQEEB FOUNDATION**

The Tafida Raqeeb Foundation was officially launched on 22nd March 2022 in London, United Kingdom (UK) with the aim to set up a Paediatric Neurological Rehabilitation Centre in the UK. This centre is meant to offer hope to brain-injured children and bring together cutting-edge treatments and rehabilitation facilities which are not available in the country. Given that every year over 300,000 children attend A&E in the UK following a head injury, setting up this centre is crucial for the Foundation.

The main objectives of the centre would be improving function in disabled children to maximise their potential, facilitate new learning, assist in regaining skills and involve parents in order to increase independence, so that rehabilitation will continue from the centre to their home.

The opening event in March marked the first step of this promising project and will certainly lead to other noble achievements. The project has been received with enormous interest within the international medical community and until today a huge range of people coming from the worlds of entertainment, business and sport have also chosen to become ambassadors of the Foundation. With their support, the Foundation is reaching the wider public and is spreading its mission worldwide, underlining the fact that every child in the UK and around the world deserves a future regardless of the physical and neuro-disability.

## **BEHIND THE FOUNDATION**

The powerful force behind the Tafida Raqeeb Foundation is Shelina Begum: she is a lawyer by profession and Tafida Raqeeb's mother. Since February 2019, when her daughter collapsed following the rupture of an artery in her brain, she has made the hospital her residence and has spent every night with her daughter. Whilst caring for Tafida round the clock, she reflected on the shortfall of resources and care to support children with similar conditions. She realised that children in the UK do not have enough access to rehabilitation and that there was a fundamental shortage of facilities. And that is when she came up with the idea of setting up the Foundation.



THE TAFIDA  
RAQEEB  
FOUNDATION



TAFIDA RAQEEB

Despite the challenging journey, she decided to follow that path and for two years she carried on planning the Foundation, for the sake of all children. As she has stated, "anything could happen to your child as it happened to my Tafida and it was completely out of the blue. But there is hope and I want to provide that hope to children".

## WHO IS TAFIDA RAQEEB

Tafida Raqeeb was a healthy and bubbly 4 year old girl who in the early hours one February morning in 2019 woke complaining of a headache. Within minutes, she collapsed and was rushed to the hospital. She was found to have had an Arteriovenous Malformation (AVM); a complex abnormal tangle of blood vessels in which an artery bypassed a capillary bed and connected directly to a vein. The lack of an capillary bed created high pressure blood, causing arteries and veins to dilate and eventually to rupture. Three different hospitals battled to save Tafida's life.

She was on mechanical ventilation and despite a negative prognosis constantly demonstrated the will to live, fighting off several infections. She continued to fight until in June 2019, treating clinicians predicted that she would suffer from an major stroke and would die within a few weeks at most. At this point the treating hospital wanted to withdraw her life saving treatment and place her on a palliative care pathway. The family wanted to transfer Tafida's care to Italy since there was no UK hospital willing or able to treat her. Legal proceedings were commenced, and her parents' plea reached many around the world.

Thankfully, Tafida was given the right to live by the court and she was transferred to the Gaslini Hospital in Italy where she has continued to make progress defying all the pessimistic expectations of the specialists from various different UK hospitals.

## DEJAN ŠTANCER

The Foundation is delighted that the Chairman of Global leaders has become an Ambassador as he believes that we must look after and take care of our children.

### Dejan Štancer:

*„I will always support with my heart and soul everything that leads to noble goals, especially when it comes to making the voice of the overheard heard.*

*And since this case is about the voice of the children, I didn't hesitate for a second with the decision to support it."*



## HOW TO SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION

The Tafida Raqeeb Foundation continues its work thanks to many supporters all around the world, all united by the desire to be voice of those who have none. More information about the project and the events connected to the Foundation are available on [www. tr-foundation.org](http://www.tr-foundation.org) and on the main social media platforms (Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn).



