

The Exchange Fund

- ◆ Report of the Director of Audit
- ◆ Exchange Fund Financial Statements

Report of the Director of Audit



Audit Commission

The Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

Independent Auditor's Report To the Financial Secretary

Opinion

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Exchange Fund and its subsidiaries ("the Group") set out on pages 187 to 289, which comprise the balance sheets of the Exchange Fund and of the Group as at 31 December 2020, and their income and expenditure accounts, statements of comprehensive income, statements of changes in equity and statements of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Fund and of the Group as at 31 December 2020, and of their financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards ("HKFRSs") issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants ("HKICPA") and have been properly prepared in accordance with the directive of the Chief Executive made under section 7 of the Exchange Fund Ordinance (Cap. 66).

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the directive of the Chief Executive made under section 7 of the Exchange Fund Ordinance and the Audit Commission auditing standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Group in accordance with those standards, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with those standards. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Key audit matters

Key audit matters are those matters that, in my professional judgment, were of most significance in my audit of the financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2020. These matters were addressed in the context of my audit of the financial statements as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Report of the Director of Audit (continued)

Key audit matter	How the matter was addressed in my audit
Valuation of financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value <i>Refer to notes 2.5, 2.6 and 38.1 to the financial statements.</i>	
<p>As at 31 December 2020, the Group had financial assets totalling HK\$4,343,925 million and financial liabilities totalling HK\$1,076,349 million valued at fair value.</p> <p>For 90% of these financial assets and all these financial liabilities, their fair values were quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 inputs) or were estimated using valuation techniques with inputs based on observable market data (Level 2 inputs).</p> <p>For the remaining 10% of these financial assets, their fair values were estimated using valuation techniques with inputs not based on observable market data (Level 3 inputs). Such financial assets totalled HK\$421,325 million, including mainly unlisted investment funds.</p> <p>Given the substantial amount and the estimations involved, valuation of financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value was a key audit matter.</p>	<p>The audit procedures on valuation of financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – obtaining an understanding of the procedures, including relevant controls, for valuing different categories of financial assets and financial liabilities; – evaluating and testing the controls, including relevant application controls of the computer systems; – obtaining external confirmations on the valuation, existence, rights and obligations and completeness of the financial assets and financial liabilities; – where quoted market prices were used, verifying the prices to independent sources; – where valuation techniques with inputs based on observable market data were used, evaluating the appropriateness of the valuation methodologies and the reasonableness of the assumptions, and verifying the inputs to independent sources; and – where valuation techniques with inputs not based on observable market data were used, evaluating the appropriateness of the valuation methodologies and the reasonableness of the assumptions and inputs.
Valuation of investment properties at fair value <i>Refer to notes 2.11, 18 and 19 to the financial statements.</i>	
<p>The Group's investment properties were stated at their fair values, totalling HK\$23,135 million as at 31 December 2020. The Group also had interests in twenty two joint ventures totalling HK\$40,707 million, whose principal activities were holding overseas investment properties. The fair values of these investment properties, whether held by the Group directly or by joint ventures, were mainly determined based on valuations by independent professional valuers. Such valuations involved significant judgments and estimates, including the valuation methodologies and the assumptions used.</p>	<p>The audit procedures on valuation of investment properties at fair value included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – obtaining and reviewing the valuation reports of investment properties held by the Group directly or by joint ventures, and verifying that the fair values were based on the valuations stated in the valuation reports; – assessing the independence and qualifications of the valuers; and – evaluating the appropriateness of the valuation methodologies and the reasonableness of the assumptions and inputs.

Report of the Director of Audit (continued)

Other information

The Monetary Authority is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises all the information included in the 2020 Annual Report of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority, other than the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Monetary Authority and the Audit Sub-Committee of the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee for the financial statements

The Monetary Authority is responsible for the preparation of the financial statements that give a true and fair view in accordance with HKFRSs issued by the HKICPA and the directive of the Chief Executive made under section 7 of the Exchange Fund Ordinance, and for such internal control as the Monetary Authority determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Monetary Authority is responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting.

The Audit Sub-Committee of the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee is responsible for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Audit Commission auditing standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Audit Commission auditing standards, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;

Report of the Director of Audit (continued)

- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Monetary Authority;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Monetary Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern;
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation; and
- obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the financial statements. I am responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. I remain solely responsible for my audit opinion.

