

**Illustrative auditor's report on financial statements of a listed  
Exchange Traded Fund or a listed Real Estate Investment Trust  
(effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after  
15 December 2016)**

Note:

This illustrative auditor's report has been updated for:

- Mandatory disclosure of the auditor's name and practising certificate number which will be effective for audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after 31 March 2025.
- Narrow Scope Amendments to:
  - HKSA 700 (Revised), *Forming an Opinion and Reporting on Financial Statements*; and
  - HKSA 260 (Revised), *Communication with Those Charged with Governance*, as a Result of the Revisions to the HKICPA Code that Require a Firm to Publicly Disclose When a Firm Has Applied the Independence Requirements for Public Interest Entities (PIEs)

These amendments are effective for audits of financial statements for periods beginning on or after 15 December 2024.

For purposes of this illustrative auditor's report, the following circumstances are assumed:

- Audit of a complete set of financial statements of a listed Exchange Traded Fund ("ETF") or a listed Real Estate Investment Trust ("REIT") using HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA"). The audit is not a group audit (i.e., HKSA 600 (Revised)<sup>1</sup> does not apply).
- This illustrative auditor's report is not applicable for ETFs established in the form of an Open-ended Fund Company ("OFC"), please refer to another illustrative auditor's report on financial statements of a public fund established in the form of an OFC.
- The financial statements are prepared by the trustee and/ or the manager of the ETF or REIT in accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards (a general purpose framework).
- The terms of the audit engagement reflect the description of the trustee's and/ or the manager's responsibility for the financial statements in HKSA 210<sup>2</sup>.
- The auditor has concluded an unmodified (i.e., "clean") opinion is appropriate based on the audit evidence obtained.
- The relevant ethical requirements that apply to the audit are those of the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code"). The Code includes independence requirements that are applicable to audits of financial statements of public interest entities. It also requires the auditor to publicly disclose that the independence requirements applicable to audits of financial statements of public interest entities were applied.
- Based on the audit evidence obtained, the auditor has concluded that a material uncertainty does not exist related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ETF's or REIT's ability to continue as a going concern in accordance with HKSA 570 (Revised)<sup>3</sup>.
- Key audit matters have been communicated in accordance with HKSA 701<sup>4</sup>.
- The auditor has obtained all of the other information<sup>5</sup> prior to the date of the auditor's report and has not identified a material misstatement of the other information.
- Those responsible for oversight of the financial statements differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- In addition to the audit of the financial statements, the auditor has other reporting responsibilities required under the relevant disclosure provisions of Trust Deed and Appendix E of the Code on Unit Trusts and Mutual Funds (for ETF) or Appendix C of the REIT Code (for REIT) issued by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission.

<sup>1</sup> HKSA 600 (Revised), *Special Considerations—Audits of Group Financial Statements (Including the Work of Component Auditors)*

<sup>2</sup> HKSA 210, *Agreeing the Terms of Audit Engagements*

<sup>3</sup> HKSA 570 (Revised), *Going Concern*

<sup>4</sup> HKSA 701, *Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report*

<sup>5</sup> HKSA 720 (Revised), *The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information*, paragraph 12(c)

## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Unitholders of XYZ Fund<sup>6</sup>

### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of XYZ Fund ("the Fund") set out on pages ..... to ....., which comprise the [statement of net assets attributable to unitholders][statement of financial position]<sup>7</sup> as at 31 December 20X1, and the [statement of profit or loss and]<sup>8</sup> statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, the statement of changes in net assets attributable to unitholders and statement of cash flows [and distribution statement]<sup>7</sup> for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial disposition of the Fund as at 31 December 20X1, and of its financial transactions and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA").

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Hong Kong Standards on Auditing ("HKSAs") as issued by the HKICPA. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of our report. We are independent of the Fund in accordance with the HKICPA's *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* ("the Code"), as applicable to audits of financial statements of public interest entities. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Key Audit Matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

*[Description of each key audit matter in accordance with HKSA 701, Communicating Key Audit Matters in the Independent Auditor's Report.]*

#### Other Information [or another title if appropriate such as "Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon"]

*[Reporting in accordance with the reporting requirements in HKSA 720 (Revised), The Auditor's Responsibilities Relating to Other Information – see Illustration 1 in Appendix 2 of HKSA 720 (Revised).]*

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<sup>6</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the circumstances.

