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ABIAL sound bites

Internal controls in
a virtual environment
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Internal audit matters. I'm keen to assist the profession in thriving into a skilled resource decision-makers can rely upon on a wide range of strategic, regulatory and risk-related issues.

Before this sanitary crisis, the question of performing remote audits or controls was already raised. Companies were thinking of the benefits arising from this way of working for several reasons such as the costs reduction and gain in transport time, though facing and managing the change was an obstacle.

With the Covid-19 pandemic, the organizations were forced to be more flexible and adapt themselves. By re-assessing the overall control framework to match with the new risks emerging from the crisis. Control and audit methodology also changed. Professionals were suddenly compelled to switch from on-site work and meetings style to a full digital process overnight. The change in the control and audit approach happened to increase the workload, and the risks. In some cases, we all had to face and manage a number of technical or integration issues, ensure data

protection and confidentiality but also oversee the potential damages caused to employees' health. The keys to succeed are a strong organization and capacity to anticipate skills needed, maintain an ongoing communication with teams, and leverage our ability to adapt. Internal controls are being reprioritized and these changes are unlikely to be temporary.

AGENDA

- ▶ Remote audits, a trend accelerated by the pandemic
- ▶ Re-assessing the overall control framework to match with the new emerging risks
- ▶ Evolution of the methodology
- ▶ Data protection and confidentiality issues
- ▶ The human factor
- ▶ The Keys to succeed