**15 July 2019**

**IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE**

**First WBAF Country Office of Western Africa opens in Ghana**

*With its more than 30 million population, ranked as Africa’s most peaceful country by the Global Peace Index, Ghana is one of the most promising economies of Africa. International Monetary Fund World Economic Outlook announced Ghana as the 6th best GDP Growth of the World in 2018. Ghana’s location in the West African sub-region provides a unique advantage for the development of the country’s infrastructure as a hub for regional and international trade and commerce.*

The WBAF Ghana Country Office will be located in the Business Development Ministry of the Republic of Ghana. H.E. Ibrahim Mohammed Awal, Minister of Business Development, will be the Chairman of the WBAF Ghana.

**WBAF Ghana**

**Grand Opening Ceremony**

Date: 6 August 2019, Tuesday

Time: 10am

Venue: Mövenpick Ambassador Hotel

After the opening ceremony, the programme will include keynote speeches, panel discussions, round tables and fireside chats. An updated programme will be provided by the WBAF Ghana Secretariat.

Email: Ghana@wbaforum.org

**Vice President’s Reception**

H.E. the Vice President, Dr. Alhaji Mahamudu Bawumia

By invitation only

Date: 7 August 2019, Wednesday

Time: 11pm (tbc)

Venue: Jubilee House, Seat of Government

**Round Table:**

**Developing a Global partnership for Financial Inclusion and Easing Access to International Finance for Startups, Scaleups, SMEs, Entrepreneurs and High Growth Businesses in Africa**

Date: 6 August 2019, Tuesday

Time: 11.30pm

Venue: Mövenpick Ambassador Hotel

H.E. Dr Ibrahim Mohammad Awal, Business Development Minister of the Republic of Ghana, will chair the Board of Directors of WBAF Ghana. Dr. Awal, holds a Doctorate in Business Administration with specialty in succession planning and business competitiveness from the Swiss Business School and three master’s degrees in various disciplines from different universities. He has Masters in Applied Business Research – Swiss Business School, Switzerland, Executive Masters in Business Administration (University of Ghana Business School, Legon) and Masters in International Journalism (University of Wales, UK). Dr. Awal has also done courses in Business Strategy at Harvard Business School, USA and oil production and management at Oxford, UK.

As a graduate of three reputable Business Schools; University of Ghana Business School, Harvard Business School and Swiss Business School, Dr. Awal is committed to improving the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Ghana and connecting startups, entrepreneurs, innovators and SMEs of the country with global investment markets.

He is the first African minister who brought ‘empowering startup economy through angel investment’ to the agenda of the government. Angel investors, startups, scaleups and high-gowth businesses are now perceived as the key drivers of the Ghana economy. So he was the recipient of the World Excellence Award for The Most Business-oriented Minister of Africa Designing Economic Development Through Innovative Solutions 2018.

**WBAF Ghana Board of Directors**

Chairman: Dr.Ibrahim Mohammed Awal- Minister for Business Development

* Afua Asabea Asare- Chief Executive Officer of Ghana Export Promotion Authority
* John Ampontuah Kumah- Chief Executive Officer of National Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme.
* Kate Quartey Papafio- Chief Executive Officer and Founder of Reroy Cables Limited, a leading manufacture of electrical cables in Ghana.
* Seth Twum-Akwaboah- Chief Executive Officer of Association of Ghana Industries.
* George Ofosuhene, Chief Executive Officer- Bond Savings and Loans Company
* Henrietta Halm-lutterodt- Personal Assistant to Minister for Business Development.

Country Director: Mr.Michael Akoto Ohene-Addo- Chief Operations Officer, DUCIS

Baybars Altuntas, WBAF President, says ”I am confident that the WBAF Ghana Country Office will open up splendid opportunities for the country and provide a wide range of advantages for Ghanan start-ups, scale-ups, SMEs, innovators and high-growth businesses. Ghanan angel investors and aspiring entrepreneurs will now have more opportunity to connect with global leaders in equity and capital markets.

As an affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), WBAF supports start-ups, encourages the development of entrepreneurial ecosystems. It also helps venture capital and companies connect with international companies, fintechs and other relevant institutions. I believe WBAF will contribute to the economic development of Ghana by facilitating connections with entrepreneurial ecosystems. I have no doubt that Ghana will continue to develop its economy in an entrepreneurial atmosphere.”

[www.ghana.wbaforum.org](http://www.ghana.wbaforum.org)

**About the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF)**

An affiliated partner of the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), the World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) is an international organisation aiming to ease access to finance for businesses from start-up to scale-up, with the ultimate goal of generating more jobs and more social justice worldwide. It is committed to collaborating globally to empower world economic development by creating innovative financial instruments for innovators, start-ups, and SMEs. The Forum interacts with leaders in all areas of society, first and foremost in business and political spheres, to help assess needs and establish goals, bearing in mind that the public interest is of paramount importance. WBAF engages a wide range of institutions, both public and private, local and international, commercial and academic to help shape the global agenda.

[www.wbaforum.org](http://www.wbaforum.org)

**About GPFI**

The Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI) is an inclusive platform for all G20 countries, interested non-G20 countries, and relevant stakeholders to carry forward work on financial inclusion, including implementation of the G20 Financial Inclusion Action Plan endorsed at the G20 Summit in Seoul. Queen Maxima of the Netherlands is the Honorary Patron of the GPFI.

[www.gpfi.org](http://www.gpfi.org)

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