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DIKEMBE MUTOMBO SELECTED AS ONE OF 237 EXCEPTIONAL LEADERS SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW MAJOR GLOBAL UNDERTAKING TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

Atlanta, GA January 11, 2005 – Klaus Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum, today released the names of the first 237 young leaders who have been selected and have accepted to take part in The Forum of Young Global Leaders, working in close cooperation with the World Economic Forum. **Dikembe Mutombo** has been named as one of the Young Global Leaders. This new global undertaking, The Forum of Young Global Leaders, brings together outstanding leaders, aged 40 years or younger, who have committed to devote part of their knowledge and energy over the next five years to collectively work towards a better future.

Drawn from a pool of 8,000 candidates from around the world, the Young Global Leaders nominated in 2005 have been selected by a nomination committee of 28 eminent international media leaders, including Marjorie Scardino, Arthur Sulzberger, Tom Glocer and Katsuji Ebisawa. Her Majesty Queen Rania of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan chairs the committee.

"Rising leaders of today need to forge viable partnerships to spearhead a process of change," said Her Majesty Queen Rania of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. "The Forum of Young Global Leaders will activate a network of insightful, innovative and energetic young people whose vision and dynamism can usher a future of hope, progress and positive change."

One of this year's Young Global Leaders is NBA All-Star **Dikembe Mutombo** of the Houston Rockets.

Honored with USA Weekend Magazine's "Most Caring Athlete Award," NBA All-Star Dikembe Mutombo Mpolondo Mukamba Jean Jacques Mutombo of the Houston Rockets has long been dedicated to improving the health, education and quality of life for the people in his birthplace, the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Created in 1997, the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation is attempting to eradicate many childhood diseases that have virtually disappeared in developed countries while those diseases are still life threatening to children in the DR Congo everyday.

Because infections caused by poor sanitary conditions are a serious threat to both children and adults in the Congo, one of the Foundation's most important goals is to improve the present public health facilities that are currently lacking in both medical supplies and trained personnel. One major project of the Foundation is to build a new general hospital (Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital) in the capital city of Kinshasa. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new hospital took place in Kinshasa on September 15, 2001. The \$29 million project is scheduled for completion in June 2006.

At its opening, the Biamba Marie Mutombo hospital will be the first new hospital in the Congo almost 40 years.

The Young Global Leaders nominated in 2005, form an exciting, powerful network of leaders from 69 different countries: 72 are from Europe, 62 from North America, 49 from Asia, 19 from the Middle East and North Africa, 18 from sub-Saharan Africa and 17 from Latin America.

Reflecting the diversity of stakeholders, the Young Global Leaders nominated in 2005 comprise 57 political leaders, including heads of state, ministers and parliamentarians. From the business sector there are 97 Young Global Leaders, mostly chief executive officers and successful entrepreneurs. The other stakeholders consist of 28 intellectual leaders, 27 societal leaders, 23 active opinion leaders and 5 cultural leaders. Women make up 30% of the entire group.

"We would like to integrate those Young Global Leaders into processes which will allow them to have a real impact on global affairs and to make sure that global decision-making preserves the interests of the next generation," said Klaus

Schwab, Executive Chairman of the World Economic Forum. "The Forum of Young Global Leaders will be a strong force from all walks of life to shake up traditional thinking and to bring a bold, forward-looking approach to the world."

The Young Global Leaders will engage in the 2020 Initiative, a comprehensive effort at addressing together the complex challenges of today to shape a better future for our world. The Young Global Leaders will meet for the first time as a community at their Inaugural Summit in Zermatt, Switzerland, 24-28 June 2005, where they will assess current and future trends, risks and opportunities both at global and regional levels. The Young Global Leaders will then develop global strategies and put forward concrete actions to be taken today in order to advance towards a better world in the year 2020.

For more information and a detailed list of all Young Global Leaders, please visit www.weforum.org/ygl

Information will also be available at our website, www.younggloballeaders.org which will be live beginning 11 January 2005.

The Forum of Young Global Leaders, based in Geneva, Switzerland, is in the process of being incorporated as an independent, not-for-profit foundation, under the supervision of the Swiss Government. The Forum of Young Global is comprised of leaders, aged 40 years and younger, committed to shaping the future. The Young Global Leaders include leaders from each of the seven geographic regions and from the worlds of politics, business, society, learning, arts and culture. Each year, around 200 Young Global Leaders are nominated to serve for a period of five years, ultimately forming a community of 1,111 by 2009. Professor Klaus Schwab in 2004 and others created the Forum of Young Global Leaders in close cooperation with the World Economic Forum in their joint commitment to improving the state of the world.

The World Economic Forum is an independent international organization committed to improving the state of the world. The Forum provides a collaborative framework for the world's leaders to address global issues, engaging particularly its corporate members in global citizenship.

Incorporated as a foundation, and based in Geneva, Switzerland, the World Economic Forum is impartial and not-for-profit; it is tied to no political, partisan or national interests. The Forum has NGO consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.