THE TAFIDA  
RAQEEB  
FOUNDATION



**BLOODY WAR,  
GAS,  
JUPITER,  
AND COWS**

A COLUMN BY DE JAN STANCER

QUOD LICET BOVI, NON LICET BOVI

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**DISGUSTING,  
THE FOOD OF THE FUTURE, OR  
THE BEST BUSINESS IDEA?**

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TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE

(NO) TIME FOR CLIMATE ACTION:  
"AN EXTREMELY DANGEROUS HEAT WAVE WILL BE A REGULAR FEATURE OF THE CLIMATE"

**ONE DAY WHEN LIFE ON EARTH WILL  
NO LONGER BE POSSIBLE**

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OR THERE WONT BE NOTHING  
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MEETCOWE BTOGEEKS?**





COMITTEE FOR PEACE,  
COEXISTENCE, AND COOPERATION  
GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS

## Imam Hassen Chalgoumi

# GLOBALISATION IS NOT DEAD, THE WORLD NOW IS A SMALL VILLAGE

Co-Chair of the Committee for Peace,  
Coexistence, and Cooperation



**H**assen Chalgoumi, who is entrusted with the honor of co-chairing the Peace, Coexistence, and Cooperation Committee of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders, also holds the following positions: President of the Conference of Imams of France, Imam and Dean of the Drancy Mosque, and President of the Muslim Association of Drancy, founded in 2002.

Among others, Hassen Chalgoumi is also the founder of the Forum des Imams de France in 2008 - President of the Union of Peoples for Peace and has been dealing with coexistence and religious dialogue since 2014, and Member of the European Commission for Interreligious Dialogue and Communication.

He is also a field activist in religious dialogue, especially between Israel and Palestine for peace, especially on the topic of imams and mediation for young people. He also worked to unite many Israeli, Bahraini, and Emirati personalities under the economic aspect. In his conferences and meetings, he also worked to change the constitutions in Arab countries and Islamic law to protect the individual rights of citizens, such as freedom of expression and peaceful coexistence.

For 15 years, he has also been a specialist in religious dialogue, peaceful coexistence, and the fight against violence and terrorism.

**D**ear Imam Chalgoumi, The world is at a crossroads and the future is uncertain, how important will religion be in the future?

Religion has always played a vital role since man existed. About its origin. From Adam to the present. I believe that the role of religion, and family (mainly monotheistic) will have a strong peace role in the future. That she will give greater importance to peace, stability, wisdom, and the meaning of life.

With the „The Karavan of Peace" project, which we launched this year and in which the chairman of the GCBL also participated, we called for a dialogue between Ukraine and Russia. We hoped that we might even be able to bring about an end to this senseless war. The Pope, as well as the great scholars of Islam, as well as the chief rabbi of Israel, have called for peace.

We all called for dialogue, a ceasefire, and the conclusion of a lasting peace.

Would you agree with the thesis that globalization is dead, and that the world is moving in the direction of deglobalization?

We cannot say that globalization is dead. Look at the world today...



thanks to social networks, especially Twitter and Facebook, the world has become one big village. What they write down in Washington, they know in Paris, what they write down in Paris, they know in Senegal or Tunisia, in short, the flow of information is extreme.

I also think that the social and food systems are called into question as a result of a lack of sharing, due to unfortunate selfishness, and perhaps a lack of balance in the approach to Covid. We must ask ourselves how to achieve fair, open globalization, globalization of sharing. Most people in Africa have not received their dose of covid vaccines, and the war in Ukraine has caused grain shortages and raised the price of the latter.

Globalization, along with solidarity between people, is becoming even more important. Africa must be a priority. How can Europe survive without helping Africa? First because of its labor force, second because of its fertile soil and considerable underground wealth, and third because of the prevention of illegal immigration, displacement, and civil wars. Hunger must be stopped. Africa needs to be stabilized, its resources developed, the health status of its inhabitants improved, and education and people's lives regulated. This is the solution for Europe and Africa.

A great tribute to your contribution to interreligious cooperation. What is the importance, and why do you believe cooperation between religions is necessary?

Nearly two billion people follow the message of Jesus, and over a billion and a half follow the message of Muhammad. These messages are eternal, lasting for centuries. Finally, millions of believers follow the message of Moses.

This entire monotheistic family exceeds nearly four billion people. I think that the followers of these religions, all believers, have an important role to play in working together toward rapprochement. We recently saw the Pope in Abu Dhabi received by Mohamed Bin Zayed. When the Pope was in Bahrain, he was also received by His Majesty the King of Bahrain. We have seen the opening of new synagogues in Dubai, Abu Dhabi, and Bahrain, and we are moving towards interfaith dialogue with the Abrahamic agreement at the fore, a historic agreement and a glimmer of hope coming from the East.

