

**Statement of**  
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**Senior Advocate of Nigeria**

Permit me to say how honoured and privileged I am to offer to serve as the next President of our great Institute, the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a flagship professional body that has earned high reckoning in global socio-economic affairs for over a century.

I am seeking the office of President at this momentous point in the annals of the Institute, which is also a challenging but exciting time in the new global order where the world has shrunk into a global village. This has reinforced and brought to fore on a daily basis, the interconnectedness and interdependency of human affairs, accompanied by unmistakable rapidity, an ever-changing trend, fresh dynamics, new thinking, strategies and innovations towards the building of a more liberalized global society.

I began my law career in 1978. In the course of the forty intervening years, I have spent time, effort and focus in getting steeped in arbitration, and constantly intermingling with the stupendously rich history of the Institute. In arriving at this decision of seeking to become President, I have etched a pragmatic vision that is capable of consolidating a remarkable, sustainable and exciting future for the Institute.

I am, with utmost humility, endowed with a palpable and progressive vision, indomitable passion, enthusiasm, commitment and conviction about the beneficial role of arbitration in enhancing commerce and building a greater humane society. The foregoing attributes have been globally recognized as essential ingredients for achieving great leadership success.

Over the years, I have garnered very valuable experience, having had the special privilege of running a successful law practice and held positions of high responsibilities, nationally and internationally.

I took silk in 1999, and thereafter, served as the President of the Nigerian Bar Association (NBA), held the high office of the Chief Law Officer of my country as

Attorney General and Minister of Justice of Nigeria and served as Chairman of the Nigerian Branch of the Institute where I worked assiduously with the membership to deepen the adaptation of alternative dispute resolution processes and the mainstreaming of ADR in the country's legal system.

Considering the broad experience I acquired from the foregoing leadership and professional positions, it would be safe to consider myself well-equipped and amply qualified for the task and responsibility of today, and those of the future.

Over the last 100 years, the Institute has evolved as a body that is highly consistent, commendable and progressive. Through the founding of the Chartered Institute in 1915, the status of arbitration has been raised to that of a distinct and recognized position among enviable learned professions. That of course, was the object of the founders. Being members of a learned society, therefore, it is required of us to be truly global in our outlook and orientation; to be thoughtful, strive to make the world better through our work in the Institute and the values we espouse individually and collectively and to demonstrate, in practical terms, noble commitment to what is good and what is right. We need to translate our values into action, vision into realities, obstacles into innovations, separateness into solidarity and risks into rewards for the continued greatness of the Institute, the common good and the advancement of the human society in general.

I am aware of the ambassadorial role of the President of the Institute in promoting its founding objectives, but I am also mindful that leadership is a group process, and that the greatness of any organization depends largely on team spirit, team effort and committed collectivity.

In sync with my style of collective leadership orientation, I hope to:

- **build on the proud heritage of the Institute and the laudable achievements of past Presidents, especially in engendering value-adding synergies between the Branches and the Executive.**
- **deepen the education, training and qualification programs of the Institute which are its 'Golden Thread', while mainstreaming mentorship for young arbitrators as a core capacity building and development initiative.**
- **bond and unite our members all over the world around the noble objective of the Institute through shared-vision and to network, share knowledge, perspectives and skills, to inspire and empower, celebrate and motivate**

**everyone towards enhanced productivity and achieving a genuinely sustainable global Institute.**

While thanking you for finding time to read my statement, I am hopeful and persuaded that I will earn the honour of your consideration and vote to enable me serve our great Institute in the coveted position of its President.