

# **ARGO GROUP**

**INVESTOR PRESENTATION** 

**NOVEMBER 2020** 

## Forward-Looking Statements

This presentation may include forward-looking statements, both with respect to Argo Group and its industry, that reflect our current views with respect to future events and financial performance. Forward-looking statements include all statements that do not relate solely to historical or current facts, and can be identified by the use of words such as "expect," "intend," "plan," "believe," "do not believe," "aim," "project," "anticipate," "seek," "will," "likely," "assume," "estimate," "may," "continue," "guidance," "objective," "remain optimistic," "path toward," "outlook," "trends," "future," "could," "would," "should," "target," "on track" and similar expressions of a future or forward-looking nature.

There can be no assurance that actual developments will be those anticipated by Argo Group. Actual results may differ materially as a result of significant risks and uncertainties including but not limited to: the continuing impact of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and related economic matters; changes in the pricing environment including those due to the cyclical nature of the insurance and reinsurance industry; increased competition; the adequacy of our projected loss reserves including development of claims that varies from that which was expected when loss reserves were established, adverse legal rulings which may impact the liability under insurance and reinsurance contracts beyond that which was anticipated when the reserves were established, development of new theories related to coverage which may increase liabilities under insurance and reinsurance contracts beyond that which were anticipated when the loss reserves were established, reinsurance coverage being other than what was anticipated when the loss reserves were established; changes to regulatory and tax conditions and legislation; natural and/or man-made disasters, including terrorist acts and civil unrest; impact of global climate change; the inability to secure reinsurance; the inability to collect reinsurance recoverables; a downgrade in our financial strength ratings; changes in interest rates; changes in the financial markets that impact investment income and the fair market values of our investments; changes in asset valuations; failure to execute information technology strategies; exposure to information security breach; failure of outsourced service providers; failure to execute expense targets; inability to successfully execute mergers or acquisitions; and costs associated with shareholder activism.

For a more detailed discussion of such risks and uncertainties, see Item 1A, "Risk Factors" in Argo's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019, as supplemented in Part II, Item 1A, "Risk Factors" of Argo's subsequent Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q and in other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The inclusion of a forward-looking statement herein should not be regarded as a representation by Argo that Argo's objectives will be achieved. Argo undertakes no obligation to publicly update forward-looking statements, whether as a result of new information, future events or otherwise. You should not place undue reliance on any such statements.

## Distinctive U.S.-Focused Specialty Insurance Platform

### Specialty insurance underwriter focused on U.S. risks

 Presence in the U.S., London and Bermuda markets with a focus on U.S. domiciled risks

### Established presence in desirable markets

- Differentiated U.S.-centric specialty insurance franchise
- Rapidly improving market conditions in core products

### Diversified by product and profit streams

 Niche business units across Argo's platform create a balanced earnings profile

### **Expense ratio focused**

- Actions already in place to remove costs
- Targeting a 36% expense ratio by year-end 2022
- Investing in efficiency opportunities

### Strong balance sheet with modest financial leverage

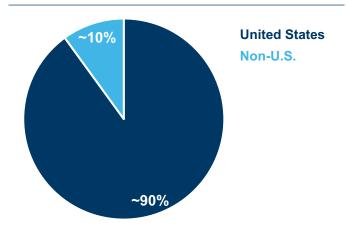
- Disciplined capital allocation process to maximize returns
- Focused on deploying capital toward growth in core markets

### Focused on shareholder alignment

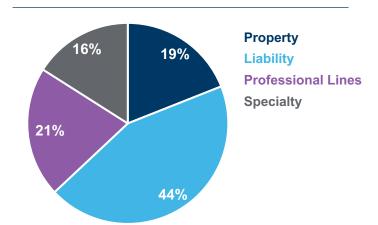
 Enhanced corporate governance and compensation structure aligned with long-term shareholder interests

