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## I. INTRODUCTION

The world insurance industry was ushered into the 21st century with the September 11, 2001 attacks, following which African markets, faced with the insureds' demand for political risks cover, sought appropriate responses. To that end, they had to adopt a common definition or closely related interpretations of political risks and terrorist acts. The reflection, which had started in the early 1990s, when the wind of democratisation and sovereign national conferences started blowing across the continent, resulted in the adoption of different forms of cover, which have evolved over the years to the extent that risks which were hitherto, expressly covered and therefore could be indemnified have now been excluded. The author of « Issues on the cover of Political Risks», a social and political risks underwriter has shed a practitioner's light on that discussion.

This 20th edition of the African Reinsurer has also treated the issue of natural catastrophes, another topic



of great concern following the global warming, the destructive hurricanes of 2005, the Tsunami of December 2004 and several earthquakes which, for the past two decades, have rocked the entire planet including the northern part of our continent. Therefore, the advantage of the initiative taken by Algeria is that it tackles the problem squarely

and serves as an avenue for the civic and insurance enlightenment of consumers and citizens. Many African countries should draw inspiration from it.

Another topical issue, which is, "Analysing the Financial Strength of an Insurance Company", has been treated in this magazine together with other traditional issues such as Loss Prevention and the rating of Life assurance. Since these are current preoccupations, the Editorial committee considered it important to include the reflection of African insurance practitioners on these issues within the general stream of the restructuring of the world insurance.