

DATED

8 February

2023

**ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
OF BFINANCE GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED**

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THE COMPANIES ACT 2006
PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES
ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION
of
BFINANCE GROUP HOLDINGS LIMITED

(Adopted by Special Resolution passed on 8 February 2023) ~~2022~~)

PART 1

INTERPRETATION AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY

1 DEFINED TERMS AND INTERPRETATION

1.1 In the articles, unless the context requires otherwise:

"Act" means the Companies Act 2006.

"articles" means the Company's articles of association.

"bankruptcy" includes individual insolvency proceedings in a jurisdiction other than England and Wales or Northern Ireland which have an effect similar to that of bankruptcy.

"chairman" has the meaning given in article 14.

"chairman of the meeting" has the meaning given in article 52.

"Companies Acts" means the Companies Acts (as defined in section 2 of the Act) and all statutory instruments and other subordinate legislation made under them, in so far as they apply to the Company.

"director" means a director for the time being of the Company, and includes any person occupying the position of director, by whatever name called.

"distribution recipient" has the meaning given in article 40.

"document" includes, unless otherwise specified, any document sent or supplied in electronic form.

"electronic form" and **"electronic means"** have the meaning given in section 1168 of the Act.

"fully paid" in relation to a share, means that the nominal value and any premium to be paid to the Company in respect of that share have been paid to the Company.

"hard copy form" has the meaning given in section 1168 of the Act.

"holder" in relation to shares means the person whose name is entered in the register of members as the holder of the shares.

"instrument" means a document in hard copy form.

"Model Articles" means the model articles for private companies limited by shares contained in Schedule 1 of the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 (SI 2008/3229).

"ordinary resolution" has the meaning given in section 282 of the Act.

"Ordinary Shares" means the ordinary shares of £0.001 each in the capital of the Company.

"paid" means paid or credited as paid.

"participate" in relation to a directors' meeting, has the meaning given in article 12.

"proxy notice" has the meaning given in article 58.

"shareholder" means a person who is the holder of a share.

"shares" means shares in the Company.

"special resolution" has the meaning given in section 283 of the Act.

"subsidiary" has the meaning given in section 1159 of the Act.

"transmittee" means a person entitled to a share by reason of the death or bankruptcy of a shareholder or otherwise by operation of law.

"working day" has the meaning given in section 1173(1) of the Act.

"writing" and **"written"** means the representation or reproduction of words, symbols or other information in a visible form by any method or combination of methods, whether sent or supplied in electronic form or otherwise.

1.2 Unless the context otherwise requires, other words or expressions contained in these articles bear the same meaning as in the Act as in force on the date when these articles become binding on the Company.

1.3 If, and for so long as, the Company has only one director, all references in these articles to **"directors"** shall be construed as a reference to that sole director.

2 EXCLUSION OF MODEL ARTICLES

The Model Articles shall not apply to the Company.

3 LIABILITY OF MEMBERS

The liability of the members is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid on the shares held by them.

PART 2

DIRECTORS

DIRECTORS' POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4 DIRECTORS' GENERAL AUTHORITY

Subject to the articles, the directors are responsible for the management of the Company's business, for which purpose they may exercise all the powers of the Company.

5 SHAREHOLDERS' RESERVE POWER

5.1 The shareholders may, by special resolution, direct the directors to take, or refrain from taking, specified action.

5.2 No such special resolution invalidates anything which the directors have done before the passing of the resolution.

6 DIRECTORS MAY DELEGATE

6.1 Subject to the articles, the directors may delegate any of the powers which are conferred on them under the articles:

- (a) to such person or committee;
- (b) by such means (including by power of attorney);
- (c) to such an extent;
- (d) in relation to such matters or territories; and
- (e) on such terms and conditions,

as they think fit.

6.2 If the directors so specify, any such delegation may authorise further delegation of the directors' powers by any person to whom they are delegated.

6.3 The directors may revoke any delegation in whole or part, or alter its terms and conditions.

7 COMMITTEES

7.1 Committees to which the directors delegate any of their powers must follow procedures which are based as far as they are applicable on those provisions of the articles which govern decision-making by directors.

7.2 The directors may make rules of procedure for all or any committees, which prevail over rules derived from the articles if they are not consistent with them.

DECISION MAKING BY DIRECTORS

8 DIRECTORS TO TAKE DECISIONS COLLECTIVELY

- 8.1 The general rule about decision-making by directors is that any decision of the directors must be:
- (a) a majority decision at a meeting;
 - (b) a majority decision by a directors' written resolution adopted in accordance with article 9; or
 - (c) an unanimous decision taken in accordance with article 10.
- 8.2 If, and for so long as, the Company has only one director, the general rule does not apply, and the director may take decisions without regard to any of the provisions of the articles relating to directors' decision-making.

9 DIRECTORS' WRITTEN RESOLUTIONS

- 9.1 Any director may propose a directors' written resolution and the company secretary (if any) must propose a directors' written resolution if a director so requests.
- 9.2 Subject to article 9.3, a directors' written resolution is proposed by giving notice in writing of the proposed resolution to each director, unless the director is absent from the United Kingdom and has not given the Company an address to which such notices may be given by electronic means during his absence.
- 9.3 Any director may waive his entitlement to notice of any proposed directors' written resolution, either prospectively or retrospectively, and any retrospective waiver shall not affect the validity of the directors' written resolution.
- 9.4 A proposed directors' written resolution is adopted when a majority of the eligible directors have signed one or more copies of it, provided that those directors would have formed a quorum at a directors' meeting had the resolution been proposed at such a meeting. Once a directors' written resolution has been adopted, it must be treated as if it had been a decision taken at a directors' meeting in accordance with the articles.

10 UNANIMOUS DECISIONS

- 10.1 A decision of the directors is taken in accordance with this article when all eligible directors indicate to each other by any means that they share a common view on a matter.
- 10.2 Such a decision may take the form of a resolution in writing, copies of which each eligible director has signed one or more copies or to which each eligible director has otherwise indicated agreement in writing.
- 10.3 References in this article to eligible directors are to directors who would have been entitled to vote on the matter had it been proposed as a resolution at a directors' meeting.

