

# HSBC Holdings plc

## Notice of Annual General Meeting



Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of HSBC Holdings plc will be held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Broad Sanctuary, London SW1P 3EE at 11.00am on Friday, 24 April 2015 to consider and, if thought fit, pass the resolutions below. Resolutions 1 to 6, 8 to 10 and 12 will be proposed as ordinary resolutions. Resolutions 7, 11 and 13 will be proposed as special resolutions:

### 1. Annual Report and Accounts\*

To receive the Annual Accounts and Reports of the Directors and of the Auditor for the year ended 31 December 2014.

### 2. Directors' Remuneration Report\*

To approve the Directors' Remuneration Report set out on pages 300 to 327 of the *Annual Report & Accounts* for the year ended 31 December 2014, excluding the Directors' Remuneration Policy set out on pages 303 to 307.

### 3. Election and re-election of Directors\*

To elect by separate resolutions each of:

- (a) Phillip Ameen; and (b) Heidi Miller.

To re-elect by separate resolutions each of:

- (c) Kathleen Casey; (k) Sam Laidlaw;  
(d) Safra Catz; (l) John Lipsky;  
(e) Laura Cha; (m) Rachel Lomax;  
(f) Lord Evans of Weardale; (n) Iain Mackay;  
(g) Joachim Faber; (o) Marc Moses;  
(h) Rona Fairhead; (p) Sir Simon Robertson; and  
(i) Douglas Flint; (q) Jonathan Symonds.  
(j) Stuart Gulliver;

### 4. Appointment of Auditor\*

To appoint PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as Auditor of the Company.

### 5. Remuneration of Auditor\*

To authorise the Group Audit Committee to determine the remuneration of the Auditor.

### 6. Authority to allot shares\*

THAT the Directors be generally and unconditionally authorised pursuant to and for the purposes of section 551 of the UK Companies Act 2006 (the "Act") to exercise all the powers of the Company to allot shares in the Company and to grant rights to subscribe for, or to convert any security into, shares in the Company:

- (a) up to an aggregate nominal amount of US\$1,923,509,680 (such amount to be restricted to the extent that any allotments or grants are made under paragraphs (b) or (c) of this resolution so that in total no more than US\$3,205,849,467 can be allotted or granted under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this resolution and no more than US\$6,411,698,934 can be allotted under paragraphs (a), (b) and (c)), such authority to include the allotment of ordinary shares and rights to subscribe for, or to convert any security into, ordinary shares pursuant to the terms of any share plan for employees of the Company or any of its subsidiary undertakings; and

\* Ordinary Resolution

# Special Resolution

- (b) up to an aggregate nominal amount of US\$3,205,849,467 (such amount to be restricted to the extent that any allotments or grants are made under paragraphs (a) or (c) of this resolution so that in total no more than US\$3,205,849,467 can be allotted or granted under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this resolution and no more than US\$6,411,698,934 can be allotted under paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) in connection with:
- (i) an offer or invitation to:
    - (A) holders of ordinary shares in proportion (as nearly as may be practicable) to the respective number of ordinary shares held by them; and
    - (B) holders of other securities, bonds, debentures or warrants which, in accordance with the rights attaching thereto, are entitled to participate in such an offer or invitation or as the Directors consider necessary,

