



## ***PRESS RELEASE***

*9 July 2012-- Geneva, Switzerland and New York, NY*

The Global Challenges Forum (GCF) Foundation was legally established today in Geneva, Switzerland as a unique organization of think tanks, research centers and academic institutions, with the goal of contributing to the much-needed resolution of existing and future global challenges.

The Founders are H.E. Dr. Talal Abu-Ghazaleh of Jordan and Dr. Walter Christman of the United States. Dr. Leonard Ferrari was designated as “Honorary Founder.” The Foundation’s activities commenced the same day in New York City at the State University of New York (SUNY) Global Center hosted by SUNY Vice Chancellor for Global Affairs, Dr. Mitch Leventhal.

As part of its inaugural Annual General Meeting, the newly appointed GCF Foundation Board, chaired by Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, in turn invited a group of distinguished scholars, statesmen and thought leaders from North America, Europe, the Middle East, Australia and Asia to serve as Board members and on its Advisory Council.

The Board simultaneously launched an inaugural conference bringing together representatives from strategy centers, academia, civil society, intergovernmental organizations and business executives throughout the world for a subsequent three-day conference, entitled “*Toward a Global Partnership: How Global Challenges Make Global Solutions*” They worked to address the complexity, imminent risks and potential impacts of 21st century problems in response to ideas initially proposed by Chinese Ambassador He Yafei, who encouraged the GCF to help develop more integrated, holistic and bottom-up approaches to global partnership.

Established to serve as “*The Global Network for Strategic Research and Action*,” the Global Challenges Forum Foundation brings together a diverse membership and worldwide network to propose solutions to global challenges such as economic security, environmental sustainability, and human well-being. It will coordinate activities through liaison offices in China, India, Jordan, Switzerland, and the United States.