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Attestation Report on Pre-issuance of Bank of China Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Transition Bonds

To the Directors of Bank of China Limited

We have been engaged by Bank of China Limited (the "Bank") to examine the assertions in the accompanying the *Description on Bank of China Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Transition Bonds* (the "Description"), and expressed a limited assurance conclusion on the Description.

Criteria

The Description is prepared in accordance with the *Climate Transition Finance Handbook 2020* published by International Capital Market Association (the "ICMA"), in alignment with the four pillars of relevant ICMA principles as well as in consideration of the climate change mitigation transition activity classification as defined in the *TEG Final Report on the EU Taxonomy* and including the principles of "Avoidance of Carbon Lock-in" and "Do No Significant Harm".

Management's Responsibility

The management of the Bank (the "Management") is responsible for:

- Preparation of the Description in accordance with the *Climate Transition Finance Handbook 2020*, in alignment with the four pillars of relevant ICMA principles and as well as in consideration of the climate change mitigation transition activity classification as defined in the *TEG Final Report on the EU Taxonomy* and including the principles of "Avoidance of Carbon Lock-in" and "Do No Significant Harm", and to ensure the fair presentation, accuracy, completeness and validity of the information contained in the Description;
- Design, implement and maintain necessary internal controls in accordance with the *Bank of China Limited Transition Bonds Management Statement* in meeting the criteria in relation to climate transition finance-related recommended disclosure as set out in the *Climate Transition Finance Handbook 2020*; Design, implement and maintain necessary internal controls in accordance with the *Bank of China Limited Transition Bonds Management Statement* referring to the criteria in relation to use and management of proceeds, project evaluation and selection, and information disclosure and reporting as set out in relevant ICMA principles and *TEG Final Report on the EU Taxonomy*.

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Assurance Practitioner's Responsibility

We conducted our limited assurance engagement in accordance with *International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised): Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Our responsibility is to express an independent limited assurance conclusion as to whether anything has come to our attention to cause us to believe that the Description, in all material respects, does not meet the Criteria.

Our Procedures

Our procedures performed included, but not limited to:

- Assessed policies and procedures established by the Bank related to the issuance of the Bank of China Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Transition Bonds;
- Interviewed personnel of selected business units to understand the key matters in relation to the Bank's policies and procedures;
- Reviewed the climate transition finance-related policies including Climate Transition Strategy and Governance, Business Model Environmental Materiality, Climate Transition Strategy to be Science-based including Targets and Pathways, Implementation Transparency;
- Reviewed the Bank's policies and procedures in relation to the use and management of proceeds for the Bank of China Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Transition Bonds;
- Reviewed the Bank's policies and procedures in relation to how Management evaluated and selected appropriate project(s) for the Bank of China Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Transition Bonds;
- Reviewed the Bank's policies and procedures in relation to how Management compiled information and disclosed appropriately for the Bank of China Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Transition Bonds; and
- Checked eligibility of all the nominated projects for inclusion in the Bank of China Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Transition Bonds.

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Conclusion

Based on our procedures performed, as described in this report as of 4 January 2021, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the assertions in the Description on the climate transition finance-related recommended disclosure, use and management of proceeds, project evaluation and selection and information disclosure and reporting of the Bank of China Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Transition Bonds, in all material respects, does not meet the Criteria.

Limitations

There are inherent limitations, for example, assurance engagements are based on selective testing of the information being examined and it is possible that fraud, error or non-compliance may occur and not be detected. A limited assurance engagement is substantially less in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement in relation to both the risk assessment procedures, including an understanding of internal control, and the procedures performed in response to the assessed risks. There are additional inherent risks associated with assurance over non-financial information including reporting against standards which require information to be assured against source data compiled using definitions and estimation methods that are developed by the reporting entity. Finally, adherence to Description are subjective and will be interpreted differently by different stakeholder groups.

Our work is substantially less in scope than an audit conducted in accordance with *International Standards on Auditing* issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Accordingly, we do not express an audit opinion. Our assurance is limited to the Bank of China Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Transition Bonds issuance, and does not include statutory financial statements. Our assurance is limited to policies and procedures in place as at 4 January 2021, ahead of the issuance of the Bank of China Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Transition Bonds.

Use of Report

Our responsibility in performing our procedures and reporting thereon is to the Bank only and in accordance with terms of reference for this engagement as agreed with them. The report may not be suitable for another purpose. We do not therefore accept or assume any responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person or organization. Any reliance any such third party may place on the Bank of China Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Transition Bonds issuance is entirely at

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Use of Report (Cont'd)

its own risk.

Our Independence, Quality Control and Assurance Team

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of the *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* issued by the International Federation of Accountants, which is founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behavior.

The firm applies *International Standard on Quality Control 1*, "Quality Control for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, and Other Assurance and Related Services Engagements", and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.



Ernst & Young Hua Ming LLP

Beijing, China

4 January 2021