but in each case subject to such exclusions or other arrangements as the Directors may deem necessary or expedient in relation to record dates, fractional entitlements, treasury shares or securities represented by depositary receipts or having regard to any restrictions, obligations, practical or legal problems under the laws of or the requirements of any regulatory body or stock exchange in any territory or otherwise howsoever; and
  - (ii) any scrip dividend plan or similar arrangements implemented in accordance with the Articles of Association of the Company; and
- (c) comprising equity securities (as defined in section 560 of the Act) up to an aggregate nominal amount of US\$6,411,698,934 (such amount to be restricted to the extent that any allotments or grants are made under paragraphs (a) or (b) of this resolution so that in total no more than US\$6,411,698,934 can be allotted pursuant to paragraphs (a), (b) and (c) of this resolution) in connection with a rights issue to:
- (i) holders of ordinary shares in proportion (as nearly as may be practicable) to the respective number of ordinary shares held by them; and
  - (ii) holders of other securities, bonds, debentures or warrants which, in accordance with the rights attaching thereto, are entitled to participate in such an issue or invitation or as the Directors consider necessary,
- but in each case subject to such exclusions or other arrangements as the Directors may deem necessary or expedient in relation to record dates, fractional entitlements, treasury shares or securities represented by depositary receipts or having regard to any restrictions, obligations, practical or legal problems under the laws of or the requirements of any regulatory body or stock exchange in any territory or otherwise howsoever; and
- (d) up to an aggregate nominal amount of £150,000 (in the form of 15,000,000 non-cumulative preference shares of £0.01 each), €150,000 (in the form of 15,000,000 non-cumulative preference shares of €0.01 each) and US\$150,000 (in the form of 15,000,000 non-cumulative preference shares of US\$0.01 each)

provided that, otherwise than pursuant to an allotment or grant pursuant to paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) of this resolution or an allotment or grant pursuant to the terms of any share plan for employees of the Company or any of its subsidiary undertakings, the nominal amount of shares to be allotted or rights to subscribe for, or to convert any security into, shares to be granted by the Directors pursuant to this authority wholly for cash shall not in aggregate exceed US\$480,877,420 (being equal to approximately 5 per cent of the ordinary shares in issue on 5 March 2015), and such authority shall expire at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held in 2016 or at the close of business on 30 June 2016, whichever is the earlier, save that this authority shall allow the Company before the expiry of this authority to make offers or agreements which would or might require shares to be allotted or rights to subscribe for, or to convert any security into, shares to be granted after such expiry and the Directors may allot shares or grant rights to subscribe for, or to convert any security into, shares (as the case may be) in pursuance of such offers or agreements as if the authority conferred hereby had not expired.

## **7. Disapplication of pre-emption rights<sup>#</sup>**

THAT, subject to the passing of Resolution 6 set out in the Notice convening this meeting, the Directors be and are hereby empowered pursuant to sections 570 and 573 of the UK Companies Act 2006 (the "Act") to allot equity securities (within the meaning of section 560 of the Act) for cash either pursuant to the authority granted by Resolution 6 set out in the Notice convening this meeting or by way of a sale of treasury shares as if section 561(1) of the Act did not apply to any such allotment or sale, provided that this power shall expire at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held in 2016 or at the close of business on 30 June 2016, whichever is the earlier, save that this power

\* Ordinary Resolution

# Special Resolution

shall allow the Company before the expiry of this power to make offers or agreements which would or might require equity securities to be allotted after such expiry and the Directors may allot equity securities in pursuance of such offers or agreements as if the power conferred hereby had not expired.

#### **8. Addition of any repurchased shares to general authority to allot shares\***

THAT the authority granted to the Directors to allot shares or grant rights to subscribe for, or convert any security into, shares in the Company pursuant to paragraph (a) of Resolution 6 set out in the Notice convening this meeting be extended by the addition of such number of ordinary shares of US\$0.50 each representing the nominal amount of the Company's share capital repurchased by the Company under the authority granted pursuant to Resolution 9 set out in the Notice convening this meeting, to the extent that such extension would not result in any increase in the authority to allot shares or grant rights to subscribe for or convert securities into shares pursuant to paragraphs (b) and (c) of Resolution 6 set out in the Notice convening this meeting.

