

## David Nussbaum appointed Chief Executive Officer of The Elders

**LONDON, 23 May 2016**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Elders Foundation is delighted to announce the appointment of [David Nussbaum](#) as Chief Executive Officer (CEO). As CEO, David will manage the London-based Secretariat and lead the work of the organisation. He will take up his appointment in October.

David is currently Chief Executive of WWF-UK. WWF is the leading global environmental organisation which operates in some 100 countries. He has held this post since 2007.

[Kofi Annan](#), Chair of The Elders, said:

*“After a rigorous and extensive global search, I am very pleased to be able to announce David’s appointment. He has distinguished experience in the management of not-for-profit organisations and is a real leader in the field of international development. My fellow Elders and I look forward to working with him.”*

A British citizen, David graduated from Cambridge and Edinburgh Universities where he studied theology. He spent the early part of his career in the finance sector before moving to the not-for-profit sector in 1997.

Starting at Oxfam, he became a Deputy Chief Executive and also served as interim head of its India programme. He then moved to Transparency International at its International Secretariat in Berlin, from 2002-2007 where he was Chief Executive. David also holds a number of advisory and non-executive director positions in the commercial and not-for-profit sectors.

David said:

*“It is with absolute delight that I look forward to joining The Elders. I’ve followed the lives of a number of them with admiration for many years, and it’s a wonderful opportunity to have the chance to support them directly in their work. In today’s global society – with so many complex challenges – I’m convinced that the role the Elders can play is increasingly both relevant and*

*needed. I will be working with the Elders and the Secretariat team as we continue to build upon past interventions to make a positive difference to the future of our shared world.”*

David succeeds Lesley-Anne Knight who retired as CEO of The Elders in March 2016. Andrew Whitley will continue to act as Interim CEO until David assumes the position.

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## **Media enquiries**

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## **About The Elders**

The Elders are independent leaders using their collective experience and influence for peace, justice and human rights worldwide. The group was founded by Nelson Mandela in 2007.

The Elders are [Martti Ahtisaari](#), [Kofi Annan](#) (Chair), [Ela Bhatt](#), [Lakhdar Brahimi](#), [Gro Harlem Brundtland](#) (Deputy Chair), [Fernando Henrique Cardoso](#), [Jimmy Carter](#), [Hina Jilani](#), [Graça Machel](#), [Mary Robinson](#) and [Ernesto Zedillo](#).

[Desmond Tutu](#) is an honorary Elder.

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## **Find out more**

For biographies of the Elders, blogs, photos, videos and more information about their work please go to [www.theElders.org](http://www.theElders.org).

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