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## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Email:** [media.center@global-bank.org](mailto:media.center@global-bank.org)

### **Statement by the Global Bank President Ron Nechemia - on Hanukkah. “The Festival of Lights”**



**Newport Beach, CA – December 7, 2023** — The President of the Global Bank Group, Ron Nechemia, today issued the following statement to mark the start of Hanukkah:

#### **Hanukkah: The Festival of Lights**

It's time to celebrate Hanukkah. From my family to yours, I would like to extend our most heartfelt greetings to our Jewish brothers and sisters who are celebrating the Festival of Lights, also known as Hanukkah, in the United States of America, Europe, Israel, and all across the world.

The Jewish Festival of the Lights lasts eight days and nights in honor of a 2,000-year-old miracle in which light won out over darkness. This year, Hanukkah started on Thursday, December 7.

For eight nights, Jewish families and friends will come together to engage in the lighting of the menorah. This special tradition started more than 2,000 years ago during the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, which followed a trying period when Jews were persecuted for practicing their faith.

### **Calling for the genocide of Jews**

Unfortunately, the Jews today continue to face many different forms of violence, hatred, and bigotry around the globe. On October 7 — the October 7 Massacres —, the belligerents killed, raped, and attacked innocent civilians in Israel, with beheadings and dismemberment of babies and adults, killings of civilians **“by shooting at close range and by severe physical abuse.** 1,400 Israelis have been murdered since the October 7 Massacre, including 559 soldiers; eighty-one Israeli hostages out of 240 known hostages have been released.

In the United States, campuses convulsed with protesters in retaliation to Israel’s military campaign in Gaza and hostile, sometimes violent, rhetoric toward Jews, and the presidents of three elite universities struggled to answer a question about whether **“calling for the genocide of Jews”** would violate school rules.

“Genocide is the annihilation of an entire people based on ethnic, national origin, racial, or religious group—in whole or in part — has also become a word of our time, a stark and haunting reminder of why our vigilance must be unwavering,” says Ron Nechemia the President of the Global Bank Group on the accession of the Festival of Lights —Hanukkah – December 7, 2023.

Ron Nechemia says on the **Festival of Lights** Days that we all have a **“sacred responsibility”** to combat hatred and intolerance and to protect humanity from the terror of a possible **“nuclear holocaust.”** Our remembrance is a yearning for wisdom and to ensure that such horror never happens again anywhere in the world,” Ron Nechemia says. It also attempts to imbue future generations with a different vision of human existence.”

Remembering the Holocaust is also a safeguard for the future. Discrimination, antisemitism, and bigotry were the seeds that eventually grew into the abyss that was the Nazi extermination camps. Being mindful of these beginnings might serve as a reminder to always be vigilant for warning indicators.

### **Remember all those victims of the most vicious possible brutality on October 7**

We remember all those victims of the most vicious possible brutality on October 7, and we pledge our continued care and support for the victims, their families, and the community. And we pray that the victims’ families find some measure of peace and comfort during this holiday season.

The warm glow of each candle on the menorah should help fill homes and hearts with love and happiness throughout the next several days. May this be the case. The idea that light will always pierce through the darkness is something that we reaffirm together.

### **#ShineALight**

For the sake of humanity, justice, kindness, compassion, humanity, allyship, and community, I have requested that you #ShineALight. Maintain a unified front against antisemitism, racism, and any other kind of hatred on the planet.

**Global Bank will continue to raise these concerns and advocate for change to promote peace, security, human rights, and human dignity.**

**Global Bank Support for Post-War Reconstruction**

We look forward to working with both the Palestinians and Israel and the international community in the years ahead to promote the protection of human rights, regional peace and stability, and economic development.

Sincere best wishes for a joyous Hanukkah to you and your loved ones!

### **About GB-DRRRF**

The Global Bank Disaster Risk Reduction and Reconstruction Fund – an Umbrella Trust Fund (GB-DRRRF), established in 2017, is a multi-donor partnership and grant-making financing mechanism. Its purpose is mainstreaming climate change into development to help achieve the [Sendai Framework targets by 2030](#) - a decade-long plan to help make the world safer from disasters caused by natural hazards, to support the implementation of the [Global Climate Agreement in Paris](#), and prevent disasters undermining progress on the [Sustainable Development Goals](#). The rapid and flexible support offered by the [Global Bank Disaster Risk Reduction and Reconstruction Fund](#) makes it a central pillar of the [Global Bank Group](#) agencies' humanitarian response architecture.

More detailed information can be found on the GB-DRRRF's website <http://www.gbdrfff.org/>

### **About Global Bank**

[Global Bank](#) 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 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](mailto:media.center@global-bank.org)

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