10AM ISTANBUL TIME

**PRESS RELEASE**

**WBAF WORLD CONGRESS 2018**

19 February 2018, Monday

**Three International Agreement Signed at WBAF World Congress 2018**

***(Istanbul) Drawing together hundreds of the world’s top business leaders, WBAF 2018 started shaping the global agenda of the world early and post-early stage equity markets in the year ahead, today in Istanbul. For the first time ever, The World Business Angel Investors Forum Annual Congress 2018, the world’s biggest annual gathering of early stage equity and investment markets, has 5 important summits running concurrently and hosts more than 1000 delegates from around the world.***

***The Congress hosted three important agreement signing ceremony in the opening part. Agreements between WBAF and IFC – International Finance Corporation, Anjos de Brazil - Brazilian Trade Association for Business Angels and Unity Group, all have a common goal: Easing access to finance***

***Altuntas of WBAF says ‘’The three important agreements that we have signed today will serve to easing access to finance for startups, scaleups, SMEs and investors in the World. 2018 will not be an easy year for global economies and our goal is to provide a solution for the most important challenge of the 21st century: Providing smart finance for everybody’’***

***Quick Facts - The WBAF World Congress 2018:***

***1200 participants from 74 countries, 124 speakers from 35 countries, 26 panel discussions, 17 keynote speeches from 17 legendary leaders, 9 fireside chats, 5 presentations, 1 governmental meetup, 2 workshops, 2 master classes, 1 short course***

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|  | **WBAF and IFC – International Finance Corporation, a member of the World Bank Group**  ***The purpose of this MoU is to set out a framework, including possible objectives and scope, relating to a proposed collaboration between WBAF and IFC, acting through the Forum***  *About IFC:*  International Finance Corporation IFC is an international organization established by Articles of Agreement among its member countries and a member of The World Bank Group. Pursuant to the G20 Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion, IFC has formed and manages the SME Finance Forum (the “Forum”), which is open to institutions that promote access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises (“SMEs”). The Forum brings together financial institutions, technology companies, and development finance institutions to share knowledge, spur innovation, and promote the growth of SMEs.  *About the MOU signed:*  The purpose of this MoU is to set out a framework, including possible objectives and scope, relating to a proposed collaboration between WBAF and IFC, acting through the Forum. Pursuant to this proposed collaboration, WBAF would serve as one of the key regional spokes for the SME Finance Forum’s hub as a global center for knowledge exchange, networking, and bridging to policymaking and standards setting.  **WBAF – Anjos do Brasil, The Brazilian Trade Association for Business Angels**  ***WBAF and Anjos do Brazil shall continue to foster (facilitation of) cross border investments and investment promotion (in- and outward) among its members. The Parties will try to envision mutually agreed training activities for business angels and IPAs throughout the world.***  *About Anjos do Brasil:*  It was founded in 2011 with objectives, among others, are to promote and develop angel investment in Brazil, to support innovative entrepreneurs not only with capital, but also with the knowledge, experience and connections of angel investors.  *About the MOU signed:*  The Parties shall agree to mutually support the facilitation and development of angel activities and investment promotion activities in the World towards achieving SDGs. The Parties shall cooperate on the promotion of each other’s initiatives such as Anjos do Brasil annual flagship event and the annual WBAF event, provided that the content and purpose of such initiatives may be of interest for its members and that all communication is mutually agreed on before publication. The Parties shall issue a mutually agreed press release on the signature of the MoU. Whenever opportune, the Parties shall cooperate in mutually agreed projects in the future, which are to be proposed and organized in cooperation by the Parties. The Parties shall continue to foster (facilitation of) cross border investments and investment promotion (in- and outward) among its members. The Parties will try to envision mutually agreed training activities for business angels and IPAs throughout the world.  **WBAF –The Unity Group**  ***Providing liquidity and access to angel investment and co-investment funds for companies looking for funding for their second, third or further investments rounds.***  *About The Unity Group:*  A boutique Private Equity firm specialising in Mergers and Acquisitions and pioneers of the Agglomeration™ model by which small to medium sized businesses can leverage the public markets to scale.  *About the MOU signed:*  This agreement is to establish a collaboration framework and outline the working relationship for the creation of a partnership that will provide liquidity and access to Angel investment and co-investment funds for companies looking for funding for their second, third or further investments rounds.  ENDS |
|  | **Editor’s Notes**  EVENT AND SPEAKER DETAILS: Further details on the event, including the event agenda, speakers and proposed topics call all be found at http://www.wbaf2018.istanbul/ |
|  | **About the World Business Angels Investment Forum**  The World Business Angels Investment Forum (WBAF) is an international organisation aiming to ease access to finance for businesses from start up to scale up, with the ultimate goal of generating more jobs and more social justice worldwide. It is committed to collaborating globally to empower world economic development by creating innovative financial instruments for innovators, startups, and SMEs. The Forum interacts with leaders in all areas of society, first and foremost in business and political spheres, to help assess needs and establish goals, bearing in mind that the public interest is of paramount importance. WBAF engages a wide range of institutions, both public and private, local and international, commercial and academic to help shape the global agenda.  [www.wbaforum.org](http://www.wbaforum.org) |
|  | **WBAF 2018 Press Team Head**  Jenna Owen  +44(0)1603 743 363  jenna@mediajems.co.uk |