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Assurance Report on Post Issuance of Bank of China Limited London Branch's 2021 Sustainability Re-Linked Bond

To Bank of China Limited London Branch

We have been engaged by Bank of China Limited London Branch (the "Bank") to perform a limited assurance engagement, as defined by International Standards on Assurance Engagements, here after referred to as the engagement, to report on the Bank's use of proceeds, process for project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds, reporting of bond, selection of key performance indicators("KPIs"), calibration of sustainability performance targets("SPTs"), loan characteristics, reporting and verification of Sustainability Re-Linked Bond Eligible Sustainability Linked Loans("SLLs") Portfolio, as well as relinking mechanism (including Sustainability Re-Linked Bond Coupon Adjustment) ("Subject Matter") in the *Annual Report on Bank of China Limited London Branch's 2021 Sustainability Re-Linked Bond* (the "Annual Report") for the Second Observation Period which is from 2nd November 2021 to 2nd September 2023.

Criteria applied by the Bank

In preparing the Subject Matters in the Annual Report, the Bank referred to four core components of relevant International Capital Market Association (the "ICMA") principles, five core components of *Sustainability Linked Loan Principles 2021* and applied relinking mechanism as defined in the *Bank of China Limited Sustainability Re-Linked Bond Management Statement* (the "Management Statement"). These are collectively referred to as Criteria.

The Bank's Responsibility

The Bank's management is responsible for selecting the Criteria, and for presenting the use of proceeds, process for project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds, reporting of bond, selection of KPIs, calibration of SPTs, loan characteristics, reporting and verification of Sustainability Re-Linked Bond Eligible SLLs Portfolio, as well as relinking mechanism (including Sustainability Re-Linked Bond Coupon Adjustment) of the Bank's 2021 Sustainability Re-Linked Bond in accordance with that Criteria, in all material respects. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls, maintaining adequate records and making estimates that are relevant to the preparation of the Subject Matters, such that it is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Assurance Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the presentation of the Subject Matters based on the evidence we have obtained.

We conducted our 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. The standard require that we plan and perform our engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether, in all material respects, the Subject Matters is presented in accordance with the Criteria, and to issue a report. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risk of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

We believe that the evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our



limited assurance conclusions.

Our Independence and Quality Management

We have maintained our independence and confirm that we have met the requirements of the *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants, and have the required competencies and experience to conduct this assurance engagement.

EY also applies International Standard on Quality Management (“ISQM”) 1: *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits and Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements* and ISQM 2: *Engagement Quality Reviews*, and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality management including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

Description of Procedures performed

Procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed. Our procedures were designed to obtain a limited level of assurance on which to base our conclusion and do not provide all the evidence that would be required to provide a reasonable level of assurance.

Although we considered the effectiveness of management’s internal controls when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our assurance engagement was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls. Our procedures did not include testing controls or performing procedures relating to checking aggregation or calculation of data within IT systems.

A limited assurance engagement consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for preparing the use of proceeds, process for project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds, reporting of bond, selection of KPIs, calibration of SPTs, loan characteristics, reporting and verification of Sustainability Re-Linked Bond Eligible SLLs Portfolio, as well as relinking mechanism (including Sustainability Re-Linked Bond Coupon Adjustment) of the 2021 Sustainability Re-Linked Bond and related information, and applying analytical and other appropriate procedures.

Our procedures included:

- Checked the policies and procedures established by the Bank in relation to the Subject Matters in the Annual Report;
- Conducted interviews with key personnel to understand the process for collecting, collating and reporting the Subject Matters in the Annual Report;
- Checked the eligibility of all the nominated sustainability linked loans for inclusion in the Bank of China Limited London Branch’s 2021 Sustainability Re-Linked Bond;
- Undertook analytical review procedures to support the reasonableness of the data;
- Tested, on a sample basis, underlying source information to check the accuracy of the data.

We also performed such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.



Conclusion

Based on our procedures and the evidence obtained, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the bank's use of proceeds, process for project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds, reporting of bond, selection of KPIs, calibration of SPTs, loan characteristics, reporting and verification of Sustainability Re-Linked Bond Eligible SLLs Portfolio, as well as relinking mechanism (including Sustainability Re-Linked Bond Coupon Adjustment) of the 2021 Sustainability Re-Linked Bond for the Second Observation Period (from 2nd November 2021 to 2nd September 2023) in the Annual report, in order for it to be in accordance with the Criteria.

Restricted Use

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 of any such third party may place on the Bank's 2021 Sustainability Re-Linked Bond is entirely at its own risk.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ernst & Young Hua Ming LLP'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a solid black horizontal line.

Ernst & Young Hua Ming LLP

13 October 2023

Beijing, China