

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 DECEMBER 2011

IFRIC 14 Prepayments of a Minimum Funding Requirement (Amendment)

The amendment removes an unintended consequence when an entity is subject to minimum funding requirements and makes an early payment of contributions to cover such requirements. The amendment permits a prepayment of future service cost by the entity to be recognised as a pension asset. The Group is not subject to minimum funding requirements in Euroland, therefore the amendment of the interpretation has no effect on the financial position nor performance of the Group.

Improvements to IFRSs

In May 2010, the IASB issued its third omnibus of amendments to its standards, primarily with a view to removing inconsistencies and clarifying wording. There are separate transitional provisions for each standard. The adoption of the following amendments resulted in changes to accounting policies, but no impact on the financial position or performance of the Group.

- › IFRS 3 Business Combinations: The measurement options available for non-controlling interest (NCI) were amended. Only components of NCI that constitute a present ownership interest that entitles their holder to a proportionate share of the entity's net assets in the event of liquidation should be measured at either fair value or at the present ownership instruments' proportionate share of the acquiree's identifiable net assets. All other components are to be measured at their acquisition date fair value.
- › IFRS 7 Financial Instruments — Disclosures: The amendment was intended to simplify the disclosures provided by reducing the volume of disclosures around collateral held and improving disclosures by requiring qualitative information to put the quantitative information in context.
- › IAS 1 Presentation of Financial Statements: The amendment clarifies that an entity may present an analysis of each component of other comprehensive income maybe either in the statement of changes in equity or in the notes to the financial statements.
- › Other amendments resulting from Improvements to IFRSs to the following standards did not have any impact on the accounting policies, financial position or performance of the Group:
- › IFRS 3 Business Combinations (Contingent consideration arising from business combination prior to adoption of IFRS 3 (as revised in 2008).
- › IFRS 3 Business Combinations (Un-replaced and voluntarily replaced share-based payment awards)

- › IAS 27 Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements
- › IAS 34 Interim Financial Statements

The following interpretation and amendments to interpretations did not have any impact on the accounting policies, financial position or performance of the Group:

- › IFRIC 13 Customer Loyalty Programmes (determining the fair value of award credits)
- › IFRIC 19 Extinguishing Financial Liabilities with Equity Instruments

c. Basis of Measurement

These consolidated financial statements are presented in Ghana cedis, which is the Bank's functional currency, rounded to the nearest thousand.

They are prepared on the historical cost basis except for the financial assets and liabilities that are stated at their fair value: derivative financial instruments, financial instruments that are fair valued through profit or loss and financial instruments classified as available-for-sale as well as property, plant and equipment which is carried on the revaluation model. The Group's accounting policies have been applied consistently with those used in the previous year.

d. Use of Estimates and Judgement

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on historical experience and other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis of making the judgement about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

The key assumptions concerning the future and other key sources of estimation uncertainty at the reporting date, that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year, are described below. The Group based its assumptions and estimates on parameters available when the consolidated financial statements were prepared. Existing circumstances and assumptions about future developments however, may

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 DECEMBER 2011

change due to market changes or circumstances arising beyond the control of the Group. Such changes are reflected in the assumptions when they occur.

Impairment of Non-Financial Assets

Impairment exists when the carrying value of an asset or cash generating unit exceeds its recoverable amount, which is the higher of its fair value less costs to sell and its value in use. The fair value less costs to sell calculation is based on available data from binding sales transactions in an arm's length transaction of similar assets or observable market prices less incremental costs for disposing of the asset. The value in use calculation is based on a discounted cash flow model. The recoverable amount is most sensitive to the discount rate used for the discounted cash flow model as well as the expected future cash inflows and the growth rate used for extrapolation purposes.

