

## **Emir of Kano to Deliver Opening Keynote Address at the RFI Summit 2018**

*HRH Emir Sanusi II brings his experience as banker, central banker and Emir to deliver the change needed for the Sustainable Development Goals*

Zurich, Switzerland, 7 March 2018 – The organizers of the Responsible Finance & Investment (RFI) Summit 2018 are excited to announce the opening keynote speaker for the Summit, His Royal Highness Emir Muhammadu Sanusi II, Emir of Kano. His Royal Highness will share his experience engaged in advocating for sustainable economic development and the creation of a more equitable, inclusive and sustainable financial system.

Emir Sanusi's began his career as a banker until he was appointed Governor of the Central Bank of Nigeria in 2009 and then Emir of Kano in 2014. HRH Emir Sanusi won an international reputation as a reformer following the bail-out of nine lenders just weeks after taking office at the helm of the central bank, a move which many bankers say saved the financial sector in sub-Saharan Africa's second biggest economy from the brink of collapse.

In doing so, he sent shockwaves through the corporate establishment, sacking the chiefs of eight of the banks and felling pillars of Nigeria's financial aristocracy who had long seen themselves as beyond the reach of the regulators in doing so. After serving as central bank governor, HRH Emir Sanusi was crowned as Emir of Kano in 2014, succeeding his late great-uncle Dr. Ado Bayero.

Throughout his career, HRH Emir Sanusi has promoted sustainable development, particularly through efforts to fight corruption not only in the financial sector but in the political system in Nigeria, winning him as many enemies at home as he has friends in the international investment community.

Speaking on behalf of the RFI Summit organizers, Blake Goud, CEO of the RFI Foundation, said: "We are honored to have HRH Emir Sanusi delivering an opening keynote address at the RFI Summit 2018. I look forward to HRH the Emir sharing his vision for how the financial sector, governments and the private sector need to change their perspective to deliver the authentic and dramatic changes needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals."

Please visit the Summit website at [www.rfisummit.org](http://www.rfisummit.org) to register for the RFI Summit 2018.

### **About the Responsible Finance & Investment Summit 2018**

The Summit, to be held on 26 and 27 April 2018 at the Atlantis Hotel by Giardino in Zurich, Switzerland, brings together key stakeholders within responsible finance to build connections to new growth opportunities and more measurable impact. The RFI Summit will play a vital role in connecting representatives from across the responsible finance industry to build on the growing cooperation between SRI, ESG and Islamic finance. The RFI Summit in Zurich is an initiative of the RFI Foundation and Swiss Arab Network to build awareness of shared values that can bring socially responsible investing (SRI), environmental, social and governance (ESG) and Islamic finance together to increase their positive impact.

### **About RFI Foundation**

The RFI Foundation is a non-profit organisation with a mission to identify a neutral, nonpartisan and universal value proposition that encourages convergence of responsible finance practices. RFI evolves Sustainable, Responsible, Impact Investing (SRI), Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) and the Islamic finance sectors towards a convergence of their shared standards, and engages stakeholders to build the responsible finance industry as a catalyst to support equitable, inclusive and sustainable economic development. Visit us at [www.rfi-foundation.org](http://www.rfi-foundation.org)

### **About Swiss Arab Network**

The Swiss Arab Network (SAN) is a non-profit networking organisation with headquarter in Zurich and affiliations in the Arab world that strives to bridge gaps, promote sustainable exchange and intensify the mutual understanding among Swiss and Arab people. SAN is a networking platform and organises events and gives speeches on topics like Swiss and Arab finance, business, culture, art and film. Established and high-profile organisations from Switzerland and the Arab world are members of the network. Visit us at [www.swissarab.org](http://www.swissarab.org)

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