

REGISTRATION DOCUMENT



HSBC Holdings plc

(a company incorporated with limited liability in England with registered number 617987)

This document (which expression shall include this document and all documents incorporated by reference herein) has been prepared for the purpose of providing disclosure information with regard to HSBC Holdings plc ("**HSBC Holdings**" or the "**Issuer**") and has been approved by the United Kingdom Financial Conduct Authority (the "**FCA**"), which is the United Kingdom competent authority for the purposes of Directive 2003/71/EC, as amended (the "**Prospectus Directive**") and relevant implementing measures in the United Kingdom (the "**UK Listing Authority**"), as a registration document ("**Registration Document**") issued in compliance with the Prospectus Directive and relevant implementing measures in the United Kingdom for the purpose of providing the information with regard to HSBC Holdings as issuer of debt or derivative securities during the period of twelve months after the date hereof.

This Registration Document includes details of the long-term and short-term credit ratings assigned to the Issuer by Standard & Poor's Credit Market Services Europe Limited ("**S&P**"), Moody's Investors Service Limited ("**Moody's**") and Fitch Ratings Limited ("**Fitch**"). Each of S&P, Moody's and Fitch are established in the European Union and are registered as Credit Rating Agencies under Regulation (EU) No. 1060/2009, as amended (the "**CRA Regulation**"). As such, each of S&P, Moody's and Fitch is included in the list of credit rating agencies published by the European Securities and Markets Authority on its website in accordance with the CRA Regulation.

12 March 2015

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RISK FACTORS

Prospective investors in any securities issued by the Issuer should carefully consider risk factors associated with the business of the Issuer and the industry in which it operates together with all other information contained in this Registration Document, including, in particular, the risk factors incorporated by reference into this section. The Issuer considers such risk factors to be the principal risk factors that may affect the Issuer's ability to fulfil its obligations under any of its securities.

*The risk factors incorporated by reference herein do not comprise an exhaustive list or explanation of all risks which investors may face when making an investment in securities issued by the Issuer and should be used as guidance only. Additional risks and uncertainties relating to the Issuer that are not currently known to the Issuer, or that the Issuer currently deems immaterial, may individually or cumulatively also have a material adverse effect on the business, prospects, results of operations and/or financial position of the Issuer and its subsidiaries ("**HSBC**" or the "**Group**"), and, if any such risk should occur, the price of any securities issued by the Issuer may decline and investors could lose all or part of their investment.*

The section entitled "*Risk Factors*" on pages 111a to 111k of the Form 20-F, incorporated by reference herein, sets out a description of the risk factors that may affect the ability of the Issuer to fulfil its obligations to investors in relation to any of its securities.

IMPORTANT NOTICES

The Issuer accepts responsibility for the information contained in this Registration Document. To the best of the knowledge of the Issuer, which has taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained in this Registration Document is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

This Registration Document is to be read and construed with all documents incorporated by reference into it.

No person has been authorised to give any information or to make any representation not contained in or not consistent with this Registration Document, including any documents incorporated by reference herein, and, if given or made, such information or representation must not be relied upon as having been authorised by the Issuer, any trustee or any dealer appointed in relation to any issue of debt or derivative securities by the Issuer.

This Registration Document, including any documents incorporated by reference herein, should not be considered as a recommendation by the Issuer, any trustee or any dealer appointed in relation to any issue of debt or derivative securities by the Issuer that any recipient of this Registration Document, including any document incorporated by reference herein, should purchase any debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer. Each investor contemplating subscribing for or purchasing debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer should make its own independent investigation of the financial condition and affairs, and its own appraisal of the creditworthiness, of the Issuer. No part of this Registration Document including any documents incorporated by reference herein constitutes an offer or invitation by or on behalf of the Issuer, any trustee or any dealer appointed in relation to any issue of debt or derivative securities by the Issuer or any of them to any person to subscribe for or to purchase any of the debt or derivative securities issued by the Issuer.

Neither the delivery of this Registration Document or any documents incorporated by reference herein or any prospectus or any Final Terms nor the offering, sale or delivery of any debt or derivative securities shall, in any circumstances, create any implication that there has been no change in the affairs of the Issuer since the date hereof, or that the information contained in this Registration Document is correct at any time subsequent to the date hereof or that any other written information delivered in connection herewith or therewith is correct as of any time subsequent to the date indicated in such document. Any dealer or trustee appointed in relation to any issue of debt or derivative or securities by the Issuer expressly does not undertake to review the financial condition or affairs of the Issuer or its subsidiary undertakings during the life of such securities.

