Partnership Agreement between the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS) and the Access to Insurance Initiative (A2ii)

1. Background

The Access to Insurance Initiative (A2ii) was established in 2009 as a unique joint initiative between international development agencies and the global standard-setter for the insurance sector, the International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS). The Secretariat of the A2ii is hosted by the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ[1]) GmbH.

The A2ii is the key IAIS implementation partner for access to insurance and financial inclusion with the mission to strengthen the capacity and understanding of insurance supervisors to advance inclusive insurance in their jurisdictions. Key to delivering against this mission is close cooperation between the Secretariats of the A2ii and the IAIS. This partnership agreement provides a framework for cooperation and communication between the A2ii and the IAIS as well as the parties' respective roles and responsibilities.

2. Parties to the agreement

The International Association of Insurance Supervisors (IAIS)

The IAIS is a voluntary membership organisation of insurance supervisors from approximately 200 jurisdictions. The mission of the IAIS is to promote effective and globally consistent supervision of the insurance industry in order to develop and maintain fair, safe and stable insurance markets for the benefit and protection of policyholders and to contribute to global financial stability. Established in 1994, the IAIS is the international standard setting body of the insurance sector. The IAIS also provides a forum for its members to share their experiences and understanding of insurance supervision and insurance markets.

In its 2020-2024 Strategic Plan, the IAIS re-emphasised the importance of financial inclusion and sustainable development and placed an increasing emphasis on engagement and support for supervisors from Emerging Markets and Developing Economies (EMDE), as well as more exchange of supervisory practices amongst its members.

The Access to Insurance Initiative

The Access to Insurance Initiative (A2ii) is a unique global partnership working to inspire and support insurance supervisors to promote inclusive and responsible insurance. As the key implementation arm of the IAIS, A2ii identifies supervisory needs, develops tailored capacity building programmes, translates knowledge gained from the regions into global learning tools, contributes to the IAIS standard setting activities and supports the development and implementation of sound regulatory frameworks. The initiative's ultimate aim is to advance insurance markets globally and reduce the vulnerability of low-income populations against risk.

A2ii's governance is regulated through the A2ii Charter (Charter), which assigns the IAIS a majority position in the key decision-making bodies – the Governing Council (A2ii GC) and the Executive Committee (A2ii ExCo). Thus, the IAIS has a key role in determining the A2ii's

[1] "German Development Cooperation"

strategy and overseeing its activities as well as its budget. Further increasing and stabilising the IAIS' ownership and engagement are key for A2ii to maintain recognition and credibility as the IAIS' key implementation partner in working not only with insurance supervisors, but also other partners and stakeholders in the inclusive insurance sphere, including policy-makers, donors, international initiatives or developments agencies.

3. Co-operation Principles

The partnership of the IAIS and A2ii aims to support insurance supervisors. To this end, the IAIS and A2ii Secretariats recognise that the following principles are critically important:

- Working together in a transparent and seamless manner;
- Consulting early and regularly on the development of workplans; and
- Reinforcing the close link between the organisations through joint activities and relevant communication.

4. Roles and Responsibilities

In support of these principles, the IAIS and A2ii Secretariats are committed to joint planning and information exchange. To facilitate this planning and exchange, the IAIS and A2ii Secretariats commit to:

a) Exchange routinely about day-to-day cooperation, project and activity updates;
b) Organise regular planning sessions (eg every three to six months) to discuss joint projects, prioritise activities and contributions to each other's events; and
c) Hold an annual strategic planning session of both Secretariats (including discussion of respective workplans for the upcoming year as well as a review of the effectiveness and efficiency of coordination and cooperation as outlined in this Agreement).