I communicate with the Audit Sub-Committee of the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

I also provide the Audit Sub-Committee of the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with the Audit Sub-Committee of the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

John Chu
Director of Audit

1 April 2021

Audit Commission
26th Floor
Immigration Tower
7 Gloucester Road
Wanchai, Hong Kong

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Exchange Fund – Income and Expenditure Account

for the year ended 31 December 2020

		Group		Fund	
(Expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars)	Note	2020	2019	2020	2019
INCOME					
Interest income		32,784	69,579	31,179	67,811
Dividend income		14,662	16,456	11,799	13,850
Income from investment properties		867	1,374	–	–
Net realised and unrealised gains		194,301	191,446	137,671	158,239
Net exchange gain/(loss)		9,708	(13,923)	9,607	(13,019)
Investment income	4(a)	252,322	264,932	190,256	226,881
Bank licence fees		127	128	127	128
Net premiums earned	5	2,326	1,849	–	–
Other income		500	503	83	82
TOTAL INCOME		255,275	267,412	190,466	227,091
EXPENDITURE					
Interest expense on placements by Fiscal Reserves, HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies	4(b)	(81,299)	(62,793)	(81,299)	(62,793)
Other interest expense	4(c)	(10,257)	(20,902)	(10,147)	(20,025)
Operating expenses	4(d)	(6,210)	(5,888)	(4,926)	(4,673)
Note and coin expenses	4(e)	(382)	(548)	(382)	(548)
(Charge for)/Reversal of impairment allowances	4(f)	(97)	(92)	–	1
Net claims incurred, benefits paid and movement in policyholders' liabilities	5	(3,542)	(2,021)	–	–
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		(101,787)	(92,244)	(96,754)	(88,038)
SURPLUS BEFORE SHARE OF (LOSS)/PROFIT OF ASSOCIATES AND JOINT VENTURES					
		153,488	175,168	93,712	139,053
Share of (loss)/profit of associates and joint ventures, net of tax		(3,211)	3,088	–	–
Gain on disposal of an associate		–	47	–	–
SURPLUS BEFORE TAXATION		150,277	178,303	93,712	139,053
Income tax	6	45	(657)	–	–
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR		150,322	177,646	93,712	139,053
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR ATTRIBUTABLE TO:					
Owner of the Fund		150,501	177,332	93,712	139,053
Non-controlling interests		(179)	314	–	–
		150,322	177,646	93,712	139,053

The notes on pages 195 to 289 form part of these financial statements.

Exchange Fund – Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the year ended 31 December 2020

(Expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars)	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	150,322	177,646	93,712	139,053
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME				
Items that will not be reclassified to income and expenditure account				
Equity securities measured at fair value through other comprehensive income				
– fair value changes on revaluation	160	66	160	66
Items that are or may be reclassified subsequently to income and expenditure account				
Debt securities measured at fair value through other comprehensive income				
– fair value changes on revaluation	(16)	26	–	–
Exchange difference on translation of financial statements of overseas subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures	2,434	10	–	–
Translation reserve released on disposal of an associate	–	(17)	–	–
Translation reserve released on dissolution of a subsidiary	13	–	–	–
OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR, NET OF TAX	2,591	85	160	66
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR	152,913	177,731	93,872	139,119
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ATTRIBUTABLE TO:				
Owner of the Fund	153,073	177,431	93,872	139,119
Non-controlling interests	(160)	300	–	–
	152,913	177,731	93,872	139,119

The notes on pages 195 to 289 form part of these financial statements.

Exchange Fund – Balance Sheet

as at 31 December 2020

		Group		Fund	
(Expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars)	Note	2020	2019	2020	2019
ASSETS					
Cash and money at call	8	148,947	181,527	145,255	180,741
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	9	143,149	153,369	121,796	125,201
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	10	4,335,548	3,866,803	3,981,157	3,586,245
Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	11	5,789	6,131	1,370	1,210
Derivative financial instruments	12(a)	2,588	1,289	1,791	1,088
Debt securities measured at amortised cost	13	9,730	12,034	–	–
Loan portfolio	14	49,433	9,310	–	–
Gold	15	979	793	979	793
Other assets	16	45,545	127,666	43,178	123,833
Interests in subsidiaries	17	–	–	200,706	184,654
Interests in associates and joint ventures	18	42,718	46,528	–	–
Investment properties	19	23,135	22,481	–	–
Property, plant and equipment	20	3,441	3,261	3,016	2,965
TOTAL ASSETS		4,811,002	4,431,192	4,499,248	4,206,730
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY					
Certificates of Indebtedness	21	556,204	516,062	556,204	516,062
Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	21	12,844	12,988	12,844	12,988
Balance of the banking system	22	457,466	67,688	457,466	67,688
Placements by banks and other financial institutions	23	87,650	35,000	87,650	35,000
Placements by Fiscal Reserves	24	881,832	1,137,490	881,832	1,137,490
Placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies	25	342,471	328,406	342,471	328,406
Placements by subsidiaries	26	–	–	15,469	12,597
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	27	1,068,880	1,152,327	1,068,880	1,152,327
Derivative financial instruments	12(a)	7,469	6,212	7,023	5,728
Bank loans	28	12,050	11,348	–	–
Other debt securities issued	29	62,587	40,370	–	–
Other liabilities	30	248,090	202,720	226,111	189,018
Total liabilities		3,737,543	3,510,611	3,655,950	3,457,304

