

## **Risk Appetite Framework**

The Bank's risk appetite is defined as the level of risk the Bank is willing to take, having regard to its resources and financial capacity, strategic objectives and regulatory constraints (e.g. capital and liquidity requirements), with the expectation that the risk taken or to be pursued is sufficiently compensated or at acceptable return with reasonable confidence level. Against this background, the risk appetite framework is comprised of a Risk Appetite Statement ("RAS") and a set of risk tolerance is established. The RAS covers five key dimensions of the risks and returns of the Bank, namely the target returns to shareholders, earnings volatility, solvency, liquidity and others while more granular risk types including credit risk, market risk, liquidity risk, interest rate risk and other less quantifiable risks (e.g. operational risk, reputation risk, strategic risk, cyber risk, legal risk and conduct risk, etc.) are controlled under different risk limits and risk mitigation measures that constitute the risk tolerance of the Bank.

The RAS is a high level statement which sets out the risk-return requirements as well as the risk taking capacity of the Bank, taking into account its financial and capital strength and covers a wide range of metrics including return on average shareholders' funds, liquidity maintenance ratio, core funding ratio, leverage ratio and measures of impact on profitability and capital adequacy ratio under selected stress scenarios, etc. Moreover, to ensure that the Bank's operations and risk taking activities are in line with the RAS, the Bank has adopted a set of risk tolerance levels to govern and control specific categories of risk, which is made up of major quantitative risk limits as well as some qualitative measures.

As for the process of risk appetite setting, the Board determines the optimal risk appetite having regard to the Bank's capital, risk profile and strategy. In addition, the Board is responsible for overseeing the development and monitoring of the Bank's risk appetite to ensure that the Bank is able to achieve sustainable growth in pursuing its business strategy, operating within its tolerance levels. The RAS is designed to be consistent with the Bank's business strategy, risk and return balance and market outlook, for the medium to longer term and it is not intended to be changed frequently, unless there are significant changes in the Bank's strategy and operating environment. Furthermore, during the annual and other ad hoc reviews of the RAS framework, risk scenarios covering different courses of development of the global economies including highly stressed scenarios are developed for the purpose of conducting the firm-wide stress test. The results together with regulatory developments will be taken as one of the key considerations in the review of risk appetite.

Compliance with the RAS and risk tolerance is monitored and reported to the Board and the RMCC respectively on a quarterly basis to ensure that the businesses of the Bank are conducted within the requirements of the risk appetite framework. Moreover, the risk appetite framework and major risk appetite limits are subject to the review by the RMCC and the Board on an annual basis, when the annual budget and medium term plan of the Bank are reviewed and approved, or new business and risk strategies are to be approved.