

# CORPORATE GOVERNANCE MANUAL

*(Revised on 27 October 2022)*

## 1 Introduction

This is the Corporate Governance Manual (CGM) of AXA Philippines. The CGM is the local implementation of the standards required by the AXA Group Standards Handbook (January 2020).

The GSH outline the corporate governance framework for AXA S.A. and entities where AXA has the majority of the voting rights, or has a minority interest but exercises control through other means such as management. It sets minimum requirements with the aim of ensuring that all of AXA's corporate entities follow a consistent and efficient approach to corporate governance and that each AXA entity operates within a clear corporate governance framework with a consistent set of guidelines.

The implementation of good corporate governance practice will ensure management accountability for the benefits of our shareholders and regulators. The CGM aims to ensure that AXA Philippines:

- Follows a consistent and efficient approach;
- Operates within a clear set of guidelines and framework;
- Is aware of the processes, deliverables, reporting framework and required approvals; and
- Gains from the reuse of templates.

## 2 Background

As part of its effort to maintain the highest standard of corporate governance, AXA Philippines has developed its CGM.

The CGM seeks to bridge the gaps between the GSH and the existing corporate governance structure in AXA Philippines. The CGM also incorporates the corporate governance policies required by local regulators. It also defines the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Board SubCommittees, namely: Board Nomination Committee (BNC), Board Investment Committee (BIC), Board Remuneration Committee (BRC) and Board Risk Management, Audit and Compliance Committee (BRMACC).

Based on the company's current corporate governance structure, the following gaps were identified and addressed by the CGM, to wit:

- i. Establishment of a Board Charter;
- ii. Establishment of a Code of Conduct for the board members;
- iii. Revision of the existing terms of reference for the Sub-Board Committees; and
- iv. A detailed board calendar which outlines matters that Board and Board Committees should deal with and the related timing.

### Board Charter

The Board Charter (*Appendix 1*) is the official statement setting out the roles and functions of the Board. It shall be read together with the Corporate Governance Principles and Leading Practices issued by the regulator for adoption by the insurance companies.

The adoption of the Board Charter serves as the confirmation by the Board of its adherence to the best practice on corporate governance.

### Code of Conduct

In October 2008, as amended in January 2012, the AXA Regional Office implemented the Compliance and Ethics Manual for Employees (CEME), designed to govern directors as well. In 2019, AXA Group launched a revised AXA Compliance and Ethics Code to establish a shared understanding of what is expected from each of the entities, its directors and employees, and the AXA Group's businesses. The said AXA Compliance and Ethics Code is incorporated herewith as the Code of Conduct applicable to Directors as *Appendix 3*.

### Terms of Reference

The Board Risk Management, Audit and Compliance Committee, the Board Remuneration Committee, the Board Investment Committee, and the Board Nomination Committee shall assist the Board of Directors in some of its key responsibilities. The TORs for these Committees are incorporated herewith as in *Appendix 4, Appendix 5, Appendix 6, and Appendix 7* respectively.

### Board Calendar

This Manual includes a Board Calendar consisting of a list of matters to be dealt with by the Board and Board Committees for the whole year according to the required frequency. The standardised agenda would ensure a consistent review process whereby all necessary matters will be dealt with at least once a year or as required. The Board Calendar is *Appendix 8* of this Manual.

AXA Philippines is committed to maintaining the high standards of corporate governance. Henceforth, the CGM shall be reviewed and revised, if necessary, at least annually to incorporate changes in the corporate governance policies and procedures and latest pertinent regulatory issuances. Any revision or update in the CGM shall likewise be approved by the Board of Directors.

## **3 Appendices**

- Appendix 1 – Board Charter
- Appendix 2 – Schedule of Matters reserved to the Board
- Appendix 3 – Code of Conduct (Compliance and Ethics Manual for Employees)
- Appendix 4 – Board Risk Management, Audit and Compliance Committee's terms of Reference
- Appendix 5 – Board Remuneration Committee's terms of reference
- Appendix 6 – Board Investment Committee's terms of reference
- Appendix 7 – Board Nomination Committee's terms of reference
- Appendix 8 – Sub-Board Committee Calendar

**BOARD CHARTER***(Revised on 28 June 2022)***1. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD**

The Board has the overall responsibility for:

- governance of the Company including its strategic direction;
- reviewing and approving plans established by management;
- monitoring of performance against agreed plans;
- establishment and monitoring of sound risk management policies, internal controls and procedures, risk-based Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Prevention Program (MTPP) geared towards the promotion of high ethical and professional standards and the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, and compliance with applicable legislative and regulatory requirements;<sup>1</sup>

The Board shall exercise active control and supervision in the formulation and implementation of institutional risk management. The Board shall be ultimately responsible for the AXA Philippines' compliance with the Anti-Money Laundering and Countering the Financing of Terrorism (AML-CTF) laws, and their respective rules and regulations, other directives and guidance, and other Insurance Company (IC) and Anti Money Laundering Council (AMLC) issuances.<sup>2</sup>

- delegation of authority to management.
- Adopting an effective succession planning program for Directors, Key Officers and Management and to implement a process to appoint competent, professional, honest and highly motivated management officers who can add value to the Company.
- The Board may adopt a policy on the retirement age for Directors, Key Officers and Management of the Company as part of management succession and to promote dynamism in the Company.

A schedule of matters reserved to the Board is set out in the Appendix to this charter.

