

Press release

### The Board of the GESDA Foundation approves its 2025-2026 Work Programme, welcomes three new Personalities and adapts its Organization.

Geneva, 6 December 2024

On 7 and 8 December 2019, the Board of the GESDA Foundation held its inaugural meeting and defined its medium-term roadmap. Meeting five years later at the Geneva Biotech Campus and online, the Board took note of the progress made by the Foundation, validated the priorities for the next two years and made several important appointments and changes to its organization.

### The Board of Directors validates GESDA priorities for 2025 & 2026

At this meeting, the Board gave its final approval to the Foundation's 2025 & 2026 work programme. In addition to continuing current activities (fifth edition of the GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar, first year of implementation of the GESDA Anticipation Gateway initiative, second year of implementation of the Quantum for All Initiative, fifth edition of the Geneva Science and Diplomacy Anticipation Summit), the GESDA Foundation will give priority to two new areas:

1. The systematic promotion of International Geneva worldwide through the extension of activities linked to its current initiatives, in particular with the Geneva Public Portal to Anticipation, which will welcome visitors to the Swiss Pavilion for the duration of the 2025 World Expo in Osaka. In all, next year GESDA will be organizing major activities in 16 countries, including two in the Americas, three in Africa, eight in Asia and the Middle East as well as three in Europe.



2. The preparation of new initiatives similar to the Open Quantum Institute with a view to their gradual launch from July 2026 in some of the other emerging fields covered by the GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar, for instance, neuro-augmentation, eco-augmentation, space, synthetic biology or the the future of peace and war.

## Three new members on the Foundation Board of Directors

Three new members will join the Foundation Board from 2025, two from Africa and one of Swiss nationality. They are Professor Lindiwe Majele Sibanda, Mr Anton Rupert and Professor Urs Gasser.

**Ms. Lindiwe Majele Sibanda**, born in 1963, is a Zimbabwean academic serving as a policy advisor to numerous African governments and global institutions. She is currently the Chair of the CGIAR Integrated Partnership Board and also chairs the Council of the National University of Science and Technology in Zimbabwe. She serves as Extra Ordinary Professor at the University of Pretoria in South Africa. She is also the founder and Executive Director of Linds Agricultural Services Pvt Ltd. in Zimbabwe. She has been a member of the Board of Directors of Nestlé S.A. since 2021.

**Mr. Anton Rupert**, born in 1987, is a South African businessman, a member of the Board of Directors of Richemont and Remgro as well as several other related companies. He is also member of the Advisory Board of Asia Partners, a South-East Asian private equity fund focused on growth-stage technology opportunities. Outside of his business interests he is deeply involved in the various Rupert charitable Foundations. He will now bring to the GESDA Foundation his knowledge of technology start-ups and the evolution of consumer behaviour, marketing and online commerce. He has represented his family in the GESDA Foundation's Chairman's Circle of Donors since May 2024.

**Mr. Urs Gasser**, born in April 1972 in Solothurn, is a Swiss researcher and academic leader specializing in the relationship between law and innovation and the governance of emerging technologies. He is currently Rector of the Munich School of Politics and Public Policy (HfP) and Dean of the School of Social Sciences and Technology at the Technical University of Munich (TUM). From 2009 to 2021, he directed the Berkman Klein Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University. He has been a professor at Harvard Law School and a visiting professor at Keiō University in Japan and at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland, where he obtained his doctorate in law.

## The Foundation Board of Directors adapts its organization

The Foundation Board has also made two changes to its organization.

**Ms. Henrietta Fore**, a member of the GESDA Foundation Board since 2023, has been entrusted with the chairmanship of the GESDA Citizens' Forum. Ms. Fore is an American and Swiss citizen. She has headed the US international development agency USAID and UNICEF. In addition to her career in the civil service and the private sector, Ms. Fore has held management positions in various civil society organizations. She has notably served as global co-chair of the Asia Society and has been associated with the Center for Strategic and International Studies, the Aspen Institute, the Committee Encouraging Corporate Philanthropy and the Center for Global Development. She will represent the GESDA Foundation at the Osaka World Expo, where the Geneva Portal to Anticipation will be at the heart of the Swiss Pavilion, allowing visitors to playfully immerse themselves in the GESDA Science Breakthrough Radar.

**Mr. Peter Brabeck-Letmathe**, Executive Chairman of GESDA, will assume ad interim the operational management of the Foundation from January 2025. He will be supported in this task by one of the new members of the Board, **Mr. Urs Gasser**. This arrangement will remain in place until a successor is found for **Mr. Sandro Giuliani**, GESDA's current CEO. Mr. Giuliani wished to reduce his working hours for family reasons and to be able to work from Zurich, the canton in which he lives and has his social life. He will continue to work part-time for the GESDA Foundation, for which he will be responsible for fundraising in 2025. The Foundation Board expresses its sincere gratitude for the results he achieved as CEO since October 2022 and looks forward to continuing its fruitful collaboration with him.

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For further information, please contact:

- Peter Brabeck-Letmathe, Chairman of the GESDA Foundation - +41 21 924 24 71
- Stéphane Decoutère, Secretary General of the Foundation Board - [stephane.decoutere@gesda.global](mailto:stephane.decoutere@gesda.global)
- Jean-Marc Crevoisier, Marketing and Communications Director - [jean-marc.crevoisier@gesda.global](mailto:jean-marc.crevoisier@gesda.global)  
+41 79 763 84 10