- 10.4 A decision may not be taken in accordance with this article if the eligible directors would not have formed a quorum at such a meeting.

11 CALLING A DIRECTORS' MEETING

- 11.1 Any director may call a directors' meeting by giving notice of the meeting to the directors or by authorising the company secretary (if any) to give such notice.
- 11.2 Notice of any directors' meeting must indicate:
- (a) its proposed date and time;
 - (b) where it is to take place; and
 - (c) if it is anticipated that directors participating in the meeting will not be in the same place, how it is proposed that they should communicate with each other during the meeting.
- 11.3 Subject to article 11.4, notice of a directors' meeting must be given to each director, unless the director is absent from the United Kingdom and has not given the Company an address to which such notices may be given by electronic means during his absence. Notice does not need to be in writing. A director who participates in a meeting shall be deemed to have received proper notice of the meeting.
- 11.4 Any director may waive his entitlement to notice of any directors' meeting, either prospectively or retrospectively, and any retrospective waiver shall not affect the validity of the meeting or of any business conducted at it.

12 PARTICIPATION IN DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

- 12.1 Subject to the articles, the directors participate in a directors' meeting, or part of a directors' meeting, when:
- (a) the meeting has been called and takes place in accordance with the articles; and
 - (b) they can each communicate to the others any information or opinions they have on any particular item of the business of the meeting.
- 12.2 In determining whether directors are participating in a directors' meeting, it is irrelevant where any director is or how they communicate with each other.
- 12.3 If all the directors participating in a meeting are not in the same place, they may decide that the meeting is to be treated as taking place wherever any of them is.

13 QUORUM FOR DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

- 13.1 At a directors' meeting, unless a quorum is participating, no proposal is to be voted on, except a proposal to call another meeting.
- 13.2 The quorum for directors' meetings may be fixed from time to time by a decision of the directors. Other than where the Company has a sole director, the quorum must never be less than two, and unless otherwise fixed it is two.

- 13.3 If the Company has a sole director the quorum provisions do not apply.
- 13.4 If the total number of directors for the time being is less than the quorum required, the directors must not take any decision other than a decision:
- (a) to appoint further directors; or
 - (b) to call a general meeting so as to enable the shareholders to appoint further directors.

14 CHAIRING OF DIRECTORS' MEETINGS

- 14.1 The directors may appoint a director to chair their meetings.
- 14.2 The person so appointed for the time being is known as the chairman.
- 14.3 The directors may terminate the chairman's appointment at any time.
- 14.4 If the directors have not appointed a chairman, or if the chairman is not participating in a directors' meeting within 10 minutes of the time at which it was to start, the participating directors must appoint one of themselves to chair it.

15 VOTING AT DIRECTORS' MEETINGS: GENERAL RULES

- 15.1 Subject to the articles, a decision is taken at a directors' meeting by a majority of the votes of the participating directors.
- 15.2 Subject to the articles, each director participating in a directors' meeting has one vote.
- 15.3 Subject to the articles, if a director has an interest in an actual or proposed transaction or arrangement with the company that director may not vote on any proposal relating to it.

16 CASTING VOTE

- 16.1 Subject to article 16.2, if the numbers of votes for and against a proposal are equal, the chairman or other director chairing the meeting has a casting vote.
- 16.2 Article 16.1 does not apply if, in accordance with the articles, the chairman or other director is not to be counted as participating in the decision-making process for quorum or voting purposes.

17 PARTICIPATING AND VOTING WHEN DIRECTOR INTERESTED

- 17.1 A director shall not be counted as participating for quorum or voting purposes in a decision at a directors' meeting to authorise a matter for the purposes of section 175 of the Act if, in accordance with section 175(6) of the Act, the matter is such that the authorisation would only be effective if:
- (a) any requirement as to the quorum at the directors' meeting at which the matter is considered is met without him counting; and

- (b) the matter was agreed to without him voting or would have been agreed to if his vote had not been counted.

17.2 Without prejudice to the obligations of any director:

- (a) to disclose any interest in proposed or existing transactions or arrangements with the Company in accordance with the Companies Acts; and
- (b) to disclose any interest in accordance with article 21.1,

and subject always to article 17.1 and the terms on which any authorisation by the directors for the purposes of section 175 of the Act has been given, a director shall be counted as participating for quorum and voting purposes in any decision at a directors' meeting that is concerned with a matter in which he has, directly or indirectly, an interest.

- 17.3** For the purposes of any directors' meeting (or part of a directors' meeting) held to authorise a matter for the purposes of section 175 of the Act, if there is only one eligible director present other than the conflicted director(s), the quorum for such directors' meeting (or part of a directors' meeting) shall be one eligible director.
- 17.4** Subject to article 17.5, if a question arises at a directors' meeting as to the right of a director to be counted as participating for quorum or voting purposes in the meeting (or part of the meeting), the question may, before the conclusion of the meeting, be referred to the chairman whose ruling in relation to any director other than the chairman is to be final and conclusive.
- 17.5** If any question arises at a directors' meeting as to the right of the chairman to be counted as participating for quorum or voting purposes in the meeting (or part of the meeting), the question is to be decided by a decision of the directors at that meeting, for which purpose the chairman is not to be counted as participating for quorum or voting purposes.

18 DIRECTORS' DISCRETION TO MAKE FURTHER RULES

Subject to the articles, the directors may make any rule which they think fit about how they take decisions, and about how such rules are to be recorded or communicated to directors.

19 RECORDS OF DECISIONS TO BE KEPT

The directors must ensure that the Company keeps a record, in writing, for at least 10 years from the date of the decision recorded, of every unanimous or majority decision taken by the directors.

DIRECTORS' INTERESTS

20 TRANSACTIONS OR ARRANGEMENTS WITH THE COMPANY

Subject to compliance with the Companies Acts (including sections 177 (Duty to declare interest in proposed transaction or arrangement) and 182 (Declaration of interest in existing transaction or arrangement) of the Act), a director may be a party

to, or otherwise (directly or indirectly) interested in, any transaction or arrangement with the Company.

