

Group Capital Resources and Liquidity

Treasury Management

The Group's treasury function sets financial risk management policies in accordance with policies and procedures that are approved by the Executive Director, and which are also subject to periodic review by the Group's internal audit function. Its treasury policies are designed to mitigate the impact of fluctuations in interest rates and exchange rates on the Group's overall financial position and to minimise the Group's financial risks. The Group's treasury function operates as a centralised service for managing financial risks, including interest rate and foreign exchange risks, and for providing cost-efficient funding to the Group and its companies. It manages the majority of the Group's funding needs, interest rate, foreign currency and credit risk exposures. The Group uses interest rate and foreign currency swaps and forward contracts as appropriate for risk management purposes only, for hedging transactions and for managing its assets and liabilities' exposure to interest rate and foreign exchange rate fluctuations. It is the Group's policy not to enter into derivative transactions for speculative purposes. It is also the Group's policy not to invest liquidity in financial products, including hedge funds or similar vehicles.

Cash management and funding

The Group operates a central cash management system for all of its subsidiaries. Its financing is generally derived from operating income of its subsidiaries, which is mainly used to meet funding requirements. The Group regularly and closely monitors its overall cash position and determines when external source of finance is needed.

Foreign currency exposure

The Group operates mobile telecommunications business principally in Hong Kong, with transactions denominated in Hong Kong dollars. It is exposed to other currency movements, primarily in terms of certain trade receivables or payables and bank deposits denominated in United States dollars, Macau patacas, Renminbi, Euros and British pounds. The Group does not currently undertake any foreign currency hedging.

Credit exposure

The Group's holdings of surplus funds with financial institutions expose the Group to credit risk of counterparties. It controls its credit risk to non-performance by its counterparties through monitoring their share price movements and credit ratings as well as setting approved counterparty credit limits that are regularly reviewed.

Capital and Net Cash

As at 31 December 2020, the Group recorded share capital of HK\$1,205 million and total equity of HK\$12,047 million.

As at 31 December 2020, the net cash of the Group was HK\$5,251 million (2019: HK\$5,416 million), 99% of which was denominated in Hong Kong dollars with remaining in various other currencies.

Charges on Group Assets

As at 31 December 2020, same as prior year, except for all of the shares of a joint venture owned by the Group which were pledged as security in favour of the joint venture partner under a cross share pledge arrangement, no material asset of the Group was under any charge.

Borrowing Facilities Available

The Group has no committed borrowing facilities as at 31 December 2020 (2019: Nil).

Contingent Liabilities

As at 31 December 2020, the Group provided performance and financial guarantees of HK\$330 million, including the related performance bonds on 5G spectrums (2019: HK\$106 million).

Commitments

As at 31 December 2020, the Group had total capital commitments of property, plant and equipment of HK\$502 million (2019: HK\$271 million) and telecommunications licences of HK\$2,040 million (2019: HK\$2,242 million). The increase in capital commitments referred to the investment in 5G network during the year.

HTCL acquired various blocks of spectrum bands for the provision of mobile telecommunications services in Hong Kong, certain of which over various assignment years or periods up to year 2021. The variable licence fees for these spectrum bands were charged on 5% of the network revenue or the Appropriate Fee (as defined in the Unified Carrier Licence), whichever is greater. The net present value of the Appropriate Fee has already been recorded as licence fee liabilities.