### 3Q 2020 LTM GWP: \$3,221M

### Approximate Geography of Risk<sup>(1)</sup>



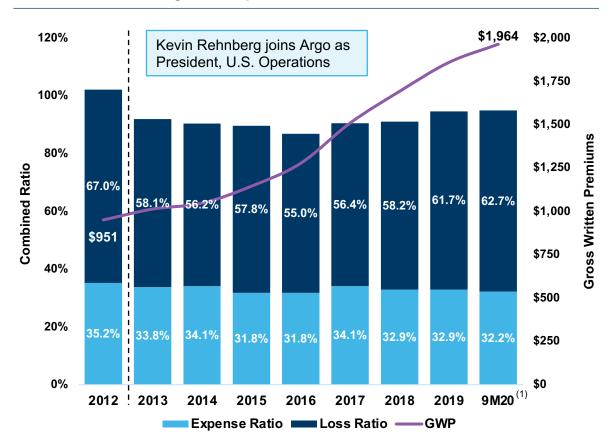
### Line of Business<sup>(1)</sup>



### Leadership With A Track Record Of Performance

CEO Kevin Rehnberg led a successful turnaround of Argo's U.S. Operations since joining in 2013 and has maintained consistent and profitable results





# Key Accomplishments 2013 - 9M 2020

- Gross written premium compound growth rate of 10% since 2013
- ~300 basis point improvement in expense ratio since 2012
- Cumulative loss ratio of 58.4%, including catastrophes and prior year development, since 2013
- Cumulative combined ratio of 91.4%, including catastrophes and prior year development, since 2013
- Cumulative underwriting profit of more than \$600 million from 2013 to 9M 2020

# Fundamental Operating Principles

Argo's fundamental operating principles are designed to create an efficient organization focused on delivering underwriting results and improved shareholder value creation



### Digitize To Create Operational Efficiencies

- Simplify operating and organizational structure to create a more focused company
- Reduce inefficient uses of capital and resources by shrinking non-core businesses
- Eliminate duplicative functions and wasteful spending that does not support our strategic goals

# **Establishing The Way Forward**

Foster a culture of accountability for successful execution of strategic plans to improve returns - deploying capital to the businesses with the best outlook for return on capital



# Recent Actions Aligned With Strategic Priorities

Significant progress made toward our strategic priority of becoming a leading U.S.-focused specialty insurance company

### Recent Achievements

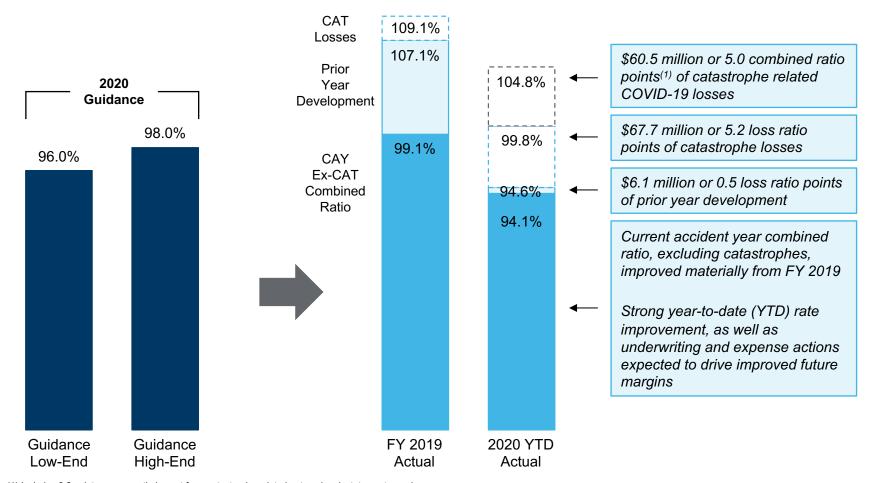
- Management Restructuring: Completed senior management changes to streamline and enhance the executive team
- **Governance Enhancement:** Board implemented governance and compensation changes to create strong alignment with long-term shareholder interests
- Transaction Execution: Rationalizing footprint to focus on core markets
  - Announced an agreement to sell reinsurance business, Ariel Re
  - Announced reinsurance-to-close (RITC) transaction for Syndicate 1200 for 2017 and prior years
  - Planned exit of European underwriting operations outside of Lloyd's
  - Announced exit of U.S. grocery and retail business
- Capital: Completed preferred stock issuance and subsequent repayment of outstanding term loan

# Expense Actions

- Initiatives to remove \$100 million of 2019 total expenses incurred by 2022
- · Expense reductions to be partially reinvested in ongoing businesses and operations
- Targeting a 36% expense ratio<sup>(1)</sup> by year-end 2022, or a 250 basis point reduction relative to FY 2019