21 DIRECTORS' CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

21.1 Provided that a director has declared the nature and extent of his interest (other than a non-disclosable interest) to the other directors, he shall be authorised for the purposes of section 175 of the Act:

- (a) to hold office as a director or other officer of, be employed or engaged by, hold shares or other securities in, or otherwise be interested in, whether directly or indirectly, any group undertaking of the Company or any other undertaking in which the Company is otherwise (directly or indirectly) interested;
- (b) to participate in any scheme, transaction or arrangement for the benefit of employees or former employees of the Company or any group undertaking of the Company (including any pension fund or retirement, death or disability scheme or other bonus or employee benefit scheme);
- (c) to act as a trustee of any scheme for the benefit of employees or former employees of the Company or any group undertaking of the Company (including any pension, retirement, death or disability scheme or other bonus or employee benefit scheme);
- (d) to enter into, or otherwise be interested in, any transaction or arrangement in which the Company is (directly or indirectly) interested (other than a transaction or arrangement with the Company); and
- (e) to be a party to any transaction or arrangement with any group undertaking of the Company or any other undertaking in which the Company is otherwise (directly or indirectly) interested.

A **"non disclosable interest"** is an interest which cannot reasonably be regarded as likely to give rise to a conflict of interest or one that the other directors are already aware of or ought reasonably to be aware of.

21.2 The following provisions of this article apply to any authorisation of a matter by the directors for the purposes of section 175 of the Act:

- (a) an authorisation may extend to any actual or potential conflict of interest (including a conflict of interest and duty and a conflict of duties) which may reasonably be expected to arise out of the matter so authorised;
- (b) an authorisation shall be subject to such conditions or limitations as the directors may determine, whether at the time such authorisation is given or subsequently, and may be terminated by the directors at any time; and
- (c) a director must comply with any obligations imposed on him by the directors pursuant to any authorisation.

21.3 If a matter, office, employment, position, transaction or arrangement or interest has been authorised either pursuant to article 21.1 or by the directors in accordance with

section 175 of the Act, then the director in question shall not be required to disclose to the Company any confidential information relating to such matter, office, employment, position, transaction or arrangement or interest, or to use such information in relation to the Company's affairs, if to do so would result in a breach of a duty or obligation of confidence owed by him in relation to or in connection with that matter, office, employment, position, transaction or arrangement or interest.

22 ACCOUNTING FOR PROFIT WHEN INTERESTED

22.1 Subject always to the obligation of the director to disclose his interest in proposed or existing transactions or arrangements with the Company in accordance with the Companies Acts:

- (a) a director shall not be accountable to the Company for any profit, remuneration or other benefit which he (or a person connected with him as defined in section 252 of the Act) derives from or in connection with any interest (whether directly or indirectly) in any transaction or arrangement with the Company;
- (b) no such transaction or arrangement shall be liable to be avoided on the grounds of any such interest, profit, remuneration or benefit; and
- (c) the receipt of any such profit, remuneration or other benefit shall not constitute a breach of his duty under section 176 of the Act.

22.2 Subject always to the obligation of the director to disclose his interest in accordance with the Companies Acts and article 21.1 and to the terms on which any authorisation for the purposes of section 175 of the Act has been given:

- (a) a director shall not be accountable to the Company for any profit, remuneration or other benefit which he (or a person connected with him as defined in section 252 of the Act) derives from or in connection with anything authorised pursuant to articles 20 and 21.1 or by the directors for the purposes of section 175 of the Act;
- (b) no such thing authorised shall be liable to be avoided on the grounds of any such interest, profit, remuneration or benefit; and
- (c) the receipt of any such profit, remuneration or other benefit shall not constitute a breach of his duty under section 176 of the Act.

23 APPOINTMENT AND REMOVAL OF DIRECTORS

23.1 The holder or holders of more than half in nominal value of the issued Ordinary Shares in the capital of the Company may at any time and from time to time appoint any person who is willing to act as a director, and is permitted by law to do so, to be a director (provided that any such appointment does not cause the number of directors to exceed a number which may be fixed from time to time as the maximum number) and may remove any director or directors from office (whether or not appointed pursuant to this article 23).

23.2 Any appointment or removal of a director pursuant to this article shall be made by notice in writing and signed by or on behalf of the relevant holder or holders and

served on the Company marked for the attention of the board of directors or delivered to a duly constituted meeting of the directors.

23.3 Any such appointment or removal shall take effect when received by the Company or at such later time as shall be specified in such notice.

23.4 Any removal of a director pursuant to article 23.1 shall be without prejudice to any claim for breach of contract under any employment agreement between the Company and the director so removed.

24 TERMINATION OF DIRECTOR'S APPOINTMENT

A person ceases to be a director as soon as:

- (a) that person is removed as a director by ordinary resolution;
- (b) that person ceases to be a director by virtue of any provision of the Companies Acts (including pursuant to section 168 of the Act) or is prohibited from being a director by law;
- (c) a bankruptcy order is made against that person;
- (d) a composition is made with that person's creditors generally in satisfaction of that person's debts;
- (e) a registered medical practitioner who is treating that person gives a written opinion to the Company stating that that person has become physically or mentally incapable of acting as a director and may remain so for more than three months; or
- (f) notice in writing is received by the Company from the director that he is resigning from office, and such resignation has taken effect in accordance with its terms.

25 DIRECTORS' REMUNERATION

25.1 Directors may undertake any services for the Company that the directors decide.

25.2 Directors are entitled to such remuneration as the directors determine:

- (a) for their services to the Company as directors; and
- (b) for any other service which they undertake for the Company.

25.3 Subject to the articles, a director's remuneration may:

- (a) take any form; and
- (b) include any arrangements in connection with the payment of a pension, allowance or gratuity, or any death, sickness or disability benefits, to or in respect of that director.

- 25.4 Unless the directors decide otherwise, directors' remuneration accrues from day to day.

26 DIRECTORS' EXPENSES

The Company may pay any reasonable expenses which the directors and the Company secretary (if any) properly incur in connection with their attendance at:

- (a) meetings of directors or committees of directors;
- (b) general meetings; or
- (c) separate meetings of the holders of any class of shares or of debentures of the Company;

or otherwise in connection with the exercise of their powers and the discharge of their responsibilities in relation to the Company.