The distribution of this Registration Document, including any document incorporated by reference herein, and the offer or sale of securities issued by the Issuer may be restricted by law in certain jurisdictions. Persons into whose possession this Registration Document or any document incorporated by reference herein or any securities issued by the Issuer come must inform themselves about, and observe, any such restrictions. For a description of certain restrictions on offers, sales and deliveries of securities issued by the Issuer and on the distribution of this Registration Document, including any document incorporated by reference herein, see the applicable description of arrangements relating to subscription and sale of the relevant debt or derivative securities in the relevant prospectus.

In this Registration Document and in relation to any securities issued by the Issuer, references to the "relevant dealers" are to whichever of the dealers enters into an agreement for the issue of such securities issued by the Issuer as described in the applicable description of arrangements relating to subscription and sale of the relevant debt or derivative securities in the relevant prospectus and references to the "relevant Final Terms" are to the Final Terms relating to such securities.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The following documents shall be deemed to be incorporated in, and to form part of, this Registration Document:

- the 2013 Annual Report and Accounts of the Issuer and its subsidiary undertakings for the year ended 31 December 2013 submitted to and filed with the UK Listing Authority (the "**2013 Annual Report and Accounts**");
- the 2014 Annual Report and Accounts of the Issuer and its subsidiary undertakings for the year ended 31 December 2014 submitted to and filed with the UK Listing Authority (the "**2014 Annual Report and Accounts**"); and
- the Form 20-F of the Issuer for the year ended 31 December 2014 dated 26 February 2015 filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission

(as set out at:

http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1089113/000119312515065289/d879000d20f.htm#tx879000_95

(for the avoidance of doubt, such website and any information appearing on such website and pages do not form part of this Registration Document) (the "**Form 20-F**").

The Issuer will, at its registered office, and at the specified offices of the paying agents specified on the final page of this Registration Document (the "**Paying Agents**"), make available for inspection during normal business hours and free of charge, upon oral or written request, a copy of this Registration Document including any document incorporated by reference herein. Written or oral requests for inspection of such documents should be directed to the specified office of any Paying Agent. Additionally, this Registration Document and all the documents incorporated by reference herein will be available for viewing at www.hsbc.com (please follow links to 'Investor relations', 'Fixed income securities' and 'Issuance programmes').

Any information incorporated by reference in the above documents does not form part of this Registration Document and, to the extent that only certain parts of the above documents are specified to be incorporated by reference hereunder, the non-incorporated parts of such documents are either not relevant for investors or are covered elsewhere in this Registration Document.

HSBC HOLDINGS PLC AND ITS SUBSIDIARY UNDERTAKINGS

Introduction

HSBC Holdings and its subsidiaries is one of the largest banking and financial services organisations in the world, with a market capitalisation of US\$182 billion at 31 December 2014.

HSBC Holdings is a public limited company registered in England and Wales under registration number 617987. The liability of members is limited. It has its registered and head office at 8 Canada Square, London, E14 5HQ, United Kingdom; telephone number +44 20 7991 8888. The Issuer was incorporated on 1 January 1959 under the Companies Act 1948 as a limited company and was re-registered under the Companies Act 1985 as a public limited company.

As at 31 December 2014, the Group had total assets of US\$2,634,139 million, and total shareholders' equity of US\$190,447 million. For the year ended 31 December 2014, the Group's operating profit was US\$16,148 million on total operating income of US\$74,593 million. The Group had a CRD IV transitional common equity tier 1 capital ratio of 10.9 per cent. and an estimated CRD IV end point basis common equity tier 1 ratio of 11.1 per cent. as at 31 December 2014.

Headquartered in London, HSBC operates through long-established businesses and has an international network of some 6,100 offices in 73 countries and territories in six geographical regions; Europe, Hong Kong, Rest of Asia-Pacific, Middle East and North Africa, North America and Latin America. Within these regions, a comprehensive range of banking and related financial services is offered to personal, commercial, corporate, institutional, investment and private banking clients.

HSBC's products and services are delivered to clients through four global businesses: Retail Banking and Wealth Management, Commercial Banking, Global Banking and Markets and Global Private Banking.

