



CONVENTION OF INDEPENDENT
FINANCIAL ADVISORS
A Non-Profit Foundation

A Non-Governmental Organization in general consultative status
with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations

CIFA Statement 2019 HLS-HLPF ONE WORLD FOR ALL: EMPOWERING PEOPLE TO BUILD EQUAL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES"

Under this year's theme "Empowering People and Ensuring Inclusiveness and Equality", CIFA has focused intensively on implementing the 2030 UN Agenda and SDGs goals through its activities – Forums, initiatives, round tables. CIFA supports the work of the UN to ensure full inclusiveness and provide all people with equal opportunities to improve their lives toward more stable, peaceful and inclusive societies around the world.

CIFA, a non-profit foundation based in Geneva, Switzerland, represents a significant part of worldwide investments with a network of over 1 million financial advisors. It is the only global investment organization granted General Consultative status with ECOSOC in 2015.

CIFA strives to promote global peace, security and prosperity by empowering individuals and their families from all backgrounds to access knowledge, support, resources, and the freedom necessary to cultivate financial well-being and achieve financial security in a manner which doesn't require undue reliance on government and other public institutions.

CIFA seeks to promote the prosperity, sustainability and resilience of society as a whole. As such, gaining access to basic financial services, especially for people living in the poorest and least developed countries, can play a crucial role in promoting economic growth in such regions and can bring about positive changes in their overall development and ensure inclusiveness and equality. At CIFA, we have successfully improved cooperation amongst nations and inspired financial and economic leaders and practitioners to search for innovative solutions to current economic and financial challenges, and emphasized the importance of involving the private sector more closely in the implementation of the SDGs on the global level.

To protect fundamental and inalienable rights of investors and to ensure fairness in the industry, CIFA drafted the **Charter of Investors' Rights** in 2008, that provides a framework of enduring principles of the investor so as to benefit from a legal framework which protects private property and comprises goods resulting from the activities, be they personal or intellectual, of the investor. Respecting the fundamental rights of mankind as defined in the UN Charter, the

CIFA Charter of Investors' Rights, strives to empower and promote equality in the society by respecting the legislation, tradition, culture and customs of all countries which ratify it, while offering universal guidelines that enable investors from all around the world to operate within a common set of principles.

CIFA fully recognizes the importance of the Agenda 2030 and stresses that focus is necessary on all 17 SDGs in order to deliver the desired results. Nevertheless, given the 2019 theme of ECOSOC, the following set of goals will be reviewed in depth, including the SDG 4, 8, 10, 13, 16 and 17.

With regard to education and lifelong learning opportunities for all (SDG 4), it was observed that disparities along the lines of gender, urban-rural locations and other dimensions still persists. To tackle this problem and to contribute to improve the education infrastructure, CIFA has partnered with UNITAR to launch an innovative training partnership on financial literacy (on "Ethics and Finance") in 2011. Since financial education is something basic, but mostly lacking in many societies, CIFA designed this program both for practitioners and individuals in order to empower people, to promote entrepreneurial self-reliance and spread knowledge among local communities, private enterprises, local governments, and individuals to foster entrepreneurial freedom, equality and inclusiveness for all.

To promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all (SDG 8), CIFA and its partners have offered numerous tools and approaches over the years that can be used to improve the world financial markets and to prevent disruption in the global markets. Similarly, several of the CIFA Forums in the previous years were devoted to contribute to this goal, such as the 2015 Forum (Public Debts and Deficits - Unrestrained Taxation and Who Will Pay?), or the 2018 Forum (Repeal and Replace an Economic Model Under Attack? How Technological Changes are disrupting the Socio-Economic-Fiscal-Political Models? Which Alternative Model Should Be Built?)

CIFA also aims to raise awareness of the growing disparities that prevail among countries (SDG 10), especially with regard to income, tax, trade barriers and economic freedom that significantly limit the potential of all developing and developed countries, to fully accelerate progress in achieving long term economic and sustainable development. To tackle this problem, CIFA has collaborated with the "Forum for Small States" (FOSS), regarding private sector perspectives, global partnerships and innovative financing to support the 2030 UN Development Agenda.

According to CIFA's values, every kind of business or financial activity is most effective in the context of an enabling cultural environment with an appropriate regulatory framework, political and economic stability and the respect of the rule of law. CIFA's role to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development provides access to justice for all and builds effective,

accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. SDG 16 has been therefore demonstrated in CIFA's participation in numerous meetings and events promoting fair taxation that can significantly reduce burdens on investors and entrepreneurs while contributing to sustainable economic development and new job opportunities; promoting the creation of wealth and prosperity. More specifically, both of the CIFA Forums in 2015 and 2016 were devoted to the topic of taxes and regulations. Furthermore, CIFA has actively supported UNAOC Forums focused on the topic of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development.

To promote global partnerships for sustainable development (SDG 17), CIFA has actively engaged with other organizations and partners both within and outside the UN to raise awareness among its partners about the 2030 Agenda. Besides its partnership with UNITAR, CIFA has a longstanding tradition of cooperation with UNCTAD, in particular, on the topic of "Why is business embracing the Global Sustainable Goals?" In this regard, CIFA will continue to actively support its partners and other institutions in building resilient financial frameworks that aim to eradicate poverty across the globe and create wealth for all.

CIFA bases all of its programs and outreach on the understanding that people are most productive in a conducive and supportive cultural environment. CIFA fully recognizes the need for mutual respect among different nations, cultural values and practices. CIFA seeks to promote a culture of trust, accountability and responsibility with all its partners in the context of mutual efforts to highlight the urgency of the 2030 UN Agenda and empower people to build a better society for themselves.

Geneva, Switzerland, April 19th, 2019

Jean-Pierre DISERENS, Secretary-General