# Underwriting Progress vs. FY 2019 and 2020 Guidance

Underlying underwriting results are strong with modest reserve development, reflecting significant improvement vs. 2019, while the overall combined ratio was impacted by catastrophes and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

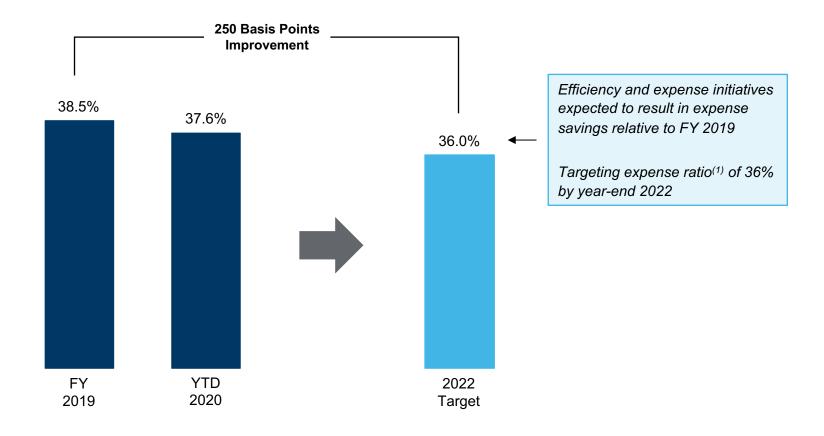


<sup>(1)</sup> Includes 0.2 point expense ratio impact from catastrophe related outwards reinstatement premiums.

Note: For more information regarding current accident year (CAY) ex-CAT combined ratio and a more detailed reconciliation to GAAP combined ratio, please refer to our earnings release filed as an exhibit to Form 8-K with the SEC on November 2, 2020 for 2020 YTD, and filed on February 24, 2020 for FY 2019.

# **Expense Ratio Trajectory**

Cost and efficiency initiatives are expected to contribute to near- and mediumterm expense ratio improvement



# Areas of Near-Term Expense Focus

Expense initiatives are focused on four key areas and are expected to remove approximately \$100 million of FY 2019 total expenses



Organizational Restructuring

- Reorganized and realigned management to reduce the size and cost associated with senior leadership
- Go-forward team more aligned with Argo's current strategy



Marketing T&E Real Estate

- Reducing and focusing any sponsorship and event costs
- Strict travel and entertainment (T&E) policies and procedures in place, as well as enhanced internal controls



Business Rationalization

- Exiting business units that are not meeting return hurdles, have an unmanageable expense base or don't fit Argo's strategy
- · Simplifying and rationalizing legal entity structure



Other General Expenses

- Reduced holding company and investment expenses
- Disciplined use of external resources

# Investing in Efficiency Opportunities for the Future

Deploying resources to make Argo a more efficient specialty insurer for the future - reducing staffing costs, improving underwriting performance and enhancing customer service

### Process and System Mapping

 Deploying business process engineers across business units to eliminate unnecessary workflow

### Increase Automation

- Implementing digital solutions that allow Argo to handle more submissions and provide best-in-class customer service through automation
- 15% of U.S. gross written premium is handled via a digital solution
- In the last two years combined digital gross written premium is \$400M which is nearly 50% of the digital premium since 2012

# Leverage Data and Analytics

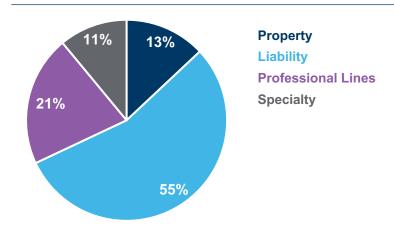
- Using data and analytics to provide better tools and information to underwriters, allowing them to make informed decisions more quickly and increase business volume
- One underwriting tool saves underwriters 30-40% of their time on every submission