Retail Banking and Wealth Management serves nearly 50 million personal customers. The Group takes deposits and provides transactional banking services to enable customers to manage their day-to-day finances and save for the future. HSBC selectively offers credit facilities to assist customers in their short, or longer-term borrowing requirements and provides financial advisory, broking, insurance and investment services to help customers manage and protect their financial futures.

The Group's Commercial Banking business is segmented into large corporates, mid-market companies and Business Banking. This allows HSBC to provide an appropriate level of support to companies with more sophisticated needs and SMEs as they grow both domestically and internationally, and ensures a clear focus on internationally aspirant customers.

Global Banking and Markets provides tailored financial solutions to major government, corporate and institutional clients worldwide. Managed as a global business with regional oversight, Global Banking and Markets operates a long-term relationship management approach to build a full understanding of clients' financial requirements. Sector-focused client service teams comprising relationship managers and product specialists develop financial solutions to meet individual client needs.

Global Private Banking provides investment management and trustee solutions to high net worth individuals and their families in the Group's priority markets. HSBC aims to meet the needs of its clients by providing excellent customer service and offering a comprehensive suite of solutions.

Ratings

HSBC Holdings has been assigned the following long-term credit ratings:

- A by Standard & Poor's Credit Market Services Europe Limited ("**S&P**"). This means that S&P is of the opinion that HSBC Holdings has a strong capacity to meet its financial commitments;
- Aa3 by Moody's Investors Service Limited ("**Moody's**"). This means that Moody's is of the opinion that HSBC Holdings is judged to be of high quality and is subject to very low credit risk; and
- AA- by Fitch Ratings Limited ("**Fitch**"). This means that Fitch is of the opinion that HSBC Holdings poses expectations of very low credit risk, indicates very strong capacity for payment of financial commitments and this capacity is not significantly vulnerable to foreseeable events.

HSBC Holdings has also been assigned the following short-term credit ratings:

- A-1 by S&P. This means that S&P is of the opinion that HSBC Holdings' capacity to meet its financial commitment on its short-term obligations is strong;
- P-1 by Moody's. This means that Moody's is of the opinion that HSBC Holdings has a superior ability to repay short-term debt obligations; and
- F1+ by Fitch. This means that Fitch is of the opinion that HSBC Holdings has the strongest intrinsic capacity for timely payment of short-term financial commitments.

Each of S&P, Moody's and Fitch are established in the European Union and are registered as Credit Rating Agencies under Regulation (EU) No. 1060/2009, as amended.

A credit rating is not a recommendation to buy, sell or hold securities and may be revised or withdrawn by the rating agency at any time.

History and development

The founding member of HSBC, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ("**The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation**"), was established in both Hong Kong and Shanghai in 1865. The bank expanded rapidly, with an emphasis on building up representation in mainland China and throughout the rest of Asia, while also establishing a presence in the major financial and trading centres in Europe and America.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation purchased The Mercantile Bank of India Limited and The British Bank of the Middle East, now HSBC Bank Middle East Limited, in 1959.

In 1965, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation acquired a 51 per cent. interest (subsequently increased to a 62.14 per cent. interest) in Hang Seng Bank Limited ("**Hang Seng Bank**"). Hang Seng Bank is the fourth-largest listed bank in Hong Kong by market capitalisation.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation entered the US market in 1980 by acquiring a 51 per cent. interest in Marine Midland Banks, Inc., now HSBC USA, Inc, with the remaining interest acquired in 1987.

In 1981, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation incorporated its then existing Canadian operations, now HSBC Bank Canada. HSBC Bank Canada subsequently made numerous acquisitions, expanding rapidly to become the largest foreign-owned bank in Canada.

In 1987, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation purchased a 14.9 per cent. interest in Midland Bank plc, now HSBC Bank plc ("**HSBC Bank**"), one of the UK's principal clearing banks. In 1991, HSBC Holdings was established as the parent company of the Group and, in 1992, it purchased the

remaining interest in HSBC Bank. As a consequence of this acquisition, HSBC's head office was transferred from Hong Kong to London in January 1993.

In 1997, HSBC assumed selected assets, liabilities and subsidiaries of Banco Bamerindus do Brasil S.A., now HSBC Bank Brasil S.A.-Banco Múltiplo, following the intervention of the Central Bank of Brazil, and in Argentina completed the acquisition of Grupo Roberts, now part of HSBC Bank Argentina S.A.

