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Alicia Bárcena Ibarra Announced as Newest Member of the Global Centre for Pluralism's Board of Directors

Ottawa, Canada, May 26, 2022 – The Global Centre for Pluralism is pleased to welcome Alicia Bárcena Ibarra to its Board of Directors.

Ms. Bárcena Ibarra is a Mexican biologist who was, until recently, the Executive Secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). She has acted as Coordinator of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), in charge of a global programme on environmental citizenship with emphasis on the participation of civil society. She served as Acting Chef de Cabinet in the Executive Office of the Secretary-General under H.E. Kofi Annan in 2006. On 3 January 2007, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appointed Bárcena as UN Under-Secretary-General for Management.



“The Global Centre is honoured that Ms. Bárcena has accepted to join our Board,” said Meredith Preston McGhie, the Centre’s Secretary General. “She brings such a depth of experience and insight on how we tackle core issues of inequality in Latin America and globally. Pluralism needs champions like Ms. Barcena and we are already feeling the benefit of her presence with us.”

Ms. Bárcena previously served as Co-ordinator of the Latin American and Caribbean Sustainable Development Programme of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), responsible for the Environmental Citizenship Project at the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). She was the Founding Director of the Earth Council in Costa Rica, a non-governmental organization in charge of follow-up to the agreements reached at the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1992. Ms. Bárcena has published numerous articles on sustainable development, public policy, environmental issues, and public participation. She has been awarded several honoris causa doctorates and has received the medal 2013 in International Relations of the University of Anáhuac.

“It is with great pleasure that we welcome Ms Bárcena to the Board of Directors of the Global Centre for Pluralism,” said His Highness the Aga Khan, the Centre’s Board Chair. “Her experience at the senior level in the multilateral sphere and throughout Latin America, and on issues of economic equality, will be great assets to the Board.”

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The Global Centre for Pluralism is an independent, charitable organization founded by His Highness the Aga Khan and the Government of Canada. The Centre works with policy leaders, educators and community builders around the world to amplify and implement the transformative power of pluralism.
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