This dialogue is very important at a time when, unfortunately, we are witnessing the conflict in Ukraine between the West and Russia, as well as tensions with China.

Life has become very expensive; the future unfortunately brings famine and wars in Africa. These fruitful dialogues bring cooperation between people of different faiths, who believe in humanism, who respect human life, and who also believe in sharing brotherly values and love. I think this point is very important and should become a priority.

How important do you think it is that you got the opportunity to co-chair one of the most important committees of GCBL - the Committee for Peace, Coexistence, and Cooperation?

We must strive for economic peace. It is important to fight against hunger, poverty, against inequality, to move into a world of division. This is very important because half of Africa, and some countries in Asia are at risk of starvation. Especially in Sudan and also in some other countries it is a real disaster.

I think it is important to encourage companies, business leaders, big banks, and rich countries to take action and share their wealth with underdeveloped countries...

praise and generosity are among the most important values of believers, Christians, Muslims, Jews, and others. Also respecting human life and saving all humanity with this approach.

God has given us everything on earth for all mankind, but unfortunately, we see a lack of equality and a lack of sharing. For 1% of the population to take the wealth of the remaining 99% is not normal and we must act together with the GCBL to restore the balance.

Based on the values on which GCBL is founded, such as integrity, solidarity, cooperation, and ethics, how important do you think they are for an organization like ours, and would you add anything else?

It must urgently become a priority for the GCBL committee to promote peace, coexistence, and cooperation. Thus, organizing events that bring together countries that are at war and in tension also promotes a sense of moral and economic solidarity around food. These are the true values that are needed today.

The world is indeed facing a post-covid crisis, the most likely new global economic crisis, but the real crisis is a crisis of values, and we must highlight this to highlight life itself; humanism, respect for others, equality between the sexes, equality between humanity, between continents and developed countries.

This is a priority and I think we will have to work harder on education, the fight against prejudice, the fight against racism, anti-Semitism, poverty, and inequality. It will be necessary to go even deeper, into this field of needs (requirements of France, Belgium for example, as well as Africa, and go to the field together with people of different faiths).

The importance of the commitment of believers and economic and civil societies: commitment to volunteering. Let one of the goals of 2023 be that it be a year of dialogue, solidarity and peace, and the promotion of a positive image.

In the future, I think one of the ways that will make this possible will be the use of social networks. It will be necessary to develop social networks, as they enable communication, which needs to be further developed. As well as humanism, and dialogue for solidarity in Africa, Asia or elsewhere.

What do you think could be done at the GCBL to help further promote interfaith dialogue and cooperation?

It is also a way of working and getting to know the personality. In this sense, the GCBL can play an intermediary role with companies, businessmen, or foundations willing to finance projects such as the peace caravan, such as the displacement in Darfur, or the women's march in the Middle East, as well as an active presence on social networks.

All this requires resources and requires people who can work in this direction. It is necessary to find sources of funding for young Muslims from Europe to travel to the Middle East, as well as to fight anti-Semitism.

It is necessary to promote the Abrahamic accords and to encourage all the personalities of goodwill in Africa who have the will to do something, to move things forward, and to be there on the front line.

I would like GCBL to be more involved in all of this, and these are topics that we must jointly address and find solutions for.







## Robert W. Cats

# PEOPLE KNOW, I'M A BIG FAN OF QATAR AND QATARY PEOPLE

Delegate for Qatar

At Global Chamber of Business Leaders, we were very proud to announce Robert W Cats as a newly appointed Delegate for Qatar. Since his appointment, Robert has become a reliable and quality link in the GCBL global chain.

Robert W Cats is an international Business Ambassador, Consultant, and Business Transformation coach, helping existing and new businesses to improve operational and financial performances by using a unique combination of existing management programs, mindfulness coaching, and KPI-driven Strategic Action Planning.

Robert has worked for 24 years across the EMEA region and for the last 7 years works in the MENA region, holding his own consultancy offices in The Netherlands and Qatar.