In 1999, HSBC acquired Republic New York Corporation, which subsequently merged with HSBC USA, Inc., and Safra Republic Holdings S.A. In 2004, HSBC Bank USA, Inc. merged with HSBC Bank & Trust (Delaware) N.A. to form HSBC Bank USA, N.A.

HSBC completed its acquisition of 99.99 per cent. of the issued share capital of Crédit Commercial de France S.A., now HSBC France, in 2000.

In 2002, HSBC completed the acquisition of 99.59 per cent. of Grupo Financiero Bital, S.A. de C.V., the holding company of what is now HSBC México, S.A, Institución de Banca Múltiple, Group Financiero HSBC.

In 2003, HSBC acquired Household International, Inc., now HSBC Finance Corporation. HSBC also acquired Banco Lloyds TSB S.A.-Banco Múltiplo in Brazil and the country's leading consumer finance company, Losango Promotora de Vendas Limitada in 2003.

In 2004, the acquisition of The Bank of Bermuda Limited, now HSBC Bank Bermuda Limited, was completed. In the same year, HSBC acquired Marks and Spencer Retail Financial Services Holdings Limited, which trades as Marks and Spencer Money in the UK.

In 2004, HSBC acquired 19.9 per cent. of Bank of Communications Limited. In 2007, following public offerings of new shares, HSBC's holding in Bank of Communications Limited was reduced to 18.60 per cent, but was subsequently increased to 19.03 per cent.

In 2005, HSBC increased its holding in Ping An Insurance (Group) Company of China, Limited ("**Ping An Insurance**") to 19.9 per cent., having made its initial investment in 2002. Ping An Insurance is the second-largest life insurer and the third-largest property and casualty insurer in mainland China. In 2007, following a public offering of new shares, HSBC's holding in Ping An Insurance was reduced to 16.78 per cent. In December 2012, HSBC announced an agreement to sell its entire shareholding in Ping An Insurance, the sale of which was completed on 6 February 2013, generating a gain of US\$3.0 billion.

In 2005, HSBC Finance completed the acquisition of Metris Companies Inc.

In 2006, HSBC completed its acquisition of 99.98 per cent. of the outstanding shares of Grupo Banistmo S.A., the leading banking group in Central America.

In 2008, HSBC acquired the assets, liabilities and operations of The Chinese Bank Co., Limited in Taiwan. In the same year, HSBC completed the sale of its seven French regional banks.

In 2009, HSBC completed its acquisition of 88.89 per cent. of PT Bank Ekonomi Raharja Tbk in Indonesia.

In 2013, in addition to the accounting reclassification of Industrial Bank so that it was no longer an associate, HSBC completed the sale of its Panama operations. In addition, it completed the sale of its non-real estate loan portfolio together with several tranches of real estate loans out of its US Consumer and Mortgage Lending portfolio.

The Group continues to make good progress reshaping its business, bringing the total number of disposals and closures of non-core businesses and share holdings since the start of 2011 to 75.

DIRECTORS OF HSBC HOLDINGS

Douglas Flint, CBE
Group Chairman

Skills and experience: Douglas has extensive board-level experience and knowledge of governance, including experience gained through membership of the Boards of HSBC and BP p.l.c. He has considerable knowledge of finance and risk management in banking, multinational financial reporting, treasury and securities trading operations. He joined HSBC as Group Finance Director in 1995.

He is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland and the Association of Corporate Treasurers and also a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. In 2006 he was honoured with a CBE in recognition of his services to the finance industry.

Appointed to the Board: 1995. Group Chairman since 2010.

Current appointments include: Douglas is a director of The Hong Kong Association and Chairman of the Institute of International Finance. He is a member of the Mayor of Beijing's International Business Leaders' Advisory Council as well as the Mayor of Shanghai's International Business Leaders' Advisory Council and the International Advisory Board of the China Europe International Business School, Shanghai. He is also an independent external member of the UK Government's Financial Services Trade and Investment Board, a British Business Ambassador and was appointed a director of the Peterson Institute for International Economics on 10 December 2014.

Former appointments include: Douglas was formerly Group Finance Director, Chief Financial Officer and Executive Director, Risk and Regulation of HSBC and non-executive director and Chairman of the Audit Committee of BP p.l.c. He has chaired and been a member of highly influential bodies which set standards for taxation, governance, accounting and risk management. Douglas served as a partner in KPMG.