The Board may delegate to its committees, a director or directors, management or any other person, authority to exercise any of its powers other than the powers reserved to it.

**2. ETHICS**

The directors consider that there are fundamental ethical values that underpin their role as directors and as members of its Board and committees. At all times, directors will:

- act with integrity;
- be honest and open with each other;
- ensure whenever and wherever possible that they do not engage in any activities that may result in a conflict of interest with their duties to the Company and that cannot be appropriately managed;
- work co-operatively among themselves and with management in the best interests of the Company;
- recognise the separate roles and responsibilities of the Board and management;
- be diligent and continuously strive to improve the Company and Board operations and performance;

<sup>1</sup> IC CL No. 2018-48, 14 September 2018; IC CL No. 2018-60, 15 November 2018; IC CL No. 2019-65, 22 November 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

- observe the letter and the spirit of the constitution, laws, regulations and any policies under which the Company operates;
- have an active interest in and concern for the communities in which the Company operates;
- avoid any behaviour that is likely to reflect badly on the Board or the Company.

This Code of Conduct is read in conjunction with the principles outlined in the AXA Global Group's Compliance and Ethics Guide (*Appendix 3*).

### **3. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Directors are required to disclose any conflicts of interest and to abstain from participating in any discussion or voting on any matter in which they have a material personal interest except with the prior approval of the Board.

Conflicts of interest exist in the following situations, among others:

- Self-dealing, in which a Director causes the Company to enter into a transaction with another organization that benefits such Director.
- Outside employment in other insurance companies or financial institutions that are viewed as competitors by the Company.
- Family interests, in which a relative up to the third degree of affinity or consanguinity is employed (or applies for employment) or where goods or services are purchased from such a relative or a firm controlled by a relative.
- Receiving high value gifts from entities that do business with the Company. In this regard, high value is defined as worth more than Php1,000.
- Interest in stocks or other investments, in which the Company is invested in or is contemplating on investing in.

### **4. DISCLOSURE OF DIRECTOR INTERESTS**

Directors are required to disclose any notifiable interests<sup>3</sup> to the Chief Executive Officer and the Legal Counsel and Company Secretary:

- on the date that the director is appointed;
- upon a change to a notifiable interest of a director.

### **5. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

The Board will maintain a 12-month rolling plan of business to be conducted by either the Board or its committees that includes the following:

- consideration and approval of the strategic plan;

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<sup>3</sup> Notifiable Interest of a director means (i) interests in securities of the Company or a related body corporate or (ii) interests in a contract to which the director is a party or under which the director is entitled to a benefit, and that confer a right to call for or deliver shares in, debentures of, or interests in an investment scheme made available by, the Company or a related body corporate.

- consideration and approval of 3 years strategic plan;
- consideration and adoption of financial statements;
- consideration and declaration of dividends;
- receipt of regular reports from management on the financial and operational performance against agreed performance targets;
- review of the Board and management performance.

## **6. BOARD MEMBERSHIP**

The Board and senior management will collectively have the full range of skills needed for the effective and prudent operation of the Company. Each director will have skills that allow him or her to make an effective contribution to the Board deliberations and processes. To ensure that optimal decision-making is achieved, it is critical that membership of the Board includes a diverse mixture of skills, professional and industry backgrounds, geographical experience and expertise, gender, age, tenure, ethnicity, nationality, and diversity of thought, whether social, cultural, political or religious.

The Board will have at least two (2) independent directors or twenty-percent (20%) of the members of the Board, whichever is higher. An independent director shall serve for a maximum cumulative term of nine (9) years.<sup>4</sup>

Non-Filipino citizens may become members of the Board to the extent of the foreign participation in the equity of the Company, provided, however, that a majority of the directors are residents of the Philippines.

## **7. INDEPENDENCE**

The Board will regularly assess the independence of a director in light of interests disclosed by them. In general, a director will be regarded as independent if, apart from fees and shareholdings, the director is independent of management and free from any business or other relationship which could reasonably be perceived to materially interfere with the director's exercise of independent judgment in carrying out his responsibilities as a director. In particular, an independent director of the Company shall mean a person who:

- is not or was not a regular director, officer or employee of the Company, its subsidiaries, affiliates or related companies during the past three (3) years counted from the date of his election/appointment;
- is not or was not a regular director, officer, or employee of the Company's substantial stockholders and their related companies during the past three (3) years counted from the date of his election/appointment;
- is not an owner of more than two percent (2%) of the outstanding shares or a stockholder with shares of stock sufficient to elect one (1) seat in the Board of the Company, or in any of its related companies or of its majority corporate shareholders;
- is not a relative by affinity or consanguinity within the fourth (4th) degree of a director, officer, or stockholder holding shares of stock sufficient to elect one (1) seat in the board of the Company or any of its related companies or of any of its substantial stockholders;

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<sup>4</sup> IC Circular No. 2018-36, 26 June 2018. The term limit shall be reckoned from 02 January 2015.

