

Assurance statement

Independent Auditor's Limited Assurance Report on the Selected Sustainability Information in Standard Bank Group Limited's Report to Society and Environmental, Social and Governance Report and Standard Bank South Africa's Transformation Report

TO THE DIRECTORS OF STANDARD BANK GROUP LIMITED AND STANDARD BANK SOUTH AFRICA

We have undertaken a limited assurance engagement in respect of the selected sustainability information, as described below, and presented in the Report to Society and Environmental, Social and Governance Report of Standard Bank Group Limited (the "Group", "SGB" or "you") for the year ended 31 December 2019 and the Transformation Report of Standard Bank South Africa (the "Company" or "SBSA") for the year ended 31 December 2019 (the "Reports"). This engagement was conducted by a multidisciplinary team including social, environmental and assurance specialists with relevant experience in sustainability reporting.

SUBJECT MATTER

We have been engaged to provide a limited assurance conclusion in our report on the following selected sustainability information, marked with a '✓' on the relevant pages in the Reports. The selected sustainability information described below have been prepared in accordance with the Group's reporting criteria that accompanies the sustainability information on the relevant pages of the Reports (the accompanying reporting criteria).

Selected sustainability information		Unit of measurement	Boundary	Report and pages
Employment	Percentage of black employees in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top management • Senior management 	%	SBSA	SBSA transformation report page 13
	Percentage of women in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive management • Senior management 	%	SBG	ESG report page 70
	Employee voluntary turnover rate	%	SBG	ESG report pages 53 and 68
Human Capital	Percentage of women on the SBG board	%	SBG	ESG report page 59
	Percentage of women Chief Executive Officers in Africa Regions	%	SBG	ESG report page 59
Education, Learning and Development	Percentage of black staff who completed SBSA leadership training	%	SBSA	SBSA transformation report page 17
Good governance	Number of regulatory issues assessed for impact in a calendar year	#	SBSA	ESG report page 13
Financial inclusion	Number of affordable housing clients where the bank restructured accounts within the reporting period	#	SBSA	RTS page 23 SBSA transformation report page 30
	Total number of students who received funding by FEENIX in 2019	#	SBSA	RTS page 74
Environmental, Sustainability and Climate Change mitigation and adoption	Total number of Equator Principle projects that reached financial close within 2019	#	SBG	ESG report page 36 and 65
	Total carbon footprint for 2019	tCO ₂ e	SBSA	ESG report page 41 and 66
	Energy produced through SBSA renewable energy systems	MWh	SBSA	ESG report page 67
Infrastructure	Ratio of green (renewables) versus brown (fossil fuel based) energy projects financed by Standard Bank from 2012 to 2019	%	SBG	ESG report page 46 and 64

We refer to this information as the "selected sustainability information for Limited Assurance", respectively, and collectively as the "selected sustainability information".

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YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

The Directors are responsible for the selection, preparation and presentation of the selected sustainability information in accordance with the accompanying reporting criteria which can be found [here](#).

This responsibility includes:

- the identification of stakeholders and stakeholder requirements, material issues, commitments with respect to sustainability performance, and
- the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation of the Reports that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

The Directors are also responsible for determining the appropriateness of the measurement and reporting criteria in view of the intended users of the selected sustainability information and for ensuring that those criteria are publicly available to the users of the Reports.

INHERENT LIMITATIONS

Non-financial performance information is subject to more inherent limitations than financial information, given the characteristics of the subject matter and the methods used for determining, calculating, sampling and estimating such information. The absence of a significant body of established practices on which to draw allows for the selection of different but acceptable measurement techniques which can result in materially different measurements and can impact comparability. Qualitative interpretations of relevance, materiality and the accuracy of data are subject to individual assumptions and judgements. The precision of different measurement techniques may also vary. Furthermore,

the nature and methods used to determine such information, as well as the measurement criteria and the precision thereof, may change over time.

In particular, where the information relies on carbon and other emissions conversion factors derived by independent third parties, or internal laboratory results, our assurance work will not include examination of the derivation of those factors and other third party or laboratory information.