# Enterprise Solutions

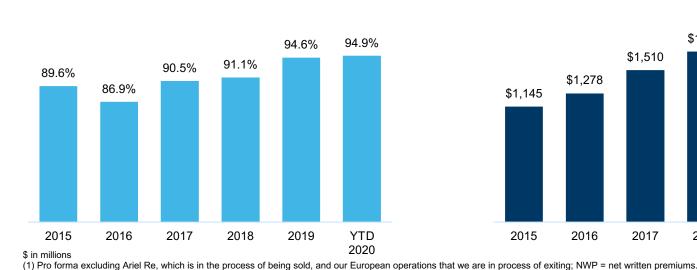
- Investing in key enterprise solutions to further reduce manual workload and drive a greater volume of business to Argo
- Full automation of our intake and submission process, using Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning reduces human interaction, improves efficiencies and reduces mistakes
- · Plan to reduce offshore costs and further reduce turnaround times for producers
- Goal of full rollout by the end of 2022

# U.S. Operations: 73% of Companywide NWP<sup>(1)</sup>

### **Net Written Premiums by Business Mix**



### **Combined Ratio**



### **Segment Overview**

**Argo Construction** – Offers primary and excess casualty coverage to the construction segment

Argo Pro – Customer service focused D&O and E&O specialty platform

**Argo Surety** – Top 10 surety writer in the U.S.

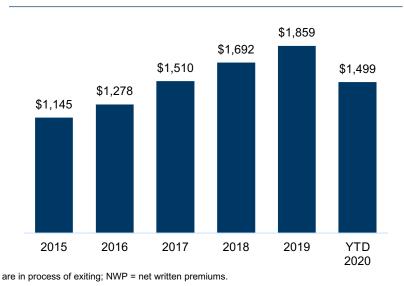
Casualty - Offers coverage to a range of industries on a primary and excess basis

Programs – Underwrites select specialty programs and provides fronting for state-sponsored funds

**Environmental** – Provides coverage to the environmental industry and those that face environmental liabilities

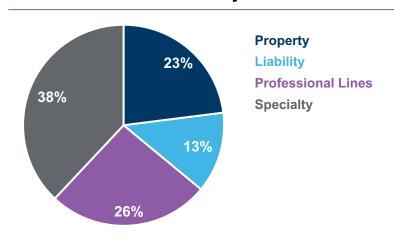
**Inland Marine** – Growth business offering specialist coverage

### **Gross Written Premium**



# International Operations: 27% of Companywide NWP<sup>(1)</sup>

### Net Written Premiums by Business Mix<sup>(1)</sup>



### **Segment Overview**

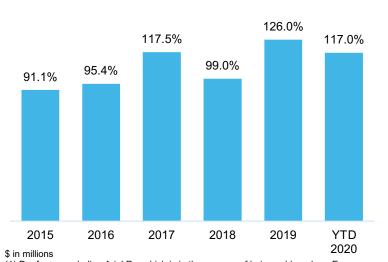
### Established multi-class platform at Lloyd's of London

- Focused on specialty classes for predominantly U.S. domiciled risks
- Underwritten through Syndicate 1200

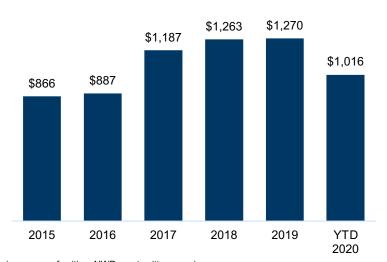
Bermuda platform underwrites excess casualty, professional lines and property insurance

Announced agreement to sell reinsurance business, Ariel Re

#### **Combined Ratio**



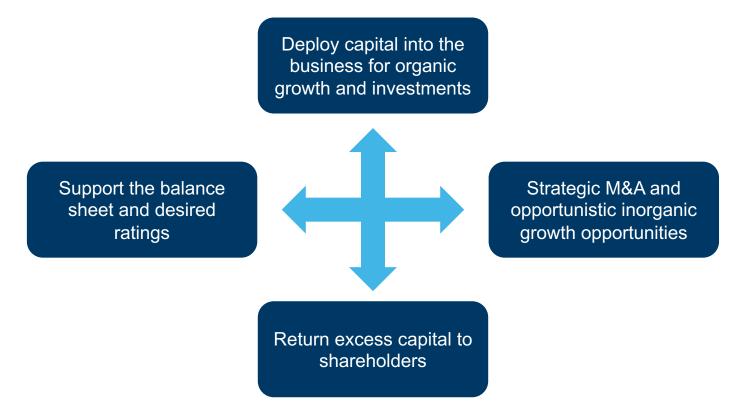
#### **Gross Written Premium**



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# Strategic Capital Allocation

