

**WELCOME ADDRESS FROM THE CONVENTION OF INDEPENDENTS  
FINANCIAL ADVISORS (CIFA), BY JANKA PALKOVA, MEMBER OF THE  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**AT THE 2012 HUMANITARIAN AWARD DINNER**

**ORGANIZED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK  
AND HONORING**

**H.E.NASSIR ABDULAZIZ AL-NASSER**

**25th October, 2012, Jumeirah Essex House, 160 Central Park South, New York City**

Distinguished guests and colleagues,

On behalf of Mr. Jean-Pierre Diserens, Secretary General of CIFA, I would like to welcome you all at the CIFA's Table, honoring tonight H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser at this Humanitarian Award dinner organized by the United Nations Association of New York.

The Convention of Independents Financial Advisors (CIFA), would like to express through its all Advisory Board Members, its great appreciation for the support he provided to the NGO community during his Presidency of the 66th session of the GA and also take this opportunity to congratulate him on his new appointment as the High Representative of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. His commitment to bridge differences and build consensus has become legendary. CIFA is proud to contribute to such an event and thank you for being here tonight.

Allow me now, to say few words introducing CIFA to you. Headquartered in Geneva, CIFA, a non profit Swiss Foundation, created in 2001, at the initiative of a group of financial advisors, aims to protect the consumer/investor's rights CIFA and privacy and defend the interest of independent financial advisors at national and international level. It has been granted consultative status with ECOSOC since 2007.

The world is nowadays going through one of the most severe financial crises mankind had ever to face. CIFA believes it can be of help to change the actual blockage in the evolution towards a better financial world by suggesting new ideas and principals.

For the last eleven years, CIFA has been organizing an international Forum gathering practitioners and regulators around the best international specialists. This Forum has

become the world meeting point of financial circles. It has specialized in the reform of the financial system through its "Charter of Investor rights".

CIFA has deposited in 2008 with the United Nations the CHARTER OF INVESTORS RIGHTS. This Charter defines in 10 points what is required to create and maintain, by the governments and investment seeking institutions, the trust required by the investors to become again the motor of development to renew global prosperity. Let's name only the 6 th one:

Article 6 of the Charter of Investors Rights: It has come to the attention of CIFA that the right to privacy is being strongly challenged, especially by certain Government agencies. CIFA believes that privacy and its protection is a key issue in promoting global prosperity and that different elements have put it in jeopardy, particularly in connection with the mishandling of the current financial crisis.

As financial advisers, we centered our focus in promoting ethics in the financial sector. CIFA is committed to improve the understanding of financial products by the public at large.

The partnership we already have established with ECOSOC for almost a decade is now being reinforced with the new partnership you are developing with the training institute of the United Nations. This new partnership shows CIFA commitment to the education of financial advisers and consumers world wide. CIFA has become an active player in the understanding that countries have the need for excellence in financial advice as a condition for the protection of the consumers.

2012 was a great year for CIFA at the United Nations General Assembly under the leadership of H.E. Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser, we witnessed that NGO are not just identifying and reporting on situations, our recommendations were given due weight when decision were taken during the High Level Thematic Debate on " the State of the World Economy and Finance ".

What we should retain from the work of CIFA is the openness of CIFA to challenge the status quo and plunge into uncharted territories in the midst of the political and financial turmoil of today. To continue to address that challenge, the next Forum titled: "Acting for ethic, sustainable and effective finance", will be held in Monaco 24-26 April 2013. Hope to see you all there!