- (d)

COMPANY SECRETARY

27 SECRETARY'S TERM OF OFFICE

The directors may appoint any person who is willing to act to be the company secretary for such term and on such conditions as they think fit, and may remove any company secretary so appointed.

PART 3

SHARES AND DISTRIBUTIONS

SHARES

28 SHARE RIGHTS

28.1 The Ordinary Shares shall have the following rights:

- (a) the holders of Ordinary Shares shall be entitled to receive notice of, attend and speak at any general meeting of the Company. On a vote by way of a show of hands, the holders of Ordinary Shares present (in person or by proxy or by duly authorised representative) shall be entitled to one vote, and on a vote by poll shall be entitled to one vote per Ordinary Share held by him;
- (b) any dividends declared and paid by the Company shall belong to and be paid to the holders of Ordinary Shares in proportion to the number of Ordinary Shares held by them; and
- (c) on a return of capital, whether pursuant to a winding-up, capital reduction or otherwise (other than a redemption or lawful purchase by the Company of its own shares made in accordance with these articles), the assets and retained profits of the Company available for distribution remaining after the payment of its liabilities shall belong to and be paid to the holders of Ordinary Shares in proportion to the number of Ordinary Shares held by them.

29 ISSUE OF SHARES

- 29.1 Save to the extent authorised from time to time by ordinary resolution, the directors must not exercise any power of the Company to allot shares in the Company or to grant rights to subscribe for, or to convert any security into, shares in the Company.
- 29.2 In accordance with section 567(1) of the Act, sections 561 and 562 of the Act shall not apply to an allotment of equity securities (within the meaning of section 560 of the Act) by the Company.

30 POWERS TO ISSUE DIFFERENT CLASSES OF SHARE

- 30.1 Subject to the articles, but without prejudice to the rights attached to any existing share, the Company may issue shares with such rights or restrictions as may be determined by ordinary resolution.
- 30.2 The Company may issue shares which are to be redeemed, or are liable to be redeemed at the option of the Company or the holder. The terms, conditions and manner of redemption of any such shares may be determined by the directors or otherwise shall be set out in the articles.

31 COMPANY NOT BOUND BY LESS THAN ABSOLUTE INTERESTS

Except as required by law, no person is to be recognised by the Company as holding any share upon any trust, and except as otherwise required by law or the articles, the

Company is not in any way to be bound by or recognise any interest in a share other than the holder's absolute ownership of it and all the rights attaching to it.

32 SHARE CERTIFICATES

- 32.1 The Company must issue each shareholder, free of charge, with one or more certificates in respect of the shares which that shareholder holds.
- 32.2 Every certificate must specify:
- (a) in respect of how many shares, of what class, it is issued;
 - (b) the nominal value of those shares;
 - (c) the amount paid up on them (including both the nominal value and any share premium); and
 - (d) any distinguishing numbers assigned to them.
- 32.3 No certificate may be issued in respect of shares of more than one class.
- 32.4 If more than one person holds a share, only one certificate may be issued in respect of it.
- 32.5 Certificates must be executed in accordance with the Companies Acts.

33 REPLACEMENT SHARE CERTIFICATES

- 33.1 If a certificate issued in respect of a shareholder's shares is:
- (a) damaged or defaced; or
 - (b) said to be lost, stolen or destroyed;
- that shareholder is entitled to be issued with a replacement certificate in respect of the same shares.
- 33.2 A shareholder exercising the right to be issued with such a replacement certificate:
- (a) may at the same time exercise the right to be issued with a single certificate or separate certificates;
 - (b) must return the certificate which is to be replaced to the Company if it is damaged or defaced; and
 - (c) must comply with such conditions as to evidence, indemnity and the payment of a reasonable fee as the directors decide.

34 SHARE TRANSFERS

- 34.1 Shares may be transferred by means of an instrument of transfer in any usual form or any other form approved by the directors, which is executed by or on behalf of the

transferor and (if any of the shares are not fully paid) by and on behalf of the transferee.

- 34.2 No fee may be charged for registering any instrument of transfer or other document relating to or affecting the title to any share.
- 34.3 The Company may retain any instrument of transfer which is registered.
- 34.4 The transferor remains the holder of a share until the transferee's name is entered in the register of members as holder of it.
- 34.5 The directors may not refuse to register the transfer of a share unless it is not duly stamped (or it is not duly certified or otherwise shown to the satisfaction of the directors to be exempt from stamp duty) or they suspect that the proposed transfer may be fraudulent.

35 SECURED INSTITUTIONS

- 35.1 Notwithstanding anything contained in these Articles, the directors may not decline to register any transfer of shares in the Company and may not suspend any registration thereof, where such transfer is:
 - (a) to a bank or institution to which such shares have been mortgaged or charged by way of security (whether as lender, or agent and trustee for a group of banks or institutions or otherwise) (a "**Secured Institution**"), or to any nominee of such Secured Institution, pursuant to any such security;
 - (b) executed by a Secured Institution or its nominee pursuant to the power of sale or other power under any such security; or
 - (c) executed by a receiver or manager appointed by or on behalf of any Secured Institution or its nominee, under any such security.
- 35.2 Further to Article 35.1, notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in these Articles:
 - (a) no transferor of any shares in the Company or proposed transferor of such shares to a Secured Institution or to its nominee;
 - (b) no Secured Institution or its nominee; and
 - (c) no receiver or manager appointed by or on behalf of a Secured Institution or its nominee,

shall be required to offer the shares which are or are to be the subject of any such transfer to the shareholders for the time being of the Company or any of them, and no such shareholder shall have any right under these Articles or otherwise to require such shares to be transferred to them whether for consideration or not.

36 TRANSMISSION OF SHARES

- 36.1 If title to a share passes to a transmittee, the Company shall recognise only the transmittee as having any title to that share, but nothing in the articles releases the

estate of a deceased shareholder from any liability in respect of a share solely or jointly held by that shareholder.