- is not acting as a nominee or representative of any director or substantial shareholder of the Company, any of its related companies or any of its substantial shareholders;
- is not or was not retained as professional adviser, auditor, consultant, agent or counsel of the Company, any of its related companies or any of its substantial shareholders, either in his personal capacity or through his firm during the past three (3) years counted from the date of his election/appointment;
- is not a securities broker-dealer of listed companies and registered issuers of securities. "Securities broker-dealer" refers to any person holding any office of trust and responsibility in a broker-dealer firm, which includes, among others, a director, officer, principal stockholder, nominee of the firm to the Exchange, an associated person or salesman, and an authorized clerk of the broker or dealer;
- is independent of management and free from any business or other relationship, has not engaged and does not engage in any transaction with the Company or with any of its related companies or with any of its substantial shareholders, whether by himself or with other persons or through a firm of which he is a partner or a company of which he is a director or substantial shareholder, other than transactions which are conducted at arm's length and could not materially interfere with or influence the exercise of his judgment;
- was not appointed in the Company, its subsidiaries, affiliates or related companies as Chairman "Emeritus", "Ex-Officio", regular directors, officers or members of any advisory board, or otherwise appointed in a capacity to assist the board of directors in the performance of its duties and responsibilities during the past three (3) years counted from the date of his election/appointment;
- is not affiliated with any non-profit organization that receives significant funding from the Company or any of its related companies or substantial shareholders; and,
- is not employed as an executive officer of another company where any of the Company's executives serve as regular directors.

Related company refers to (a) the Company's holding/parent company; (b) its subsidiary or affiliate; (c) subsidiaries of its holding/parent company; or (d) a corporation where the Company or its majority stockholder own such number of shares that will allow/enable such person or group to elect at least one (1) member of the board of directors or a partnership where such majority stockholder is a partner.

## **8. CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

The directors will appoint a Chairman of the Board by such method as agreed by the Board.

The Chairman shall be a non-executive director. The Chairman plays an important leadership role with the Company and is involved in:

- chairing meetings of shareholders and Board meetings;
- monitoring the performance of the Board, the mix of skills of directors and the effectiveness of individual contributions;
- maintaining ongoing dialogue with the Chief Executive Officer and providing appropriate guidance.

Considering that the insurance business is imbued with public interest, the role of the Chairman and the Chief Executive Officer shall in principle be separate, to ensure an appropriate balance

of power, increased accountability and greater capacity of the Board for independent decision making.

## **9. MEETINGS**

The Board will meet regularly at least six (6) times per year.

Special meetings may be called at any time by the Chairman of the Board, or, in his absence, by the President, or upon the request of a majority of the directors.

## **10. INDEPENDENT PROFESSIONAL ADVICE**

After consultation with the Chairman, directors may seek independent professional advice at the Company's expense. Following its receipt, such advice would normally be made available to all directors.

## **11. BOARD PERFORMANCE**

To enhance Board and management effectiveness, the Board will evaluate at least annually its performance related to the matters reserved to the Board and the performance of its committees and individual directors.

The Board shall likewise assess and evaluate the performance of the executive directors and the President as well as the Chairman of the Board.

Every three (3) years, the Board shall engage an external facilitator to carry out the assessment of board performance. The external facilitator can be any independent third party such as, but not limited to, a consulting firm, academic institution or professional organization.

The Chairman may hold meetings with the non-executive directors without the executive director/s' presence to evaluate the executive director/s' performance. The non-executive directors, led by the independent directors, may meet annually without the Chairman's presence to appraise the Chairman's performance.

## **12. ATTENDANCE**

Directors are expected to regularly attend meetings of the Board and committees of which they are members. The Board may invite any management representatives, advisers, consultants and others as it thinks fit, to attend Board meetings.

## **13. SECRETARY**

The Company Secretary will act as secretary of the Board and will attend meetings of the Board as required.

The Company Secretary shall provide reasonable and adequate support to the Board of Directors and the members of the Board in the discharge of their functions. Among the duties of the office of the Company Secretary are as follows:

- Provide the requisite board papers associated with items on the agenda of a Board meeting and to arrange that these are sent to all directors in advance of the scheduled Board meeting.
- Provide ready and reasonable access to information that directors may need for their deliberation on issues listed on the agenda of the Board.
- Ensure that the Company Secretary has access to training in “legal, accountancy and company secretarial best practices”, which help raise the standards of professionalism actually observed by the office of the Company Secretary.
- Set the dates of the Company’s Board meetings at the beginning of the year. The Board shall meet regularly, as required by its by-laws.
- Ensure that at least two-thirds of the directors are present when there are important matters to be decided on the agenda, in particular when issues that will have a significant impact on the character of the Company. In such cases, the number required to determine whether there is a quorum to do business shall be two-thirds of the directors.

#### **14. MINUTES/BOARD PAPERS**

Minutes of meetings of the Board and resolutions of the Board must be prepared by the secretary and approved by the Chairman. Minutes will be circulated to all directors and confirmed at the next subsequent meeting of the Board.

Board papers for Board and Committee meetings shall be provided to the members of the Board and Committees at least five (5) days prior to the date of the meeting in order to ensure that the directors are given ample time to review the materials to be considered at the meeting.

#### **15. INDUCTION & TRAINING**

The Board shall maintain an induction process for new directors.

The Company encourages directors to update and enhance their skills and knowledge by attending appropriate training programmed on director responsibilities.

If necessary, funds shall be allocated by the CFO or its equivalent officer for the purpose of conducting an orientation program or workshop to operationalize this Manual. The incumbent as well as newly elected Directors and Key Officers of the Corporation shall attend a continuing training on corporate governance and other relevant topics as may be required by the Insurance Commission which shall be conducted by a duly recognized private or government institute.