Robert's expertise and experiences come from both the Corporate and SME environment in different industries and sectors of which Integrated Facility & Project Management and the (Renewable-) Energy industry are the most recent industries he is active in.

His varied international industrial working background as well as the multi-cultural environment he worked in gave Robert a great advantage when dealing with complex situations. Aside from being a Business Leader and - Ambassador, Robert inspires people with his positive and open-minded approach and his personal objective to bring a smile to at least one person every day in his life.

Aside from his professional activities as founder and CEO for WMMC Consultancy, Robert acts as Business Ambassador for several Dutch companies in the Sports, Healthcare, and Renewable Energy sectors.

Robert is former Chairman and still a member of the Dutch Business Council in Qatar (DBCQ), member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), member of the Advisory Board of Clean Energy for Africa (CE4A), and member of International Facility Management Association (IFMA)

Last but not least Robert is the founder of Care for Qatar, a philanthropic initiative 'in formation' to contribute to building a sustainable healthier lifestyle.

*How do you see the Global Chamber of Business Leaders today?*

Let me first clarify that being part of the GCBL feels as being surrounded by known but also unknown friends all over the world who are always there to help you in every way possible. It's an amazing network that gives me great energy.

I see the GCBL as the answer to many challenges that worldwide organizations, both public and private are facing. With the quality...

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level of representation, the knowledge and experience of all GCBL members in every position and on every level, to me the Global Chamber of Business Leaders is the only platform that offers opportunities but also possibilities to solve many issues, whether it is local, regional, continental or even global.

Having had the privilege to attend several (on-line) GCBL gatherings and meetings, I can honestly say that this is a true network of leaders and influencers with the aim to get 'things' done. With this I mean to say that as a GCBL team, we do not only talk about issues, challenges and opportunities, we also come with solutions leading to sustainable results. This 'solution-providing' approach already makes us at GCBL unique.

What does it mean to you to be appointed as a Delegate of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders?

Being appointed as a Delegate and in my case for Qatar feels like receiving an award. Why? As many people around me already know, I am a big fan of Qatar and the Qatari people and at the same time I enjoy socializing amongst the expat community in Qatar.

Qatar is a great country to live and work and for entrepreneurs like me it offers a great business landscape for different industries and sectors, both local and international.

Being the GCBL Delegate for Qatar helps me and my company WMMC Consultancy, to further expand our professional network and at the same time helps us to introducing global (business) opportunities to Qatar.

But I also see several opportunities for us at GCBL to contribute Qatar's National Vision 2030 in many ways, not at the least supporting the transformation of Qatar into an advanced country that is capable of sustaining its own development and providing a high standard of living for its population and future generations.

I see my position as GCBL Delegate as an opportunity to make even more differences than I already try to make as Business Ambassador and Transformation Coach. With a global reach to so much knowledge and expertise I am confident that we can build great partnerships.

What was the response of the local environment to your appointment to the position in the GCBL?

Following the appointment as the GCBL Delegate for Qatar, I received many congratulations and best wishes. My contacts see this appointment as a recognition of my hard work throughout the years as Business Leader, Inspirator, Business Transformation Coach and Business Ambassador.

At the same time, and whilst I am preparing the introduction of several GCBL chapters in Qatar, especially my business contacts are looking forward to more information about what the GCBL can do for them. The bar is high since my network always has high expectations and I am confident that we will meet these expectations and even go beyond.

The new year will bring more clarity about the GCBL objectives and what this will bring for Qatar. As one can imagine, I am excited and am looking forward to what the coming months and the new year are going to bring.

What do you think we need to do in GCBL to contribute to a better tomorrow?



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Like with everything we like to do to contribute to a better tomorrow is to set clear goals and a plan to achieve these within the given timeframe. Obviously these goals are challenging and not easy to meet, but that is exactly what I believe we as GCBL stand for, always challenge ourselves to reach higher ground.

As I mentioned earlier in this interview, I see the GCBL as the answer to many global challenges that affect us all. Whether these challenges relate to climate change, poverty, food insecurity or human rights to name a few, we should face these challenges, and not only by addressing these and talk about it but also bringing solutions to these challenges, sustainable solutions, this is what GCBL stands for in my humble opinion.

