

Independent Assurance Statement

Scope and Approach

DNV GL Business Assurance India Private Limited has been commissioned by the management of Axis Bank (Corporate Identification Number (CIN): L65110GJ1993PLC020769, hereafter referred as 'Axis Bank' or 'the Bank') to carry out an independent assurance engagement for the non-financial - qualitative and quantitative information (sustainability performance) presented in its Sustainability Report 2017-18 ('the Report') in its printed format for the financial year ending 31st March 2018.

The sustainability disclosures in this Report including referenced information to the Bank's Annual Report 2017-18, has been prepared by the Bank based on the reporting principles of the International <IR> Framework of the International Integrated Reporting Council (IIRC) and the Global Reporting Initiative (GRI) Sustainability Reporting Standards 2016 (GRI Standards) to bring out non-financial performance related to identified material topics.

We performed a limited level of assurance using our assurance methodology VeriSustain^{TM1}, which is based on our professional experience, international assurance best practice including International Standard on Assurance Engagements 3000 (ISAE 3000) Revised* and GRI's Sustainability Reporting Guidelines. Our assurance engagement was planned and carried out in July 2018.

The intended user of this assurance statement is the management of Bank ('the Management'). The reporting aspect boundaries of sustainability performance is as set out in the Report, and is based on inputs from internal and external materiality assessment covering Axis Bank's operations in India, and interactions with key internal and external stakeholders.

We planned and performed our work to obtain the evidence we considered necessary to provide a basis for our limited assurance opinion, and the process did not involve any direct engagement with external stakeholders.

Responsibilities of the Management of Axis Bank and of the Assurance Providers

The management of Axis Bank have the sole responsibility for the preparation of the Report as well as the processes for collecting, analysing and reporting the information presented in the Report and our responsibility is limited to the management of Axis Bank; however, our statement represents our independent opinion and is intended to inform the outcome of our assurance to the stakeholders of the Bank.

DNV GL did not provide any other services to Axis Bank, which would have constituted a conflict of interest with this assurance engagement.

DNV GL's assurance engagements are based on the assumption that the data and information provided by the Bank to us as part of our review has been provided in good faith and is free from material misstatements. We were not involved in the preparation of any statements or data included in the Report except for this Assurance Statement. DNV GL expressly disclaims any liability or co-responsibility for any decision a person or an entity may make, whether investment or otherwise, based on this Assurance Statement.

Basis of our Opinion

A multi-disciplinary team of sustainability and assurance specialists performed work at Axis Bank's Corporate Office, in Mumbai, India. We undertook the following activities:

- Review of the approach to application of Reporting Principles i.e. stakeholder engagement and materiality determination process and its outcome as presented in this Report;

¹ The VeriSustain protocol is available on request from www.dnvgl.com

* Assurance Engagements other than Audits or Reviews of Historical Financial Information.

- Review of the current sustainability issues that could affect the Bank and are of interest to identified stakeholders;
- Interviews with selected senior managers responsible for management of sustainability issues and review of evidence on a sample basis to support issues discussed. We were free to choose interviewees and we interviewed those with overall responsibility to deliver the Company's sustainability objectives;
- Review of the processes for gathering and consolidating the specified performance data and, for a sample, checking the data consolidation for a limited level of assurance. The reported data on economic performance and other financial data are based on audited financial statements issued by the Company's statutory auditors.

During the assurance process, we did not come across limitations to the scope of the agreed assurance engagement except that the verification was limited to the review of data and information disclosed for the reporting year 2017-18 and did not include exclusions identified and brought out by the Bank in the Report as not being applicable.

Opinion and Observations

On the basis of the verification undertaken, nothing has come to our attention to suggest that the Report does not properly describe Axis Bank's non-financial performance through key elements of the <IR> Framework, and GRI Standards: Comprehensive option of reporting including the GRI 102: General Disclosures 2016, GRI 103: Management Approach 2016 and disclosures and performance indicators related to the following GRI Standards which have been chosen by Axis Bank to bring out its performance against its identified material topics.