## **16. MULTIPLE BOARD SEATS**

The optimum number of directorships shall be generally related to the capacity of a director in performing his duties diligently. The Chief Executive Officer and other executive directors shall submit themselves to a low indicative limit (four or lower) on membership in other corporate boards. The same low limit also applies to independent non-executive directors who serve as fulltime executives in other corporations. There can be a higher indicative limit (five or lower) for other directors who hold non-executive positions in any corporation. In any case, the capacity of directors to serve with diligence shall not be compromised.

## **17. ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE MECHANISM FOR INTRA-CORPORATE DISPUTE**

The Company adopts the rules and procedures set forth under Republic Act No. 9285, otherwise known as the Alternative Dispute Resolution Act of 2004, as an alternative means to settle disputes with a view towards preventing excessive litigation.

The Board shall encourage use of alternative modes of dispute resolution that can amicably settle conflicts or differences between the Company and its shareholders or third parties, including regulatory agencies.

**SCHEDULE OF MATTERS RESERVED TO THE BOARD**

*(Revised on 20 April 2020)*

The following matters are reserved to the Board.

**GOVERNANCE**

- Overseeing the business and affairs of the Company by
  - reviewing and approving strategic direction, objectives and goals proposed by management;
  - approving major corporate initiatives;
  - monitoring performance against approved plans.
- Adopting a Board charter.
- Appointing the Chairman.
- Establishing Board committees, determining membership and adopting terms of reference for the committees.
- Adopting a set of management delegations to allow management to carry on the business of the Company.

**SHAREHOLDER APPROVAL**

- Convening shareholders' meetings.
- Selecting and nominating directors for election and re-election by shareholders.
- Recommending to shareholders the appointment of external auditors.
- Recommending to shareholders the declaration of stock dividends.

**FINANCIAL**

- Approving accounting policies and practices.
- Approving 3 year strategic plans annually.
- Monitoring performance including the receipt of regular reports from management on the financial and operational performance of the Company against agreed performance targets.
- Approving interim and annual reports and financial statements
- Approving cash dividends.
- Approving the capital management of Company including the issue of further shares.
- Reviewing periodic financial condition reports including both asset and liability management and other financial models.
- Reviewing principles in use from time to time by management for determining crediting rates on participating business and approving crediting rates.

**COMPLIANCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

- Appointing a Board Risk Management, Audit & Compliance Committee

- Approving internal controls, risk management policies and procedures.
- Approving the Money Laundering and Terrorism Financing Prevention Program (MTPP).
- Reviewing and approving of material/significant related-party transactions (RPTs)
- Monitoring business conduct and compliance with laws, regulations, Company policies and relevant codes of conduct.
- Approving risk management statements.

## **REMUNERATION AND PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT**

- Appointing Board Remuneration Committee and Board Nominations Committee.
- Appointing and if appropriate, terminating the contract of the chief executive officer.
- Ensuring the adequacy of succession planning.
- Reviewing the performance of the Chairman, the Board and the committees.

## **INVESTMENT**

- Appointing a Board Investment Committee.
- Approving material acquisitions and disposal (including property).

**CODE OF CONDUCT**  
*(Revised on 20 April 2020)*

AXA Philippines is committed to the highest standards of ethical and fair business conduct and supports and promotes the principles set out in the AXA Compliance and Ethics Code issued in 2019.

The AXA Compliance and Ethics Code, as may be amended from time to time, are incorporated herewith by reference as the applicable Code of Conduct for directors, officers, and employees, as well as other personnel who have the status of employees (i.e. trainees, temporary employees, and other personnel who are considered employees for purposes of applicable employment laws and regulations and/or for tax purpose) and tied agents.

A breach of this Code of Conduct may breach the law, a policy of the Company or both. AXA will take appropriate disciplinary action for any Code violation or other misconduct which, in the most serious cases may include termination and possible legal action. If an employee is unsure of whether an action is a breach of this Code of Conduct, they should raise the matter with their immediate manager or the Legal Counsel and Company Secretary. If a director is unsure of whether an action is a breach of this code of conduct, they should raise the matter with the Legal Counsel and Company Secretary.

**BOARD RISK MANAGEMENT, AUDIT AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE  
TERMS OF REFERENCE**

*(Revisions approved by BRMACC on 01 June 2022 and ratified by the Board of Directors on 30 August 2022)*

**1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Board Risk Management, Audit and Compliance Committee (the “Committee”) is to assist the Board of Directors of AXA Philippines<sup>5</sup> (the “Board”) in fulfilling its governance and oversight of the:

- 1.1 Adequacy and effectiveness of the internal control and risk management frameworks.
- 1.2 Financial reporting process and the integrity of the publicly reported results and disclosures made in the financial statements.
- 1.3 Effectiveness, performance, and independence of the internal and external auditors.
- 1.4 Business conduct and compliance with laws, regulations, and relevant codes of conduct.

The role of the Committee in no way reduces the responsibility of the Board under relevant laws and regulations in respect of governance and oversight of the Company.