Taxes

Though the Bank of Ghana is not subject to tax, the subsidiaries are. Uncertainties exist with respect to the interpretation of complex tax regulations, changes in tax laws, and the amount and timing of future taxable income. Given the wide range of international business relationships and the long-term nature and complexity of existing contractual agreements, differences arising between the actual results and the assumptions made, or future changes to such assumptions, could necessitate future adjustments to tax income and expense already recorded. The Group establishes provisions, based on reasonable estimates, for possible consequences of audits by the tax authorities of the respective countries in which it operates. The amount of such provisions is based on various factors, such as experience of previous tax audits and differing interpretations of tax regulations by the taxable entity and the responsible tax authority. Such differences of interpretation may arise on a wide variety of issues depending on the conditions prevailing in the respective Group Company's domicile. As the Group assesses the probability for any litigation with respect to taxes as remote, no contingent liability has been recognised. Deferred tax assets are recognised for all unused tax losses to the extent that it is probable that taxable profit will be available against which the losses can be utilised. Significant management judgement is required to determine the amount of deferred tax assets that can be recognised, based upon the likely timing and the level of future taxable profits together with future tax planning strategies.

Pension Benefits

The cost of defined benefit pension plans and the present value of the pension obligation are determined using actuarial valuations. An actuarial valuation involves making various assumptions which may differ from actual developments in the future. These include the determination of the discount rate, future salary increases,

mortality rates and future pension increases. Due to the complexity of the valuation, the underlying assumptions and its long-term nature, a defined benefit obligation is highly sensitive to changes in these assumptions. All assumptions are reviewed at each reporting date.

Impairment Losses on Loans and Advances

The bank reviews its individually significant loans and advances at each statement of financial position date to assess whether an impairment loss should be recorded in the income statement. In particular, management judgement is required in the estimation of the amount and timing of future cash flows when determining the impairment loss. These estimates are based on assumptions about a number of factors and actual results may differ, resulting in future changes to the allowance. Loans and advances that have been assessed individually and found not to be impaired and all individually insignificant loans and advances are then assessed collectively, in groups of assets with similar risk characteristics, to determine whether provision should be made due to incurred loss events for which there is objective evidence but whose effects are not yet evident. The collective assessment takes account of data from the loan portfolio (such as levels of arrears), and judgements to the effect of concentrations of risks and economic data.

Fair Value of Financial Instruments

Where the fair value of financial assets and financial liabilities recorded in the statement of financial position cannot be derived from active markets, their fair value is determined using valuation techniques including the discounted cash flow model. The inputs to these models are taken from observable markets where possible, but where this is not feasible, a degree of judgement is required in establishing fair values. The judgements include considerations of inputs such as liquidity risk, credit risk and volatility. Changes in assumptions about these factors could affect the reported fair value of financial instruments.

3. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The following accounting policies have been approved by the Board and have been applied consistently to all periods presented in these financial statements by the Bank and its subsidiaries in dealing with items that are considered material in relation to the Bank's financial statements.

a. Basis of Consolidation

(i) Subsidiaries

Subsidiaries are all entities including special purpose entities over which the Bank has the power to directly or

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 DECEMBER 2011

indirectly govern their financial and operating policies so as to obtain benefits from its activities, generally accompanying a shareholding of more than one half of the voting rights. In assessing control, potential voting rights that presently are exercisable are taken into account.

The financial statements of the subsidiaries are prepared for the same reporting period as the parent company, using consistent accounting policies.

A change in the ownership interest of a subsidiary without a change of control is accounted for as an equity transaction. Losses are attributed to the non-controlling interest even if that results in a deficit balance. Subsidiaries are consolidated from the date on which the Bank effectively obtains control until the date that control ceases.

(ii) Business Combinations

Business combinations are accounted for using the acquisition method. The cost of an acquisition is measured as the aggregate of the consideration transferred, measured at acquisition date at fair value and the amount of any non-controlling interest in the acquiree. For each business combination, the acquirer measures the non-controlling interest in the acquiree either at fair value or at the proportionate share of the acquiree's identifiable net assets. Acquisition costs incurred are expensed as incurred.

