

Fellow members of CGISA, distinguished guests, once again thank you for being here today.

As we gather for this AGM, we face a multitude of challenges and opportunities, not the least of which is the rapidly changing landscape of climate change and the shifting political realities within Southern Africa.

As chartered secretaries and governance professionals, we have a unique responsibility to not only navigate these changes but also to lead by example and guide our stakeholders through them. We must continue to champion the highest standards of corporate governance, sustainability, and ethics.

In particular, we need to integrate climate change into our decision-making processes and ensure that our organisations are taking steps to mitigate their environmental impact and adapt to a changing climate. This requires creativity, innovation, and a willingness to challenge conventional thinking.

At the same time, we must also adapt to the evolving political climate within Southern Africa and, in particular, South Africa.

The country's move toward a coalition government presents both opportunities and risks. On the one hand, it offers the potential for a more diverse and inclusive political landscape, which can lead to more innovative and collaborative solutions to pressing issues.

However, coalition governments can also be inherently unstable and prone to conflict. I must say that we live in interesting times. The entire region is waiting for the dust to settle before we take strategic decisions – South Africa sneezes and we all catch the flu.

As chartered secretaries and governance professionals, we must maintain a keen eye on the political and regulatory landscape and ensure that our organisations are positioned to respond to changes in a timely and responsible manner.

This is not to say that navigating these challenges will be easy. It may be far from it. However, by working together and drawing on our collective expertise and experience, I am confident that we can rise to the occasion and ensure that South Africa's governance standards remain among the strongest in the world.

As we look forward to the future, we must also reflect on the past. CGISA has a proud history of promoting excellence in corporate governance, and it is our responsibility to build on that legacy. Whether through continued professional development, thought leadership, or advocacy, we must remain committed to our core values of integrity, accountability, and transparency.

In closing, I want to express my gratitude to all of you for your dedication to CGISA and to the principles of good governance. Your contributions, both big and small, make a real difference in shaping the future of corporate governance in Southern Africa and beyond.

Thank you.