



Opening remarks by

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and
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**IADI – ARC Annual General Meeting and
Conference**

August 21-25, 2023

Senegal

The Guest of Honour, Governor of the Central Bank of West African States

Managing Director, West African Monetary Union Deposit Insurance Fund

CEOs and MDs of member jurisdictions

Delegates from the member countries

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

Bonjour, Good morning,

It is indeed a pleasure for me to present the opening remarks at this year's ARC AGM and Conference. I add my voice to that of our host to welcome all deposit insurers and our strategic partners to this year's august assembly. Please join me in applauding the West African Monetary Union Deposit Insurance Fund, for rising up to the challenge of hosting this year's event.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am especially pleased because today marks my maiden speech as the first female Chairperson of ARC. The confidence that you have bestowed on me to serve in this capacity is truly humbling. I take this

opportunity to thank the outgoing Executive Committee under the able leadership of Mr. Mohamud Ahmed Mohamud. You held the mantle in a steadfast manner and ensured that there was continuity within the ARC. As we transition to a new leadership, permit me to present and recognise the following members of the new executive;

1. Mr. Bello Hassan, Vice Chairperson
2. Mr. Olivier Ngenzi Musengimana, General Secretary
3. Ms. Pearl Esua-Mensah, Publicity Secretary
4. Mr. Mohamed Mahraoui, Training & Research Coordinator

I congratulate the team with whom I have been tasked to provide stewardship for the continued growth of ARC in particular, and IADI in general. To my colleagues in the Executive Committee, permit me to share the African proverb that “The world is not ours, the earth is not ours. It is a treasure we hold in trust for future generations”. In the same spirit, I hope that we will collectively be worthy of that trust so that future generations will attest to our efforts.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the recent past, some sections of the global financial system faced upheavals which necessitated a swift response in order to stem the potential erosion of public confidence in the sector and to ensure stability. Thankfully, the swift action taken by the affected Deposit

Insurance entities in close collaboration with their respective Central Banks and Government Treasuries, was critical in ensuring that depositors remained well insulated and protected. It is this kind of instantaneous and coordinated action that lends further credence to the importance of having a sound deposit insurance system which works closely and seamlessly with the Central Bank and the Ministry of Finance. It is my considered view that the depositors who were affected, now fully appreciate the relevance of deposit insurance. Our efforts should, therefore, be garnered towards spreading this appreciation especially to the jurisdictions that have not yet encountered these challenges directly, and those that have not yet established deposit insurance systems.

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is not farfetched to assert that with these developments, the deposit insurance concept has come under scrutiny from the broad spectrum of our stakeholders. Therefore, this year's theme "Protecting *Depositors from Crisis to Payout*" could not have been a more befitting choice in the aftermath of the recent occurrences. I invite all delegates at this conference to actively share their insights and experiences so that together, we shall come up with proactive actions and interventions for the deposit insurance industry. The deliberations and resolutions from this conference should be appropriately formulated and tailored to

prevent any sceptics from using these distressing situations to water down the otherwise plausible actions, and strides being undertaken by deposit insurers to contribute to enhanced public confidence in the financial sector.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The modus operandi of IADI and ARC is anchored on continuous engagement, collaboration and collective decision making. The ideals and objectives of the Committee are not only well spelt out, but they are also reviewed regularly to ensure that they are adaptive to the changes in the environment. It is against this background that today, we are proud to launch the ARC book which highlights the evolution, practice and experience of deposit insurance in Africa. This project was a brainchild of the then Managing Director of the Nigeria Deposit Insurance Corporation, Alhaji Umaru Ibrahim. The ARC will eternally be grateful for the wisdom, dedication and passion with which he served the Region.

I have no intention of elaborating to you a “manifesto” for my executive, but allow me to disclose that the ARC team will continue to place emphasis on the following;

- a) Strengthening research on deposit insurance across the region to identify the unique challenges which we face, design appropriate solutions and identify opportunities that can be tapped into.
- b) Enhancing capacity building on deposit insurance amongst the staff and Board members of the various DIs. To this end the Region intends to put in place a solid framework which will ensure that this dream is realised.
- c) Expanding awareness on the need for deposit insurance across the continent and increasing IADI membership. This is vital if we are to build vibrant and resilient financial systems in our respective jurisdictions and Africa as a whole.
- d) Liaising closely with the Governors of Central Banks within the Region to build the much-needed coordination and support.

In addition to the critical areas of emphasis elaborated above, it is important to mention the major strides that have been posted by the various jurisdictions in the region over the last couple of years;

1. Technological transformations are taking place with countries putting in place specialised depositor payout systems to reimburse depositors fast.
2. A number of collaborations between Deposit Insurance Entities and stakeholders like Central Banks are being actualized through Memoranda of Understanding.

3. Some Deposit Insurance Entities have increased their deposit insurance limits to contribute more to confidence building, while taking into account the risk of moral hazard.
4. Jurisdictions have embraced the idea of conducting self-assessments which are designed to assess their compliance with the IADI core-principles.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am aware that the West African Monetary Union Deposit Insurance Fund was established relatively recently. This notwithstanding, the Union has made considerable strides in establishing a strong deposit insurance system in the West African Region. You can rest assured that the Executive Committee, buttressed by the more established Deposit Insurance Entities in the African Region, will be on hand to support you through this journey.

Ladies and Gentlemen, colleagues,

As I conclude my welcome remarks, permit me on behalf of the ARC to extend our appreciation to the Government and people of Senegal for the warm welcome to this lovely nation. I am informed that our host has prepared a rich menu of engagements and activities both within and outside the conference, to ensure that we go back with an

unforgettable experience. To the host CEO and your team, we are fully aware of the level of energy, synergy and commitment required to deliver an event of this magnitude, we applaud you. On that note allow me to welcome all of you to Uganda, to attend next year's ARC AGM and Conference. I am sure you will enjoy the experience of visiting the Pearl of Africa.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish you all very engaging and fruitful deliberations.

God bless.

Merci Beaucoup