

Remarks by Sheila C. Bair
18th Meeting of the Executive Council of the
International Association of Deposit Insurers
Washington, DC
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Good afternoon. I want to welcome you all to the FDIC. It is truly an honor for us to host so many distinguished executives from deposit insurance organizations around the world, and we are delighted that you're here. I would especially like to thank J.P., Ray LaBrosse and the staff of the Secretariat for their work with FDIC staff in organizing this 18th meeting of the IADI Executive Council.

Apart from extending my personal welcome, I want to share with you my view – and I know many of you hold this same view – that we are at a critical juncture in IADI's development. I believe that your discussions this week, and at the other Executive Council meetings this year, will be crucial to determining IADI's future role. As you no doubt are aware, IADI already has played a critical role in strengthening deposit insurance systems around the world. Indeed, with the rapid spread of explicit deposit insurance systems globally in recent years, the support provided by IADI and its member organizations has been invaluable to the early successes of these programs.

This is due, in no small part, to the extraordinary leadership of J.P. Sabourin. I would be remiss if I didn't take this opportunity to thank J.P. publicly for his tireless efforts in support of IADI and in furthering financial stability. Without J.P. at the helm, it's impossible to imagine how IADI could have achieved the international stature it now possesses in such a short period of time. JP, many thanks (applause).

Thanks to J.P.'s and to your efforts as well, IADI, I believe, is well positioned to assume an even larger leadership role.

The FDIC's relationship with IADI has always been strong and productive.

We are very pleased that the FDIC's Vice Chairman, Marty Gruenberg, is so active and engaged with IADI. As many of you know, Marty is tireless in his efforts to promote financial stability and ensure that deposit insurance contributes effectively to a well-functioning financial safety net.

We are very pleased to be hosting the IADI Training Conference in July, and I know that Marty, Fred Carns and the rest of our team are looking forward to working with you and other members in the coming months.

When envisioning the future role of our association, it is important to think globally. As I indicated in my remarks at the conference sponsored jointly by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and IADI last year, the increase in cross-border banking poses significant challenges for deposit insurance and the effective resolution of bank failures. Progress in working collaboratively to identify and remedy potential issues is extremely important. Because of its collective experience in crisis prevention and management, IADI can play a strong leadership role in this area.

Once again, it's an honor and a pleasure for us to be your hosts for these meetings, and now I would be happy to take questions or hear your views on any topic.