36.2 A transmittee who produces such evidence of entitlement to shares as the directors may properly require:

- (a) may, subject to the articles, choose either to become the holder of those shares or to have them transferred to another person; and
- (b) subject to the articles, and pending any transfer of the shares to another person, has the same rights as the holder had.

36.3 But transmittees do not have the right to attend or vote at a general meeting, or to agree to a proposed written resolution, in respect of shares to which they are entitled, by reason of the holder's death or bankruptcy or otherwise, unless they become the holders of those shares.

37 EXERCISE OF TRANSMITTEES' RIGHTS

37.1 Transmittees who wish to become the holders of shares to which they have become entitled must notify the Company in writing of that wish.

37.2 If the transmittee wishes to have a share transferred to another person, the transmittee must execute an instrument of transfer in respect of it.

37.3 Any transfer made or executed under this article is to be treated as if it were made or executed by the person from whom the transmittee has derived rights in respect of the share, and as if the event which gave rise to the transmission had not occurred.

38 TRANSMITTEES BOUND BY PRIOR NOTICES

If a notice, document or other information is served on or sent or supplied to a shareholder in respect of shares and a transmittee is entitled to those shares, the transmittee is bound by the notice, document or other information if it was served on or sent or supplied to the shareholder before the transmittee's name, or the name of any person nominated under article 36.2(a), has been entered in the register of members.

DIVIDENDS AND OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS

39 PROCEDURE FOR DECLARING DIVIDENDS

39.1 The Company may by ordinary resolution declare dividends, and the directors may decide to pay interim dividends.

39.2 A dividend must not be declared unless the directors have made a recommendation as to its amount. Such a dividend must not exceed the amount recommended by the directors.

39.3 No dividend may be declared or paid unless it is in accordance with shareholders' respective rights.

- 39.4 Unless the shareholders' resolution to declare or directors' decision to pay a dividend, or the rights attached to any shares, specify otherwise, a dividend must be paid by reference to each shareholder's holding of shares on the date of the resolution or decision to declare or pay it.
- 39.5 If the Company's share capital is divided into different classes, no interim dividend may be paid on shares carrying deferred or non-preferred rights if, at the time of payment, any preferential dividend is in arrear.
- 39.6 The directors may pay at intervals any dividend payable at a fixed rate if it appears to them that the profits available for distribution justify the payment.
- 39.7 If the directors act in good faith, they do not incur any liability to the holders of shares conferring preferred rights for any loss they may suffer by the lawful payment of an interim dividend on shares with deferred or non-preferred rights.

40 CALCULATION OF DIVIDENDS

- 40.1 Except as otherwise provided by the articles or the rights attached to shares, all dividends must be declared and paid in proportions based on the amounts paid up on the nominal value of the shares during any portion or portions of the period in respect of which the dividend is paid.
- 40.2 If any share is issued on terms providing that such share shall be entitled to a dividend as if the nominal value of it were fully paid or partly paid from a particular date (in the past or the future), then such share shall be entitled to a dividend on that basis.

41 PAYMENT OF DIVIDENDS AND OTHER DISTRIBUTIONS

- 41.1 Where a dividend or other sum which is a distribution is payable in respect of a share, it must be paid by one or more of the following means:
- (a) transfer to a bank or building society account specified by the distribution recipient either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide;
 - (b) sending by post a cheque made payable to the distribution recipient to the distribution recipient at the distribution recipient's registered address (if the distribution recipient is a holder of the share), or (in any other case) to an address specified by the distribution recipient either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide;
 - (c) sending by post a cheque made payable to such person, and sent to such person at such address as the distribution recipient has specified either in writing or as the directors may otherwise decide; or
 - (d) any other means of payment as the directors agree with the distribution recipient either in writing or by such other means as the directors decide.
- 41.2 In the articles, the "**distribution recipient**" means, in respect of a share in respect of which a dividend or other sum is payable:
- (a) the holder of the share; or

- (b) if the share has two or more joint holders, whichever of them is named first in the register of members; or
- (c) if the holder is no longer entitled to the share by reason of death or bankruptcy, or otherwise by operation of law, the transmittee.

42 NO INTEREST ON DISTRIBUTIONS

The Company may not pay interest on any dividend or other sum payable in respect of a share unless otherwise provided by:

- (a) the rights attached to the share; or
- (b) the provisions of another agreement between the holder of that share and the Company.

43 UNCLAIMED DISTRIBUTIONS

43.1 All dividends or other sums which are:

- (a) payable in respect of shares; and
- (b) unclaimed after having been declared or become payable;

may be invested or otherwise made use of by the directors for the benefit of the Company until claimed.

43.2 The payment of any such dividend or other sum into a separate account does not make the Company a trustee in respect of it.

43.3 If:

- (a) 12 years have passed from the date on which a dividend or other sum became due for payment; and
- (b) the distribution recipient has not claimed it;

the distribution recipient is no longer entitled to that dividend or other sum and it ceases to remain owing by the Company.

44 NON-CASH DISTRIBUTIONS

44.1 Subject to the terms of issue of the share in question, the Company may, by ordinary resolution on the recommendation of the directors, decide to pay all or part of a dividend or other distribution payable in respect of a share by transferring non-cash assets of equivalent value (including, without limitation, shares or other securities in any company).

44.2 For the purposes of paying a non-cash distribution, the directors may make whatever arrangements they think fit, including, where any difficulty arises regarding the distribution:

- (a) fixing the value of any assets;

- (b) paying cash to any distribution recipient on the basis of that value in order to adjust the rights of recipients; and
- (c) vesting any assets in trustees.

45 WAIVER OF DISTRIBUTIONS

Distribution recipients may waive their entitlement to a dividend or other distribution payable in respect of a share by giving the Company notice in writing to that effect, but if:

- (a) the share has more than one holder; or
- (b) more than one person is entitled to the share, whether by reason of the death or bankruptcy of one or more joint holders; or otherwise;

the notice is not effective unless it is expressed to be given, and signed, by all the holders or persons otherwise entitled to the share.

