# Role des administrateurs dans la bonne gouvernance des entreprises 

Good corporate governance and the role of the Director

## Why is the World Talking About Corporate Governance?

Corporate failures
Executive greed
Economic stagnation
Globalization
Privatization
Internal awareness of busines:


Global Financial Crisis


## The state owned enterprises are not an exception with regard to good governance

- State Owned Entreprises (SOE)are vital and play an important role in many economies including in liberal and market driven economies
- Regardless of the SOE organization model ( centralized or decentralized), The SOE are established as Independent legal entities pursuing double mandate: (i) Achieve national economic development objectives and (ii) stay profitable
- SOE roles : (i) Contribution in the national economy, (ii)Defend General interest, (iii) citizen protection and social justice
- Critical role in managing strategic resources of the country, preventing the creation of private monopolies damaging the citizen and the user interest.. It can also be an effective sustainable instrument


## The state owned enterprises are not an exception with regard to good governance

Their economic weight is growing over years: 282 out of 2000 big global corporates are SOE according to Forbes Global Index 2000, in 2017, a leap growing number
The director plays a major in the governing body of SOE i.e The board of governance.

- The good governance of a corporate applies regardless of the nature of the ownership.
- How should a director within his role in a board of an SOE, perform his role effectively
- What are the best practices, lessons learned globally and regionally?
- What are the attributes that a Director should have to perform his role effectively?


## Board's Role

"The board's role is to provide entrepreneurial leadership of the company within a framework of prudent and effective controls...."

United Kingdom Code of Corporate Governance (2010)

## Corporate Governance and Corporate Management

Corporate governance \& corporate/financial management interest


## Differences Between Directing, Managing

## Directing

## Managing

Collective decision-making

Duties and responsibilities to shareowners, company

Directors report regularly to shareowners

Leadership vision, strategy

Approve, abide by ethics code

Signoff of financial statements, etc.

Combined and individual liability

Individual decision-making

Specific to department

Report to board

Implement vision, strategy

Abide by ethics code

Preparation of financial statements, etc.

Individual liabilities

## Board of Directors - activities and role

| Exercising <br> accountability <br> and <br> responsibility | Foresight |
| :--- | :--- |
|  | Strategy <br> and <br> Structure <br> Management |

## Director Responsibilities

- Duty of Loyalty
- Duty of Care
- Responsibilities to Shareholders
- Activities as Directors (Duties)
- Conflicts of Interest
- Adequacy of Control Environment
- Adequacy of Disclosure


## Board tasks: the right balance between foresight tasks and accountability tasks

A survey of Gulf companies identified that directors are currently spending $15 \%$ of the board's time on determining purpose, vision and values and setting strategy.

- $72 \%$ of the respondents felt that they needed to spend significantly more time on determining purpose, vision and values and setting strategy issues.
- Directors spend $22 \%$ of the board's time on exercising accountability and $25 \%$ of the respondents felt that they needed to spend significantly more time on this activity.
- It is important that the director balances the tasks between prospective/strategic activities and those related to control/accountability


## Types Of Boards

## Includes:

- Passive
- Certifying
- Engaging
- Intervening
- Operating
- Paper


## Board Size Criteria

Companies should choose a board size that will enable them to:

- Hold productive, constructive discussions
- Make prompt, rational decisions
- Efficiently organize the work of its committees, if these are established


## Examples

Saudi - 2008-8.4 (range 2-12)
$33 \%$ of listed companies had 2 directors from same family

Qatar - 2008-8.5 (range 4-12)
$76 \%$ of listed companies had 2 directors from same family

## Board of Directors - Composition, best practices

- Seven to Eleven Members/Strong Independent Component
- Separate Chairman and CEO Roles
- Regular Calendar/Agenda of Meetings
(~6-8 per Annum)
- Independent Directors
- No Connection with Management / Controllers
- "Independent - Minded"
- Minimum Requirements (local standards) plus Company's Own Definition


## Types Of Directors

- Chairman
- CEO
- Executive
- Non-executive
- Independent
- Nominee
- Alternate
- Shadow


## Executive/Non-Executive Directors

Executive Directors

- Hold an operational position
- Typically the CEO, the chief operating officer (COO), and/or the chief financial officer (CFO)
- Best informed about the company's business and its challenges since they make decisions daily about the company's operations.
- Ultimately responsible, too, for the company's operating results.

Non-executive Directors

- Non-executive directors do not hold an executive position and they may or may not be independent


## Independent Director Qualifications

- Not a recent employee
- No recent material business relationship with the company
- No recent or current remuneration from the company, except for:
- Director's fee
- Share options
- Performance-related pay
- Pension


## Independent Director Qualifications (Cont.)

- No close family/ ties with any of the company's advisers, directors or senior employees
- No cross-directorships or significant links with other directors through involvement in other companies or bodies
- Not a significant shareowner
- Not a long-term board member


## Duty Of Good Faith Calls For Directors Not to...

- Conduct transactions in which they have a personal interest
- Accept a position in a competing company
- Enter into contractual relations with a competing company
- Use the company's assets, facilities for personal use
- Use information, business opportunities received in their official capacity for personal gain
- Accept gifts


## Director Selection, Appointment

- Identification of a board capability gap
- Develop a person specification
- Develop a search plan
- Get to know the person
- Select the best-qualified candidate
- Recommend the candidate for election at the general assembly
- Election process


## Directors' Leadership Attributes

Intellectual dimension (IQ)

- Critical analysis and judgment
- Vision and imagination
- Strategic perspective

Managerial dimensions
(MQ)

- Resource managing
- Engaging communicator
- Empowering
- Developing
- Achieving results

Emotional and social dimensions
(EQ)

