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# Independent Assurance Report on Pre-issuance of Bank of Communications Co., Ltd. Macau Branch's 2025 ESG Deposit

# To the Management of Bank of Communications Co., Ltd. Macau Branch

#### Scope

We have been engaged by Bank of Communications Co., Ltd. Macau Branch ("BOCOM Macau Branch" or the "Branch") 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 use of proceeds, process for evaluation and selection, management of proceeds and reporting (the "Subject Matter") contained in the Branch's *Description on Bank of Communications Co., Ltd. Macau Branch's 2025 ESG Deposit* (the "Report") as of 31 March 2025.

## **Criteria Applied by the Branch**

In preparing the Subject Matter, the Branch applied the four core components regarding the use of proceeds, process for project evaluation and selection, management of proceeds and reporting of the *Sustainability Bond Guidelines 2021* published by the International Capital Market Association (the "ICMA"), and with reference to the *Sustainability-Linked Loan Principles 2023* for the underlying sustainability-linked loans (the "Criteria")<sup>1</sup>. As a result, the subject matter information may not be suitable for another purpose.

#### The Branch's Responsibilities

The Branch's management is responsible for selecting the Criteria, and for presenting the Subject Matter in accordance with the 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.

#### **Our Responsibilities**

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)'), and the terms of reference for this engagement as agreed with BOCOM Macau Branch on 14 March 2025. Those standards 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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Sustainability-Linked Loan Principles 2023 is published by the Loan Market Association, Asia Pacific Loan Market Association and Loan Syndications and Trading Association.



## **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.

Our firm 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 Subject Matter and related information, and applying analytical and other appropriate procedures.

Our procedures included:

- Made inquires with management to understand the business and reporting process;
- Made inquires with management to understand the process for collecting, collating and reporting the Subject Matter in the Report;
- Checked the eligibility of newly nominated sustainability-linked loans and green loans for inclusion with the Criteria;
- Performed analytical review procedures for the reasonableness of the data;
- Tested, on a sample basis, underlying source information for 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 Subject Matter as of 31 March 2025, in order for it to be in accordance with the Criteria.

## **Restricted Use**

This Report is intended solely for the information and use of BOCOM Macau Branch and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than those specified parties. We do not therefore accept or assume any responsibility for any other person or organization. Any reliance of any such third party may place on the Report is entirely at its own risk.

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Certified Public Accountants<sup>1</sup> Hong Kong 7 April 2025