

HSBC HOLDINGS PLC

PAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS IN UNITED STATES DOLLARS, STERLING OR HONG KONG DOLLARS

On 2 November 2009, the Directors of HSBC Holdings plc declared a third interim dividend for 2009 of US\$0.08 per ordinary share. The dividend is payable on 13 January 2010 to holders of record on 19 November 2009 on the Hong Kong Overseas Branch Register and on 20 November 2009 on the Principal Register or the Bermuda Overseas Branch Register. The dividend is payable in cash in United States dollars, sterling or Hong Kong dollars, or a combination of these currencies and with a scrip dividend alternative.

In the absence of instructions to the contrary, shareholders on the Principal Register will automatically receive dividends in sterling. However, shareholders with addresses in the United States will automatically receive dividends in United States dollars unless they currently receive payment in one of the other currencies or make an election to do so. In the absence of instructions to the contrary, shareholders on the Hong Kong Overseas Branch Register and the Bermuda Overseas Branch Register will automatically receive dividends in Hong Kong dollars and United States dollars respectively.

Dividends payable in cash in sterling or Hong Kong dollars on 13 January 2010 will be converted from United States dollars at the forward exchange rates quoted by HSBC Bank plc in London at 11.00 am on 4 January 2010 (US\$1 = HK7.75605 and £1 = US\$1.61763). Accordingly, the amount payable on 13 January 2010 will be:

US\$0.08 per share;

approximately HK\$0.620484 per share; or

approximately £0.049455 per share.

The dividend payable to holders of American Depositary Shares ('ADSs'), each of which represents five ordinary shares, will be US\$0.40 per ADS. The dividend will be paid on 13 January 2010 in cash in United States dollars or in new shares to those who have elected to receive the scrip dividend alternative. The cash dividend for participants in the dividend reinvestment plan, operated by the depositary, will be invested in additional ADSs.

R G Barber

Group Company Secretary

HSBC Holdings plc

4 January 2010