



Arab Monetary Fund



إتحاد هيئات الأوراق المالية العربية  
UNION OF ARAB SECURITIES AUTHORITIES

In association with



# ENHANCING CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN THE ARAB REGION

## “ BUILDING BRIDGES WITH BOARDS OF DIRECTORS”

8-9 March 2017

Abu Dhabi

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

### Day 1 – March 8, 2017

|               |   |
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| 8:30 – 9:00   | Registration and refreshments   |
| 9:00 – 9:30   | <b><u>Welcoming Addresses:</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome addresses by AMF, IFC, UASA</li> <li>• Keynote address by high level government official</li> </ul>   |
| 9:30 – 10:30  | <b><u>Keynote Speeches:</u></b> <p>As the economies in the Arab region develop in today's globalized world, they need to adopt and implement international standards of corporate governance and regulation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• International standards for securities regulation</li> <li>• The latest international and regional trends in Corporate Governance</li> <li>• Benchmarking and comparative assessment of current corporate governance practices in the Arab region</li> </ul>  |
| 10:30 – 11:00 | Break   |
| 11:00 – 12:00 | <b><u>Panel session 1: The Changing Role of the Regulator in the Financial Sector</u></b> <p>How is the regulatory landscape changing and what are the key issues facing regulators in 2017.</p> <p>The panel will discuss the some of the following key issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conduct risk</li> <li>▪ Structural reform of the banking sector</li> <li>▪ Measuring risk exposures</li> <li>▪ Technology and innovation</li> <li>▪ Complexity and the cost of regulation</li> </ul>  |
| 12:00 – 13:00 | <b><u>Panel session 2: Overview of new OECD Corporate Governance Principles: Strengthening the Regulations Framework</u></b> <p>The OECD Principles are one of the 12 key standards for sound financial systems of the Financial Stability Board (FSB) and form the basis for the corporate governance component of the Report on the Observance of Standards and Codes of the World Bank Group. The panel will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The impact of the new OECD Corporate Governance Principles</li> <li>▪ Challenges facing compliance to the new principles</li> <li>▪ The role of the Legal and Regulatory environment on the effective implementation of the new principles</li> </ul> |
| 13:00 – 13:30 | Break   |

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| 13:30 – 14:30                | <p><b><u>Panel session 3: How to Build Bridges with Boards? – the Director’s View</u></b></p> <p>Regulators are increasing their scrutiny of boards of directors and their compliance with corporate governance codes and standards.</p> <p>The panel will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the key issues and challenges from the Board Directors view</li> <li>▪ How do regulators and boards communicate with each other – best practices</li> <li>▪ How do we create a bridge between complex economic and regulatory theory and the everyday commercial concerns and pragmatism of the business?</li> <li>▪ How do we ensure that rules and regulations are well adapted to current and future conditions?</li> </ul>  |
| 14:30                        | Lunch  |
| <b>Day 2 – March 9, 2017</b> |  |
| 8:30 – 9:30                  | Refreshments and Networking  |
| 9:30 – 10:30                 | <p><b>Keynote Speeches</b></p> <p>As the economies in the Arab region develop in today’s globalized world, they need to adopt and implement international standards of corporate governance and regulation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcement – best practices and lessons learned</li> <li>• Stress Testing and Risk Management</li> <li>• How to develop a sound and progressive financial centre</li> </ul>  |
| 10:30 – 11:30                | <p><b><u>Panel session 4: Board Diversity - Independent Directors, Women Directors, Directors’ Remuneration – should it be regulated?</u></b></p> <p>Some of the latest international trends in corporate governance including greater diversity on boards, especially gender diversity, more independent directors with specific roles, and greater oversight of Directors and Executive remuneration. The panel will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What is the value of independent directors and how can we regulate for this?</li> <li>▪ Should there be a legal or voluntary quota for women directors?</li> <li>▪ Directors Remuneration – perception and risks</li> <li>▪ Board director selection – how we do we ensure we have the best Board?</li> </ul> |
| 11:30 – 12:00                | Break  |

|               |   |
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| 12:00 – 13:00 | <p><b><u>Panel session 5: Compliance Monitoring</u></b></p> <p>Effective monitoring and reporting is critical for effective regulation. The panel will discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Best practices and lessons learned</li> <li>▪ How to monitoring Related Party Transactions and Conflicts of Interest</li> <li>▪ Data and regulatory reporting</li> </ul>   |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | <p><b><u>Panel session 6: Corporate Governance codes</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• List of issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Latest trends</li> <li>▪ The impact of “hard” laws versus “soft” codes</li> <li>▪ A discussion of comply or else, comply or explain, apply or explain, or apply and explain methodologies</li> <li>▪ The development of stewardship and responsible investor codes and the encouragement of shareholder engagement</li> <li>▪ Corporate governance best practices</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| 14:00 – 14:30 | <b>Wrap up session</b>  |
| 14:30         | Lunch   |