**Welcome remarks by Ms.Lilian William Kafiti , PRESIDENT ARIN-EA**

**At the ARIN-EA TRAINING OF FOCAL PERSONS -SAFARI PARK HOTEL -NAIROBI on 16th March,2022.**

**Archbishop (Emeritus) Eliud Wabukala, Chairman, EACC Kenya**

**Dr.Patricia Achan, Vice President EAAACA**

**EAAACA Heads of Institutions, present**

**Ms.Juliet Mule, GIZ Regional Representative, and Benjamin Maina Technical Adviser GIZ**

**Ag.General Secretary-Munira Ali**

**David K Too,Director, Legal Services& Asset Recovery, EACC**

**George Barassa, Director Legal Services, PCCB**

**Our Facilitators,**

**ARINEA-Focal Persons**

**Practitioners from ARINEA member Institutions (who are here present and those joining us virtually)**

**Distinguished Participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

**Good morning**

On behalf of ARINEA Family, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you all to our today’s training forum that is designed to enhance capacity to our technical officers to be able to prevent and combat corruption. Despite these challenging times of a global Pandemic Covid-19. I am grateful to Almighty God for allowing us to come together  
and am really pleased that you have been able to make it and also appreciate the online participants to be able to connect and join us. ( am seeing my Team Tanzania led by George Barasa, Director Legal Services-PCCB and his team, Team Kenya, Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda, Ethiopia,Djibouti and Tam South Sudan, all present virtually. We thank you very much.

**Ladies and Gentlemen,** allow me also to extend my sincere gratitude to our guest of honor Archbishop (Emeritus) Eliud Wabukala, Chairman, EACC Kenya, despite his tight schedule but he managed to come, and join us to open our event this morning, we thank you very much, archbishop for coming. We real appreciate.

I would also like to thank GIZ, Ms Juliet Mule GIZ Regional Representative and her Team, Benjamin Maina Technical Adviser of the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), for your great support in bring in this event to fruition.

I would further like to convey my sincere appreciation to our facilitators for accepting my request to come and train to enhance our capacities. ( I recognize the presence of Adewale Ogundele all the way from Lyon France you have been able to join us, Tuemay Aregawi AML/THB Project Technical Advisor (in person), Neil Everitt, FATF Team Lead (facilitating virtually) ,Mary Muthoni, Basel Institute of Governance (in person), Eng. Raymond Kaptich - Civil Engineer (in person) and Aidan Larkin (virtually), Asset reality.

Asset recovery is at the center of disrupting and preventing corruption and other organized crime, now you have taken time of your busy schedule to come and train our investigators and lawyers. As we know that criminals are always once step ahead of LEAs, training such as of this are the way of ensuring that LEAs is adequately prepared for the fight.

Honorable, Archbishop (Emeritus) Eliud Wabukala, **Ladies and Gentlemen,** allow me to briefly explain who we are, and why we are here today, ARIN-EA stands for Asset Recovery Inter-Agency Network for Eastern Africa. It comprises eight (8) countries namely Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda, ian informal network that was established by the Heads of EAAACA in 2013 with the support of the StAR Initiative/World Bank. Our aim is to promote the informal exchange of information on individuals, assets and companies at the regional and international level so as to facilitate the effective tracing and recovery of proceeds of crime, ultimately depriving criminals of their illicit gains. In each Member State there are three key representation , one, from an Anti-Corruption Agency, and, two, from any of the following elements; Prosecutorial/ Judicial/ Law enforcement/ Financial Intelligence Authority and Asset Recovery/Forfeiture Authority.

At ARIN-EA, we recognize the need to promote cooperation at the regional and international level to effectively track or trace and recover stolen assets within and beyond the territorial boundaries of Eastern Africa, in collaboration with relevant partners. The network receives support from EAAACA, GIZ in carrying out its activities. It works with various partners such as StAR (UNODC-World Bank, CARIN, INTERPOL, AML-THB, FATF, Basel Institute (ICAR), RRAG, ARIN-WA, just to mention a few.

Since the establishment of ARINEA, we have been able to register a number of achievements, namely; assets traced through the network are of a value of $ one billion and assets confiscated is of the value of $ 10 Millions, and provided information to one another and to jurisdictions outside the region while carrying out investigations, training and building capacity of key persons and other staff within ARIN-EA Members Institutions in various fields. These include financial investigations and asset recovery, crypto currency. We have developed a mutual legal assistance guidelines for ARIN-EA member countries and secure information exchange portal and a website containing information on asset tracing and recovery.

Ladies and Gentlemen

As you all know, our region is faced with different forms of serious organized crimes including corruption, trafficking of human beings, smuggling of migrants, drugs trafficking, money laundering proliferations and trading in small arms among others.

And some researches have shown that these crimes are the ones generating significant amount of proceeds that enters the legitimate economy and finance other crimes. And if we allow this to continue happening it will tremendously affect our economy and the security of the region.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Let us therefore use this training to remind us all that asset recovery should be our main agenda and our priority number one, and I urge you all before criminals increases their appetite to enrich themselves, we must change our mindset to start following the money by recovering illegal assets. Instead of focusing on investigating and prosecuting predicate offences. I believe this is the best solution in order for us to disrupt criminal networks and hit them where it hurts them the most.

This training therefore act, as a gateway to exchange ideas, experiences and be exposed to best practices. Our facilitators have much to share and therefore I urge you to pay attention and learn the skills that will be shared today.

Honorable, Archbishop (Emeritus) Eliud Wabukala**, Ladies and Gentlemen,** given that this is a technical training and we have a tight schedule ahead of us, I don’t want to take too much of your time. It is therefore my pleasure to wish everyone a successful and fruitful discussion.

Thank you

Karibuni sana