

With just days to go until submissions close Continental Reinsurance announces judges for the 2022 pan-African Journalism Awards

Lagos, All Africa, 27th January 2022: Continental Reinsurance Plc has named the most diverse panel of judges yet for the 7th edition of the pan-African (re)insurance journalism awards. Two of the new judges are representing the continent's Maghreb region after the organisers added a new category for entries in Arabic last year.

The closing date for submitting entries in English, French or Arabic is Monday, 31 January 2022.

The eight members of the jury bring a wealth of experience across journalism and insurance, bringing insights from within and outside the sector.

The judges are:

- 1) Michael Wilson, Business & Finance Journalist
- 2) Nadia Mensah-Acogny, Journalist, Forbes Afrique
- 3) Kenneth Igbomor, Market News Editor (West Africa), CNBC Africa
- 4) Gareth Stokes, Founder, Stokes, Media Group
- 5) Shiamdass Appannah, Lloyd's General Representative in Mauritius
- 6) Chakib Abouzaid, GAIF Secretary-General - **NEW**
- 7) Samia Heeda, former Managing Director Willis Towers Watson Re (Egypt) - **NEW**
- 8) Sr. Prof. Agnes Lucy Lando, Associate Professor of Communication and Media Studies at Daystar University - **NEW**

Lawrence Nazare, Group Managing Director at Continental Reinsurance Plc, said, "Even in the face of the ongoing global pandemic, the Journalism Awards are going from strength to strength. This year's high calibre of the judging panel is not just a reflection of the quality of the entries which increases every year, but also our commitment to the diversity and vibrancy of the African continent. Inclusivity and having a voice matters more than ever, and we know our judges are experts at spotting those voices so we can recognise their talent."

Chair of the judging panel, Michael Wilson, added, "It's an honour to be chairing the judging panel and I am excited to welcome our latest three judges to our diverse panel. As we are hopefully returning to a live event to crown the winners, we are encouraged by the progress made over the last six years despite the difficult period of the Covid-19 pandemic. All of our judges are looking forward to reviewing and assessing the 2022 entries. It's our way of helping to achieve the awards' goals of supporting independent journalism while rewarding stories from the (re)insurance industry that have never been told."

A shortlist of nominees for the 2022 awards will be announced in April 2022, followed by the actual award ceremony a month later. While the ambition is for a return to an in-person event format the organizers are monitoring the situation in regards to Covid-19 carefully.

To find out more about the awards, visit <https://www.continental-re.com/journalism-awards/>

Ends

More information

About the new judges:

Chakib Abouzaid, General Arab Insurance Federation (GAIF), Secretary-General

Mr Chakib Abouzaid is the Secretary-General of the General Arab Insurance Federation (GAIF) since 2019.

Mr Abouzaid has served in various positions over the span of 30 years in the insurance industry. He was The Group Marketing Officer for GMRB (DIFC) from 2013 to 2018, the CEO for Takaful Re (Arig Group) from 2005 to 2013, GM for Best Re Middle East & Gulf from 2000 to 2005 and Vice Chairman of Global Takaful Group (GTG). He is also an ambassador for the International Insurance Society (IIS); and a frequent speaker at various Conferences and Seminars.

Mr Abouzaid holds a Bachelors degree in Economics from Grenoble University (France) and a Masters degree from the same university in Emerging Economies and Development models. He also holds a Masters degree in Finance & Insurance from IFID Tunis.

Samia Heeda, former Managing Director Willis Towers Watson Re (Egypt)

Ms. Heeda has been in the realm of leadership in insurance and reinsurance in Egypt for over 45 years. Her career commenced in 1972 and saw her rise through the ranks of management and board capacities in various companies. Until her retirement in March 2021, Ms. Heeda served as the Managing Director - Willis Towers Watson Re (Egypt) for 10 years and as vice chairman at Egypt Re as well as CEO and top management positions for many years.

She holds a Bachelor of Commerce "Insurance Section" from Cairo University and has attended several professional continuous learning sessions with world renown institutions. Being a native Arabic speaker, Ms.Heeda brings a rich understanding of Insurance matters, as a judge for the newly launched Arabic award category.

Sr. Prof. Agnes Lucy Lando

Sr. Prof. Agnes Lucy Lando PhD is a seasoned Communications academician who continues to add value to the academic space across Africa and beyond. She is an Associate Professor of Communication and Media Studies at Daystar University, Nairobi and an active member of various national, regional and international academic bodies.

A George Gerbner Excellence Award winner (2013), Sr. Prof. Lando has graciously served in various capacities, including serving as an external examiner and assessing senior lecturers for Associate Professor promotion consideration. Her research interests in Communication and Media have seen Sr. Prof. Lando publish five books and 11 academic journals. Her research interest areas include Communication and Media Ethics; Communication and Media Theory; Crisis Communication; Media Practice and Management; New Media; as well as interdisciplinary research on topical social issues.

Sr. Prof. Lando holds a PhD in Social Communication from La Pontificia Università Gregoriana, Roma, Italia.

About the previous judges

Michael Wilson, Business & Finance Journalist

Mr Wilson joined Sky TV at its inception in 1989 and for more than 20 years he was a main anchor for Sky's coverage of major business events. Since leaving Sky, he has broadcast for the BBC, ITV, Fox News, Al Jazeera and Arise Networks, a global television service aimed at Africa.

Nadia Mensah-Acogny, Journalist, Forbes Afrique

Ms Mensah-Acogny is a journalist and columnist at Forbes Afrique, where she is the author of the annual '100 Most Influential Women in Africa' report. She has more than 30 years of experience as a communications expert and is the co-founder of Acosphere, a business consultancy. Ms Mensah-Acogny is also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Africa Centre in London and a member of the Council of Women in Africa WIA.

Kenneth Igbomor, Market News Editor (West Africa), CNBC Africa

Mr Kenneth Igbomor is a seasoned financial journalist and business news television producer and is currently the Market News Editor for CNBC Africa, where he heads the West Africa editorial team. He is also a development economist previously working as a financial planner in the insurance industry in Nigeria. He remains an "unrepentant optimist" about development outcomes in Africa.

Gareth Stokes, Founder, Stokes Media Group

Mr Gareth is a professional freelance journalist and writer who specializes in the financial services industry. Based in South Africa, his work has been published in magazines and newspapers, including Daily Mail & The Guardian, Financial Mail, FA News, FIA Insight and others. He is the author of a basic guide to stock market investing and co-author of 'Short Term Insurance in South Africa 2016'. Gareth currently writes on risk management and insurance topics.

Shiamdass Appanah, Insurance Industry Expert

Mr Shiamdass has more than 40 years of experience in Africa's insurance industry. He is currently the Lloyd's General Representative in Mauritius and the Founding Partner and Director/Consultant, former CEO and former Chairman of Reinsurance Solutions Group companies in Mauritius, Kenya and Cote D'Ivoire. He's skilled in reinsurance programme structuring, designing risk finance vehicles and captive Insurance.

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