

6 October 2011

## ANNOUNCEMENT

HSBC Holdings plc (HSBC) confirms that it is in discussions regarding the possible merger of HSBC's Oman operations with those of Oman International Bank S.A.O.G., Oman's fifth largest bank by total assets.

These discussions are at a preliminary stage and further announcements will be made in the normal course should the matter progress.

*ends/more*

### **Media enquiries to:**

<b>Rob Bailhache</b>	<b>+44(0) 20 7992 1445</b>	<b>robert.bailhache@hsbc.com</b>
<b>Tim Harrison</b>	<b>+971 4 423 5632</b>	<b>tim.harrison@hsbc.com</b>

### **Note to editors:**

#### **The HSBC Group**

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 87 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.

*ends/all*