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## **Assurance Report on Post Issuance of China Construction Bank (DIFC Branch)'s 2023 Green Bond**

### **To China Construction Bank (DIFC Branch)**

We have been engaged by China Construction Bank (DIFC Branch) (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 DIFC Branch’s 2023 Green Bond (the “Subject Matter”) for the period from 22 November 2023 to 31 December 2023 in the accompanying the Use of proceeds, Process for Project Evaluation and Selection, Management of Proceeds, and Reporting in *2023 China Construction Bank Green, Social, Sustainability and Sustainability-linked Bonds Annual Report* (the “Four Pillars”) and *2023 China Construction Bank Green, Social, Sustainability and Sustainability-linked Bonds Annual Report- Appendix VII: DIFC Branch’s 2023 Green Bond* (the “Appendix VII: DIFC Branch’s 2023 Green Bond”).

### **Criteria applied by the Bank**

In preparing the use of proceeds, process for project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds, and reporting of DIFC Branch’s 2023 Green Bond in the Four Pillars and Appendix VII: DIFC Branch’s 2023 Green Bond, the Bank applied the *Green Bond Principles 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 2023 Green 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 2023 Green 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 and Appendix VII: DIFC Branch's 2023 Green 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 2023 Green Bond in 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 2023 Green Bond for the period from 22 November 2023 to 31 December 2023 in the Four Pillars and Appendix VII: DIFC Branch's 2023 Green 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 2023 Green Bond is entirely at its own risk.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Ernst &amp; Young Hua Ming LLP', written over a horizontal line.

Ernst & Young Hua Ming LLP

26 April 2024

Beijing, China