- Argo's capital allocation process is designed to support our strategic objectives and maximize long-term returns
- We seek to allocate capital to Argo's highest performing business units where market conditions allow for growth opportunities
- In July 2020, Argo closed an offering of \$150 million preference shares to refinance an existing term loan and provide additional rating agency and regulatory capital levels to support additional growth



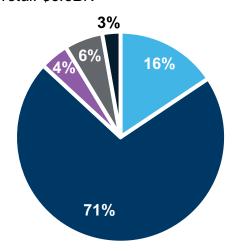
# **Balanced Investment Strategy**

### **Portfolio Characteristics**

- Duration of 2.4 years<sup>(1)</sup> focused on asset-liability management
- Average rating of 'Aa3/AA-'
- Fixed income book yield of 2.3%<sup>(2)</sup>
- Liability-driven investment portfolio
- Reallocating internally managed accounts to external core managers

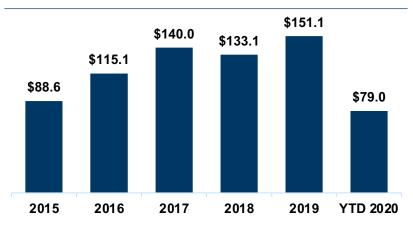
### **Investment Portfolio Asset Allocation**

Total: \$5.3BN



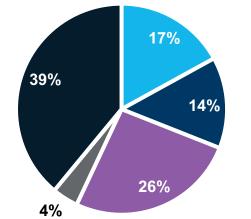
Short Term & Cash
Core Debt
High Yield Debt
Alternatives
Equities

### **Net Investment Income**



Fixed Maturity by Type

Total: \$4.7BN



Short Term & Cash
Government
Structured
State / Municipal
Corporate

<sup>\$</sup> in millions, unless otherwise noted

Duration includes cash & equivalents.

# Argo's Ongoing Commitment to ESG

Argo's corporate responsibility to stakeholders requires that we hold ourselves to the highest standards by being stewards of the environment, advancing our societal impact and providing transparent corporate governance – see our first <u>Annual ESG Report</u>

### **Environmental**



- Argo is a founding member of ClimateWise, which supports the insurance industry so that it can better communicate, disclose and respond to climate risk management issues
- Argo has provided its first
   Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Scope 1, 2
   and 3 disclosures, supported by
   footprint of LEED and EPA Energy
   Star-certified office locations with
   electrical conservation programs.
   Argo is publishing GHG reduction
   targets for 2021
- We are an insurer of companies within the clean energy value chain
- Argo Group's research and development (R&D) team creates state-of-the-art models to innovate new solutions to risk management challenges

### Social



- Implemented a diversity and inclusion program to ensure staff have the tools and support necessary to address systemic barriers, build a diverse workforce and maintain a positive work environment
- Recently introduced policies for paid caregiver leave and increased flexible workplace
- Have responded flexibly to COVID-19 event by adapting flexible working with an emphasis on staff wellbeing
- Argo is a signatory with the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investments the leading international network of institutional investors committed to including environmental, social and governance factors in their investment decision making

### Governance



- Recently underwent a Board refreshment process, adding 9 new directors since 2017 with diverse skills, backgrounds and perspectives
- Declassified our Board, with Directors standing for annual elections
- Lengthened the performance period for the company's long-term incentive program from one to three years, reduced emphasis on individual performance and increased stock ownership guidelines
- Concluded an extensive review of governance controls, resulting in changes to Argo's perquisite policy
- Engaged with largest shareholders in efforts to improve corporate governance and executive compensation practices

# Well Positioned to Create Value in 2021 and Beyond

- Specialty P&C insurer focused on niche products
- Positioned for growth in attractive markets, almost entirely U.S. domiciled risks
- Benefitting from improving market conditions
- Creating a more focused organization by reducing underperforming businesses
- Expense initiatives in place to remove costs and achieve a 36% expense ratio by year-end 2022
- Investing in technology to improve operating efficiency and risk selection, while reducing overall expenses
- Balanced investment portfolio to support underwriting operations
- Strong balance sheet with modest financial leverage