Stuart Gulliver
Group Chief Executive
Chairman of the Group Management Board

Skills and experience: Stuart joined HSBC in 1980. He is a career banker with over 30 years' international experience. He has held a number of key roles in the Group's operations worldwide, including in London, Hong Kong, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur and the United Arab Emirates. Stuart played a leading role in developing and expanding Global Banking and Markets.

Appointed to the Board: 2008. Group Chief Executive since 2011.

Current appointments include: Stuart is Chairman of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited and of the Group Management Board. He is a member of the Monetary Authority of Singapore International Advisory Panel and the International Advisory Council of the China Banking Regulatory Commission.

Former appointments include: Stuart served as Chairman of Europe, Middle East and Global Businesses and of HSBC Bank plc, HSBC Bank Middle East Limited, HSBC Private Banking Holdings (Suisse) SA and HSBC France and Deputy Chairman of HSBC Trinkaus & Burkhardt AG and a member of its supervisory board. He was Head of Global Banking and Markets; Co-Head of Global Banking and Markets; Head of Global Markets; and Head of Treasury and Capital Markets in Asia-Pacific.

Phillip Ameen
Independent non-executive Director

Member of the Group Audit Committee with effect from 1 January 2015.

Skills and experience: As a Certified Public Accountant with extensive financial and accounting experience, Phil served as Vice President, Comptroller, and Principal Accounting Officer of General Electric Capital Co. Prior to joining GE, he was a partner of KPMG. He also has a depth of technical knowledge from his participation in accounting standards setting.

Appointed to the Board: 1 January 2015

Current appointments include: A non-executive director of HSBC North America Holdings Inc., HSBC Bank USA, HSBC Finance Corporation and HSBC USA Inc. He is a non-executive director of Skyonic Corporation and R3 Fusion, Inc. and is a member of the Advisory Board of the Business School, University of North Carolina.

Former appointments include: Vice President, Comptroller and Principal Accounting Officer of General Electric Corp; a technical audit partner at Peat Marwick Mitchell & Co (now KPMG). He served on the International Financial Reporting Interpretations Committee of the International Accounting Standards Board, the Accounting Standards Executive Committee of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Financial Accounting Standards Board Emerging Issues Task Force, was Chair of the Committee on Corporate Reporting of Financial Executives International and was a Trustee of the Financial Accounting Foundation.

Kathleen Casey

Independent non-executive Director

Member of the Group Audit Committee and the Financial System Vulnerabilities Committee.

Skills and experience: Kathleen has extensive financial regulatory policy experience. She is a former Commissioner of the US Securities and Exchange Commission, acting as the regulator's principal representative in multilateral and bilateral regulatory dialogues, the G-20 Financial Stability Board and the International Organisation of Securities Commissions.

Appointed to the Board: 1 March 2014

Current appointments include: Kathleen is the Chairman of the Alternative Investment Management Association and a senior adviser to Patomak Global Partners. She is a member of the Board of Trustees of Pennsylvania State University, the Trust Fund Board of the Library of Congress and the Advisory Council of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board.

Former appointments include: Kathleen was a Staff Director and Counsel of the United States Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and Legislative Director and Chief of Staff for a US Senator.

Safra Catz

Independent non-executive Director

Skills and experience: Safra has a background in international business leadership, having helped transform Oracle into the largest producer of business management software and the world's leading supplier of software for information management.

Appointed to the Board: 2008

Current appointments include: Safra was appointed joint Chief Executive Officer of Oracle Corporation on 18 September 2014, having previously been President and Chief Financial Officer. She joined Oracle in 1999 and was appointed to the board of directors in 2001.

Former appointments include: Safra was Managing Director of Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette.

Laura Cha, GBS

Independent non-executive Director

Chairman of the Philanthropic and Community Investment Oversight Committee since 5 December 2014 and a member of the Conduct & Values Committee and the Nomination Committee.

Skills and experience: Laura has extensive regulatory and policy making experience in the finance and securities sector in Hong Kong and mainland China. She is the former Vice Chairman of the China Securities Regulatory Commission, being the first person outside mainland China to join the Central Government of the People's Republic of China at vice-ministerial rank. Laura was awarded Gold and Silver Bauhinia Stars by the Hong Kong Government for public service.