**2. AUTHORITY**

The authority of the Committee covers AXA Philippines (“the Company”) <sup>5</sup>and, to fulfill its duties, the Committee may at any time in its discretion:

- 2.1 Request, at the Group’s expense, the engagement of external experts to perform investigations into any matter within its scope of responsibility to the extent that it deems necessary or appropriate.
- 2.2 Request any information it desires from the Group, including calling any employee to provide information at a meeting of the Committee.
- 2.3 Where appropriate, the duties of the Committee will be carried out in conjunction with other committees of the Board

**3. ADMINISTRATION**

- 3.1 The Committee shall comprise at least three (3) members and may have a maximum number of seven (7) members; each of whom must fulfill applicable listing, legal & regulatory requirements, joint venture agreement as well as the AXA Group requirements on competence and independence. Detailed composition is as follows:

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<sup>5</sup> Includes Philippine AXA Life Insurance Corporation and Charter Ping An Insurance Corporation (a wholly owned subsidiary of Philippine AXA Life Insurance Corporation)

## **Members**

Independent Director (Chairman)  
Independent Director (Member)  
AXA Director (Member)  
Metrobank Director (Member)  
Advisor (Non-Member)

## **Standing attendees**

Chief Executive Officer  
Chief Financial Officer  
Chief Risk Officer  
Head of Internal Audit  
External Auditors (on a need basis)  
Chief Compliance Officer or his/ her delegate  
The Head of Legal or his/her delegate  
AXA Asia Head of Internal Audit or his/ her delegate  
The Chief Compliance Officer will be the Committee Secretary.

3.2 Director-member must be a non-executive director.

3.3 A majority of the director-members of the Committee present during a meeting shall constitute a quorum.

3.4 The Committee shall meet at least four (4) times each year, with the authority to convene additional meetings as and when it deems appropriate.

3.5 Without the presence of other executives, the Committee shall meet with the external auditors and with the Head of Internal Audit at least twice each year to discuss their respective remits and any unresolved issues, concerns, or other matters.

3.6 The first draft of the Committee minutes must be sent to the Audit Committee Chairman within 5 working days of the meeting date

3.7 A summary report and/ or minutes of the Committee meeting shall be made to the Board following each meeting of the Committee by the Chair of the Committee. However, in the case of any significant issues or difficulties that it may face, the Committee shall inform the Chairman of the Board as soon as is practicable.

3.8 An evaluation of the performance of the Committee shall be performed against the requirements of these terms of reference on an annual basis or other periodic basis deemed appropriate by the Committee or the Board. The results of the performance evaluation are tabulated and reported by the Head of Internal Audit to the Committee.

## **4. DUTIES**

The Committee shall consider and report to the Board through a summary report and/ or minutes on each of the following matters on an annual or other periodic basis as it deems appropriate:

### **4.1. Compliance, Risk Management & Internal Control**

To allow the Committee to review and form an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's compliance, risk management and internal control frameworks, the Committee shall in particular:

- a. Consider management's and/or internal / external auditors' assessments of the effectiveness of the internal control and risk management processes including any weaknesses or other issues revealed by investigations of the causal factors behind events such as internal frauds, significant legal actions and reported operational failures, as well as the results of reviews performed by bodies such as internal and external audit, compliance, management control functions, and regulators.
- b. Review regular updates from management on significant complaints, external and internal fraud.
- c. Obtain regular updates from management, Compliance and Legal on significant regulatory compliance matters, the effectiveness of systems for monitoring compliance and any instances of non-compliance.
- d. Obtain regular updates from Legal on the status of material open litigation and other proceedings and the related reserves.
- e. Review periodically any significant complaints received.
- f. Review business risk profiles and periodic risk management statements including key risk report and action plan progress.
- g. Review and monitor fraud and anti-money laundering policies of the Company.
- h. Discuss with management the Group's framework for assessing and managing the Group's exposure to risks, the results of the risk assessments performed, and the steps management has taken to monitor that such exposures remain within the risk appetite set by the Group.
- i. Validate the Company's risk appetite position, as endorsed by the Local Risk Committee (LRC), set alert levels and limits on all functional risk indicators at least once every year, and make all necessary decisions to manage risk consistently with the Company's risk appetite.
- j. Ensure a formal enterprise risk management plan that includes the following elements: (a) risk classification or risk taxonomy (b) risk register, (c) well-defined risk management goals, objectives, and oversight, (d) uniform risk assessment and development processes, (e) designing and implementing risk management strategies, and (f) ongoing assessments to improve risk strategies, processes, and measures.
- k. Oversee the implementation of the Enterprise Risk Management plan through the Local Risk Committee (LRC), revisits defined risk management strategies and keeps abreast of emerging or changing material risk exposures and significant developments that has serious likelihood of impact and loss to the business
- l. Assist the Board in performing its oversight functions for avoiding conflicts of interest of related parties, it shall:
  - i. Evaluate current relationships between and among companies and counterparties on a regular basis to ensure that all related parties are identified, RPTs are tracked and reported, and subsequent changes in counterparty relationships are recorded.
  - ii. Implement effective controls to effectively manage and monitor Related Party Transactions (RPTs) and ensure compliance with the approved RPT policy guidelines, as well as regulatory requirement.
  - iii. Review and approve RPTs and ensure that dealings with RPTs are conducted on an arm's length basis at all times.
  - iv. Ensures that transactions with related parties, including write-off of exposures are subject to a periodic independent review.

- iv. Oversee the evaluation of RPTs to ensure that approvals are conducted at arm's length basis, and made for the best interest of AXA Philippines;
- v. Oversees the implementation of the system for identifying, monitoring, measuring, controlling, and reporting RPTs, including a periodic review of RPT policies and procedures
- vi. Ensure that appropriate steps are taken to control or mitigate the risks; and,
- vii. Ensure that these duties and responsibilities that may from time to time be required under the existing Related Party Guidelines of the Company are performed.
- m. The scope of the systems of internal control, as reviewed by the Committee, should include internal control systems, including information technology security, that help ensure sound financial reporting and safeguarding of the Company's assets.