#### **9. Purchases of Ordinary Shares by the Company\***

THAT the Company be and is hereby generally and unconditionally authorised for the purposes of section 701 of the UK Companies Act 2006 (the "Act") to make market purchases (within the meaning of section 693 of the Act) of ordinary shares of US\$0.50 each ("Ordinary Shares") and on such terms and in such manner as the Directors shall from time to time determine provided that:

- (a) the maximum aggregate number of Ordinary Shares hereby authorised to be purchased is 1,923,509,680 Ordinary Shares;
- (b) the minimum price (exclusive of expenses) which may be paid for each Ordinary Share is US\$0.50 or the equivalent in the relevant currency in which the purchase is effected calculated by reference to the spot rate of exchange for the purchase of United States dollars with such other currency as quoted by HSBC Bank plc in the London Foreign Exchange Market at or about 11.00am (London time) on the business day (being a day on which banks are ordinarily open for the transaction of normal banking business in London) prior to the date on which the Ordinary Share is contracted to be purchased, in each case such rate to be the rate as conclusively certified by an officer of HSBC Bank plc;
- (c) the maximum price (exclusive of expenses) which may be paid for each Ordinary Share is the lower of (i) 105 per cent of the average of the middle market quotations for the Ordinary Shares (as derived from the Daily Official List of London Stock Exchange plc) for the five dealing days immediately preceding the day on which the Ordinary Share is contracted to be purchased or (ii) 105 per cent of the average of the closing prices of the Ordinary Shares on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited for the five dealing days immediately preceding the day on which the Ordinary Share is contracted to be purchased, in each case converted (where relevant) into the relevant currency in which the purchase is effected calculated by reference to the spot rate of exchange for the purchase of such currency with the currency in which the quotation and/or price is given as quoted by HSBC Bank plc in the London Foreign Exchange Market at or about 11.00am (London time) on the business day prior to the date on which the Ordinary Share is contracted to be purchased, in each case such rate to be the rate as conclusively certified by an officer of HSBC Bank plc;
- (d) unless previously revoked or varied this authority shall expire at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held in 2016 or at the close of business on 30 June 2016, whichever is the earlier; and
- (e) the Company may prior to the expiry of this authority make a contract or contracts to purchase Ordinary Shares under this authority which will or may be completed or executed wholly or partly after such expiry and may make a purchase of Ordinary Shares pursuant to any such contract or contracts as if the authority conferred hereby had not expired.

#### **10. Additional authority to allot equity securities in relation to the issue of Contingent Convertible Securities\***

THAT, in addition to the authority granted pursuant to Resolution 6 set out in the Notice convening this meeting (if passed), the Directors be generally and unconditionally authorised pursuant to and for the purposes of section 551 of the UK Companies Act 2006 (the "Act") to exercise all the powers of the Company to allot shares in the Company and to grant rights to subscribe for, or to convert any security into, shares in the Company up to an aggregate nominal amount of US\$1,813,500,000 in relation to any issue by the Company or any member of the HSBC Group of Contingent Convertible Securities that automatically convert into or are exchanged for ordinary shares in the Company in prescribed circumstances ("CCSs") where the Directors consider such an issue of CCSs would be desirable in connection with,

\* Ordinary Resolution

# Special Resolution

or for the purposes of, complying with or maintaining compliance with regulatory capital requirements or targets applicable to the HSBC Group from time to time and otherwise on terms as may be determined by the Directors, and such authority shall expire at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held in 2016 or at the close of business on 30 June 2016, whichever is the earlier, save that this authority shall allow the Company before the expiry of this authority to make offers or agreements which would or might require shares to be allotted or rights to subscribe for, or to convert any security into, shares to be granted after such expiry and the Directors may allot shares or grant rights to subscribe for, or to convert any security into, shares (as the case may be) in pursuance of such offers or agreements as if the authority conferred hereby had not expired.

#### **11. Limited disapplication of pre-emption rights in relation to the issue of Contingent Convertible Securities<sup>#</sup>**

THAT, in addition to the power contained in Resolution 7 set out in the Notice convening this meeting and subject to the passing of Resolution 10 set out in the Notice convening this meeting, the Directors be and are hereby empowered pursuant to sections 570 and 573 of the UK Companies Act 2006 (the "Act") to allot equity securities (within the meaning of section 560 of the Act) for cash either pursuant to the authority granted by Resolution 10 set out in the Notice convening this meeting or by way of a sale of treasury shares as if section 561(1) of the Act did not apply to any such allotment or sale, provided that this power shall expire at the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting of the Company to be held in 2016 or at the close of business on 30 June 2016, whichever is the earlier, save that this power shall allow the Company before the expiry of this power to make offers or agreements which would or might require equity securities to be allotted after such expiry and the Directors may allot equity securities in pursuance of such offers or agreements as if the power conferred hereby had not expired.

