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6 March 2017

(Hong Kong Stock Code: 5)

HSBC HOLDINGS PLC

Waiver granted pursuant to Rule 13.36(1) of the Hong Kong Listing Rules relating to contingent convertible securities

HSBC Holdings plc (the “**Company**”) has applied for, and The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited has granted, a waiver from strict compliance with the requirements of Rule 13.36(1) of The Rules Governing the Listing of Securities on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the “**Hong Kong Listing Rules**”) pursuant to which the Company is permitted to seek (and, if approved, to utilise) an authority (the “**Mandate**”) to issue Contingent Convertible Securities (“**CCSs**”) (and to allot ordinary shares into which they may be converted or exchanged) in excess of the limit of the general mandate of 20 per cent of the Company’s issued share capital (the “**Waiver**”).

CCSs are debt securities which convert into ordinary shares in certain prescribed circumstances, and which benefit from a particular regulatory capital treatment under European Union legislation.

The Company typically seeks at each annual general meeting (“**AGM**”) a general authority to allot shares both on a pre-emptive and non-pre-emptive basis (“**General Allotment Authority**”). The General Allotment Authority complies with institutional guidelines issued by The Investment Association and the Pre-Emption Group’s Statement of Principles and with the relevant requirements of the Hong Kong Listing Rules including Rule 13.36(2) which limits the general mandate for non-pre-emptive issues to 20 per cent of the Company’s issued share capital.

The Mandate, if approved, will be in addition to the General Allotment Authority referred to above. The Company will only issue CCSs pursuant to the authority granted under the Mandate and not under its General Allotment Authority.

The Waiver has been granted on terms that permit the Mandate, if approved, to continue in force until: (i) the conclusion of the first AGM of the Company following the date on which the Mandate is approved (or an earlier date which the Company may specify) at which time the Mandate shall lapse unless it is renewed, either unconditionally or subject to conditions; or (ii) such time as it is revoked or varied by ordinary resolution of the shareholders in general meeting.

The Waiver is granted subject to the conditions that the Company must announce the Waiver before seeking the Mandate; and that any announcement of the Waiver, and any announcements and circulars in connection with the Mandate, should clearly indicate the Mandate is in addition to the general mandate under Rule 13.36(2).

For and on behalf of
HSBC Holdings plc
Ben JS Mathews
Group Company Secretary

The Board of Directors of HSBC Holdings plc as at the date of this announcement are: Douglas Flint, Stuart Gulliver, Phillip Ameen[†], Kathleen Casey[†], Laura Cha[†], Henri de Castries[†], Lord Evans of Weardale[†], Joachim Faber[†], Sam Laidlaw[†], Irene Lee[†], John Lipsky[†], Rachel Lomax[†], Iain Mackay, Heidi Miller[†], Marc Moses, David Nish[†], Jonathan Symonds[†], Jackson Tai[†], Pauline van der Meer Mohr[†] and Paul Walsh[†].

[†] Independent non-executive Director