



## **Assurance Report on Post Issuance of China Construction Bank Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Sustainability-Linked Bond**

### **To China Construction Bank Hong Kong Branch**

We have been engaged by China Construction Bank Hong Kong 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 selection of key performance indicators, calibration of sustainability performance targets, bond characteristics, reporting and verification of China Construction Bank Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Sustainability-Linked Bond (the "Subject Matter") for year ended 31 December 2023 in the accompanying the selection of key performance indicators, calibration of sustainability performance targets, bond characteristics, reporting as well as verification in *2023 China Construction Bank Green, Social, Sustainability and Sustainability-linked Bonds Annual Report* (the "Five Pillars") and *2023 China Construction Bank Green, Social, Sustainability and Sustainability-linked Bond Annual Report-Appendix III: Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Sustainability-Linked Bond* (the "Appendix III Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Sustainability-Linked Bond").

### **Criteria applied by the Bank**

In preparing the selection of key performance indicators, calibration of sustainability performance targets, bond characteristics, reporting and verification of Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Sustainability-Linked Bond in the Five Pillars and Appendix III: Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Sustainability-Linked Bond, the Bank applied the *Sustainability-Linked Bond Principles 2023* published by International Capital Market Association (the "Criteria").

### **The Bank's Responsibility**

The Bank's management is responsible for selecting the Criteria, and for presenting the selection of key performance indicators, calibration of sustainability performance targets, bond characteristics, reporting and verification of the Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Sustainability-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 matter, 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 Matter based on the evidence we have obtained.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the *International Standard for Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* ('ISAE 3000 (Revised)'). The standard require that we plan and perform our engagement to express a conclusion on whether we are aware of any material modifications that need to be made to the Subject Matter in order for it to be 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.

We also apply International Standard on Quality Management 1, Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements, which requires that we design, implement and operate a system of quality management including policies or 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 selection of key performance indicators, calibration of sustainability performance targets, bond characteristics, reporting and verification of Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Sustainability-Linked Bond and related information, and applying analytical and other appropriate procedures.

Our procedures included:

- Conducted interviews with personnel to understand the business and reporting process;
- Conducted interviews with key personnel to understand the process for collecting, collating and reporting the subject matter in the Five Pillars and Appendix III: Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Sustainability-Linked Bond;
- Checked the Bank's policies and procedures in relation to the subject matter;
- Reconciled the Balance of Green Loans as at 31 December 2023 with the China Construction Bank Corporate Social Responsibility Report 2023, and the Gross Loans and Advance to Customers and the loans and advances to customers attributable to the Subsidiaries and the Bank's branches located outside the People's Republic of China (the "PRC") as at 31 December 2023 with the China Construction Bank Corporation Annual



Report 2023, checked the mathematical calculation accuracy of key performance indicator (KPI) in 2017 baseline.

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 selection of key performance indicators, calibration of sustainability performance targets, bond characteristics, reporting and verification of the Bank's Appendix III: Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Sustainability-Linked Bond for the year ended 31 December 2023 in the Five Pillars and Appendix III: Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Sustainability-Linked Bond, 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 Hong Kong Branch's 2021 Sustainability-Linked Bond is entirely at its own risk.

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Ernst & Young Hua Ming LLP

26 April 2024

Beijing, China