#### **12. UK Sharesave\***

THAT the amendment to the rules of the HSBC Holdings Savings-Related Share Option Plan (UK) ("UK Sharesave"), the main features of which are summarised in Appendix 3, to extend the final date on which options may be granted under UK Sharesave from 27 May 2015 to 23 May 2025 is hereby approved and that the Directors are hereby authorised to do whatever may be necessary or expedient to carry UK Sharesave into effect including making such changes as may be necessary, from time to time, to secure the continuing HMRC tax-advantaged status under Schedule 3 to the Income Tax (Earnings and Pensions) Act 2003.

A copy of the amended rules, signed for the purposes of identification by the Chairman of the Meeting, will be produced to the Meeting.

#### **13. Notice of general meetings<sup>#</sup>**

THAT the Company hereby approves general meetings (other than annual general meetings) being called on a minimum of 14 clear days' notice.

By order of the Board

B J S Mathews  
*Group Company Secretary*

20 March 2015

**HSBC Holdings plc**  
*Incorporated in England with limited liability. Registered in England: number 617987*  
*Registered Office and Group Head Office:*  
8 Canada Square, London E14 5HQ, United Kingdom

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\* Ordinary Resolution

# Special Resolution

# Information about the 2015 Annual General Meeting

## Venue

We have a new venue for the 2015 AGM: the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre. It is located on Broad Sanctuary in Westminster, central London and can easily be reached by public transport. The full address is Broad Sanctuary, Westminster, London SW1P 3EE. A location map is below.

Refreshments will be available prior to the AGM. Take-away lunch bags will be provided in the catering area at the conclusion of the AGM.



## Access

The QEII Centre is accessible by wheelchair. The auditorium is fitted with an induction loop.

To help us ensure the AGM is fully accessible to all shareholders, please contact Kate Hudson, Senior Assistant Company Secretary (telephone +44 (0)20 7992 1503, email [kate.hudson@hscb.com](mailto:kate.hudson@hscb.com)) if you have any particular access or other needs.

## Security

Security checks will be carried out on entry to the AGM. Shareholders are reminded that cameras and recording equipment will not be allowed and all mobile telephones must be switched off or to silent. Shareholders are encouraged to deposit coats and bags in the cloakroom provided.

To ensure optimum security within the auditorium, please note that you will be provided with a wristband once you have been through the security checks at the venue. This will need to be shown to gain entry to the AGM.

## Attendance and voting

Pursuant to the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001 (as amended), changes to entries on the principal register of members of the Company maintained in England (the "Principal Register") or either the Hong Kong or Bermuda Overseas Branch Registers of the Company (the "Branch Registers"), as appropriate, after 12.01am (London time) on Thursday, 23 April 2015 or 12.01am (London time) on the day immediately before the day of any adjourned meeting (as the case may be) shall be disregarded in determining the rights of a member to attend or vote at the AGM or any adjourned meeting (as the case may be). Accordingly, a member entered on the Principal Register or the Branch Registers at 12.01am (London time) on Thursday, 23 April 2015 or 12.01am (London time) on the day immediately before the day of any adjourned meeting (as the case may be) shall be entitled to attend and vote at the AGM or any adjourned meeting (as the case may be) in respect of the number of such shares entered against the member's name at that time.

## Voting

Voting at the AGM will be conducted by way of a poll. This means that each shareholder present or represented will be able to exercise one vote for each share held.

In the case of joint registered holders of any share, the vote of the senior who tenders a vote, whether in person or by proxy, shall be accepted to the exclusion of the votes of the other joint holders. For this purpose, seniority shall be determined by the order in which the names of the holders stand in the Principal Register or the Branch Registers of the Company, as appropriate. Voting results will be published on our website following the conclusion of the AGM.

