

Luxembourg, Kenya and Kazakhstan to address the RFI Summit

Summit will identify ways for responsible finance to facilitate a \$12 trillion opportunity

April 12, 2017, Zurich, Switzerland – The organizers of the Responsible Finance & Investment (RFI) Summit 2017 are pleased to announce that H.E. Marc Bichler, Ambassador-at-Large for Climate Change and Human Rights at Luxembourg’s Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs will deliver a keynote address during the Summit.

Ambassador Bichler joins a diverse lineup of keynote speakers bringing their experience in promoting green finance, Islamic finance, FinTech and financial inclusion. The Summit’s packed line-up of keynote speakers includes H.E. Governor Kairat Kelimbetov, Governor of the Astana International Financial Centre, and Prof. Njuguna Ndung’u, former Governor of the Central Bank of Kenya.

In his current role, Ambassador Bichler’s remit covers two issues of critical importance to responsible finance which are at the heart of international cooperation to support positive environmental and social impact. For many years, these issues have been advanced within the business and finance community through the United Nations Global Compact.

The Global Compact has more recently been supplemented by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which brings private and public sector actors from developed and emerging markets together to channel their sizeable resources to deliver positive impact for society-at-large. These shared values are represented in the RFI Summit’s theme of “Building Bridges, Expanding Impact” and are driven by an opportunity that the Business Commission on Sustainable Development estimated to be worth more than \$12 trillion.

Commenting on the Summit, Ambassador Bichler said: “I am honored to be invited to deliver a keynote speech during the RFI Summit 2017. I look forward to fruitful discussion of the role for finance as a catalyst to connect private and public sector efforts to address issues relating to climate change and human rights.”

Blake Goud, CEO of the Responsible Finance & Investment Foundation (RFI) commented: “The addition of Ambassador Bichler will enhance the discussion at the RFI Summit by bringing his deep experience with managing challenging global issues. Our keynote speakers together bring decades of experience from the highest levels of government, diplomacy and policy-making specifically focused on the role that finance plays in delivering environmental and social benefits.”

Mounir Khouzami, Co-founder and President of Swiss Arab Network, added: “We are excited with the addition of Ambassador Bichler to our outstanding line-up of speakers that will make the RFI Summit 2017 a successful bridge between different areas with the responsible finance industry. At the conclusion of the Summit, we hope there will be a better understanding of how various areas of responsible finance can work together to better address expectations of society-at-large.”



H.E. Ambassador Marc Bichler
Ambassador-at-Large for Climate
Change & Human Rights
Luxembourg

About the Responsible Finance & Investment Summit 2017

The Summit, to be held on 3 and 4 May 2017 at the Atlantis Hotel by Giardino in Zurich, Switzerland, will play a vital role in connecting representatives from across the responsible finance industry to build on the growing cooperation between responsible investment (RI), environmental, social and governance (ESG) and Islamic finance. The RFI Summit in Zurich is an initiative of the RFI Foundation and Swiss Arab Network, two globally active nonprofits institutions seeking to build awareness of shared values that can bring together people from various backgrounds working towards similar goals connected to generating benefits to society.

About RFI Foundation

The RFI Foundation is a non-profit organisation with a mission to identify a neutral, nonpartisan and universal value proposition that encourages convergence of responsible finance practices. RFI evolves Sustainable, Responsible, Impact Investing (SRI), Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and the Islamic finance sectors towards a convergence of their shared standards, and engages stakeholders to build the responsible finance industry as a catalyst to support equitable, inclusive and sustainable economic development. Visit us at www.rfi-foundation.org

About Swiss Arab Network

The Swiss Arab Network (SAN) is a non-profit networking organization with headquarter in Zurich and affiliations in the Arab world that strives to bridge gaps, promote sustainable exchange and intensify the mutual understanding among Swiss and Arab people. SAN is a networking platform and organizes events and gives speeches on topics like Swiss and Arab finance, business, culture, art and film. Established and high-profile organisations from Switzerland and the Arab world are members of the network. Visit us at www.swissarab.org

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