



*Public Affairs Section of the
Global Bank*



PRESS RELEASE

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Email: media.center@global-bank.org

**"The heart in ashes": Global Bank Group President Ron Nechemia
condolences to the people of France, following the fire at the 850-
year-old Catholic cathedral.**



Los Angeles, CA – April 16, 2019 – As Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris has burned on Monday, the Global Bank Group¹ President [Ron Nechemia](#) (@RonNechemia) shared his shock and sadness, **“It’s a deep wound to see the devastation inflicted by flames at the 850-year-old Catholic cathedral as images of the fire are shown live around the world.”**

¹ Global Bank Group, consisting of five institutions, represents, develops and supports the collective interests of its business interests around the world. One of these institutions is **The Bank for International Development and Reconstruction** known as the [Global Bank](#), (“BIDR,” “Global Bank,” or “Bank”). Global Bank is a full-fledged private sector global development bank, **in formation**, with legal and regulatory rights including formal approval to utilize the term **"Bank"** pending – the *world’s second global development bank* – positioned next to the *World Bank* and the preeminent regional development banks (MDBs). The Bank for International Development and Reconstruction borrows in the international capital markets.

The Global Bank Group President Ron Nechemia has sent a message of condolence to French President Emmanuel Macron and the mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo following the fire at Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris.

“These are heartbreaking scenes of the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris in flames. Global Bank Group stands in support and solidarity with Paris today, and in friendship always,”.

Read his full statement:

Today, it is in flames.

Fire burns Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris,

In a statement to the people of Paris, Ron Nechemia said the "Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris is our common heritage. Noble in architecture and masterpiece of art, it has long been a symbol of the transcendent human spirit to the world and a heritage status in 1991."

The Global Bank Group President Ron Nechemia said that his thoughts are with those who worship at the Cathedral and all of the people and Government of France at this difficult time.

About the Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris

The central Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris, which celebrated its 850th anniversary in 2013, took 182 years to build -- construction began in the 12th century and was completed in the 13th century -- and can hold more than 6,000 worshippers.

Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris was badly damaged during the French Revolution and was restored by architect Eugène Viollet-le-Duc in the 19th century. It is known for its enormous stained glass windows, among other remarkable architectural details.

Learn more about this remarkable building here.

About Global Bank

Owned by the [Global Bank Group](#), The Bank for International Development and Reconstruction, known as the [Global Bank](#) borrows in the international capital markets (the “BIDR,” or the “[Global Bank](#)”) and is the Global Bank Group’s long-term sovereign lending institution. As a development bank with an agenda driven by G-7/G-8 and G-20-priorities, its leading priority is to promote global economic and social development. Unlike the multilateral development banks (MDBs), Global Bank is not restricted to operating only in developing countries.

The Global Bank Group represents, develops and supports the collective interests of the Global Bank and any of its business interests globally. Global Bank is a full-fledged private sector global development bank, **in formation**, – the *world's second global development bank* – positioned next to the *World Bank Group* and next to the preeminent regional development banks. It combines the characteristics of a multilateral development bank with those of a private financial institution. The primary objective of the Global Bank is to reduce poverty in middle-income countries and creditworthy poorer countries by promoting sustainable development. To this end, Global Bank finances primarily public sector infrastructure projects and sustainable development through the provision of sovereign loans to developing countries. Global Bank’s financial objective is not to maximize profit, but to earn an adequate income to ensure its financial strength and to sustain its development activities.

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GLOBAL BANK EXTERNAL RELATIONS DEPARTMENT

Public Affairs

Email: media.center@global-bank.org

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