

## Press Release

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### **World Agriculture Forum Welcomes Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, Former President of Mauritius and a Pioneer in Science and Sustainability to its Board**



The World Agriculture Forum (WAF) is proud to welcome Dr. Ameenah Gurib-Fakim—distinguished scientist, former President of Mauritius, and global advocate for biodiversity—to its Board. Her visionary leadership and unparalleled expertise will prove invaluable to WAF's mission of advancing sustainable agricultural development through collaborative, technology-driven, and policy-focused initiatives to reshape the future of Agriculture.

Dr. Gurib-Fakim's career reflects her commitment to innovation and progress. Not only was she the first female President of Mauritius, but she was also a former Managing Director of CIDP Research & Innovation and now a Professor of Biodiversity at Port Louis. Her leadership on the International Council for Scientific Union has driven meaningful scientific advancements, and her contributions align perfectly with WAF's mission to bring transformative, technology-driven solutions to agriculture.

Beyond her remarkable public service, Dr. Gurib-Fakim has been internationally recognized for her achievements, including the prestigious L'Oreal-UNESCO Prize for Women in Science, her place among *Forbes'* 100 Most Powerful Women (2016), and recognition as one of Africa's Top 100 Women in 2017, 2019. She has also made her mark in corporate governance as an Independent Director on the Board of Barclays Bank of Mauritius Ltd.

Dr. Gurib-Fakim shared her enthusiasm for joining WAF, saying, "I am truly honoured to become part of the World Agriculture Forum. Agriculture today faces complex, unprecedented challenges that demand innovative, science-driven solutions. I'm eager to bring my passion and expertise in contributing to WAF's key focus areas and support its vision for a resilient and food-secure world."

"It is truly an exciting and inspiring moment for WAF," said Ramona Angelescu Naqvi, Chief Operating Officer of WAF. "Dr. Gurib-Fakim's innovative spirit and commitment to scientific progress will greatly enhance WAF's ability to address global food security, promote biodiversity and sustainable agricultural practices." She added, "Dr. Gurib-Fakim's appointment not only reflects our Board's diversity but also our commitment to science and sustainability. I am especially proud of the strong female leadership in our organization. Dr Gurib-Fakim's profound knowledge in biodiversity and policymaking will be invaluable as we work towards building resilient agricultural systems worldwide."

Dr. Gurib-Fakim's joining the Board marks a dynamic new chapter for WAF. Her expertise will be instrumental as WAF steps forward to build a sustainable and food-secure future, fuelled by science, innovation, and global collaboration.

### **About the World Agriculture Forum**

WAF is a global platform connecting diverse stakeholders to drive sustainable agricultural development through policy advocacy, trade facilitation, and technology-driven solutions. WAF unites governments, farmers, agribusinesses, experts, and development institutions to bridge implementation gaps and drive sustainable agriculture and food systems transformation towards a resilient, food-secure future. With a strong focus on collaboration, innovation all along the value chain, and public-private partnerships, WAF is committed to transforming agriculture worldwide.

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