



**Remarks of Mayor Martin J. Walsh
Global Business Alliance of New England Forum
February 27, 2018**

As prepared for delivery

Thank you, **Peter [Pound]**, partner, Morgan Lewis]. Thank you to all the officers and members of the Global Business Alliance of New England. Congratulations on the 25th Anniversary of this Annual International Business Forum and Networking Night.

I want to thank every member of the international business community who is here tonight, for your work in Boston, your investment in Boston, your belief in Boston.

The individuals and organizations here are vital to Boston's success on the global stage. You're working hard every day to make our city a great place to do business.

Thank you to:

- The international business councils and chambers of commerce.
- The consulates and the trade organizations.
- Massachusetts Export Center and director **Paula Murphy**.
- Regional Director **Jim Cox** and the U.S. Department of Commerce.
- The Massachusetts Office of International Trade and Investment.

And I'm proud to include the City of Boston in this community. **James Colimon** and **Sarah Delude** of our Global Affairs team are here. We made international business development a priority over the last four years, and we created this team to make sure it stays a priority.

Boston's economy is thriving—and global partnerships have been vital to our success. In the last four years, we've seen over \$20 billion of development move forward and we've added over 85,000 new jobs in the City of Boston alone. A significant number of those jobs are due to investment, or direct employment, by global firms.

In the past year, new international employers include:

- The **Qt Company** from Finland announced their Boston office in August 2017.
- **Qilu** pharmaceuticals, from China, opened its Boston Innovation Center in Brighton in May 2017. They called us "the epicenter of life science innovation."
- Also **HealthBeacon** of Ireland opened in South Boston last March.
- And this morning, we cut the ribbon on the new **Asics** innovation facility. They build on our global leadership in footwear, with New Balance, Converse, Reebok, Puma,

and M. Gemi. It's a reminder that every industry is an innovation industry now—and Boston is an innovation hub.

American firms are coming to Boston for the same reasons. In a couple of recent examples: **Alexion Pharmaceuticals** is moving its headquarters and 400 jobs to our Seaport this summer. They develop medicines for blood disorders and immune diseases. And **MassMutual**, one of the world's biggest life insurers, plans to build a \$240 million office—with roughly 1,000 employees on Fan Pier.

I'm also pleased to announce that WS Development submitted plans this week for a new development in the Seaport which would include a new office for **Amazon**. No, it's not "HQ2"! But it's great news for Boston. Amazon already has a significant presence here, with 1,000 employees between Boston and Cambridge. If this project is finalized, Amazon will occupy 1 million square feet of new space at Seaport Square—and add up to 2,000 new positions in the next few years. This project filing is the first step, and we'll be working with Amazon to make it a reality.

Projects like these are a tremendous vote of confidence in our city's economy. Global leaders are looking to Boston and seeing one of the world's greatest talent pipelines in our colleges and universities.

They see more international flights at Logan Airport, adding: Hong Kong, Columbia, Brazil, Canada, the U.K.

They're seeing a culture of innovation that spans research labs, hospitals, startups, investors, employers. We've been ranked the #1 U.S. city for startups and innovation *two years in a row* by the US Chamber of Commerce Foundation. We have Global Entrepreneur in Residence programs at UMass Boston and Babson College downtown.

They're also seeing a public sector that's innovative and forward-thinking. We have a Housing Plan to meet the needs of our growing population at every income level. We're meeting our goals and we're working with our regional neighbors to take it even further. We have a business climate where leaders in each sector want growth that is inclusive and sustainable. Our climate action plan is one of the most ambitious in the U.S.—our goal is 100% carbon neutral by 2050.

So we feel confident that we will continue to be a top choice for global employers—whether that is Amazon's second headquarters, or any other firm—local, domestic, or international—whose goals align with our vision of a thriving, healthy, and innovative city.

There's another quality that I believe is fundamental to our success. Boston is a global city where it counts—in its people. 28% of our residents are foreign-born. That cuts across every class, race, and neighborhood.

If you go into the Boston Public Schools, you find 48% of students have a foreign-born parent. And nearly one-third speak a language other than English at home.

If you go onto our college campuses, you find 22% of our college students are international.

If you go into our hospitals, you'll find foreign-born surgeons, doctors, nurses, and staff.

If you go into our neighborhood small businesses, you'll find foreign born entrepreneurs.

If you go into the shared offices and labs where startups are blooming, you find foreign-born innovators.

Like they sing in *Hamilton*, “immigrants, they get the job done”—and so do their kids, and their colleagues, and their neighbors.

We get international relations on a personal level. Global partnerships are connections between real people—good people—in our neighborhoods and in this room. We are lucky to have those connections. They link us to places and cultures all around the world. That makes us stronger.

The fact is, every part of the U.S. economy is impacted by global events. Whether it’s a conflict or a peace process, a change in political alignment, or change in the climate: the whole world is connected and the whole world is affected.

If you’re not part of the global community; if you’re not wired into those conversations; then you won’t see change coming. And when it comes, you have no control over its impact.

We nurture these connections in many ways:

- The C40 Cities on climate action, which enables us to remain committed to the Paris Agreement.
- Sister City relationships and trade missions.
- Memoranda of Understanding with global cities, on everything from startup support to arts and culture.

In Boston we are dedicated to moving forward: as a leader in the global economy, in understanding and cooperation, hand in hand with you, our local international business community.

Beyond all our policies and programs, these relationships need to be fostered and nurtured on a personal level and on a continual basis.

That’s what everyone in this room does. That’s what tonight is about, and what this event has been about for 25 years. And as you strengthen these relationships, you make Boston stronger. So I thank you once again. And I have a proclamation here to make it official.