The A2ii Secretariat is committed to supporting the IAIS' work through:

a) Capacity building, with a focus on supervisors from EMDEs;
b) Assessment of standard implementation, in particular through ongoing development of the Self-Assessment Tool (SAT) and in leading assessments of the supportiveness of regulation and supervision for inclusive insurance in line with the IAIS' Application Paper on the topic;
c) Regional implementation (ie supporting IAIS regional coordinators in needs assessments and developing regional implementation plans, supervisory training, supporting in peer exchange and dialogue events);
d) Providing a financial inclusion perspective on the development of standards, guidance and issues papers. This includes, for example, research and knowledge generation or contribution to drafting sessions;
e) Promotion of the IAIS and its work with supervisors, with a particular focus on supervisors from EMDEs;
f) Hosting regular dialogue events for supervisors on topics of relevance identified by the IAIS and A2ii Secretariats; and
g) Taking a leadership role in the Financial Inclusion Forum (FIF) (details below).

In turn, the IAIS Secretariat is committed to supporting the A2ii in fulfilling its role as the key IAIS implementation partner for access to insurance and financial inclusion through:

a) Ensuring that appropriate and sufficient resources are allocated to contribute to the A2ii's work and for regular exchange, planning of joint activities, providing support to the FIF etc.;
b) Promoting and advocating for the A2ii, which shall include but is not limited to:
   - Actively promoting the A2ii's work both within the IAIS membership as well as within the IAIS Secretariat ;
   - Including A2ii input in IAIS communication activities (eg the IAIS' newsletter);
   - Providing an opportunity to update relevant IAIS committees on the A2ii's work (eg at Implementation and Assessment Committee (IAC) meetings); and
   - Supporting the A2ii in discussions with current and potential donors.
c) Ensuring IAIS member participation in A2ii governance structure as defined in the Charter as well as senior representation of the IAIS Secretariat in the A2ii ExCo and GC meetings (IAIS Secretary General or his/her deputy; IAIS Head of Implementation); and
d) Providing cash contributions in line with the IAIS – A2ii funding agreement as executed on 29 October 2020 and continue to explore ways to strengthen its financial support.

5. Administrative Provisions

This Agreement shall be reviewed annually by the IAIS and A2ii Secretariats in advance of the IAIS' third quarter Committee meetings and the A2ii's annual Governing Council meeting. A short assessment of the current status of the partnership based on the principles and roles and responsibilities outlined herein would be presented to both the relevant Committees of the IAIS and the Governing Council of the A2ii.

6. Amendment

This Agreement can be updated and amended as agreed in writing by both parties.

7. Termination of Agreement

This Agreement shall continue in effect unless terminated by one or both parties giving 90 days' notice in writing. Notice shall be deemed effective on the date shown on the postmark or electronic time stamp.

Signatures

For the IAIS	For the A2ii
Name and function: Victoria Saporta, IAIS Executive Committee Chair	Name and function: Peter Braumüller, Chair of the A2ii Governing Council
Date: 15/11/2021	Date: 29/11/2021
Signature:	Signature: P. Braumüller

Annex: Financial Inclusion Forum

In 2020, the IAIS Executive Committee decided to transform the Financial Inclusion Working Group (FIWG) into a forum, reporting to the Implementation and Assessment Committee (IAC). The forum format will allow for more flexibility in organising the group's work through mainly virtual meetings, this making it more accessible to EMDE supervisors. With taking a leading role in the Financial Inclusion Forum (FIF), the A2ii is also for the first time taking on a more formal function within the IAIS structure, which also calls for more clearly defined roles and responsibilities between the A2ii and IAIS secretariats in this forum.

- A2ii: "Secretariat of the FIF"
  - Take a lead in setting up the working structures in close coordination with the IAIS (Secretariat and IAC);
  - Manage and coordinate the FIF workplan (CB calendar, peer program, paper drafting etc.); and
  - Draft agendas for meetings (in cooperation with the Chair and close consultation with the IAIS Secretariat).
- IAIS:
  - Support meeting organisation (alongside key IAIS events);
  - Create links and exchange with other relevant IAIS Committees and subcommittees;
  - Provide platform for inclusive insurance topics/ champions: at annual conference, regional seminars and other conferences; and
  - Allocate Secretariat resources to attend and support FIF meetings.