CAPITALISATION OF PROFITS

46 AUTHORITY TO CAPITALISE AND APPROPRIATION OF CAPITALISED SUMS.

46.1 Subject to the articles, the directors may, if they are so authorised by an ordinary resolution:

- (a) decide to capitalise any profits of the Company (whether or not they are available for distribution) which are not required for paying a preferential dividend, or any sum standing to the credit of any other reserve of the Company (including any share premium account, capital redemption reserve or other undistributable reserve); and
- (b) appropriate any sum which they so decide to capitalise ("**capitalised sum**") to the persons who would have been entitled to it if it were distributed by way of dividend ("**persons entitled**") and in the same proportions as their entitlement to dividends ("**relevant proportions**").

46.2 Capitalised sums must be applied on behalf of the persons entitled and in the relevant proportions.

46.3 Any capitalised sum may be applied in paying up new shares of a nominal amount equal to the capitalised sum, which are then allotted, credited as fully paid, to the persons entitled or as they may direct.

46.4 A capitalised sum which was appropriated from profits available for distribution may be applied:

- (a) in or towards paying up any amounts unpaid on existing shares held by the persons entitled (whether as to the nominal value of the shares or any amount payable to the Company by way of premium); or
- (b) in paying up new debentures of the Company which are then allotted, credited as fully paid, to the persons entitled or as they may direct.

46.5 Subject to the articles, the directors may:

- (a) apply capitalised sums in accordance with articles 46.3 and 46.4 partly in one way and partly in another;
- (b) make such arrangements as they think fit where any difficulty arises with regard to any distribution of any capitalised sum; and, in particular, in the case of shares or debentures becoming distributable under this article 46 in fractions, the directors may decide that the benefit of fractional entitlements belongs to the Company, that fractions are to be ignored, to make payments in cash in lieu of fractional entitlements, or otherwise deal with fractions as they think fit;
- (c) authorise any person to enter into an agreement with the Company on behalf of all the persons entitled which is binding on them in respect of the allotment of shares and debentures to them under this article; and
- (d) generally do all acts and things required to give effect to the ordinary resolution.

47 CAPITALISATION TO DEAL WITH FRACTIONS ARISING ON A CONSOLIDATION OF SHARES

Whenever, as the result of any consolidation or consolidation and division of shares, any shareholders would become entitled to fractions of shares, the directors may, subject to the provisions of the Companies Acts, allot to each such shareholder, credited as fully paid by way of capitalisation, the minimum number of new shares required to round up his holding following the consolidation to a whole number (such allotment being deemed to have been effected immediately before consolidation). For such purpose, the directors may:

- (a) capitalise a sum equal to the aggregate nominal amount of the new shares to be allotted on that basis out of any profits or reserve referred to in article 46.1(a);
- (b) appropriate and apply such sum in paying up in full the appropriate number of new shares for allotment and distribution to such shareholders on that basis; and
- (c) generally do all acts and things required to give effect to any capitalisation pursuant to this article 47.

PART 4

DECISION MAKING BY SHAREHOLDERS

WRITTEN RESOLUTIONS

48 WRITTEN RESOLUTIONS

A resolution of the shareholders (or a class of shareholders) may be passed as a written resolution in accordance with Chapter 2 of Part 13 of the Act.

GENERAL MEETINGS

ORGANISATION OF GENERAL MEETINGS

49 CALLING GENERAL MEETINGS

49.1 If there are not within the United Kingdom sufficient directors to call a general meeting, any director or any shareholder of the Company may call a general meeting.

49.2 If, and for so long as, the Company has only a single shareholder, such shareholder shall be entitled at any time to call a general meeting.

49.3 A shareholder present in person or by proxy at a general meeting shall be deemed to have received proper notice of the meeting and, if required, of the purposes for which it was called.

50 ATTENDANCE AND SPEAKING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

50.1 A person is able to exercise the right to speak at a general meeting when that person is in a position to communicate to all those attending the meeting, during the meeting, any information or opinions which that person has on the business of the meeting.

50.2 A person is able to exercise the right to vote at a general meeting when:

- (a) that person is able to vote, during the meeting, on resolutions put to the vote at the meeting; and
- (b) that person's vote can be taken into account in determining whether or not such resolutions are passed at the same time as the votes of all the other persons attending the meeting.

50.3 The directors may make whatever arrangements they consider appropriate to enable those attending a general meeting to exercise their rights to speak or vote at it.

50.4 In determining attendance at a general meeting, it is immaterial whether any two or more shareholders attending it are in the same place as each other.

50.5 Two or more persons who are not in the same place as each other attend a general meeting if their circumstances are such that if they have (or were to have) rights to speak and vote at that meeting, they are (or would be) able to exercise them.

51 QUORUM FOR GENERAL MEETINGS

No business other than the appointment of the chairman of the meeting is to be transacted at a general meeting if the persons attending it do not constitute a quorum.

52 CHAIRING GENERAL MEETINGS

52.1 If the directors have appointed a chairman, the chairman shall chair general meetings if present and willing to do so.

52.2 If the directors have not appointed a chairman, or if the chairman is unwilling to chair the meeting or is not present within 10 minutes of the time at which a meeting was due to start:

- (a) the directors present; or
- (b) (if no directors are present within 10 minutes of the time at which a meeting was due to start), the meeting,

must appoint a director or shareholder to chair the meeting, and the appointment of the chairman of the meeting must be the first business of the meeting.

52.3 The person chairing a meeting in accordance with this article is referred to as **"the chairman of the meeting"**.

53 ATTENDANCE AND SPEAKING BY DIRECTORS AND NON-SHAREHOLDERS

53.1 Directors may attend and speak at general meetings, whether or not they are shareholders.

53.2 The chairman of the meeting may permit other persons who are not:

- (a) shareholders of the Company; or
- (b) otherwise entitled to exercise the rights of shareholders in relation to general meetings;

to attend and speak at a general meeting.

54 ADJOURNMENT

54.1 If the persons attending a general meeting within half an hour of the time at which the meeting was due to start do not constitute a quorum, or if during a meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the chairman of the meeting must adjourn it. If at such an adjourned meeting the persons attending within half an hour of the time at which the meeting was due to start do not constitute a quorum, or if during such an adjourned meeting a quorum ceases to be present, the meeting shall be dissolved.

