

3 October 2011

HSBC TO SELL CANADIAN PRIVATE EQUITY FUND MANAGEMENT AND MEZZANINE DEBT BUSINESSES

HSBC Holdings plc, through its wholly owned subsidiary HSBC Capital (Canada) Inc. (“HSBC Capital”), has agreed to sell its Canadian private equity fund management and mezzanine debt business to Fulcrum Capital Partners Inc., a new company formed for the purpose by members of HSBC Capital’s current management team. The business being disposed of had gross assets of approximately C\$2m (US\$2m) at 30 June 2011.

Since 1994 HSBC Capital has made private equity and mezzanine finance investments of approximately C\$1bn in 120 companies, primarily in the Canadian mid-market.

Fulcrum Capital Partners will provide private equity and mezzanine debt fund management services to HSBC Bank Canada.

Completion of the transaction, which is expected in the fourth quarter of 2011, is conditional on regulatory approval and obtaining consents from the investors in the funds advised by the business, among other matters.

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Notes to editors:

1. HSBC Capital (Canada) Inc.

HSBC Capital (Canada) Inc. is the wholly-owned merchant banking subsidiary of HSBC Bank Canada and provides equity capital, mezzanine debt and bridge debt to the mid-market to support such things

HSBC to sell Canadian private equity fund management and mezzanine debt businesses/2

as management buyouts, acquisitions, corporate growth, financial restructurings, and project/property financings. HSBC Bank Canada, a subsidiary of HSBC Holdings plc, has approximately 8,000 employees and more than 260 offices, including over 140 bank branches, and is the leading international bank in Canada. For more information about HSBC Bank Canada and its products and services, visit www.hsbc.ca.

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 7,500 offices in over 80 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa. With assets of US\$2,691bn at 30 June 2011, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations.

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