## Appointing a proxy

You may appoint the chairman of the AGM or a person of your choice to be your proxy to attend, speak and vote on your behalf. A proxy need not be a member of the Company. You may appoint more than one proxy, provided that each proxy is appointed to exercise the rights attached to a different share or shares held by you. If you require additional forms of proxy, you may photocopy the original form of proxy enclosed or ask our registrar to send you additional forms (see "How to submit your form of proxy" below for the registrar's address).

A form of proxy is enclosed with this document or may be accessed at [www.hsbc.com/proxy](http://www.hsbc.com/proxy).

Whether or not you propose to attend the AGM, you are requested to complete and submit a form of proxy in accordance with the instructions shown on it. The completion and submission of a form of proxy will not preclude you from attending and voting in person at the AGM.

## How to submit your form of proxy

The form of proxy must be received by **11.00am (London time) on Wednesday, 22 April 2015**, or not less than 48 hours before the time of the holding of any adjourned meeting.

You may submit your form of proxy electronically at [www.hsbc.com/proxy](http://www.hsbc.com/proxy) by entering your Shareholder Reference Number and the Personal Identification Number which is either printed on your form of proxy or which has been sent to you by email if you have registered an email address to receive electronic communications.

Alternatively, you may send your completed form of proxy to:

- Computershare Investor Services PLC, PO Box 1064, The Pavilions, Bridgwater Road, Bristol BS99 6BD, United Kingdom;
- Computershare Hong Kong Investor Services Limited, Rooms 1712-1716, 17th Floor, Hopewell Centre, 183 Queen's Road East, Hong Kong SAR; or
- Investor Relations Team, HSBC Bank Bermuda Limited, 6 Front Street, Hamilton HM 11, Bermuda.

For shares held through CREST, proxy appointments may be submitted via the CREST proxy voting system (see section on CREST set out below).

In order to be valid, the completed form of proxy (together with any power of attorney or other authority under which it is signed, or a copy of such authority certified notarially or in some other way approved by the Board) must be deposited by 11.00am (London time) on Wednesday, 22 April 2015, or not less than 48 hours before the time of the holding of any adjourned meeting, at the offices of the Company's registrar (see above for the registrar's address). Any power of attorney or other authority relating to an appointment of a proxy cannot be submitted electronically and must be deposited as referred to above for the appointment to be valid.

## Asking questions at the AGM

If you would like a question or questions to be addressed at the AGM please complete and return the form on page 33 or send your question via email to [shareholderquestions@hsbc.com](mailto:shareholderquestions@hsbc.com).

You have the right to ask questions in relation to the business of the AGM but no answer need be given if (a) to do so would interfere unduly with the preparation for the AGM or involve the disclosure of confidential information, (b) the answer has already been given on a website in the form of an answer to a question, or (c) it is undesirable in the interests of the Company or good order of the AGM that the question be answered.

## Webcast

The AGM will be webcast live at [www.hsbc.com/agmwebcast](http://www.hsbc.com/agmwebcast) and a recording will be available for viewing until 22 May 2015.

## **CREST**

CREST members who wish to appoint a proxy or proxies by using the CREST electronic proxy appointment service may do so for the AGM or any adjourned meeting by following the procedures described in the CREST manual. CREST personal members or other CREST sponsored members, and those CREST members who have appointed a voting service provider, should refer to their CREST sponsor or voting service provider, who will be able to take the appropriate action on their behalf.

In order for a proxy appointment or instruction made by means of CREST to be valid, the appropriate CREST message (a "CREST Proxy Instruction") must be properly authenticated in accordance with Euroclear UK & Ireland Limited's specifications and must contain the information required for such instructions, as described in the CREST manual. The message, regardless of whether it constitutes the appointment of a proxy or is an amendment to the instruction given to a previously appointed proxy, must, in order to be valid, be transmitted so as to be received by the issuer's agent (ID 3RA50) by 11.00am on Wednesday 22 April 2015, or not less than 48 hours before the time of the holding of any adjourned meeting. For this purpose, the time of receipt will be taken to be the time (as determined by the timestamp applied to the message by the CREST Applications Host) from which the issuer's agent is able to retrieve the message by enquiry to CREST in the manner prescribed by CREST. After this time, any change of instructions to proxies appointed through CREST should be communicated to the appointees through other means.