How do you think GCBL should respond to the challenges of the times and what would be your advice to the management for the growth of the organization in the future?

Being part of the 'GCBL-family' fills me with pride, knowing that it doesn't stop with words only but actions are taken to make a difference. The installation of several GCBL committees to support the plans we have in making the differences for the mentioned challenges is a great start to take responsibility.

In addition creating more awareness amongst the communities all of us are engaged with will add extra value in realizing our goals. And as is mentioned by Nicole (J. Farrell) in the previous edition of the Global Times, a global GCBL Tour, introducing our messages to the wider audience and find more likeminded leaders and influencers that can contribute in meeting the challenges that have an impact to all of us. Every initiative we take is a 'plus' and can make a difference.

Regular meetings, on-line and in person, group and individual meetings but also 'awareness' presentations via digital platforms such as 'TED Talk' can contribute immensely to what we are trying to achieve, creating a better world to live in for all.

## ABOUT QATAR

Qatar officially the State of Qatar, is a country in Western Asia. It occupies the Qatar Peninsula on the northeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula in the Middle East; it shares its sole land border with Saudi Arabia to the south, with the rest of its territory surrounded by the Persian Gulf. The Gulf of Bahrain, an inlet of the Persian Gulf, separates Qatar from nearby Bahrain. The capital is Doha, home to over 80% of the country's inhabitants, and the land area is mostly made up of flat, low-lying desert.

Qatar has been ruled as a hereditary monarchy by the House of Thani since Mohammed bin Thani signed a treaty with the British in 1868 that recognised its separate status. Following Ottoman rule, Qatar became a British protectorate in 1916, and gained independence in 1971. The current emir is Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, who holds nearly all executive and legislative authority under the Constitution of Qatar, as well as controlling the judiciary. He appoints the prime minister and cabinet. The partially-elected Consultative Assembly can block legislation and has a limited ability to dismiss ministers.

In early 2017, the total population of Qatar was 2.6 million, with 313,000 of them Qatari citizens and 2.3 million expatriates. Its official religion is Islam. In terms of income, the country has the fourth-highest GDP (PPP) per capita in the world, and the eleventh-highest GNI per capita (Atlas method). Qatar ranks 42nd in the Human Development Index, the third-highest HDI in the Arab world. It is a high-income economy, backed by the world's third-largest natural gas reserves and oil reserves. Qatar also is one of the world's largest exporters of liquefied natural gas.



**THE VARIETY IS ALWAYS IMPRESSIVE;  
THE DIFFERENCE MAKES US NOBLE AND RICH.  
WE ARE ALL DIFFERENT,  
BUT WE ARE STILL ALL EQUAL**



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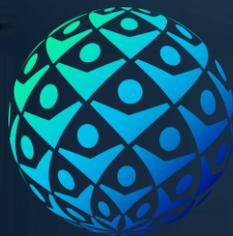
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E X C L U S I V E

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# Changes in the Leadership: IT'S TIME FOR A WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH STRATEGY

According to the chairman's decision, the previous board of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders was dissolved as of 1st of January 2023. At the same time, a new board was appointed, and today we present to you **Anna Arakelyan**, the newly appointed Director of Growth and Strategy.



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## MEET THE LEADERSHIP OF THE GCBL

The administration and growth of the GCBL is under the oversight and guidance of globally renowned business and industry leaders, innovators and humanitarians.

Our Board of Trustees encompasses a broad cross-section of experience from around the world, allowing the GCBL to be the leading business chamber globally.

Find out more:

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[www.gc-bl.org](http://www.gc-bl.org)

Contact:

[info@gc-bl.org](mailto:info@gc-bl.org)



*Anna Arakelyan*

DIRECTOR FOR GROWTH AND STRATEGY

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Anna has knowledge and experience that can fully contribute to globally creating the environment for sustainable growth in every aspect of public activities including business. She is a professional in public administration and holds a higher position in government for a lasting period. She greatly contributed to institutional improvement by forming the basis for sustainable development in tourism in law-making and strategy development level, taking into account inclusiveness, resiliency, vibrant growth, and need to enhance education and collaboration for further improvement and institutional growth.