- GRI 201: Economic Performance 2016 – 201-1, 201-2, 201-3;
- GRI 203: Indirect Economic Impacts 2016 – 203-1, 203-2;
- GRI 302: Energy 2016 – 302-1, 302-3, 302-4;
- GRI 305: Emissions 2016 – 305-1, 305-2, 305-3, 305-4, 305-5;
- 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 Labeling 2016 – 417-1, 417-2, 417-3;
- GRI 418: Customer Privacy 2016 – 418-1.

Without affecting our above assurance opinion, we also provide the following observations:

Stakeholder Inclusiveness

The participation of stakeholders in developing and achieving an accountable and strategic response to Sustainability.

The stakeholder engagement process is an ongoing and continuous process and involves engagement with key stakeholders including employees, investors, customers, business partners, regulators and community to identify and respond to significant sustainability concerns of stakeholder groups. Nothing has come to our attention to suggest that the Report does not meet the requirements related to the Principle of Stakeholder Inclusiveness.

Materiality

The process of determining the issues that is most relevant to an organization and its stakeholders.

Axis Bank has established a process of materiality determination and the Report adequately brings out outcomes of the materiality assessment exercise; the process has considered inputs from diverse sources such as needs and concerns of external and internal stakeholders, media reports and impacts of material issues on its key stakeholders. Nothing has come to our attention to suggest that the Report does not meet the requirements related to the Principle of Materiality.

Responsiveness

The extent to which an organization responds to stakeholder issues.

The Report brings out strategic responses to identified key stakeholder concerns. We are of the opinion that the responses to key stakeholder concerns are well disclosed in the Report i.e. disclosures include business model, policies, management systems and governance mechanisms etc. The Report is well



structured and brings out strategic sustainability priorities including initiatives implemented during the year.

Reliability

The accuracy and comparability of information presented in the report, as well as the quality of underlying data management systems.

The robustness of the data management and aggregation systems was evaluated, and the sample data and information verified at the Corporate Office as part of verification was found to be reliable. Nothing has come to our attention to suggest that reported data has not been properly collated from information reported at operational level, nor that the assumptions used were inappropriate. Some of the data inaccuracies identified during the sample verification process were found to be attributable to transcription, interpretation and aggregation errors and the errors have been communicated for corrections and corrected. Nothing has come to our attention to suggest that the Report does not meet the requirements related to the Principle of Reliability.

Completeness

How much of all the information that has been identified as material to the organisation and its stakeholders is reported?

The Report has fairly brought out the disclosure requirements related to the <IR> Framework and selected GRI Standards to report its non-financial performance for identified material topics within its identified reporting boundary. Nothing has come to our attention to suggest that the Report does not meet the requirements related to the Principle of Completeness.

Neutrality

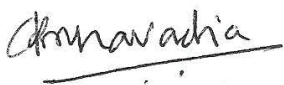

The extent to which a report provides a balanced account of an organization's performance, delivered in a neutral tone.

The disclosures related to sustainability issues, challenges and performances are reported in a neutral tone, in terms of content and presentation. Nothing has come to our attention to suggest that the Report does not meet the requirements related to the Principle of Neutrality.

DNV GL's Competence and Independence

DNV GL is a global provider of sustainability services, with qualified environmental and social assurance specialists working in over 100 countries. DNV GL states its independence and impartiality with regard to this assurance engagement. We were not involved in the preparation of any statements or data included in the Report, with the exception of this Assurance Statement. We maintain complete impartiality toward any people interviewed.

For DNV GL Business Assurance India Private Limited

 Kishore Kavadia Lead Verifier DNV GL Business Assurance India Private Limited, India.	 Prasun Kundu Assurance Reviewer DNV GL Business Assurance India Private Limited, India.
--	--

18th July 2018, Bangalore, India.