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TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF TRADING AND REMOVALS BETWEEN REGISTERS

At the request of the Board of Directors of HSBC Holdings plc ("HSBC"), trading in HSBC's ordinary shares on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited has been suspended with effect from 9.30am (Hong Kong time) today, Monday 2 March 2009 pending the announcement of a corporate action. The Board expects to announce the corporate action during the afternoon trading session at or about the same time as HSBC's Annual Results for the year ended 31 December 2008 will be announced. Trading in HSBC's ordinary shares is expected to resume in Hong Kong tomorrow, Tuesday 3 March 2009 at 9.30am (Hong Kong time).

Removals of ordinary shares to or from the principal register in the United Kingdom and/or the overseas branch registers of shareholders in Hong Kong and Bermuda will be suspended from the commencement of business on Monday 2 March 2009 in Hong Kong, London and Bermuda, respectively. The announcement referred to above will give details of the period during which such suspension will apply.

By Order of the Board

R G Barber

Group Company Secretary

Hong Kong, 2 March 2009

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

HSBC Holdings plc

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Hong Kong Stock code: 5