When the Group acquires a business, it assesses the financial assets and liabilities assumed for appropriate classification and designation in accordance with the contractual terms, economic circumstances and pertinent conditions as at the acquisition date. This includes the separation of embedded derivatives in host contracts by the acquiree.

If the business combination is achieved in stages, the acquisition date fair value of the acquirer's previously held equity interest in the acquiree is re-measured to fair value at the acquisition date through profit or loss. Any contingent consideration to be transferred by the acquirer will be recognised at fair value at the acquisition date. Subsequent changes to the fair value of the contingent consideration which is deemed to be an asset or liability, will be recognised in accordance with IAS 39 either in profit or loss or as a change to other comprehensive income. If the contingent consideration is classified as equity, it should not be re-measured until it is finally settled within equity.

Goodwill is initially measured at cost being the excess of the aggregate of the consideration transferred and the amount recognised for non-controlling interest over the net identifiable assets acquired and liabilities assumed. If this consideration is lower than the fair value of the net assets of the subsidiary acquired, the difference is recognised in profit or loss.

After initial recognition, goodwill is measured at cost less any accumulated impairment losses. For the purpose of impairment testing, goodwill acquired in a business combination is, from the acquisition date, allocated to each of the Group's cash-generating units that are expected to benefit from the combination, irrespective of whether other assets or liabilities of the acquiree are assigned to those units.

Where goodwill forms part of a cash-generating unit and part of the operation within that unit is disposed of, the goodwill associated with the operation disposed of is included in the carrying amount of the operation when determining the gain or loss on disposal of the operation. Goodwill disposed of in this circumstance is measured based on the relative values of the operation disposed of and the portion of the cash-generating unit retained.

(iii) Transactions Eliminated on Consolidation

Intra-group balances, and any unrealised income and expense arising from intra-group transactions, are eliminated in preparing these consolidated financial statements. Unrealised losses are eliminated in the same way as unrealised gains, but only to the extent that there is no evidence of impairment.

b. Revenue Recognition

Dividends Received

Dividends are recognised in the profit or loss when the Bank's right to receive payment is established.

c. Interest Income and Expense

Interest income and expense on available-for-sale assets and financial assets or liabilities held at amortised cost are recognised in the profit or loss using the effective interest method. The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset or a financial liability and of allocating the interest income or interest expense over the relevant period.

The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future receipts or payments through the expected life of the financial instruments or, when appropriate, a shorter period, to the carrying amount of the financial asset or financial liability. The effective interest rate is established on initial recognition of the financial asset or liability and is not revised subsequently. When calculating the effective interest rate, the Bank estimates cash flows considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument but does not consider future credit losses. The calculation includes all fees received or paid between parties to the contract that are an integral part of the effective interest rate, transaction costs and all other premiums or discounts. Transaction costs are incremental costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition, issue or disposal of financial asset or liability.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 DECEMBER 2011

Interest income and expense on financial assets and liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss is recognised in the profit or loss in the period they arise.

d. Fees and Commissions

Fees and commission income and expenses that are an integral part to the effective interest rate on financial instruments are included in the measurement of the effective interest rate.

Other fees and commission income, including account servicing fees, investment management fees, sales commission, placement and arrangement fees and syndication fees are recognised as the related services are performed.

Other fees and commission expense relates mainly to transaction and service fees, which are expensed as the services are received.

e. Other Operating Income

Other operating income comprises other income including gains or losses arising on fair value changes in trading assets and liabilities, derecognised available-for-sale financial assets, and foreign exchange differences.

f. Foreign Currency

(i) Foreign Currency Transactions

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency of group entities using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. At the reporting date, monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated to the functional currency at the exchange rate at that date. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the

settlement of such transactions, and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies, are recognised in the profit or loss. Non-monetary assets and liabilities are translated at historical exchange rates if held at historical cost, and retranslated to the functional currency at the exchange rate at the date that the fair value was determined if they are carried at fair value. The resulting foreign exchange gains and losses are recognised in the profit or loss as appropriate except for the following:

Exchange gains and losses arising from translation of holdings in gold, Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) held with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) or holdings of foreign securities are recognised directly into Revaluation account in accordance with section 7 of the Bank of Ghana Act, 2002 (Act 612).