#### **4.2. Financial Statements & Reporting Processes**

To allow the Committee to form an opinion on the integrity of the publicly reported results and disclosures made in the financial statements of AXA Philippines and its contribution to the AXA Group and/ or Metrobank Group consolidated financial statements, the Committee shall, in particular:

- a. Review recent professional and regulatory issues and pronouncements and their impact on the financial statements and reporting processes of the Company.
- b. Review the results of management's testing of internal controls over financial reporting designed to assure the integrity of the entities' financial statement disclosures.
- c. Review the draft PFRS/ IFRS financial statements to be submitted for approval to the Board to consider the quality, accuracy, completeness, and clarity of the information provided and challenge, where necessary, the actions and judgments of management, particularly focusing upon:
  - i. Significant accounting policies or practices and any changes thereto.
  - ii. Compliance with Accounting Standards
  - iii. Material decisions requiring a major element of judgment or significant estimates
  - iv. The treatment and disclosure of any new complex and/or unusual transactions during the period
  - v. Any significant adjustments resulting from external audit work or otherwise
  - vi. Any qualifications or non-compliance with accounting standards or any listing, regulatory and/or legal requirements with regard to financial reporting.
  - vii. Any matters drawn to the attention of the Committee by the Company's external auditors.
  - viii. Going Concern Assumptions<sup>6</sup>
- d. Consider the reconciliation between local PFRS financial statements and the IFRS financial statements reported for consolidation / reporting to the AXA Group and/ or Metrobank Group.

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<sup>6</sup> The assumption that a business will continue to exist in the near future, and that it will not liquidate or be forced out of business.



- e. Consider the results of, and procedures for the receipt, retention and investigation of, any significant complaints and/or adverse reports received by the Company regarding accounting, internal controls over financial reporting, or auditing matters.

#### **4.3.External Auditors**

To allow the Committee to form an opinion on the effectiveness, performance and independence of the Company's external auditors, the Committee shall:

- a. Consider the external auditors' internal policies and procedures regarding independence and quality control and receive confirmation that they have been applied;
- b. Review the external auditors' assignment plan, annual report and management letter.
- c. Monitor the statutory audit of the annual and consolidated financial statements;
- d. Inform the Board of Directors of the outcome of the statutory audit and explain how the statutory audit contributed to the integrity of financial reporting and what the role of the Committee was in that process;
- e. Review and monitor the independence of the external auditors;
- f. Review and make a recommendation to the Board of Directors as to the appointment of the external auditors to provide non-audit services after analysing the threats to their independence and relevant safeguards that have been applied by the auditors;
- g. Consider the Group Non-Audit Services Policy and its implementation and advise the Board as to whether any updates or changes should be made to this Policy on a regular basis;
- h. Review the breakdown of the fees paid to the external auditors by the Company;
- i. Review and approve the appointment, reappointment, dismissal or resignation of the external auditors and oversee the process for selecting the external auditors, making recommendations regarding their appointment, reappointment, or dismissal to the Board;
- j. Review the additional report required from the external auditors and including their declaration of independence.
- k. Discuss with the External Auditor the nature, scope, and expenses of the audit, and ensure proper coordination if more than one audit firm is involved in the activity to secure proper coverage and minimize duplication of efforts prior the commencement of the audit.

#### **4.4. Internal Auditors**

To allow the Committee to form an opinion on the effectiveness, performance and independence of the Company's internal auditors:

- a. Review and approve the Company's internal audit plan, charter, resources (expense budget and manpower) and activities particularly with regard to the Company's strategy and risk and control profile, ensuring it being adequately resourced and free from constraint by management.
- b. Monitor the adequacy of resources available to the Company's internal audit function (both financial budget and skills available) in the context of the risk and control profile of the Company.
- c. Review the major findings presented by Internal Audit and consider the appropriateness of management's response to them

- d. Review the quarterly reports on the resolution of overdue/ open internal audit issues, requesting further management explanation where necessary for high priority issues that are overdue.
- e. Review a periodic independent assessment of the effectiveness of the internal audit function, including compliance with the International Professional Practices Framework (IPPF) or generally accepted auditing standards.
- f. Review the performance of the internal audit function including a periodic objective assessment of the effectiveness of the internal audit function.
- g. Review and approve the appointment, appraisal, resignation, and dismissal of the Head of Internal Audit.

#### **4. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF BRMACC as the CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

##### **The Committee shall:**

1. Develop and recommend a statement to the Board in relation to Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) issues for the Board's consideration and approval, including:
  - a. the Board's oversight role of ESG issues;
  - b. the process used to identify, evaluate and manage material ESG-related issues;
  - c. how the Board reviews progress made against ESG-related goals and targets;
2. Oversees the development of and make recommendations to the Board regarding ESG vision, goals and strategies of AXA Philippines.
3. Oversee the implementation of the Environmental Social and Governance (ESG), including corporate governance, framework and periodically review the said framework to ensure that it remains appropriate in light of material changes to the corporation's size, complexity and business strategy, as well as its business and regulatory environments
4. Adopt corporate governance policies and ensures that these are reviewed and updated regularly, and consistently implemented in form and substance

#### **6. OTHER DUTIES**

##### **The Committee shall:**

- a. Perform other activities according to the applicable regulatory requirements and the joint venture agreement between the shareholders.
- b. Perform other activities related to these terms of reference as requested by the Board;
- c. Review and assess the adequacy of these terms of reference annually, requesting Board approval for proposed changes.
- d. Confirm annually that all responsibilities outlined in these terms of reference have been carried out; and

- e. Evaluate the performance of the Committee and its members on an annual basis.