- Self-awareness
- Emotional resilience
- Intuitiveness
- Interpersonal sensitivity
- Influence
- Motivation
- Conscientiousness


## Board composition case 1

- Complex organisation structure
- Board members 9
- Average age of board 68
- Number of new members in last ten years 3
- Number of directors with financial literacy Minority
- Naval commander 1
- Theatre producer 1
- Number of women 2
- Chair of the Board, CEO and chair of the risk and finance committee - the same person
- 2 Members of risk and finance committee - all over 80
- Risk and finance committee meet once a year


## Lenman Brotners

 $4^{\text {th }}$ Largest Investment Bank in the US Bankrupt in 2008
## TMAN BROTHERS



- Complex organization: owned by the State $70 \%$, private sector ownership 10\%
- Board members 12
- Strategic investor Director 2
- Public sector Diretcor 4
- Private sector Directors 4
- Independent Directors 2
- Chair of the Board, CEO and chair of the Executive committee same person
- Compensation committee composed of the private sector directors, owning 10\%
- Informal decision making, clusters,
- CEO and deputy CEO developing relationships with the Directors. Conflicts in management reflected in the board leading to inefficient board


## Agenda Items

- Agenda Items

Average UK Board Meeting (\% of boards)
$-4-5=6 \%$
$-6-7=18 \%$
$-8-10=59 \%$
$-11-12=14 \%$

- Over 13 = 1\%


## Board Meeting Frequency

Number of board meetings
Country

- Italy
- Spain
- Sweden
- Belgium
- UK
- Portugal
- Netherlands
- France
- Switzerland
- Germany

European average
12.0
10.9
9.4
8.9
8.7
8.7
8.1
7.4
7.3
4.4
8.7

## Board Meeting Duration

Duration of average board meeting (\% of UK boards)

- Under 2 hours

12\%

- 2-4 hours 62\%
- 4-6 hours $25 \%$
- Over 6 hours 1\%


## Dysfunctional Board Characteristics

- Poorly structured
- Insufficient range of expertise
- Inadequate information
- Inadequate debates and no overt disagreements or differences of opinion
- Decisions made by small inner groups outside of the board
- Poor oversight to see if the decisions were correct
- Failure to identify risks, review company finances


## Director Departure

- Resigns
- Vacates office because of a board resolution passed by a specified majority of directors
- Absent from board meetings for a specified period without permission; the directors resolve that the office should be vacated
- Prohibited from holding a director's position by law (e.g., disqualified or bankrupt/insolvent)
- Reached a specified age
- Removed by a resolution of the general assembly


## Board Decision Disagreement

Essential :

- Ensure full possession of facts
- Ensure the disagreement is fully discussed at a board meeting
- Ensure disagreement is included in the meeting's minutes
- Identify possible allies (e.g., company secretary, auditors, shareowners)
- Identify level of support
- Avoid making defamatory statements

Options to Consider

- Accept a majority decision
- Resign
- Call for an Extraordinary General Meeting - if there is the support of a sufficient number of shareowners

Impact

- Personal reputation
- Relationship with other board members
- Company reputation and share value


## Typical Evaluation Process

- Led by chairman, assisted by outside advisor
- Formulate evaluation instrument
- Presentation to board and briefing of process
- Questionnaire completed privately by directors
- All directors interviewed individually
- Collated and analyzed
- Presentation and board discussion


## Good Board Practices



Shareholder Rights


Transparent Disclosure


Control Environment


## Corporate Governance: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly: examples



> GOOD BAD UNGLY

## OLYMPUS

In late 2011 the company fired its newly appointed British president, precipitating a scandal that wiped $75 \%$ off the company's stock market valuation. The scandal culminated in admission by the company that some of its board members had engaged in one of the biggest and most durable loss-concealing scams in the history of corporate Japan.

## Absence of an effective chief risk officer Absence of an effective whistle blowing policy

Paul Moore, a former partner of KMPG and head of group regulatory risk at HBOS between 2002 and 2005, accused the bank of "a total failure of all key aspects of corporate governance" and said that he was repeatedly rebuffed and thwarted when he tried to register concern and was eventually dismissed.

Treasury Select Committee, February 2 2 $\%$ HBOSplc

## US Regulatory Failure - Madoff

## In December 2008, Bernard Madoff admitted

 that the wealth management arm of his business was a Ponzi Scheme. In March 2009, Madoff pleaded guilty to 11 federal crimes and admitted to operating the largest investor fraud ever committed by an individual. In June 2009 he was sentenced to 150 years in prison.

## BARCLAYS

## citibank

- Citt is the tirst major bank and by far the largest company to have suffered a no vote by shareholders on the directors remuneration vote at the AGM. Shareholders said no to CEO Vikram Pandit's $\$ 15$ million pay package.

19th April 2012

- Barclays announced that, after considerable pressure from shareholders, it would be radically restructuring CEO Bob Diamond's pay package.


## Some major takeaways

- Un administrateur «C'est un homme ou une femme libre et disponible pour son rôle ...libre dans ses convictions, jugements et positions, jusqu'à démissionner d'un mandat si cela lui paraît nécessaire....»,
- Un administrateur « Doit faire preuve de vigilance, d'exigence, d'intégrité, de responsabilité et d'implication dans la conduite de ses missions ou il a une démarche pragmatique et prospective des situations spécifiques (gestion de crise, etc.)... »
- Il faut un vrai travail d'équipe au sein du conseil d'administration: « le conseil d'administration, c'est une équipe de rugby, ça ne peut pas fonctionner en individuel. Pour créer du collectif, il faut travailler ensemble et pas en one to one » (l'IFA)


## Thank you

