

## GIS 2021 | Welcoming Remarks - Helmut Gründl

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of our organizing institutions EIOPA, the World Bank, the International Center for Insurance Regulation and, of course, the whole organizing team I am welcoming you all to the 7th Conference on Global Insurance Supervision. It is dedicated to the topic of

“The Insurance Sector in the Aftermath of the Covid-19 Pandemic”.

My name is Helmut Gründl, and I am the Director of the International Center for Insurance Regulation, a research center at the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany.

For the first time in the history of this event we employ a virtual format. Unfortunately, we cannot welcome you on our beautiful campus at the Goethe University in Frankfurt. For sure, we are missing important opportunities on getting together and networking.

Yet, we hope that we did a good job in planning the conference as well as possible. Moreover, hosting the event online opens the conference to a much wider audience, as more people can attend at much lower costs of entry.

Therefore, we are extremely pleased and proud that this conference has attracted more than 900 registrations from 56 countries from all 5 continents – an audience that makes this conference as GLOBAL as never before.

Our venue, the Goethe University - even if it is a virtual venue this year – reminds us of the ideas of its founders who wanted to establish a “Citizen’s University” that

SERVES SOCIETY and CREATES A SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CITIZENS – applied to our conference: THROUGH A STABLE AND RESILIENT INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SYSTEM.

The importance of these goals has especially been highlighted in the light of the global pandemic. Therefore, this year’s conference program addresses the

opportunities and threats that the insurance sector faces in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The word “aftermath” seems to be out of place at first sight, given the fact that not every country has had the opportunity yet to vaccinate a major part of its citizens. Covid-19 will accompany the world for longer.

Yet, at second sight, we clearly see the importance of exchanging knowledge and experience about pandemic responses on a global stage, for being able to respond to upcoming challenges.

By bringing together speakers from the global insurance regulatory and supervisory community as well as from international insurance companies and associations, we are proud to present you three expert loaded panel sessions as well as three compelling keynote speeches. Throughout the conference, we will address questions like:

- How does the pandemic affect existing protection gaps?
- How did the pandemic influence pre-Covid regulatory developments?
- What is the impact of – partly pandemic driven – new technologies in the insurance sector?

Ladies and Gentlemen, I wish you three interesting and valuable conference days. For sure, this high level conference gives us the opportunity **to shape the future development in the field of insurance, insurance regulation and supervision.**