

RESOLVE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 20, 2021

RESOLVE Kicks Off its 2021 Challenge Summit with the Announcement of New Governance Appointments

Appointments Support Priorities that include Sustainable Sourcing and Products, Pandemic Response and Preparedness, and Building a Global Safety Net for People and the Planet

April 20, 2021 (Washington, D.C.) – [RESOLVE](#) today, in conjunction with the launch of its annual Challenge Summit, announced a number of new [governance](#) appointments, including Britt Banks as the new Chair of the Board of Trustees, Glenn Sigurdson as Chair Emeritus, Stephane Fischler as a new member of the Board of Trustees, and Gillian Davidson as the Chair of the Leadership Council. RESOLVE also announced several new members of the Board of Advisors and Leadership Council.

“These appointments represent the leading edge of a growing RESOLVE constituency for partnerships and action to address global challenges, including fostering pandemic readiness, building a Global Safety Net for biodiversity and climate, and encouraging sustainable production and products,” said Stephen D’Esposito, RESOLVE’s CEO and President. “They’re proven leaders who can help us push past polarization to find solutions.”

Britt Banks has been a leader and bridge builder in the natural resources sector for over 20 years as a corporate executive, attorney, consultant, teacher, and researcher. He is a Senior Fellow at the Getches-Wilkinson Center on Natural Resources, Energy, and the Environment at the University of Colorado Law School, where he formerly served as Executive Director. Previously, he has served as Executive Vice President for Legal and External Affairs at Newmont Mining Corporation, Chair of the World Economic Forum’s Global Agenda Council on the Future of Mining and Metals, and as a member of the Independent Expert Review Panel at the International Council on Mining and Metals. Britt also served on RESOLVE’s Board of Advisors and co-chaired RESOLVE’s Natural Resource and Energy Leadership Council.

“RESOLVE is an antidote to our cynical politics – we work from dialogue to establish trust, but we also act and take risks to implement solutions,” said Britt. “I’m honored to be in a position where I can help RESOLVE continue to innovate and build.”

Stephane Fischler helped steer the diamond industry and its NGO and government partners to solutions, like the Kimberly Process Certification System in response to conflict diamonds. He previously served on the Board of the Diamond Development Initiative (now [DDI@RESOLVE](#)). He also served as President of the World Diamond Council and on the Board of the Responsible Jewelry Council. Stephane currently resides in Belgium and is expanding RESOLVE’s network and impact in Europe.

“RESOLVE is expanding its presence around the world, in a genuine manner and on the basis of partnerships,” said Stephane. “I’m committed to building a more global RESOLVE, with increased capacity on issues from diamonds to land restoration and community health.”

Glenn Sigurdson has served on RESOLVE's Board for twelve years and as Chair for the last seven years. In his new role as Chair Emeritus, Glenn will continue to offer strategic guidance and insight to RESOLVE, work directly on RESOLVE projects in Canada, and support Britt in his transition to Board Chair. Glenn was recently appointed to the Order of Canada, one of Canada's highest civilian honors, for his contributions as "...a social innovator whose career has been devoted to resolving complex multilateral disputes, esteemed for his dexterous relationship building skills, particularly between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples, and his pioneering contributions to environmental mediation."

“I have been connected to RESOLVE from its early years in the 80’s,” said Glenn. “It was a privilege to help reimagine RESOLVE over the past decade as a Board member and Chair, and I will enjoy contributing as Chair Emeritus.”

Stephen D’Esposito noted that, “Glenn has mentored RESOLVE over the past decade. He’s an inspirational, collaborative leader, recognized as such through his appointment to the Order of Canada. In his role as Chair Emeritus he will continue to advise and support the organization.”

As RESOLVE builds a global leadership constituency to support its solutions-focused, collaborative agenda, it is also pleased to announce additional appointments to its Board of Advisors and Leadership Council. The strategic insight, experience, and diverse networks of these new appointees will aid RESOLVE in expanding its impact on pressing public health, sustainable resources, and conservation issues.

New members of the Board of Advisors include: Saleem Ali (Professor, University of Delaware; Newark, DE), Mark Hanna (Chief Marketing Officer, Richline Group; Providence, RI), Gwen Jones (CEO, Ikumbi Resource Group; San Antonio, TX), Mike McPhie (Founding Partner, Falkirk Environmental Consultants; Vancouver, Canada), Nellie Mutemeri (Director and Mining Practice Lead, Mutconsult; Johannesburg, South Africa), Andrew O’Donovan (CEO, Global Advanced Metals; Wellesley, MA), Surili Sutaria Patel (Vice President, Metropolitan Group; Washington, D.C.); Catherine Picard (Senior Associate, Tetra Tech/ARD; Lusaka, Zambia), Sandy Stash (Non-Executive Director, EDF Energy Thermal Generation Limited; Whitefish, MT), and Lara Wagner (Physician; Seattle, WA).

New members of the Leadership Council include: Ben Chalmers (Senior Vice President, Mining Association of Canada; Ottawa, Canada), Brandee Dallow (Founder, Fine Girl Luxury Brand Building & Communications; New Rochelle, NY), Allen Edzerza (Tahltan Nation; Abbotsford, Canada), John Hall (Sustainable & Responsible Solutions Ltd.; United Kingdom), Ted Jackson (President, E.T. Jackson and Associates; Ottawa, Canada), Andrew Keili (Cem mats Group Ltd.; Freetown, Sierra Leone), Matt Runci (Former CEO of Jewelers of America; Pittsboro, NC), and Ian Smillie (Author; Ottawa, Canada).

RESOLVE's staff, Board of Trustees, Board of Advisors, Leadership Council, and other strategic partners will meet virtually for this year's Challenge Summit, which focuses on [pandemic response and future resilience](#), an agenda for action on the [Global Safety Net](#) for biodiversity and climate, and how to ensure that [market commitments to environmental, social, and governance](#) criteria link to real benefits for the planet and communities – especially those of Indigenous peoples.

About RESOLVE

[RESOLVE](#) is a Washington D.C. based non-governmental organization with more than 40 years of experience forging sustainable solutions to critical social, health, and environmental challenges by creating innovative partnerships where they are least likely and most needed. RESOLVE is known for designing innovative projects that create common ground.