



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 10<sup>th</sup> 2018

### **Banque de l'Habitat de Cote d'Ivoire (BHCI) to Sponsor and Host the Upcoming 34<sup>th</sup> African Union for Housing Finance's (AUHF) Conference and Annual General Meeting in Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire**

**ABIDJAN, COTE d'IVOIRE – October. 10<sup>th</sup> 2018** – Banque de l'Habitat de Cote d'Ivoire (BHCI) is pleased to announce that the bank will be sponsoring and hosting the 34<sup>th</sup> African Union for Housing Finance's (AUHF) Conference and Annual General Meeting at the Hotel Azalai in Abidjan from October 23-25 of this year. *This will be the first time in history the AUHF's annual conference and general meeting will be held in Francophone Africa.*

The theme of the conference will be "Building Africa's Housing Financing Chain" and will cover a wide range of presentations and panel discussions, bringing together over 190 experts and participants from 29 countries. The conference will include panels and individual presentations of case studies and best practices from across the continent, all focusing on building Africa's focusing financing value chain, with specific focus on the implications for the WAEMU region. The event will be held from 23<sup>rd</sup> of October to the 25<sup>th</sup> at the Azalai Hotel.

JD Diabira, Westbridge CEO, states, "We are honored to host AUHF's annual conference and general meeting here in Abidjan. It allows us to showcase our strategic plans for BHCI as well as network with our peers from across the continent. We are very much looking to form new relationships and establishing new synergies."

#### **ABOUT BHCI**

Prior to Westbridge Mortgage REIT acquiring 51.6% ownership of the Bank in 2017, BHCI was an Ivorian state owned institution established in 1994. BHCI was created to provide specialized financing tools and products to the Ivorian market. At the time of Westbridge's acquisition of BHCI, the bank had 174 employees and over 9 branches across the country.

#### **ABOUT WESTBRIDGE MORTGAGE REIT**

Westbridge is an Ottawa-based, Canadian-owned and operated real estate lending and commodities trading-focused institution catering to the development needs of specific countries in Africa. Our parent company; Westbridge Structured Mortgage Credit Corp ("Westbridge Mortgage REIT") is a specialty Canadian financial institution, set up in 2014, and focused on real estate lending and mortgage securitization.

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