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ALISSA KOLE
Managing Director – GOVERN Center

Alissa Kole is a senior advisor to government and private sector leaders, leveraging her experience as an internationally recognised expert specialising in economic and corporate governance. She is the founder and director of a think-tank and advisory firm GOVERN Center, based in France and the United Arab Emirates, awarded for its work with governments and companies on the design of custom governance regulations and frameworks, as well for its work in defining governance frontiers globally.

GOVERN is a globally trusted advisory boutique and think tank on a range of economic and corporate governance challenges, helping to innovate the boundaries of governance know how and research in emerging markets. Under her leadership, GOVERN has flourished to be a recognised thought leader and provider of effective, tailored advisory solutions to governments, investors and leading companies.

For the past fifteen years, Alissa has been helping policy makers and private sector leaders address challenges related private and state-owned governance, financial market development and innovation, institution building and regulatory reform. Prior to founding GOVERN, Alissa launched and led the OECD's regional project in the Middle East and North Africa for a decade, in particular developing a unique programme on governance in the region.

During her decade-long career at the OECD, she has worked closely with Ministers, heads of stock exchanges, capital market regulators, and central bankers and the private sector. She has been closely involved in the development of national corporate governance, capital markets laws and regulations. In recent years, she has also been advising boards and executives of emerging market companies, both private and public, on a range of governance and strategy reforms.



Alissa is also a prolific author, including a number of books and articles on corporate governance, capital market development, sovereign governance and related topics. She is a sought-after speaker and commentator with contributions including a recent TED Talk in 2018 and regular articles in the FT, WSJ, Project Syndicate and other recognised international media sources.

Alissa holds a business administration degree from York University in Canada and a degree in political economy from the London School of Economics in the United Kingdom. She has attended specialized training at internationally recognized universities such as Yale. She is currently serving as a Fellow at the London School of Economics Middle East Center and has been invited as a member of advisory boards and commissions of a number of international think tanks and professional bodies such as French Institute of Directors' International Commission.

For her influence in advancing good governance in the Middle East, she was named one of the Top 100 Leaders in Europe and the Middle East by the Centre for Sustainability and Excellence in 2011 and was recognised by Columbia Law School as the Rising Star of Corporate Governance in 2014. Ms. Amico is trilingual in English, French, and Russian and speaks basic of Arabic and Italian.