(ii) Financial Statements of Foreign Operations

The Bank considers its subsidiary Ghana International Bank (GIB) as a foreign entity. Accordingly, the assets and liabilities of the foreign operation, including any goodwill and fair value adjustments arising on acquisition are translated into Ghana cedis at the foreign exchange rates ruling at the reporting date. The revenues and expenses of the subsidiary are translated to Ghana cedis at the average rate for the year. Foreign exchange differences arising on these translations are recognised directly into equity, being foreign currency translation reserve.

When a foreign operation is disposed off, in part or full, the relevant amount in the foreign currency translation reserve is transferred to profit or loss.

The following were the average and closing rates for the year ended 31 December 2011.

Currency	Average Rate GH¢	Closing Rate GH¢
US Dollar	1.51105	1.55030
GBP	2.41754	2.40725
EURO	2.09692	2.01140

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 DECEMBER 2011

g. Special Drawing Rights and International Monetary Fund Related Transactions

The Bank, on behalf of Government of Ghana, manages assets and liabilities in respect of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Exchange gains and losses arising from translation of SDRs at period ends are treated in accordance with note 3(f) above.

h. Leases

(i) Classification

Leases where the Group assumes substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the underlying asset are classified as finance leases. Upon initial recognition the leased asset is measured at an amount equal to the lower of its fair value and present value of the minimum lease payments. Subsequent to initial recognition, the leased asset is accounted for in accordance with the accounting policy applicable to that asset.

Other leases are classified as operating leases.

(ii) Lease Payments

Payments made under operating leases are recognised in the profit or loss on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease. Lease incentives received are recognised as an integral part of the total lease expense, over the term of the lease. When an operating lease is terminated before the lease period has expired, any payment required to be made to the lessor by way of penalty is recognised as an expense in the period in which termination takes place.

Minimum lease payments made under finance leases are apportioned between the finance expense and as reduction of the outstanding lease liability. The finance expense is allocated to each period during the lease term so as to produce a constant periodic rate of interest on the remaining balance of the liability.

i. Financial Assets and Liabilities

(i) Classification of Financial Assets and Liabilities

The Group classifies its financial assets in the following categories: financial assets held-to-maturity, at fair value through profit or loss, loans and receivables and available-for-sale financial assets. Financial liabilities are classified as either held at fair value through profit or loss, or other financial liabilities. Management determines the categorisation of its financial assets and liabilities on initial recognition.

(ii) Held-to-Maturity

Held-to-maturity investments are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments and fixed maturity that the Group has the positive intent and ability to hold to maturity, and which are not designated at fair value through profit or loss or available-for-sale.

Held-to-maturity investments are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. Any sale or reclassification of a significant amount of held-to-maturity investments not close to their maturity would result in the reclassification of all held-to-maturity investments as available-for-sale, and prevent the Group from classifying investment securities as held-to-maturity for the current and the following two financial years.

(iii) Financial Assets and Liabilities held at Fair Value through Profit or Loss

This category has two sub-categories: financial assets and liabilities held for trading, and those designated as at fair value through profit or loss at inception. A financial asset or liability is classified as held for trading if acquired principally for the purpose of selling in the short-term.

Financial assets and liabilities may be designated at fair value through profit or loss when the designation eliminates or significantly reduces a measurement or recognition inconsistency that would otherwise arise from measuring assets or liabilities on a different basis, or a group of financial assets and/or liabilities is managed and its performance evaluated on a fair value basis.

(iv) Loans and Receivables

Loans and receivables are non-derivative financial assets with fixed or determinable payments that are not quoted in an active market. These are loans and receivables created by the Group providing money to a debtor other than those created with the intention of short-term profit making.