Appointed to the Board: 2011

Current appointments include: Laura is a non-executive Deputy Chairman of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited and non-official member of the Executive Council of Hong Kong SAR. She is a Hong Kong Delegate to the 12th National People's Congress of China and a non-executive director of China Telecom Corporation Limited, Unilever PLC and Unilever N.V. Laura is also a Senior International Adviser for Foundation Asset Management Sweden AB and a member of the State Bar of California and the China Banking Regulatory Commission's International Advisory Council. She is Chairman of the Financial Services Development Council of Hong Kong SAR and Vice Chairman of the International Advisory Council of the China Securities Regulatory Commission.

Former appointments include: Laura was a non-executive director of Bank of Communications Co., Ltd., Baoshan Iron and Steel Co. Limited, Johnson Electric Holdings Limited, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited and Tata Consultancy Services Limited. She served as Chairman of the University

Grants Committee in Hong Kong and the ICAC Advisory Committee on Corruption. Laura also served as Deputy Chairman of the Securities and Futures Commission in Hong Kong and was a member of the Advisory Board of the Yale School of Management.

Lord Evans of Weardale

Independent non-executive Director

Chairman of the Financial System Vulnerabilities Committee and a member of the Conduct & Values Committee and Philanthropic and Community Investment Oversight Committee since 5 December 2014.

Skills and experience: Jonathan has extensive experience in national security policy and operations. Formerly Director General of MI5 with responsibility for the leadership, policy and strategy of the Security Service, including international and domestic counter-terrorism, counter-espionage and counter-proliferation activities and cyber security.

Appointed to the Board: 2013

Current appointments include: Jonathan is a non-executive director of the UK National Crime Agency and a Senior Adviser of Accenture plc. He is a member of the advisory board of Darktrace Limited and of Facewatch Limited.

Former appointments include: Jonathan has held various positions in the UK Security Service over a 30-year career with responsibility for the oversight of the Joint Terrorist Analysis Centre and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure and attended the National Security Council.

Joachim Faber

Independent non-executive Director

Chairman of the Group Risk Committee.

Skills and experience: Joachim has experience in banking and asset management with significant international experience, having worked in Germany, Tokyo, New York and London. He is a former Chief Executive Officer of Allianz Global Investors AG and member of the management board of Allianz SE. He has 14 years' experience with Citigroup Inc. holding positions in Trading and Project Finance and as Head of Capital Markets for Europe, North America and Japan.

Appointed to the Board: 2012

Current appointments include: Joachim is Chairman of the supervisory board of Deutsche Börse AG and of the Shareholder Committee of Joh A. Benckiser SARL. He is an independent director of Coty Inc. and a director of Allianz France S.A. Joachim is also a member of the advisory board of the European School for Management and Technology; and council member of The Hongkong – Europe Business Council.

Former appointments include: Joachim served as Chairman of various Allianz subsidiaries. He was a member of the supervisory board of Bayerische Börse AG, and of the supervisory board and Chairman of the audit and risk committee of OSRAM Licht AG. He was also a member of the German Council for Sustainable Development and a member of the advisory board of the Siemens Group Pension Board.

Rona Fairhead, CBE

Independent non-executive Director

Member of the Financial System Vulnerabilities Committee and the Nomination Committee.

Skills and experience: Rona has a background in international industry, publishing, finance and general management. She was a former Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Financial Times Group Limited responsible for its strategy, management and operations and Finance Director of Pearson plc with responsibility for overseeing the day-to-day running of the finance function and directly responsible for global financial reporting and control, tax and treasury.

Appointed to the Board: 2004

Current appointments include: Rona is Chairman of HSBC North America Holdings Inc. She is a non-executive director of PepsiCo Inc. Rona is also a British Business Ambassador and, since 8 October 2014, Chairman of the BBC Trust.

Former appointments include: Rona was an Executive Vice President, Strategy and Group Control of Imperial Chemical Industries plc and Chairman and director of Interactive Data Corporation. She was a member of the board of the UK Government's Cabinet Office until 1 September 2014 and a non-executive director of The Economist Newspaper Limited until 1 July 2014.

Sam Laidlaw

Independent non-executive Director

Member of the Group Remuneration Committee and the Nomination Committee.

Skills and experience: Sam has international experience, particularly in the energy sector, having had responsibility for businesses in four continents. He is a qualified solicitor with a Master's in Business Administration.

Appointed to the Board: 2008

Former appointments include: Sam was the Chief Executive Officer of Centrica plc and the lead non-executive board member of the UK Department for Transport until 31 December 2014. Sam was also an Executive Vice President of Chevron Corporation, non-executive director of Hanson PLC, Chief Executive Officer of Enterprise Oil plc, President and Chief Operating Officer of Amerada Hess Corporation, and a member of the UK Prime Minister's Business Advisory Group.

