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## **Assurance Report on Use of Proceeds from 2023 Blue Bond Issuance of China Merchants Bank London Branch**

### **To China Merchants Bank Co., Ltd.**

We have been engaged by China Merchants Bank Co., Ltd. (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 from 2023 Blue Bond issuance (the “Subject Matter”), which comprise the Statement on the Proceeds from the issuance of 2023 Blue Bond as of 31 December 2023 in the accompanying the Appendix A and the Statement on the disbursements of the Proceeds from the issuance of 2023 Blue Bond as of 31 December 2023 in the accompanying Appendix B.

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

In preparing the use of Proceeds from 2023 Blue Bond issuance in the Appendix A and Appendix B, the Bank applied the *Green Bond Principles 2021* published by International Capital Market Association and the *Green Bond Endorsed Projects Catalogue 2021* jointly published by the People's Bank of China, the National Development and Reform Commission and the China Securities Regulatory Commission (the “Criteria”).

### **The Bank’s Responsibility**

The Bank’s management is responsible for selecting the Criteria, and for presenting the use of Proceeds from 2023 Blue Bond issuance 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 *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.

EY also applies 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 use of proceeds from 2023 Blue Bond issuance 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;
- Checked the Bank's policies and procedures in relation to the subject matter;
- Checked the register of use of proceeds from the Bank's 2023 Blue Bond Issuance maintained by the relevant department;
- 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 use of Proceeds from 2023 Blue Bond Issuance as of 31 December 2023 in the Appendix A and Appendix B, 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 2023 Blue Bond Issuance is entirely at its own risk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ernst &amp; Young Hua Ming LLP', written over a horizontal line.

Ernst & Young Hua Ming LLP

26 April 2024

Beijing, China

## Appendix A

### Statement on the proceeds from the issuance of 2023 Blue Bond as of 31 December 2023

In accordance with the *Green Bond Principles 2021* published by International Capital Market Association, and the *Green Bond Endorsed Projects Catalogue 2021* jointly published by the People's Bank of China, the National Development and Reform Commission and the China Securities Regulatory Commission, we provide an account of the USD 400.00 million raised by China Merchants Bank London Branch (hereinafter referred to as "CMB" or "the Bank") from the issuance of the Blue Bond filed on 6 June 2023 (the "Blue Bond") as follow:

1. CMB issued the Blue Bond amounting to USD 400.00 million on 6 June 2023, the proceeds were received on 13 June 2023, equivalent to CNY 2,856.20 million.
2. CMB constructed a special ledger for the accounting and proper management of the Blue Bond, including the record of funds received from bond issuance, as well as the disbursements and subsequent recovery of funds, so as to ensure that funds raised are specifically used as intended, solely for eligible green projects over the duration of the Blue Bond.
3. Management of CMB is responsible for the preparation of the Statement detailing how funds raised from the issuance of the Blue Bond had been utilized as set out in Appendix B, including the completeness, accuracy and validity of the information contained in the Statement.
4. Management of CMB declared that as of 31 December 2023, USD 400.00 million had been raised from the issuance of the Blue Bond, all had been disbursed to the Eligible Green Projects, in accordance with the *Green Bond Principles 2021*, the *Green Bond Endorsed Projects Catalogue 2021* and the *China Merchants Bank Green, Social and Sustainability Bond Framework*.

China Merchants Bank Co., Ltd.

26 April 2024



## Appendix B

### Statement on the disbursements of the proceeds from the issuance of 2023 Blue Bond as of 31 December 2023

The proceeds from the Blue Bond<sup>(1)</sup> :

Issuer	Currency	Amount (million)	Net Amount (million)	Interest rate	Exchange rate <sup>(2)</sup>	Amount in CNY(million)	Maturity date
CMB	USD	400.00	399.48	Fixed	7.1498	2,856.20	2026/6/13
<b>Total</b>			-			<b>2,856.20</b>	-

(1) Reflects the principal raised from the Blue Bond issuance.

(2) The exchange rate is based on the announcement of the People's Bank of China's exchange rate on input value date.

The disbursements of the proceeds from the Blue Bond:

Category	Amount (CNY million) <sup>(3) (4)</sup>	Proportion
Renewable energy	1,464.16	51.26%
Sustainable water and wastewater management	1,392.04	48.74%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,856.20</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

(3) Funds disbursed in support of the green projects that meets the requirements of the issuance circular and Appendix A.

(4) Represents the amount of funds disbursed on green projects that meet relevant standard and criteria as of 31 December 2023.

  
China Merchants Bank Co., Ltd.

26 April 2024