In business, Anna has vast expertise in helping companies to develop business models and strategies based on principles of sustainability taking into account the characteristics of individual businesses. She has been operating with different international organizations for years including the EU, UN, USAID, and other organizations.



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# New Committees formed: FOOD SECURITY AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN, WE ARE FUTURE ORIENTED



## BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S COMMITTEE

*Graciela de Oto*     *Diana Barragan Medina*

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

The Business and Professional Women's Committee is committed to exploring the challenges of gender equity in business, the creation and acceleration of all possible opportunities for women and serves as a platform for empowerment.

The Business and Professional Women's Committee encourages membership from both men and women, recognizing that we all must be a part of the dialogue of gender balance, together.



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In the Global Chamber of Business Leaders, we follow the trends and needs of global developments. This is also why we try to operate as targeted as possible when it comes to committees within the Global Chamber of Business Leaders, which has proven to be a key strategic advantage many times in the past.

Thus, a few days ago, we adopted a decision on the establishment of two new, in our opinion, strategic committees for the future: the Committee for Food and Agriculture, and the Business and Professional Women's Committee.

Both newly established committees are led, like all other committees in the GCBL, by professionals from this field who have rich knowledge and diverse experience.

The task of the Committee for Food and Agriculture is to create broader solutions in the field of food security in parts of the world where it is already threatened or could be threatened in the future due to various factors, or where food shortages already exist. In its work, Obdor will also cooperate with all stakeholders who can help to find solutions as soon as possible and reduce the consequences of such situations.



## FOOD AND AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

*Ilaine Henz*     *Robert W. Cats*

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR

The Food and agriculture Committee of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders was founded out of the need of the time and place we live in and the future, when food production and cultivation will be one of the most important economic sectors.

Many factors, from climate change to world wars, are affecting the food self-sufficiency of countries, and the future seems even more uncertain.

The committee's mission is to promote awareness of the importance of food self-sufficiency, to look for solutions to increase food self-sufficiency, to introduce new technologies and to mitigate the effects of climate change on agriculture and food production around the planet.

Last but not least, the committee will address the problems of unacceptable hunger around the world and look for solutions on how to help countries and nations in food pressure.



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The Business and Professional Women's Committee is committed to exploring the challenges of gender equity in the business, the creation, and acceleration of opportunities for women, and serves as a platform for empowerment. The Committee encourages membership from both men and women, recognizing that we all must be a part of the dialogue of gender balance, together. The Committee for Climate Change is also being prepared for operation, which is expected to start operating next month. The task of this committee is already known, it will be very complex because it addresses a very pressing topic for our future.



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# Professional Reinforcement: FEMALE EXPERTS WHO WILL STRENGTHEN THE EDITORIAL BOARD



**GLOBAL CHAMBER OF BUSINESS LEADERS**  
GLOBAL TIMES  
GCBL COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

*News that goes to the World*

**THE GLOBAL TIMES – EDITORIAL BOARD**

In GCBL, for the brand promotion, as well as for informing the internal and external public, and for strategic communication, we grounded our own media and named it the Global Times Magazine. It became very successful right away.

*Nicole S. Farrell*  
**DELEGATE FOR TRINIDAD & TOBAGO**  
MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL TEAM

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TOGETHER WE ARE SHAPING THE FUTURE

In the Global Chamber of Business Leaders, we have formed an Editorial Board that takes care of the preparation and publication of the Global Times Magazine.

Immediately after the publication of the first issue, both the internal and external public became interested in the medium; great interest was shown in participating in the preparation and publication of this completely unique media.

Two excellent experts in this field have now joined the editorial board, who will surely contribute greatly to the further development of the Global Times magazine:

**Dr. Justina Mutale,**  
Delegate for Zambia,

and **Nicole S. Farrell,**  
Delegate for Trinidad & Tobago.

Both with a wealth of knowledge and experience in the field of media, excellent and reliable colleagues, and both also great people.

Both, Chairman **Dejan Štancer,** as well as the temporary editor-in-chief of the Global Times **Mitja Laharnar,** welcomed the joining of the two colleagues to the editorial board and expressed a warm welcome to the two valued colleagues.



