

## INDEPENDENT ASSURANCE STATEMENT

### The Board of Directors and Management

Axis Bank Limited,  
Axis House, Wadia International Center  
P.B. Marg, Worli  
Mumbai - 400 025

Ernst & Young Associates LLP (EY) was engaged by Axis Bank Limited (the 'Company') to provide independent assurance of its Sustainability Report (the 'Report') for the Financial Year 2020-21.

The sustainability data reported in the Report is based on Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Standards 2016 ('GRI Standards') and its subsequent updates in 2018 and 2020, and International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) Framework; its content and presentation is the sole responsibility of the management of the Company. EY's responsibility, as agreed with the management of the Company, is to provide independent assurance on the report content as described in the scope of assurance. Our responsibility in performing our assurance activities is to the management of the Company only and in accordance with the terms of reference agreed with the Company. We do not therefore accept or assume any responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person or organization. Any dependence that any such third party may place on the Report is entirely at its own risk. The assurance report should not be taken as a basis for interpreting the Company's overall performance, except for the aspects mentioned in the scope below.

### Scope of assurance

The scope of assurance covers the following aspects of the Report:

- ▶ Data and information related to the Company's sustainability performance for India operations pertaining to the GRI Standards listed for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021
- ▶ The Company's internal protocols, processes, and controls related to the collection and collation of specified sustainability performance data.
- ▶ Remote Verification of sample data and related information through consultations with the Company's representatives from Axis Bank corporate office.
- ▶ Review of data on a sample basis, pertaining to the following disclosures of the GRI Standards:
  - GRI 302: Energy 2016 - 302-1, 302-3, 302-4
  - GRI 303: Water and Effluents 2018- 303-5
  - GRI 305: Emissions 2016 - 305-1, 305-2, 305-3, 305-4, 305-5
  - GRI 306: Waste 2018- 306-2
  - GRI 401: Employment 2016 - 401-1, 401-2, 401-3
  - GRI 404: Training and Education 2016 - 404-1, 404-2, 404-3
  - GRI 413: Local Communities 2016 - 413-1, 413-2
  - GRI 417: Marketing and Labelling 2016 - 417-1, 417-2, 417-3
  - GRI 418: Customer Privacy 2016 - 418-1

### Limitations of our review

The assurance scope excludes:

- ▶ Operations of the Company other than those mentioned in the 'Scope of Assurance';
- ▶ Aspects of the Report and data/information other than those mentioned above;
- ▶ Data and information outside the defined reporting period *i.e.* 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021;
- ▶ The Company's statements that describe expression of opinion, belief, aspiration, expectation, aim or future intention provided by the Company;
- ▶ Review of the Company's compliance with regulations, acts, guidelines with respect to various regulatory agencies and other legal matters;
- ▶ Data and information on economic and financial performance of the Company

### Assurance criteria

The assurance engagement was planned and performed in accordance with the International Federation of Accountants' International Standard for Assurance Engagements Other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information (ISAE 3000). Our evidence-gathering procedures were designed to obtain a 'Limited' level of assurance (as set out in ISAE 3000) on reporting principles, as well as conformance of sustainability performance disclosures as per GRI Standards.

#### **What we did to form our conclusions**

In order to form our conclusions, we undertook the following key steps:

- ▶ Interviews with select key personnel and the core team responsible for the preparation of the Report to understand the Company's sustainability vision, mechanism for management of sustainability issues and engagement with key stakeholders;
- ▶ Interactions with the key personnel to understand and review the current processes in place for capturing sustainability performance data.
- ▶ Data assurance through desk reviews pertaining to disclosures mentioned in the 'Scope of Assurance' above.
- ▶ Review of relevant documents and systems for gathering, analyzing and aggregating sustainability performance data in the reporting period.
- ▶ Review of selected qualitative statements in various sections of the Report.

#### **Our observations**

The Company has demonstrated its commitment to sustainable development by reporting its performance on various material topics for FY 2020-21. The Company has prepared Report having sustainability data in accordance with GRI standards (Comprehensive). The Report includes a description of the Company's stakeholder engagement process, materiality assessment and relevant performance disclosures on the identified material topics. There is further scope to strengthen data management system to ensure uniform and accurate reporting. Areas of further improvement wherever identified have been brought before the attention of the management of the company. These observations do not affect our conclusion presented in this statement.

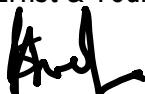
#### **Our conclusion**

On the basis of our review scope and methodology, nothing has come to our attention that causes us not to believe that the data has been presented fairly, in material respects, in keeping with the GRI Standards and the Company's reporting principles and criteria. Some data pertaining to key performance disclosures underwent change as part of our assurance process.

#### **Our assurance team and independence**

Our assurance team, comprising of multidisciplinary professionals, has been drawn from our climate change and sustainability network and undertakes similar engagements with a number of significant Indian and international businesses. As an assurance provider, EY is required to comply with the independence requirements set out in International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants<sup>1</sup>. EY's independence policies and procedures ensure compliance with the Code.

for Ernst & Young Associates LLP,



**Shailesh Tyagi**  
Partner  
24.09.2021  
Mumbai

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<sup>1</sup> International Federation of Accountants (IFAC) Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants. This *Code* establishes ethical requirements for professional accountants.