## **BOARD REMUNERATION COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

*(Revised on 25 April 2019)*

### **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Committee is to assist the Board of Directors in:

- Recommending a framework for the remuneration of the directors, the Chief Executive Officer and key senior offices to:
  - attract, motivate and retain high performing senior executives;
  - align remuneration with business performance; and
  - motivate directors and management to pursue the long-term growth and success of the Company with an appropriate control framework.
- Ensuring the highest standards of governance and disclosure in relation to remuneration.

### **2. SCOPE**

The Committee has responsibility for:

- strategy and policy for remuneration of the Company;
- directors' remuneration;
- chief executive officer's employment and separation terms;
- senior executives' long-term incentive plan;
- salary budget in relation to base salary review, team and other incentive payments;
- appropriate governance and disclosure policy in respect of remuneration and the performance;
- performing other activities according to the applicable requirements in the regulation; and
- performing other activities related to these terms of reference as requested by the Board.

### **3. AUTHORITY**

The Committee should not be delegated with decision-making powers but should reports its recommendation to the full Board for decision.

### **4. COMPOSITION**

The Committee should consist of three (3) directors (one nominated by AXA, one nominated by Metrobank and one independent director)<sup>7</sup>.

### **5. MEETINGS**

The Committee shall meet as and when required but at least twice a year.

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<sup>7</sup> The change in composition is in accordance with the clarification made by the Board at its meeting held on 20 October 2009.

Meeting agenda will be prepared and provided in advance to members along with appropriate papers. Minutes will be prepared, approved by the Committee, and circulated to the Board.

## **6. SECRETARY**

The Head of Human Resources of the Company shall be the Secretary of the Committee.

## **7. GOVERNANCE AND DISCLOSURE**

The Committee shall review policies and processes at least annually to ensure compliance with best practice in relation to governance and disclosure and where appropriate make recommendations to the Board in relation to appropriate policies and practices.

## **8. REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Committee shall:

- report regularly to the Board on Committee activities describing the Committee's composition and responsibility and how those responsibilities were discharged;
- be responsible for ensuring that appropriate procedures are in place to ensure compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements and, where adopted by the Board, voluntary codes of conduct on disclosure of remuneration.

## **BOARD INVESTMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

*(Revised on 27 October 2022)*

### **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the committee is to assist the board in fulfilling its governance and oversight responsibilities in relation to investment strategy and performance for the Company.

The committee will approve and review strategy and policy with respect to the portfolio investments of policyholder, unit holder and shareholder funds.

### **2. SCOPE**

The scope of the committee is to:

- approve investment strategy and policies;
- approve investment mandates including allowable investments, policy ranges, benchmarks and risk control limits;
- review investment performance of key products;
- approve a schedule of delegations to management;
- approve large and/or non-standard transactions; and
- approve counterparties, brokers, custodians, and other investment service providers.

Delegated authorities to management and the definition and scope of large and non-standard transactions will be reviewed at least annually.

### **3. MEETINGS**

The committee meets quarterly and more often, if required.

### **4. COMPOSITION**

Membership of the committee will consist of six (6) directors (three nominated by AXA and three nominated by Metrobank).

### **5. REPORTING**

The committee, through its Chairman, shall report to the board after each committee meeting and minutes of all committee meetings shall be circulated to the Board.

### **6. SECRETARY**

The Investment Manager shall be the secretary of the committee.

## **BOARD NOMINATION COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **1. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Committee is to assist the Board of Directors in fulfilling its governance and oversight responsibilities for:

- identifying, evaluating and recommending non-executive director candidates to the Board;
- ensuring that non-executive directors have an appropriate mix of skills, expertise and experience and operate effectively.

The role of the Committee in no way reduces the responsibility of the Board under relevant laws and regulations in respect of governance and oversight of the Company.

### **2. AUTHORITY**

The Committee has authority to:

- retain external consultants and advisers to advise the Committee;
- seek any information it requires from employees – all of whom are directed to cooperate with the Committee's request – or external parties;
- meet with officers of the Company or external consultants, as necessary;
- approve matters relating to nominations with authorities delegated to it by the Board.

### **3. COMPOSITION**

The Committee should consist of three (3) directors, one (1) director nominated by AXA, one (1) director nominated by Metrobank and the other one, an independent director.

### **4. MEETINGS**

The Committee will meet quarterly if there are matters for the Committee to approve.

The Committee shall meet as and when required.

Meeting agenda will be prepared and provided in advance to committee members along with appropriate papers. Minutes will be prepared, approved by the committee and circulated to the board.

### **5. SECRETARY**

The Secretary of the Company shall be the secretary of the committee and assisted by the Head of Human Resources of the Company.

### **6. RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Committee has the following responsibilities:

## **6.1 Nominations**

The Committee shall:

- Make recommendations to the Board on the selection and appointment of nonexecutive directors;
- Periodically review the fee structures and fee levels for non-executive directors and make recommendations to the Board for approval;
- In considering Directors, consider the required competencies of new Directors having regard to the mix skills, experience and qualities of existing Directors. The Committee may appoint consultants to assist with the identification of candidates;
- Ensure that appropriate process for the orientation and induction of new directors is carried out and that the process reflects the background and experience of each new Director and any requirements under the law and any industry and governance standards.

