AGM Remarks

Gill Meller, President

Good afternoon everyone.

It is a privilege to address you today as President of The Chartered Governance Institute.

Before I begin, I would like to thank the Malaysian Division for their outstanding hospitality and for hosting what has been a highly successful inaugural CGI Global Governance Summit. The fact that more than 1,400 delegates attended the Summit is a remarkable achievement and demonstrates both the growing importance of governance and the increasing visibility of CGI on the global stage.

I would also like to thank CGI Global Council Members, Committee Members, volunteers, Divisional leaders and the Global Secretariat for their continued commitment to the Institute.

As many of you will know, I assumed office as President on 1 July 2026, immediately following the end of the reporting period covered by this year's Annual Report.

For that reason, the achievements highlighted in the report are not mine to claim. Rather, they are the result of the leadership of my predecessor, John Heaton, together with Council colleagues, the Director General, Divisional leaders and many volunteers across our global community. I would like to place on record my sincere thanks to John for his leadership, commitment and service to CGI over many years.

Although I have only recently assumed the role of President, one thing has already become very clear to me.

CGI is an organisation with a strong sense of purpose, a clear strategic direction and an increasingly important role within the global governance landscape

We operate at a time when governance has moved to the forefront of organisational success. Boards and governing bodies face unprecedented levels of complexity. Expectations from regulators, investors and wider stakeholders continue to increase. Technological change is accelerating. New sustainability obligations are emerging. Organisations are increasingly being challenged to demonstrate resilience, accountability and long-term thinking.

In that environment, the role of governance professionals has never been more important. Nor has the role of CGI.

Our responsibility is not simply to respond to developments affecting our profession. It is to help shape the future of governance practice, support the development of professional standards and champion the value that governance professionals bring to organisations around the world.

It is for this reason that the CGI Global Council remains firmly committed to the strategic priorities that guide our work.

These priorities are clear.

- We are modernising our professional qualification to ensure it remains the leading global credential for governance professionals.
- We are strengthening the profile of CGI and our profession through policy and advocacy activities.
- We are enhancing the value we provide to members.
- We are seeking new opportunities to increase our impact internationally.
- And we are ensuring that CGI itself remains governed to the highest standards.

What encourages me most is that these priorities are no longer individual initiatives. They are increasingly becoming part of a coherent and connected strategy for the future development of the Institute.

The work undertaken to modernise the International Qualifying Programme strengthens our professional standing. Our policy and advocacy activities enhance our influence. The expansion of our international engagement broadens our reach. Strong governance arrangements ensure that we remain effective, accountable and sustainable as an organisation. And, together, these initiatives create additional value for our members and position CGI to thrive in the years ahead.

The success of this week's Summit gives me considerable confidence about the future. The level of engagement we have seen over the past two days demonstrates that our profession continues to grow in influence and importance.

As we look beyond Kuala Lumpur and towards Japan, we have an opportunity to build on this momentum and further strengthen CGI's position as the leading international voice for governance professionals.

As President, I look forward to working with the CGI Global Council, the Director General, our Divisions and our members to help realise that ambition.

To provide a more detailed overview of the progress made against our strategic priorities during the year, I will now hand over to our Director General, Kerrie Waring.

Thank you.