**TALKING NOTES BY MS.LILIAN KAFITI, PRESIDENT ARIN-EA**

**ON AN EXPERT SESSION (ONLINE)FOR ASSET TRACING AND RECOVERY PRACTITIONERS TO EXCHANGE EXPERIENCES ON FORMATS FOR FINANCIAL INVESTIGATIONS, RECENT KENYAN EXPERIENCES IN THE AREA OF ASSET RECOVERY AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT FOR ASSET RETURN, ON 30TH SEPTEMBER,2020.**

**Mr.Twalib Mbarak, EACC,CEO,**

**Mr.Opimbi Osolo, Technical Adviser of GIZ,**

**Ms.Juliet Mule, GIZ Regional Representative,**

**Ms.Munira Ali, General Secretary of EAAACA/ARIN-EA,**

**Mr.Simon Marsh, Representative from Basel Institute,,**

**Mr.Julius Muraya, Assistant Director,EACC,**

**Ms.Anna Siodlack Representative of the Government of Jersey,**

**Mr.Tristram Hicks, Consultant,**

**ARIN-EA Focal Persons,**

**Distinguished Participants,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen.**

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organisers in particular Mr. Simon Marsh, Country Head for Kenya of the Basel Institute of Governance and Mr.Opimbi Osolo, Technical Adviser of the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), both of whom have been pivotal in bring ing this event to fruition.

As a practitioner myself, it gives me great pleasure to see you all today in this forum to exchange ideas, experiences and be exposed to best practice from the work undertaken by our colleagues at the EACC. The EACC has much to share in the area of asset recovery, in particular their experiences when navigating the challenges faced and manner in which they can be overcome. In particular, as the day progresses, we shall also hear about the Framework for Recovery of Assets from Corruption and Crime in Kenya (FRACCK).

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

Once again, I would like also to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Project Manager Ms.Juliet Mule and the GIZ in particular, for accepting to organize this virtual forum. We truly appreciate your dedication and the continued support you offered to ARIN-NEA. It is my hope that this support will be sustained not only at this difficult times of COVID 19 but also after pandemic as well.

Likewise we must also recognize the sterling efforts of Mr.Simon Marsh, Country Head of Kenya, from the Basel Institute. Without whom, we wouldn’t have been gathered here today, (we thank you Mr.Simon for seeing this opportunity and made it available to ARIN-EA & EAAACA members as well.).

I must also say, this was a long awaited forum to learn on live cases, I am happy to see EACC (Kenya) is a chosen Institution to start with, I believe with the support of GIZ, we shall have much more similar programs shared by another country in the near future.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

This forum will also provide us an opportunity to learn and address pertinent issues that will ultimately require a concerted and harmonized approach in the area of asset recovery and I also believe that, it will provide an opportunity to network among ourselves, as I am seeing other officers coming from other LEA are here with us today, it’s a great honor to have you and sharing with you on issues pertaining to asset recovery.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

As you all know, successful tracing and recovery efforts often depend on assistance from foreign jurisdictions since criminals tend to transfer and hide assets in foreign jurisdictions. It was therefore necessary for ARINEA to be established as an informal network for Investigators, Prosecutors and Investigative judges working in Asset Recovery with the aim of facilitating International cooperation in asset recovery.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

One amongst our many goals, ARIN-EA, is aspiring to be a center of expertise and develop best practice in all aspects of tracking the proceeds of crime within the region and beyond. I believe this session will also provide another platform for members to engage in a broad discussion with a view of exchanging information and knowledge on how to best tackle criminal assets and vigilantly explore all ways to combat organized crimes in our respective countries and the region at large.

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

As you all know, we can only succeed in fighting crime if we all work closely together through enhanced Inter- agency cooperation. I believe ARIN-EA Focal persons who are here today, will use this forum as an opportunity for us, as practitioners to interact, contribute and to come up with recommendations for the betterment of the Network.

Finally, I also believe that this forum will bear fruits and successful discussion of the future plans of the Network and the entire Region. I urge you all, let us work together, strengthen our cooperation to combat organized crimes domestically and internationally by depriving criminals of their ill-gotten wealth and ultimately return the looted assets to the government/ or victims.

**ASANTENI SANA**