THE FINANCIAL INCLUSION
ADVOCACY CENTRE

FREE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON
FINANCIAL INCLUSION
IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

An Online Participative Conference For Central Bankers, Ministries of Finance, Financial Sector Development & Financial Inclusion Professionals, Commercial & Microfinance Bankers, NBFIs, MFIs, Consultants, FINTECH & RegTech Companies, Investors, Insurers & Pension Funds

June 8 and 9, 2020
Live From LONDON, UK time, 12 Noon to 16:00 Hrs (4 Hour Session for Each Day)

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The Financial Inclusion Advocacy Centre is an international action-oriented and practice-based think-tank geared toward promoting sustained financial inclusion and responsible microfinance. The Financial Inclusion Advocacy Centre’s mission is to build the institutional strength and outreach of the inclusive finance sector, by providing a full range of high-quality, best-practice technical inputs and support to all industry stakeholders, in a sustainable and demand-driven manner. As an independent support centre, FIAC is committed to promoting innovations, transparency, and enhanced access/outreach especially to the poor and thereby contributing to United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDG # 1) and its sub-goals, which include achieving 100% financial inclusion by 2030 across the globe.

COVID-19 is an extremely severe health and economic crisis that is hugely impacting our lives. There are no two ways about it. Several aspects make COVID-19 a very distinctive crisis. First, it is a highly unsystematic and uncharacteristic fusion of a deadly disease with an economic catastrophe. Second, its burgeoning growth has seen it become a global phenomenon in a very, very short period of time. Third, as economists would call it, it is both a severe supply and demand side shock. Put differently, it is an unparalleled global macro-economic shock of uncertain magnitude and duration. The uncertainty is what makes it so very dangerous. Fourth, its impact is multi-faceted and includes infection, death and loss of loved ones, human distress in many forms (such as job losses, lack of food and nutrition, loss of education, even if it may be temporary), greater indebtedness, severe global recession caused by a deep prolonged (uncertain) contraction in economic activities, brutal individual and corporate (financial) distress, huge stress on the financial systems (thereby making the supply of credit to the real economy a major concern), stoppage of flow of capital due to risk aversion by investors and other stakeholders and so on. While the general financial services industry has been affected hugely, much of the same applies to the financial inclusion sector—where all stakeholders ranging from low income clients to MFIs, NBFIs, Banks and Central Banks have been deeply impacted. It is in this context that this two day participative zoom conference is being organized by the FIAC. The details of the proposed conference are given below.

**SESSION PLAN**

**Day 1: Introductory Session**

- How has COVID-19 changed the contours of financial inclusion?
  - Presentation(s)
  - Discussions
  - Wrap Up

**Day 1: Main Session**

- Going forward, what are the implications of COVID-19 for various stakeholders (including Central Banks, Ministries of Finance, Banks, NBFIs, MFIs, Clients, Governments, FINTECH and RegTech Companies, Technology Service Providers and Others) and their activities?
  - Presentation(s)
  - Discussions
  - Wrap Up

- What happens to UNSDG # 1 (and UNSDG #10) which specifically call for ensuring 100% financial inclusion by 2030? What are the implications for various stakeholders?
  - Presentation(s)
  - Discussions
  - Wrap Up
Day 2: Brief Recap of Day 1
—Participative Discussion
—Brief Recap

Day 2: Main Session
- What are the implications of COVID-19 for regulation and supervision of the financial inclusion sector in general?
- What are the specific regulatory and supervisory implications for central bankers, banks, NBFIs and MFIs in particular?
—Presentation(s)
—Discussions
—Wrap Up

Day 2: Concluding Session With Summary
Takeaway(s):
1. Briefing Note on Implications of COVID-19 for Financial Inclusion,
2. Policy Brief on Implications of COVID-19 for Regulation and Supervision of Financial Inclusion
3. White Paper on COVID-19 and Its Implications for Financial Inclusion (Based on workshop deliberations and to be distributed three weeks later)
4. A compendium of research with available links on COVID-19 and Financial Inclusion

FACILITATORS

▲ RAMESH S ARUNACHALAM is author of 12 critically acclaimed books. Apart from being an author, Ramesh provides strategic advice on a wide variety of Financial Sector, Financial Inclusion and Economic Development issues. He has worked in over 311 assignments with multi-laterals, governments, private sector, Banks, NBFCs, regulators, supervisors, MFIs and other stakeholders in 31 countries across 5 continents and 640 districts of India during the last 31 years. Ramesh’s forthcoming book, “COVID-19: IMPACT, LESSONS AND STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINED FINANCIAL INCLUSION” is due for a worldwide release on July 31, 2020.

▲ GODFREY LORD KWESI CRENTSIL is a Microfinance expert with over 15 years’ experience in microfinance development and supervision. Trained and practiced extensively in most African and European countries as well as the MENA region.

APPLICATION
The application deadline for this free conference is June 5th, 2020. Please note that we do select applications on a first-come, first-served basis. Nevertheless, we will try to form a group of participants with complementary experiences and backgrounds. The number of participants is limited to 50.

REGISTRATION
Please fill the attached registration form and send it to info@financialinclusionadvocacy.org. Once accepted, the Zoom registration details will be sent to you.

DEADLINE
Registration forms should be submitted by the 5th of June, 2020. Late applications will be accepted, subject to availability of place in the conference.
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**REGISTRATION FORM**

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