

18 November 2009

STATEMENT

HSBC confirms that it is in exclusive discussions which may lead to the sale and leaseback for an initial nine year period of HSBC France's buildings at 103 avenue des Champs Elysées and 15 rue Vernet in Paris to a subsidiary of a French OPCI (Organisme de Placement Collectif Immobilier). If a transaction is concluded, HSBC France will continue to occupy the building.

These discussions are ongoing and a further announcement will be made as and when appropriate.

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Notes to editors:

1. HSBC France

HSBC France, previously CCF, which was founded in 1894, joined the HSBC Group in 2000 and switched to the HSBC France brand in November 2005. HSBC France is headquartered in Paris. Serving customers from around 430 offices across France and more than 11,600 employees, HSBC France is a universal bank serving both personal and business customers.

2. HSBC Holdings plc

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.

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