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GCBL COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

*News that goes to the World*

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*Dr. Justina Mutale*  
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MEMBER OF THE EDITORIAL TEAM

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Since the Global Times magazine has just started to be published, there is still a further need for colleagues who, with their knowledge and experience, can contribute to the success of the latter.

We will be happy with any contribution that will give someone useful information or make others laugh, so you are still politely invited to participate. We will always welcome you to the Editorial Board of the Global Times magazine.

You can also write us to: [info@gc-bl.org](mailto:info@gc-bl.org), or [admin@gc-bl.org](mailto:admin@gc-bl.org).

**GLOBAL TIMES**  
**SAVE WATER TODAY, OR THERE WON'T BE NOTHING MORE TO SAVE TOMORROW**  
 A Column by  
**DEJAN STANCER**  
 President of GCBL

When was the last time you asked yourself what the future would look like if we no longer had water? If you haven't already, now is absolutely the time to start. Life cannot exist without water, and we are faced with increasing droughts that last longer and longer. Crops will be destroyed more permanently, there will be less and less fodder for animals, and finally, humans are also threatened with a lack of food. Water is the source of life, everything starts with water and ends with it.

Not only extreme but ultra-extreme high time for solutions concerning climate change has long passed. And if it seemed that the planet already was on the safe side when we heard about the achievements of the last climate summit in Dublin, it must now be clear to us that nothing big in a positive direction is actually happening at all. Words are just words, only actions count in life. The second part of the Climate Change Summit in Dublin was held in September. Have you even heard of the conference? But do you know what conclusions were received? Most likely not, and you are not the only one.

Unfortunately, the future of our planet is placed in the secondary, if not the tertiary plan. In the first place is the new world order and the war, which is publicly criticized by almost everyone, including many stakeholders of this war, of which a handful have exceptional benefits, some partial, and the majority, especially the weakest class, are due to the consequences of this war already fighting for survival. Again, unfortunately, the worst has not even begun. New conflicts, new enemies, and divisions are on the horizon. Everything because of control, dominance, for incorporation, exhaustion, domination...

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**GLOBAL TIMES**  
**Latest Research: EARTH MICROORGANISM CAN SURVIVE UP TO 280 MILLION YEARS ON MARS**

Editorial  
 THE GLOBAL TIMES

An international team of researchers has found that one of the most resilient terrestrial microorganisms on Mars can live up to 280 million years while exposed to high levels of radiation.

Scientists have found that under special conditions, the bacterium *Deinococcus radiodurans* survives 'truly astronomical' exposure to radioactive radiation, which is as much as 28,000 times higher than the lethal amount for humans. The bacterium was already considered a record holder, but now it has been discovered that it can be increased by more than five times, otherwise by drying it in a freezer at a temperature of -80 degrees Celsius.

The discovery aroused a lot of interest, because exactly such extremely dry and cold conditions prevail on Mars, the faculty wrote.

The question of whether life exists on Mars has fueled the imaginations of science fiction fans and scientists alike for many years. More than a century ago, the Nobel laureate Svante Arrhenius spoke about the possibility of expanding life in space. Since living things there would be exposed to vacuum and thus desiccation, extremely low temperatures and high radiation, the idea was long thought to be excessive. But since then, they have repeatedly proven that certain bacteria, fungi and entire microscopic animals can be exposed to such conditions that they survive for at least a few months.

Conditions on Mars, after the loss of liquid water and most of the atmosphere a few billion years ago, are anything but friendly. Microorganisms can hide under the planet's surface from the radioactive radiation of space. But radiation is present everywhere in nature, and even small doses below the surface of the planet eventually cause great damage in cells.

"Living and metabolically active cells can repair such damage, but when frozen and dried like this, the damage accumulates and the cells die," explained Gunde-Cimerman. "But now we see that drying and low temperatures actually help the cells to survive. A bacterium like *Deinococcus radiodurans* could survive radiation under the surface of Mars for up to 280 million years. If it experienced occasional thawing, for example due to meteorite impacts, maybe even more much longer," she added.