CREST members and, where applicable, their CREST sponsor or voting service providers should note that Euroclear UK & Ireland Limited does not make available special procedures in CREST for any particular messages. Normal system timings and limitations will therefore apply in relation to the input of CREST Proxy Instructions. It is the responsibility of the CREST member concerned to take (or, if the CREST member is a CREST personal member or sponsored member or has appointed a voting service provider, to procure that his CREST sponsor or voting service provider takes) such action as shall be necessary to ensure that a message is transmitted by means of the CREST system by any particular time. In this connection, CREST members and, where applicable, their CREST sponsors or voting service providers are referred, in particular, to those sections of the CREST manual concerning practical limitations of the CREST system and timings.

Pursuant to Regulation 35(5)(a) of the Uncertificated Securities Regulations 2001 (as amended) the Company may treat as invalid a CREST Proxy Instruction if the Company has actual notice that:

- the information in the instruction is incorrect;
- the person expressed to have sent the instruction did not in fact send it; or
- the person sending the instruction on behalf of the relevant shareholder did not have the authority to do so.

## **Nominated persons**

The right to appoint a proxy does not apply to persons whose shares are held on their behalf by another person and who have been nominated to receive communications from the Company in accordance with section 146 of the UK Companies Act 2006 ("nominated persons"). Nominated persons may have a right under an agreement with the registered shareholder who holds the shares on their behalf to be appointed (or to have someone else appointed) as a proxy for the AGM. Alternatively, if nominated persons do not have such a right, or do not wish to exercise it, they may have a right under such an agreement to give instructions to the person holding the shares as to the exercise of voting rights at the AGM.

The main point of contact for nominated persons remains the registered shareholder (for example the stockbroker, investment manager, custodian or other person who manages the investment). Any changes or queries relating to nominated persons' personal details and holdings (including any administration thereof) must continue to be directed to the registered shareholder and not the Company's registrar. The only exception is where the Company, in exercising one of its powers under the UK Companies Act 2006, writes to nominated persons directly for a response.

## **Corporate representatives**

Any corporation which is a shareholder can appoint one or more corporate representatives who may exercise on its behalf all of its powers as a shareholder provided that, if it is appointing more than one corporate representative, it does not do so in relation to the same share or shares. Any such representative should bring to the meeting written evidence of his appointment, such as a certified copy of a board resolution of, or a letter from, the corporation concerned confirming the appointment.

### **Members' power to require website publication of audit concerns**

Under section 527 of the UK Companies Act 2006, members meeting the threshold requirements in that section may require the Company to publish on its website a statement setting out any matter that the members propose to raise at the AGM relating to the audit of the Company's accounts (including the auditor's report and the conduct of the audit) that are to be laid before the AGM or any circumstance connected with an auditor of the Company ceasing to hold office since the previous meeting at which annual accounts and reports were laid. The Company may not require the members requesting any such website publication to pay its expenses in complying with sections 527 or 528 of the UK Companies Act 2006. Where the Company is required to place a statement on a website under section 527 of the UK Companies Act 2006, it must forward the statement to the Company's auditor not later than the time when it makes the statement available on the website. The business which may be dealt with at the AGM includes any statement that the Company has been required under section 527 of the UK Companies Act 2006 to publish on its website.

If you have general queries about your shareholding, please contact the relevant registrar at the address shown on page 24.

The Board of Directors of HSBC Holdings plc as at the date of this announcement are: Douglas Flint, Stuart Gulliver, Phillip Ameen†, Kathleen Casey†, Safra Catz†, Laura Cha†, Lord Evans of Weardale†, Joachim Faber†, Rona Fairhead†, Sam Laidlaw†, John Lipsky†, Rachel Lomax†, Iain Mackay, Heidi Miller†, Marc Moses, Sir Simon Robertson† and Jonathan Symonds†.

† Independent non-executive Director