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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Global Upstate Conference on International Business and Foreign Affairs
Announces 2023 Keynote Speaker**

Greenville, South Carolina – Aug 29, 2023 - Upstate International and World Affairs Council Upstate are delighted to announce Lawrence Wilkerson, Chairman of Heminge & Condell and Co-Founder of Global Business Network, as a panel speaker of the upcoming Global Upstate Conference on International Business and World Affairs. This anticipated conference will take place on October 3rd and 4th, 2023 at the City of Greer Event Hall & the Cannon Center, delving into stimulating discussions from international business leaders, scholars, and community members. Wilkerson will be unpacking the qualities of the next great leader during *Panel 4: Global Instabilities and Opportunities*.

Lawrence Wilkerson has developed a reputable authority in multiple spheres of the business and academic realm. Currently, he serves as the Chairman of Heminge & Condell (H&C), an investment and strategic advisory firm. Wilkerson is also the Co-Founder of Global Business Network (GBN), a strategic consulting firm that played a key role in developing and spreading the Scenario Planning technique, a crucial approach for long-term organizational planning globally. Wilkerson served as President of GBN from 1987 to 1998, significantly impacting the international domain of project development and further honing his renowned leadership skills.

Widely recognized in the field of strategic advising and innovation, Wilkerson has earned the title of "Jedi Knight of Innovation" by *Fast Company*. He frequently lends his strategic counsel to corporate clients and governments globally. Throughout his career, Wilkerson has been actively involved in venture formation, serving as a director and counselor for various companies, including but not limited to: Apple, The Walt Disney Co., Google, The World Trade Organization, as well as the governments of the United States, the United Kingdom, Mongolia, and Singapore.

Wilkerson's leadership involvement extends far beyond GBN. He serves as Director and Advisor to Ealing Studios, Ltd., the world's oldest continuously operating film studio. He co-conceived Oxygen Media, Inc. in 1998, a cable television programming service reaching over 70 million households in the United States. Additionally, he assisted in creating, then served as Director and Chief Architect of Wired Ventures, the partnership responsible for *Wired* Magazine and *Wired Digital/HotWired*.

Throughout his career, Wilkerson has held executive positions in various companies, such as Colossal Pictures, serving as President from 1984 to 1990, overseeing film, television, and digital entertainment production. He was involved in the founding of *Business Times*, a pioneering cable and radio financial news service that subsequently birthed CNN and *The Wall Street Journal Report*. His contributions to academia, including teaching at renowned institutions and participating in notable events like The World Economic Forum's annual Davos Summit, further highlight Wilkerson's broad range of expertise.

Wilkerson's academic background includes honors degrees from Davidson College, Oxford University, and Harvard Business School. He has authored publications, Harvard Business School case studies, and delivered speeches at leading industry events. Associated with multiple boards, advisory roles, and

not-for-profit organizations, Lawrence Wilkerson will be a valuable component of the upcoming Global Upstate Conference on International Business and World Affairs.

Attendees to the conference will have the unique opportunity to hear Lawrence Wilkerson discuss the characteristics of an outstanding future leader as he integrates his vast experience into a panel discussion. Learn more about Mr. Wilkerson and other influential speakers for the Global Upstate Conference [HERE](#).

Upstate International

Upstate International is a 501(c)(3) organization empowering global people and businesses to thrive in the Upstate by connecting them through programs, events, and initiatives fostering exchange of international cultures and ideas. Our World Affairs Council Upstate is dedicated to fostering a deep understanding of foreign affairs, international business, and global education. <https://upstateinternational.org/>