OUR INDEPENDENCE AND QUALITY CONTROL

We have complied with the independence and other ethical requirements of Sections 290 and 291 of the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors' Code of Professional Conduct for Registered Auditors (Revised January 2018) and parts 1 and 3 of the Independent Regulatory Board for Auditors' Code of Professional Conduct for Registered Auditors (Revised November 2018) (together the IRBA Codes), which are founded on fundamental principles of integrity, objectivity, professional competence and due care, confidentiality and professional behaviour. The IRBA Codes are consistent with the corresponding sections of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) respectively.

The firm applies the International Standard on Quality Control 1, and accordingly maintains a comprehensive system of quality control including documented policies and procedures regarding compliance with ethical requirements, professional standards and applicable legal and regulatory requirements.

OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Our responsibility is to express a limited assurance conclusion on the selected sustainability information based on the procedures we have performed and the evidence we have obtained. We conducted our assurance engagement in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (Revised), Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information (ISAE 3000 (Revised)), and, in respect of greenhouse gas emissions, International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3410, Assurance Engagements on Greenhouse Gas Statements (ISAE 3410) issued by the International Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. These Standards require that we plan and perform our engagement to obtain limited assurance about whether the selected sustainability information is free from material misstatement.

A limited assurance engagement undertaken in accordance with ISAE 3000 (Revised), and ISAE 3410, involves assessing the suitability in the circumstances of the Company's use of its reporting criteria as the basis of preparation for the selected KPIs, assessing the risks of material misstatement of the selected sustainability information whether due to fraud or error, responding to the assessed risks as necessary in the circumstances, and evaluating the overall presentation of the selected sustainability information. A limited assurance engagement is substantially less in scope than a reasonable assurance engagement in relation to both risk assessment procedures, including an understanding of internal control, and the procedures performed in response to the assessed risks. The procedures we performed were based on our professional

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judgement and included inquiries, observation of processes followed, inspection of documents, analytical procedures, evaluating the appropriateness of quantification methods and reporting policies, and agreeing or reconciling with underlying records.

Given the circumstances of the engagement, in performing the procedures listed above we:

- Interviewed management and senior executives to obtain an understanding of the internal control environment, risk assessment process and information systems relevant to the sustainability reporting process;
- Inspected documentation to corroborate the statements of management and senior executives in our interviews;
- Tested the processes and systems to generate, collate, aggregate, monitor and report the selected sustainability information;
- Performed a controls walkthrough of identified key controls;
- Inspected supporting documentation on a sample basis and performed analytical procedures to evaluate the data generation and reporting processes against the reporting criteria;
- Evaluated the reasonableness and appropriateness of significant estimates and judgements made by the directors in the preparation of the selected sustainability information; and
- Evaluated whether the selected sustainability information presented in the Reports is consistent with our overall knowledge and experience of sustainability management and performance at the Group and Company.

The procedures performed in a limited assurance engagement vary in nature and timing and are less in extent than for a reasonable assurance engagement. As a result, the level of assurance obtained in a limited assurance engagement is substantially lower than the assurance that would have been obtained had we performed a reasonable assurance engagement. Accordingly, we do not express a reasonable assurance opinion about whether the Group and Company's selected sustainability information has been prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the accompanying Group's reporting criteria.

LIMITED ASSURANCE CONCLUSION

Based on the procedures we have performed and the evidence we have obtained, and subject to the inherent limitations outlined elsewhere in this report, nothing has come to our attention that causes us to believe that the selected sustainability information as set out in the Subject Matter paragraph above for the year ended 31 December 2019 is not prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the reporting criteria.

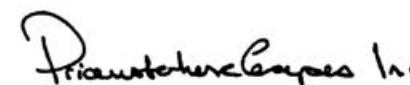
OTHER MATTER(S)

Our report includes the provision of limited assurance on the Percentage of women on the SBG board and Percentage of women Chief Executive Officers in Africa Regions. We were previously not required to provide assurance on this selected sustainability information.

The maintenance and integrity of Standard Bank Group Limited's website is the responsibility of Standard Bank Group Limited's directors. Our procedures did not involve consideration of these matters and, accordingly we accept no responsibility for any changes to either the information in the Reports or our independent assurance report that may have occurred since the initial date of presentation on Standard Bank Group Limited's website.

RESTRICTION OF LIABILITY

Our work has been undertaken to enable us to express a limited assurance conclusion on the selected sustainability information to the directors of the Group and Company in accordance with the terms of our engagement, and for no other purpose. We do not accept or assume liability to any party other than the Group and Company, for our work, for this report, or for the conclusion we have reached.



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