54.2 The chairman of the meeting may adjourn a general meeting at which a quorum is present if:

- (a) the meeting consents to an adjournment; or

- (b) it appears to the chairman of the meeting that an adjournment is necessary to protect the safety of any person attending the meeting or ensure that the business of the meeting is conducted in an orderly manner.
- 54.3 The chairman of the meeting must adjourn a general meeting if directed to do so by the meeting.
- 54.4 When adjourning a general meeting, the chairman of the meeting must:
 - (a) either specify the time and place to which it is adjourned or state that it is to continue at a time and place to be fixed by the directors; and
 - (b) have regard to any directions as to the time and place of any adjournment which have been given by the meeting.
- 54.5 If the continuation of an adjourned meeting is to take place more than 14 days after it was adjourned, the Company must give at least seven clear days' notice of it (that is, excluding the day on which the notice is given and the day of the adjourned meeting and):
 - (a) to the same persons to whom notice of the Company's general meetings is required to be given; and
 - (b) in the same manner in which such notice is required to be given and containing the same information which such notice is required to contain.
- 54.6 No business may be transacted at an adjourned general meeting which could not properly have been transacted at the meeting if the adjournment had not taken place.

VOTING AT GENERAL MEETINGS

55 VOTING: GENERAL

A resolution put to the vote of a general meeting must be decided on a show of hands unless a poll is duly demanded in accordance with the articles.

56 ERRORS AND DISPUTES

- 56.1 No objection may be raised to the qualification of any person voting at a general meeting except at the meeting or adjourned meeting at which the vote objected to is tendered, and every vote not disallowed at the meeting is valid.
- 56.2 Any such objection must be referred to the chairman of the meeting, whose decision is final.

57 POLL VOTES

- 57.1 A poll on a resolution may be demanded:
 - (a) in advance of the general meeting where it is to be put to the vote; or
 - (b) at a general meeting, either before a show of hands on that resolution or immediately after the result of a show of hands on that resolution is declared.

57.2 A poll may be demanded by:

- (a) the chairman of the meeting;
- (b) the directors;
- (c) two or more persons having the right to vote on the resolution;
- (d) a person or persons representing not less than 10 per cent of the total voting rights of all the shareholders having the right to vote on the resolution; or
- (e) a person or persons who hold (or are representing a holder or holders of) shares conferring a right to vote on the resolution, being shares on which an aggregate sum has been paid up equal to not less than 10 per cent of the total sum paid up on all the shares conferring the right to vote on the resolution.

57.3 A demand for a poll may be withdrawn if:

- (a) the poll has not yet been taken; and
- (b) the chairman of the meeting consents to the withdrawal.

57.4 A demand so withdrawn shall not invalidate the result of a show of hands declared before the demand was made.

57.5 Polls must be taken immediately and in such manner as the chairman of the meeting directs.

58 CONTENT OF PROXY NOTICES

58.1 Proxies may only validly be appointed by a notice in writing ("**proxy notice**") which:

- (a) states the name and address of the shareholder appointing the proxy;
- (b) identifies the person appointed to be that shareholder's proxy and the general meeting in relation to which that person is appointed;
- (c) is signed by or on behalf of the shareholder appointing the proxy, or is authenticated in such manner as the directors may determine;
- (d) is delivered to the Company in accordance with the articles and any instructions contained in the notice of the general meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates; and
- (e) is received by the Company no later than 48 hours (excluding any part of a day that is not a working day) before the time appointed for the commencement of the general meeting or adjourned meeting to which the proxy relates or such later time as the directors may determine.

58.2 The Company may require proxy notices to be delivered in a particular form, and may specify different forms for different purposes.

58.3 Proxy notices may specify how the proxy appointed under them is to vote (or that the proxy is to abstain from voting) on one or more resolutions.

58.4 Unless a proxy notice indicates otherwise, it must be treated as:

- (a) allowing the person appointed under it as a proxy discretion as to how to vote on any ancillary or procedural resolutions put to the meeting; and
- (b) appointing that person as a proxy in relation to any adjournment of the general meeting to which it relates as well as the meeting itself.

59 DELIVERY OF PROXY NOTICES

59.1 A person who is entitled to attend, speak or vote (either on a show of hands or on a poll) at a general meeting remains so entitled in respect of that meeting or any adjournment of it, even though a valid proxy notice has been delivered to the Company by or on behalf of that person. However, if that person votes at the meeting or adjourned meeting on a resolution, then as regards that resolution any proxy notice delivered to the Company by or on behalf of that person shall:

- (a) on a show of hands, be invalid;
- (b) on a poll, be invalid to the extent that such person votes in respect of the shares to which the proxy notice relates.

59.2 An appointment under a proxy notice may be revoked by delivering to the Company a notice in writing given by or on behalf of the person by whom or on whose behalf the proxy notice was given.

59.3 A notice revoking a proxy appointment only takes effect if it is received by the Company before the commencement of the meeting or adjourned meeting to which it relates.

59.4 If a proxy notice is not executed by the person appointing the proxy, it must be accompanied by written evidence of the authority of the person who executed it to execute it on the appointor's behalf.

59.5 When two or more valid but different proxy notices are received in respect of the same share for use at the same meeting or adjourned meeting, the one which is last validly received (regardless of its date or the date of its execution) shall be treated as replacing and revoking the other(s) as regards that share. If the Company is unable to determine which was last received, none of them shall be treated as valid in respect of that share.

60 NO VOTING OF SHARES ON WHICH MONEY OWED TO THE COMPANY

Unless the directors otherwise determine, no voting rights attached to a share may be exercised unless all amounts (including the nominal value and any share premium) payable to the Company in respect of that share have been paid.