(v) Available-for-Sale Financial Assets

Available-for-sale financial assets are those non-derivative financial assets that are designated as available-for-sale or are not classified as financial assets at fair value through profit or loss, loans and receivable and held to maturity.

Available-for-sale financial investments include equity and debt securities. Equity investments classified as available-for-sale are those, which are neither classified as held for trading nor designated at fair value through profit or loss. Debt securities in this category are those which are intended to be held for an indefinite period of time and which may be sold in response to needs for liquidity or in response to changes in the market conditions.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 31 DECEMBER 2011

(vi) Financial Liabilities Measured at Amortised Cost

This relates to all other liabilities that are not designated at fair value through profit or loss.

(vii) Initial Recognition

Purchases and sales of financial assets and liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss, available for sale financial assets and liabilities are recognised on trade date (the date the Group commits to the contractual provisions of the instrument). Loans and receivables are recognised when cash is advanced to customers or borrowers.

Financial assets and liabilities are initially recognised at fair value plus directly attributable transaction cost except for those that are at fair value through profit or loss.

(viii) Subsequent Measurement

Available-for-sale financial assets are subsequently carried at fair value with the resultant fair value changes recognised in other comprehensive income. The fair value changes on available-for-sale financial assets are recycled to profit or loss when the underlying asset is sold, matured or derecognised as well as impaired.

Financial assets and liabilities held at fair value through profit or loss are subsequently carried at fair value with the resultant fair value changes recognised in profit or loss.

Loans and receivables, held-to-maturity instruments and other liabilities are subsequently carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

(ix) Derecognition

A financial asset (or, where applicable a part of a financial asset or part of a group of similar financial assets) is derecognised when:

- › The rights to receive cash flows from the asset have expired
- › The Group has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from the asset or has assumed an obligation to pay the received cash flows in full without material delay to a third party under a 'pass-through' arrangement; and either (a) the Group has transferred substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, or (b) the Group has neither transferred nor retained substantially all the risks and rewards of the asset, but has transferred control of the asset.

When the Group has transferred its rights to receive cash flows from an asset or has entered into a pass-through arrangement, and has neither transferred nor retained substantially all of the risks and rewards of the asset nor transferred control of the asset, the asset is recognised to

the extent of the Group's continuing involvement in the asset.

In that case, the Group also recognises an associated liability. The transferred asset and the associated liability are measured on a basis that reflects the rights and obligations that the Group has retained.

Continuing involvement that takes the form of a guarantee over the transferred asset is measured at the lower of the original carrying amount of the asset and the maximum amount of consideration that the Group could be required to repay.

Financial liabilities are derecognised when the contractual obligations are discharged, cancelled or expires.

(x) Fair Value Measurement

The determination of fair values of quoted financial assets and financial liabilities in active markets are based on quoted market prices or dealer price quotations. If the market for a financial asset or financial liability is not active, the Group establishes fair value by using valuation techniques.

These techniques include the use of arms' length transactions, discounted cash flow analysis, and valuation models and techniques commonly used by market participants.

For complex instruments such as swaps, the Group uses proprietary models, which usually are developed from recognised valuation models. Some or all of the inputs into these models may derive from market prices or rates or are estimates based on assumptions.

The value produced by a model or other valuation technique may be adjusted to allow for a number of factors as appropriate, because valuation techniques cannot appropriately reflect all factors market participants take into account when entering into a transaction. Management believes that these valuation adjustments are necessary and appropriate to fairly state financial instruments carried at fair value on the statement of financial position.

(xi) Offsetting

Financial assets and liabilities are set off and the net amount presented in the statement of financial position when, and only when, the Group has a currently enforceable legal right to set off the amounts and intends either to settle on a net basis or to realise the asset and settle the liability simultaneously.

Income and expenses are presented on a net basis only when permitted by the accounting standards, or for gains and losses arising from a group of similar transactions such as in the Bank's trading activity.