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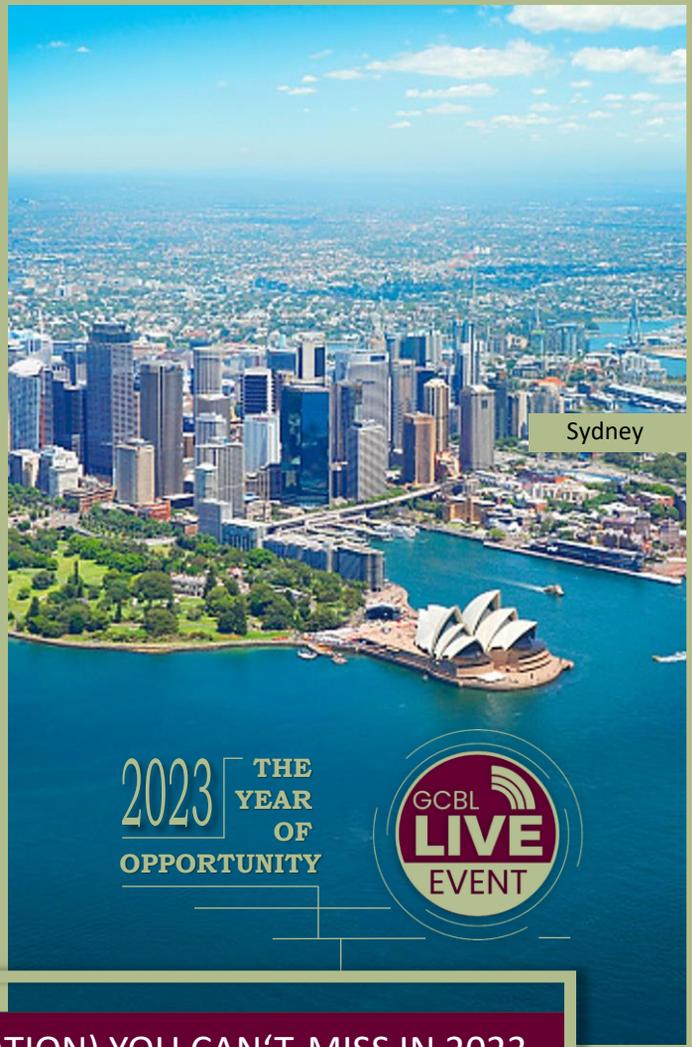
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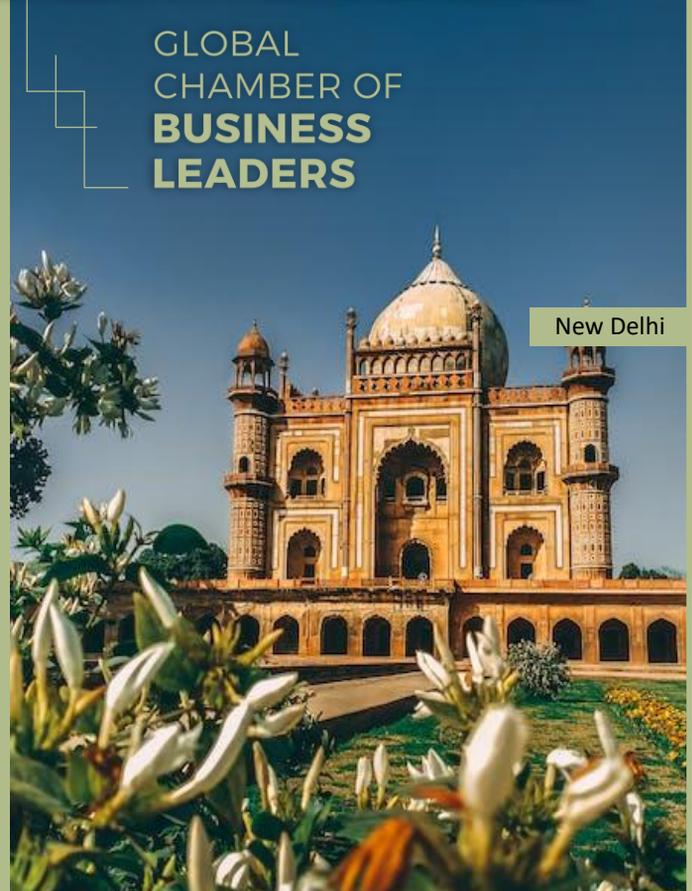


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