61 AMENDMENTS TO RESOLUTIONS

- 61.1 An ordinary resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution if:
- (a) notice of the proposed amendment is given to the Company in writing by a person entitled to vote at the general meeting at which it is to be proposed not less than 48 hours before the meeting is to take place (or such later time as the chairman of the meeting may determine); and
 - (b) the proposed amendment does not, in the reasonable opinion of the chairman of the meeting, materially alter the scope of the resolution.
- 61.2 A special resolution to be proposed at a general meeting may be amended by ordinary resolution, if:
- (a) the chairman of the meeting proposes the amendment at the general meeting at which the resolution is to be proposed; and
 - (b) the amendment does not go beyond what is necessary to correct a grammatical or other non-substantive error in the resolution.
- 61.3 If the chairman of the meeting, acting in good faith, wrongly decides that an amendment to a resolution is out of order, the chairman's error does not invalidate the vote on that resolution.

PART 5

ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS

62 FORM OF NOTICE

Any notice or other document to be given pursuant to the articles (other than a notice calling a meeting of the directors) must be in writing.

63 NOTICES TO THE COMPANY

Any notice, document or other information may be served on or sent or supplied to the Company by anyone:

- (a) by sending it through the post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the Company or any officer of the Company at its registered office or such other place in the United Kingdom as may from time to time be specified by the Company for that purpose;
- (b) by delivering it by hand to or leaving it at its registered office or such other place in the United Kingdom as may from time to time be specified by the Company for that purpose in an envelope addressed to the Company or any officer of the Company;
- (c) by sending or supplying it by electronic means to an address specified by the Company from time to time for that purpose; or
- (d) by any other means authorised in writing by the Company.

64 NOTICES TO SHAREHOLDERS AND TRANSMITTEES

64.1 Any notice, document or other information may be served on or sent or supplied to any shareholder:

- (a) personally;
- (b) by sending it through the post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the shareholder at his registered address;
- (c) by delivering it by hand to or leaving it at that address in an envelope addressed to the shareholder;
- (d) by sending or supplying it by electronic means to an address notified by the shareholder to the Company from time to time for that purpose; or
- (e) by any other means authorised in writing by the relevant shareholder.

64.2 Nothing in article 64.1 shall affect any provision of the Companies Acts requiring offers, notices or documents to be served on or sent or supplied to a shareholder in a particular way.

64.3 In the case of joint holders of a share:

- (a) all notices, documents or other information shall be served on or sent or supplied to the person named first in the register in respect of the joint holding, and notice so given shall be sufficient notice to all joint holders; and
- (b) any request for consent to the receipt of communications in electronic form shall be sent or supplied to the person named first in the register in respect of the joint holding, and any express consent given by such holder to the receipt of communications in such manner shall bind all joint holders.

64.4 Notices, documents or other information to be served on or sent or supplied to a transmittee may be served on or sent or supplied to him by name, or by the title of the representative of the deceased or trustee of the bankrupt (or by any like description), at an address supplied for the purpose by him. Articles 64.1 and 66 shall apply to any notice, document or information so served, sent or supplied as if references in those articles to:

- (a) **"shareholder"** are to the transmittee; and
- (b) a shareholder's **"registered address"** or **"address"** are to the address so supplied.

This article 64.4 is without prejudice to paragraph 17 of Schedule 5 to the Act.

65 NOTICES TO DIRECTORS

Any notice, document or other information may be served on or sent or supplied to a director by the Company or by any other director or the company secretary (if any):

- (a) personally;
- (b) by sending it through the post in a prepaid envelope addressed to the director at his registered address or such other postal address as may from time to time be specified by him for that purpose;
- (c) by delivering it by hand to or leaving it at that address in an envelope addressed to him;
- (d) by sending or supplying it by electronic means to an address specified from time to time by the director for that purpose; or
- (e) by any other means authorised in writing by the director.

66 SERVICE OF NOTICES ON SHAREHOLDERS OR DIRECTORS

Any notice, document or other information (other than any notice, document or other information given to the Company including, for the avoidance of doubt, the appointment of a proxy):

- (a) addressed to a shareholder or a director in the manner prescribed by the articles shall, if sent by post (whether in hard copy or electronic form), be deemed to have been received:
 - (i) (if prepaid as first class) 24 hours after it was posted;

(ii) (if prepaid as second class) 48 hours after it was posted;

(iii) (if prepaid as airmail) 72 hours after it was posted,

and, in proving such receipt, it shall be sufficient to prove that the envelope containing such notice, document or other information was properly addressed, prepaid and put in the post;

- (b) not sent by post, but addressed to a shareholder or a director and delivered by hand to or left at an address in accordance with the articles, shall be deemed to have been received on the day it was so delivered or left;
- (c) served, sent or supplied to a shareholder or a director by electronic means shall be deemed to have been received on the day it was sent, and, in proving such receipt, it shall be sufficient to show that such notice, document or information was properly addressed;
- (d) served, sent or supplied by any other means authorised in writing by the shareholder or the director shall be deemed to have been received when the Company has carried out the action it has been authorised to take for that purpose.

67 COMPANY SEALS

67.1 Any common seal may only be used by the authority of the directors.

67.2 The directors may decide by what means and in what form any common seal is to be used.

67.3 Unless otherwise decided by the directors, if the Company has a common seal and it is affixed to a document, the document must also be signed by:

- (a) two directors;
- (b) one director and the company secretary (if any); or
- (c) one authorised person in the presence of a witness who attests the signature.

67.4 For the purposes of this article, an authorised person is:

- (a) any director of the Company;
- (b) the company secretary (if any); or
- (c) any person authorised by the directors for the purpose of signing documents to which the common seal is applied.

68 NO RIGHT TO INSPECT ACCOUNTS AND OTHER RECORDS

Except as provided by law or authorised by the directors or an ordinary resolution of the Company, no person is entitled to inspect any of the Company's accounting or other records or documents merely by virtue of being a shareholder.

69 PROVISION FOR EMPLOYEES ON CESSATION OF BUSINESS

The directors may decide to make provision for the benefit of persons employed or formerly employed by the Company or any of its subsidiaries (other than a director or former director or shadow director) in connection with the cessation or transfer to any person of the whole or part of the undertaking of the Company or that subsidiary.

DIRECTORS' INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE

70 DIRECTORS' INDEMNITY AND INSURANCE

To the extent permitted by the Companies Acts, the Company may:

- (a) indemnify any director of the Company or of any associated company against any liability; and
- (b) purchase and maintain insurance against any liability for any director of the Company or of any associated company.