John Lipsky

Independent non-executive Director

Member of the Group Risk Committee, the Nomination Committee and the Group Remuneration Committee.

Skills and experience: John has international experience having worked in Chile, New York, Washington and London and interacted with financial institutions, central banks and governments in many countries. He served at the International Monetary Fund as First Deputy Managing Director, Acting Managing Director and as Special Adviser.

Appointed to the Board: 2012

Current appointments include: John is a Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Institute at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University. He is co-chairman of the Aspen Institute Program on the World Economy and a director of the National Bureau of Economic Research and the Center for Global Development. John is a member of the advisory board of the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research and the Council on Foreign Relations. He is Chairman of the World Economic Forum's Global Agenda Council on the International Monetary System.

Former appointments include: John served as Vice Chairman of JPMorgan Investment Bank; a director of the American Council on Germany and the Japan Society; a trustee of the Economic Club of New York, and a Global Policy Adviser for Anderson Global Macro, LLC.

Rachel Lomax

Independent non-executive Director

Chairman of the Conduct & Values Committee and a member of the Group Audit Committee and the Group Risk Committee.

Skills and experience: Rachel has experience in both the public and private sectors and a deep knowledge of the operation of the UK government and financial system.

Appointed to the Board: 2008

Current appointments include: Rachel is Chairman of the International Regulatory Strategy Group. She is a director of TheCityUK and Bruegel, a Brussels-based European think tank; a non-executive director of Arcus European Infrastructure Fund GP LLP and Heathrow Airport Holdings Limited. Rachel is also a member of the Council of Imperial College, London and President of the Institute of Fiscal Studies, a Trustee of the Ditchley Foundation, and a non-executive director and chairman of the corporate responsibility committee of Serco Group plc.

Former appointments include: Rachel served as Deputy Governor, Monetary Stability, at the Bank of England and member of the Monetary Policy Committee, Permanent Secretary at the UK Government Departments for Transport and Work and Pensions and the Welsh Office, and Vice President and Chief of Staff to the President of the World Bank. She was a non-executive director of Reinsurance Group of America Inc. and The Scottish American Investment Company PLC.

Iain Mackay
Group Finance Director

Skills and experience: Iain joined HSBC in 2007 as Chief Financial Officer of HSBC North America Holdings Inc. He has extensive financial and international experience, having worked in London, Paris, US, Africa and Asia. Iain is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland.

Appointed to the Board: 2010

Current appointments include: Iain is a member of the Group Management Board and was also appointed as a member of the audit committee of the British Heart Foundation on 4 December 2014.

Former appointments include: Iain served as a director of Hang Seng Bank Limited, Chief Financial Officer, Asia-Pacific, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of GE Global Consumer Finance and Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of GE Healthcare – Global Diagnostic Imaging.

Heidi Miller
Independent non-executive Director

Member of the Group Risk Committee and Conduct & Values Committee since 1 September 2014.

Skills and experience: Heidi has extensive international banking and finance experience. She is a former President of International at JPMorgan Chase, and was responsible for leading the global expansion and international business strategy across the investment bank, asset management, and treasury and securities services divisions.

Appointed to the Board: 1 September 2014

Current appointments include: Heidi is a non-executive director of First Data Corporation and General Mills Inc. She is a Trustee of the International Financial Reporting Standards Foundation.

Former appointments include: Heidi served as non-executive director of Merck & Co. Inc. and also Progressive Corp until 1 August 2014. She was an Executive Vice President and Chief Executive Officer, Treasury and Securities Services at JPMorgan Chase & Co.; Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Bank One Corporation; Senior Executive Vice President of Priceline.com Inc.; and Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Citigroup Inc.

Marc Moses
Group Chief Risk Officer

Skills and experience: Marc joined HSBC in 2005 as Chief Financial and Risk Officer, Global Banking and Markets. He has extensive risk management and financial experience. Marc is a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales.

Appointed to the Board: 1 January 2014

Current appointments include: Marc is a member of the Group Management Board. A director of HSBC Private Bank (Suisse) SA and of HSBC Private Banking Holdings (Suisse) SA.