<sup>7</sup> Delete as appropriate, different terms may be used as long as they are consistent with the titles of the corresponding statements.

<sup>8</sup> HKAS 1 allows entities to present comprehensive income using either a one statement approach (i.e. a single "statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income") or a two-statement approach (i.e. a "statement of profit or loss" together with a "statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income"). Different terms may be used as long as they are consistent with the titles of the corresponding statements.

## **Responsibilities of Manager [and Trustee]<sup>9</sup> and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements<sup>10</sup>**

The Manager [and the Trustee]<sup>9</sup> of the Fund [are][is] responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRS Accounting Standards as issued by the HKICPA, and for such internal control as the Manager [and the Trustee]<sup>9</sup> determine[s] is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Manager [and the Trustee]<sup>9</sup> of the Fund [are][is] responsible for assessing the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Manager [and the Trustee]<sup>9</sup> either [intend][intends] to liquidate the Fund or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

In addition, the Manager [and the Trustee]<sup>9</sup> of the Fund [are][is] required to ensure that the financial statements have been properly prepared in accordance with the relevant disclosure provisions of the Trust Deed dated [XX] ("Trust Deed") and the relevant disclosure provisions of [Appendix E of the Code on Unit Trusts and Mutual Funds ("the UT Code")]<sup>11</sup> [Appendix C of the Code on Real Estate Investment Trusts ("the REIT Code")]<sup>12</sup> issued by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Fund's financial reporting process.

### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.<sup>13</sup> Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with HKSA's will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements. In addition, we are required to assess whether the financial statements of the Fund have been properly prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the relevant disclosure provisions of the Trust Deed and the relevant disclosure provisions of [Appendix E of the UT Code]<sup>11</sup> [Appendix C of the REIT Code]<sup>12</sup>.

Paragraph 41(b) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that the shaded material below can be located in an Appendix to the auditor's report. Paragraph 41(c) of HKSA 700 (Revised) explains that when law, regulation or HKSA's expressly permit, reference can be made to a website of an appropriate authority that contains the description of the auditor's responsibilities, rather than including this material in the auditor's report, provided that the description on the website addresses, and is not inconsistent with, the description of the auditor's responsibilities below.

As part of an audit in accordance with HKSA's, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error,

<sup>9</sup> Delete or include as appropriate, depending on the provisions of the Trust Deed of the Fund in relation to the preparation of financial statements.

<sup>10</sup> Or other terms that are appropriate in the context of the legal framework of the particular jurisdiction.

<sup>11</sup> Applicable for ETFs.

<sup>12</sup> Applicable for REITs.

<sup>13</sup> Auditors may consider it appropriate to clarify to whom they are responsible here or elsewhere in the report in accordance with their risk management policies and with reference to Professional Risk Management Bulletin No. 2 "Auditors' Duty of Care To Third Parties and The Audit Report".

as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Fund's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the manager [and the trustee]<sup>9</sup>.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the manager's [and the trustee's]<sup>9</sup> use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Fund's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Fund to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

**Report on matters under the relevant disclosure provisions of the Trust Deed and the relevant disclosure provisions of [Appendix E of the UT Code]<sup>11</sup> [Appendix C of the REIT Code]<sup>12</sup>#**

In our opinion, the financial statements have been properly prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the relevant disclosure provisions of the Trust Deed and the relevant disclosure provisions of [Appendix E of the UT Code]<sup>11</sup> [Appendix C of the REIT Code]<sup>12</sup>.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditor's report is [name] (practising certificate number: [XXXXXX]).

ABC & Co.  
Certified Public Accountants (Practising) or Certified Public Accountants  
[Auditor Address]  
[Date]

- # According to Appendix E of the UT Code or Appendix C of the REIT Code, the auditor is required to report on the following items by exception:
- If the auditor is of the opinion that proper books and records have not been kept by the scheme and/or the financial statements prepared are not in agreement with the scheme's books and records, that fact should be stated in the auditors' report.
  - If the auditor has failed to obtain all the information and explanations which, to the best of his knowledge and belief, are necessary for the purposes of the audit, that fact should be stated in the auditors' report.