## **6.2 Governance and disclosure**

The Committee shall:

- Review policies and processes at least annually to ensure compliance with best practice in relation to governance and disclosure and where appropriate make recommendations to the Board in relation to appropriate policies and practices;
- Review any reports required by law or requested by the Board.

## **7. Reporting responsibilities**

The Committee shall:

- Report to the Board after each Committee meeting, describing the Committee's composition and responsibilities and how those responsibilities were discharged;
- Circulate minutes of Committee meetings to the Board;
- Be responsible for ensuring that appropriate procedures are in place to ensure compliance with legislative and regulatory requirements.

## **8. Other responsibilities**

The Committee shall:

- Review the process of ensuring the overall effectiveness of the Board and its committees;
- Perform other activities related to these terms of reference as requested by the Board;



- Review and assess the adequacy of these terms of reference annually, requesting Board approval for proposed changes.

## Appendix 8 Board Calendar

The regular meetings of the Board and its Committees are scheduled before or at the beginning of the year.

The tentative calendars of the regular meetings of the Board and its Committees are shown below. The calendars are subject to change, and the agenda for each meeting is usually finalized within five (5) days from the date of the meeting.

### **Board**

	Timing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Annual accounts and supporting papers	Annually				X								
Half-year accounts and supporting papers	Annually							X					
Dividend policy	Annually				X								
Financial condition report	Annually				X								
Performance against budget (in dashboard)	Each meeting												
Board calendar	Annually												X
Strategy and strategic plan	Annually												X
Delegated authorities	Annually										X		
Code of conduct	Annually				X								
G&E policy	Annually										X		
Conflict of interests policy	Annually										X		
Board charter	Annually												X
Strategy and policy for remuneration for the Company	Annually												X
Remuneration of directors	Annually				X								
Reports from board committees and matters arising	Each meeting												

Review of Committee terms of reference	Annually												X
Review Committee membership	Annually				X								

## Board Risk Management, Audit and Compliance Committee

	Q1	Min	Q2	Min	Q3	Min	Q4	Min
<b>Sessions outside the main meeting</b>								
In Camera Sessions - Private meeting with Internal Auditors Private meeting with External Auditors	Internal Audit External Audit	10	Internal Audit External Audit	10	Internal Audit External Audit	10	Internal Audit External Audit	10
Executive Sessions			CRO	15	CRO	15		
Audit Committee Members' Selfassessment							Internal Audit	15
Administration								
Minute Approval and Carried Forward Action Items	Chairman	10	Chairman	10	Chairman	10	Chairman	10
Matters Arising	All	5	All	5	All	5	All	5
<b>Current Focus</b>								
<b>Financial Statements</b>								
Financial Statements & Group Reporting	External Audit / Finance	30			External Audit / Finance	30		
<b>External Audit (EA)</b>								
External Auditors Annual Audit Plan					External Audit	15		
<b>Internal Audit (IA)</b>								
Quarterly Internal Audit Report (included Whistleblowing)	Internal Audit	10	Internal Audit	10	Internal Audit	10	Internal Audit	10
Annual Audit Plan							Internal Audit	15
Annual Internal Audit Charter & Audit Committee Charter Review	Internal Audit	5						
<b>Internal Control &amp; Risk Management</b>								
Compliance Report (included Events and Breaches, Regulatory Activity, Anti-money Laundering, etc.)	Compliance	15	Compliance	15	Compliance	15	Compliance	15
Annual Compliance Plan							Compliance	15

Annual Policy Review	Compliance	15						
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External Auditors' Management Letter	Finance Status update	10	Finance Status update	10	Finance Status update	10	Finance Status update	10
Litigation Report	Legal	10	Legal	10	Legal	10	Legal	10
Fraud Status Update	Fraud Control Officer	10	Fraud Control Officer	10	Fraud Control Officer	10	Fraud Control Officer	10
Complaints Report	COO	10	COO	10	COO	10	COO	10
Operational Key Risks Report, Insurance Protection (Insurance, Reinsurance, etc.)	CRO	10	CRO	10	CRO	10	CRO	10
<b>Future Focus</b>								
Audit, Risk and Compliance Matters – Open Forum	All	15	All	15	All	15	All	15

175

155

185

170

\* Please note that this is simply an example of a timed annual agenda – it is not intended to mandate the structure, length or composition of the meetings.

### **Board Investment Committee**

	Timing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
BIC terms of reference	Annually												X
Investment performance report	Each meeting												
Fund manager report	Each meeting												
Risk management statements	At least annually												
Delegation	At least annually												
Large and/or non-standard transactions	As required												
Review of investment policies, strategies and mandates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Asset allocations for shareholder capital</li> <li>- Tactical asset allocation</li> </ul>	At least annually for each policy												

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Investment mandates for each asset class</li> <li>- Concentration limits</li> </ul>														
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### **Board Remuneration Committee**

	Timing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
- BRC terms of reference	Annually												X
- CEO employment terms	Annually												
- Senior executives long term incentive scheme	Annually												
- Senior executive budget	Annually												
- Strategy and policy for remuneration for the Company	Annually												X
- Remuneration of directors	Annually				X								

### **Board Nomination Committee**

	Timing	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Selection and appointment of non-executive directors	Annually				X								
Remuneration of directors	Annually				X								
Orientation and induction of new directors	Annually				X								
Review policies and processes	Annually				X								

Review reports required by law	As required												
Committee terms of reference	Annually				<b>X</b>								<b>X</b>