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*The following is the text of an announcement released to the other stock exchanges on which HSBC Holdings plc is listed.*

16 June 2009

## **HSBC OFFER TO ACQUIRE MINORITY SHAREHOLDERS' INTEREST IN INVESTSMART**

HSBC intends to make an offer to acquire from minority shareholders the remaining 6.14 per cent of Investsmart it does not currently own and to delist Investsmart shares from the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange of India (the "delisting offer"). During 2008, HSBC acquired 93.86 per cent of IL&FS Investsmart Limited (Investsmart) through its subsidiaries HSBC Securities and Capital Markets (India) Private Limited and HSBC Violet Investments (Mauritius) Limited for a total consideration of INR1,396.3 crore.

The launch of the delisting offer is conditional upon, amongst other things, the approval of the Investsmart Board of Directors, its shareholders and the stock exchanges where the shares are listed, in accordance with the Securities Exchange Board of India (Delisting of Equity Shares) Regulations, 2009 ("SEBI Regulations").

The delisting offer price will be determined by a reverse book building process as prescribed under the SEBI Regulations, which allows shareholders to tender their shares at a price of their choice, subject to a floor price determined as per the SEBI Regulations. The final price is determined as the price at which the maximum number of shares is tendered. Concurrently, the purchaser retains the right to accept or reject this price.

The Investsmart Board has today advised the Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange of India of the delisting proposal. The Investsmart Board today has also written to the Luxembourg Stock Exchange indicating its intention to withdraw the listing of its Global Depository Receipts (GDRs). Investsmart does not have any GDRs outstanding.

A further announcement will be made as and when appropriate.

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## HSBC offer to acquire minority shareholders' interest in Investsmart/2

### Notes to editors:

#### 1. IL&FS Investsmart Limited

IL&FS Investsmart Group (IIL) is one of India's leading financial services organisations. IIL, through its subsidiaries in India and Singapore, provides a wide range of investment products to its retail and institutional clients including equity broking, investment banking, insurance broking and distribution, mutual funds distribution and related financing services. IIL's 1,500 employees provide a complete range of investment services to over 160,000 customers in India through its 77 branches and 153 franchisee outlets from over 50 cities. It has been recognised as 'National Best Performing Financial Advisor - Retail' for two years in a row (2006-07 and 2007-08) by CNBC TV 18. Investsmart is listed on the National Stock Exchange and the Bombay Stock Exchange and its Global Depository Shares are listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. HSBC currently holds a 93.86 per cent stake in the company.

#### 2. The HSBC Group

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of the HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide from around 9,500 offices in 86 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa. With assets of US\$2,527 billion at 31 December 2008, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.

*ends/all*

The Board of Directors of HSBC Holdings plc as at the date of this announcement are: S K Green, M F Geoghegan, S A Catz†, V H C Cheng, M K T Cheung†, J D Coombe†, J L Durán†, R A Fairhead†, D J Flint, A A Flockhart, W K L Fung\*, S T Gulliver, J W J Hughes-Hallett†, W S H Laidlaw†, J R Lomax†, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart†, G Morgan†, N R N Murthy†, S M Robertson†, J L Thornton† and Sir Brian Williamson†.

† Independent non-executive Director

\* Non-executive Director

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