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2 March 2009

## **TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF TRADING AND REMOVALS BETWEEN REGISTERS**

At the request of the Board of Directors of HSBC Holdings plc (“HSBC”), trading in HSBC's ordinary shares on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited has been suspended with effect from 9.30am (Hong Kong time) today, Monday 2 March 2009 pending the announcement of a corporate action. The Board expects to announce the corporate action during the afternoon trading session at or about the same time as HSBC's Annual Results for the year ended 31 December 2008 will be announced. Trading in HSBC's ordinary shares is expected to resume in Hong Kong tomorrow, Tuesday 3 March 2009 at 9.30am (Hong Kong time).

Removals of ordinary shares to or from the principal register in the United Kingdom and/or the overseas branch registers of shareholders in Hong Kong and Bermuda will be suspended from the commencement of business on Monday 2 March 2009 in Hong Kong, London and Bermuda, respectively. The announcement referred to above will give details of the period during which such suspension will apply.

By Order of the Board  
**R G Barber**  
Group Company Secretary

Hong Kong, 2 March 2009

The Board of Directors of HSBC Holdings plc as at the date of this announcement are: S K Green, M F Geoghegan, S A Catz†, V H C Cheng, M K T Cheung†, J D Coombe†, J L Durán†, R A Fairhead†, D J Flint, A A Flockhart, W K L Fung\*, S T Gulliver, J W J Hughes-Hallett†, W S H Laidlaw†, J R Lomax†, Sir Mark Moody-Stuart†, G Morgan†, N R N Murthy†, S M Robertson†, J L Thornton† and Sir Brian Williamson†.

† Independent non-executive Director

\* Non-executive Director

### **HSBC Holdings plc**

Incorporated in England with limited liability. Registered in England: number 617987.  
Registered Office and Group Management Office: 8 Canada Square, London E14 5HQ, United Kingdom.

Web: [www.hsbc.com](http://www.hsbc.com)

Hong Kong Stock code: 5

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**Note to editors:**

**The HSBC Group**

HSBC Holdings plc, the parent company of the HSBC Group, is headquartered in London. The Group serves customers worldwide from more than 9,500 offices in 85 countries and territories in Europe, the Asia-Pacific region, the Americas, the Middle East and Africa. With assets of US\$2,547 billion at 30 June 2008, HSBC is one of the world's largest banking and financial services organisations. HSBC is marketed worldwide as 'the world's local bank'.

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