

HSBC HOLDINGS PLC

FOURTH INTERIM DIVIDEND FOR 2009

SCRIP DIVIDEND ALTERNATIVE

81,996,589 ordinary shares of US\$0.50 each have been issued by HSBC Holdings plc to shareholders who elected to receive the scrip dividend alternative for the fourth interim dividend for 2009, payable on 5 May 2010. The shares rank pari passu with the existing issued ordinary shares of the Company.

Application has been made to the Financial Services Authority for the shares to be admitted to the Official List and to the London Stock Exchange for the shares to be admitted to trading. Dealings are expected to commence on 5 May 2010.

R G Barber

Group Company Secretary

5 May 2010