WELCOME

Welcome to the dedication of the former Board Room in honor of Ibrahim F.I. Shihata, former Senior Vice President and General Counsel of the World Bank, and Secretary-General of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes.

Introductory Remarks
Yvonne Tsikata, Vice President and Corporate Secretary
Sandie Okoro, Senior Vice President and Group General Counsel
Meg Kinnear, Secretary-General, International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
Ragui El-Etreby, Alternate Executive Director

Slide Presentation
Vikram Raghavan, Lead Counsel, Legal Vice Presidency

Remarks
Samia Farid Shihata

Closing
Yvonne Tsikata, Vice President and Corporate Secretary

Mr. Ibrahim F.I. Shihata

Senior Vice President and General Counsel
World Bank
1983 - 1998

Secretary-General
International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes
1983 - 2000

MC 13-121
World Bank
1818 H. Street, NW
Washington, DC

Thursday, November 7, 2019
5:15 – 6:30 pm
HIS EARLY LIFE

Ibrahim F.I. Shihata was born on August 19, 1937 in Damietta, Egypt. He studied law at Cairo University, and obtained his doctorate from Harvard Law School in 1964.

EARLY CAREER

At the beginning of his career, Mr. Shihata joined the Egyptian Conseil d'Etat and the Technical Bureau of the President of the United Arab Republic of Egypt. He also taught law at Ain-Shams University in Cairo between 1964 and 1966 and again between 1970 and 1972.

In 1966, Mr. Shihata was appointed the legal advisor of the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development. In this role, he was the principal drafter of the constituent treaties of several regional development finance institutions, such as the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, the Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa. Mr. Shihata was instrumental in drafting the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID)'s charter and served as its first director general. Mr. Shihata was also closely involved in the creation of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and joined its board of directors.

JOINING THE WORLD BANK

In 1983, Mr. Shihata was appointed as World Bank’s Vice President and General Counsel and served in that role until 1998. He was also Secretary-General of the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID) between 1983 and 2000. During his time at the Bank, Mr. Shihata led the initiative to create the Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and played an important role in the establishment of the World Bank’s Inspection Panel. He was also involved with creating the Global Environment Facility (GEF).

A prolific writer, Shihata wrote close to thirty books and over two hundred essays. He also spoke and lectured at conferences, seminars, and universities around the world.

Shihata passed away on May 28, 2001. He is survived by his wife, Samia Farid Shihata, and their three children, Sharif, Yasmine and Nadia.

IN MY ROLE AS THE GENERAL COUNSEL AND SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT IN THE BANK, I HAVE NOT SIMPLY ACTED AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE MANAGEMENT, I HAVE ACTED AS THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE LAW AS I UNDERSTAND OR CONCEIVE IT; NOT ON PERSONAL PREFERENCES BUT ON RESEARCH AND ANALYSES WITHIN THE LEGAL DEPARTMENT, AND IF YOU TAKE THAT POSITION YOU ARE NOT NECESSARILY A VERY POPULAR PERSON. BUT, IN CHOICE BETWEEN BEING POPULAR OR BEING CREDIBLE, I CHOSE THE LATTER.

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