Former appointments include: Marc served as Chief Financial and Risk Officer, Global Banking and Markets and a director of HSBC Insurance (Bermuda) Limited. He was a European chief financial officer at JP Morgan and audit partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Sir Simon Robertson
Deputy Chairman and senior independent non-executive Director

Chairman of the Nomination Committee and the Group Remuneration Committee. Member of the Financial System Vulnerabilities Committee.

Skills and experience: Simon has a background in international corporate advisory work with a wealth of experience in mergers and acquisitions, merchant banking, investment banking and financial markets. He was honoured with a knighthood in recognition of his services to business. Simon has extensive international experience having worked in France, Germany, the UK and the US.

Appointed to the Board: 2006. Senior Independent non-executive Director since 2007 and Deputy Chairman since 2010.

Current appointments include: Simon is the founding member of Simon Robertson Associates LLP. He is a non-executive director of Berry Bros. & Rudd Limited, The Economist Newspaper Limited and Troy

Asset Management. He is also a trustee of the Eden Project Trust and the Royal Opera House Endowment Fund.

Former appointments include: Simon served as non-executive Chairman of Rolls-Royce Holdings plc, Managing Director of Goldman Sachs International, Chairman of Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, and non-executive director of Royal Opera House, Covent Garden Limited and NewShore Partners Limited.

Jonathan Symonds, CBE

Independent non-executive Director

Chairman of the Group Audit Committee since 1 September 2014. A member of the Group Remuneration Committee from 14 April 2014 until 1 September 2014 and a member of the Conduct & Values Committee.

Skills and experience: Jonathan has extensive international financial experience, having worked in the UK, US and Switzerland. He served as Chief Financial Officer of Novartis AG and AstraZeneca plc. Jonathan is a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales.

Appointed to the Board: 14 April 2014

Current appointments include: Jonathan is Chairman of HSBC Bank plc and of Innocoll AG. He is a non-executive director of Genomics England Limited and of Proteus Digital Health Inc.

Former appointments include: Jonathan was a partner and managing director of Goldman Sachs, and a partner of KPMG. He was a non-executive director and Chairman of the Audit Committee of Diageo plc.

There are no existing or potential conflicts of interest between any duties owed to the Issuer by its Directors (as described above) and the private interests and/or other external duties owed by these individuals.

Business Address

The business address of each of the Directors listed above is HSBC Holdings' registered office, which is at 8 Canada Square, London E14 5HQ, United Kingdom.

Major Shareholders

The ordinary shares of the Issuer are widely held and the Issuer is not directly or indirectly owned or controlled by any one individual or group of collective shareholders. The Issuer is not aware of any arrangements which may result in a change of this position.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. There has been no significant change in the financial or trading position of the Group nor any material adverse change in the prospects of the Issuer since 31 December 2014.
2. Save as disclosed in Note 29 (*Provisions*) and in Note 40 (*Legal proceedings and regulatory matters*) on pages 420 to 422, and on pages 446 to 455 respectively of the Issuer's 2014 Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2014, there are no governmental, legal or arbitration proceedings (including any such proceedings which are pending or threatened against the Issuer or any of its subsidiary undertakings of which the Issuer is aware) during the 12 month period before the date of this Registration Document which may have, or have had in the recent past, significant effects on the financial position or profitability of the Issuer and its subsidiary undertakings taken as a whole.
3. The Issuer prepares its consolidated financial statements in accordance with IFRS.
4. KPMG Audit Plc Chartered Accountants of 15 Canada Square, London E14 5GL, United Kingdom has audited without qualification the Financial Statements contained in the Annual Report and Accounts of the Issuer for the financial years ended 31 December 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014.
5. For so long as the Issuer may issue securities with respect to which this Registration Document forms part of the prospectus prepared by the Issuer relating to such securities (a "**Prospectus**"), the following documents may be inspected during normal business hours at the registered office of the Issuer:
 - (a) the memorandum and articles of association of the Issuer; and
 - (b) the Annual Report and Accounts of the Issuer and its subsidiary undertakings for the years ended 31 December 2013 and 31 December 2014 together with all other consolidated annual reports and accounts of the Issuer subsequent to 31 December 2014.
6. The Issuer will, at its registered office, and at the specified offices of the Paying Agents, make available for inspection during normal office hours, free of charge, upon oral or written request, a copy of this Registration Document, including any document incorporated by reference herein, and any Prospectus (as defined above). Written or oral requests for inspection of such documents should be directed to the specified office of the Paying Agents.

HEAD AND REGISTERED OFFICE OF THE ISSUER

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