



## Assurance Report on Post Issuance of Bank of China Limited's Sustainability Bonds

### To Bank of China Limited

We have been engaged by Bank of China Limited (the "Bank") to perform a limited assurance engagement, as defined by International Standards on Assurance Engagements, here after referred to as the engagement, to report on the Bank's use of proceeds, process for project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds, and reporting of February 2022 Sydney Branch Sustainability Bond for the year ended 31 December 2023, March 2023 Hong Kong Branch Sustainability Bond for the period from 20 March 2023 to 31 December 2023 (the "Subject Matter") in the accompanying the Use of Proceeds, Process for Project Evaluation and Selection, Management of Proceeds, and Reporting in the *Annual report on Bank of China's Sustainability Series Bonds* (the "Four Pillars"), *Annual report on Bank of China's Sustainability Series Bonds-Appendix III: February 2022 Sydney Branch Sustainability Bond* (the "Appendix III: February 2022 Sydney Branch Sustainability Bond") and *Annual report on Bank of China's Sustainability Series Bonds-Appendix III: March 2023 Hong Kong Branch Sustainability Bond* (the "Appendix III: March 2023 Hong Kong Branch Sustainability Bond").

### Criteria applied by the Bank

In preparing the use of proceeds, process for project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds, and reporting of February 2022 Sydney Branch Sustainability Bond and March 2023 Hong Kong Branch Sustainability Bond in the Four Pillars, Appendix III: February 2022 Sydney Branch Sustainability Bond and Appendix III: March 2023 Hong Kong Branch Sustainability Bond, the Bank applied the *Green Bond Principles 2021*, *the Social Bond Principles 2023* and *the Sustainability Bond Guidelines 2021* published by International Capital Market Association (the "Criteria").

### The Bank's Responsibility

The Bank's management is responsible for selecting the Criteria, and for presenting the use of proceeds, process for project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds, and reporting of the Bank's February 2022 Sydney Branch Sustainability Bond and March 2023 Hong Kong Branch Sustainability Bond in accordance with that Criteria, in all material respects. This responsibility includes establishing and maintaining internal controls, maintaining adequate records and making estimates that are relevant to the preparation of the subject matter, such that it is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### Assurance Practitioner's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express a conclusion on the presentation of the Subject Matter based on the evidence we have obtained.

We conducted our engagement in accordance with the *International Standard for Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information* ('ISAE 3000 (Revised)'). The standard require that we plan and perform our engagement to express a conclusion on whether we are aware of any material modifications that need to be made to the Subject Matter in order for it to be in accordance with the Criteria, and to issue a report. The nature, timing, and extent of the procedures selected depend on our judgment, including an assessment of the risk of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

We believe that the evidence obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our limited assurance conclusions.

## **Our Independence and Quality Management**

We have maintained our independence and confirm that we have met the requirements of the *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* issued by the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants, and have the required competencies and experience to conduct this assurance engagement.

EY also applies International Standard on Quality Management 1: *Quality Management for Firms that Perform Audits or Reviews of Financial Statements, or Other Assurance or Related Services Engagements*, which requires that we design, implement and operate a system of quality management including policies or procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

## **Description of Procedures performed**

Procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing from, and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement. Consequently the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had a reasonable assurance engagement been performed. Our procedures were designed to obtain a limited level of assurance on which to base our conclusion and do not provide all the evidence that would be required to provide a reasonable level of assurance.

Although we considered the effectiveness of management's internal controls when determining the nature and extent of our procedures, our assurance engagement was not designed to provide assurance on internal controls. Our procedures did not include testing controls or performing procedures relating to checking aggregation or calculation of data within IT systems.

A limited assurance engagement consists of making enquiries, primarily of persons responsible for preparing the use of proceeds, process for project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds, reporting of the Bank's February 2022 Sydney Branch Sustainability Bond and March 2023 Hong Kong Branch Sustainability Bond and related information, and applying analytical and other appropriate procedures.

Our procedures included:

- Conducted interviews with personnel to understand the business and reporting process;
- Conducted interviews with key personnel to understand the process for collecting, collating and reporting the subject matter in the Four Pillars, Appendix III: February 2022 Sydney Branch Sustainability Bond and Appendix III: March 2023 Hong Kong Branch Sustainability Bond;
- Checked the Bank's policies and procedures in relation to the subject matter;
- Checked the eligibility of the disbursed projects of the Bank's February 2022 Sydney Branch Sustainability Bond and March 2023 Hong Kong Branch Sustainability Bond accordance with the principles in the Criteria;
- Undertook analytical procedures of the data and made inquiries of management to obtain explanations for any significant differences we identified;
- Identified and testing assumptions supporting calculations;
- Tested, on a sample basis, underlying source information to check the accuracy of the data.

We also performed such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances.



## Conclusion

Based on our procedures and the evidence obtained, we are not aware of any material modifications that should be made to the use of proceeds, process for project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds, and reporting of the Bank's February 2022 Sydney Branch Sustainability Bond for the year ended 31 December 2023, March 2023 Hong Kong Branch Sustainability Bond for the period from 20 March 2023 to 31 December 2023 as of 12 April 2024 in the Four Pillars, Appendix III: February 2022 Sydney Branch Sustainability Bond and Appendix III: March 2023 Hong Kong Branch Sustainability Bond, in order for it to be in accordance with the Criteria.

## Restricted Use

Our responsibility in performing our procedures and reporting thereon is to the Bank only and in accordance with terms of reference for this engagement as agreed with them. The report may not be suitable for another purpose. We do not therefore accept or assume any responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person or organization. Any reliance of any such third party may place on the Bank's February 2022 Sydney Branch Sustainability Bond and March 2023 Hong Kong Branch Sustainability Bond is entirely at its own risk.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ernst &amp; Young Hua Ming LLP". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Ernst & Young Hua Ming LLP

12 April 2024

Beijing, China