Exchange Fund – Balance Sheet (continued)

as at 31 December 2020

(Expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars)	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Accumulated surplus	1,070,757	920,256	842,421	748,709
Revaluation reserve	886	742	877	717
Translation reserve	(100)	(2,528)	–	–
Total equity attributable to owner of the Fund	1,071,543	918,470	843,298	749,426
Non-controlling interests	1,916	2,111	–	–
Total equity	1,073,459	920,581	843,298	749,426
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	4,811,002	4,431,192	4,499,248	4,206,730

Eddie Yue

Monetary Authority

1 April 2021

The notes on pages 195 to 289 form part of these financial statements.

Exchange Fund – Statement of Changes in Equity

for the year ended 31 December 2020

(Expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars)	Attributable to owner of the Fund				Non-controlling interests	Total
	Accumulated surplus	Revaluation reserve	Translation reserve	Total attributable to owner of the Fund		
Group						
At 1 January 2019	742,924	650	(2,535)	741,039	2,144	743,183
Surplus for the year	177,332	–	–	177,332	314	177,646
Other comprehensive income for the year						
Fair value changes on financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	–	92	–	92	–	92
Exchange difference on translation of financial statements of overseas subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures	–	–	24	24	(14)	10
Translation reserve released on disposal of an associate	–	–	(17)	(17)	–	(17)
Total comprehensive income for the year	177,332	92	7	177,431	300	177,731
Capital distribution to non-controlling interests	–	–	–	–	(326)	(326)
Dividends paid to non-controlling interests	–	–	–	–	(7)	(7)
At 31 December 2019	920,256	742	(2,528)	918,470	2,111	920,581
At 1 January 2020	920,256	742	(2,528)	918,470	2,111	920,581
Surplus for the year	150,501	–	–	150,501	(179)	150,322
Other comprehensive income for the year						
Fair value changes on financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	–	144	–	144	–	144
Exchange difference on translation of financial statements of overseas subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures	–	–	2,415	2,415	19	2,434
Translation reserve released on dissolution of a subsidiary	–	–	13	13	–	13
Total comprehensive income for the year	150,501	144	2,428	153,073	(160)	152,913
Capital distribution to non-controlling interests	–	–	–	–	(25)	(25)
Derecognition of non-controlling interests on dissolution of a subsidiary	–	–	–	–	(1)	(1)
Dividends paid to non-controlling interests	–	–	–	–	(9)	(9)
At 31 December 2020	1,070,757	886	(100)	1,071,543	1,916	1,073,459

Exchange Fund – Statement of Changes in Equity (continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2020

(Expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars)	Accumulated surplus	Revaluation reserve	Total attributable to owner of the Fund
Fund			
At 1 January 2019	609,656	651	610,307
Surplus for the year	139,053	–	139,053
Other comprehensive income for the year			
Fair value changes on financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	–	66	66
Total comprehensive income for the year	139,053	66	139,119
At 31 December 2019	748,709	717	749,426
At 1 January 2020	748,709	717	749,426
Surplus for the year	93,712	–	93,712
Other comprehensive income for the year			
Fair value changes on financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	–	160	160
Total comprehensive income for the year	93,712	160	93,872
At 31 December 2020	842,421	877	843,298

The notes on pages 195 to 289 form part of these financial statements.

Exchange Fund – Statement of Cash Flows

for the year ended 31 December 2020

(Expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars)	Note	Group		Fund	
		2020	2019	2020	2019
Cash flows from operating activities					
Surplus before taxation		150,277	178,303	93,712	139,053
Adjustments for:					
Interest income	4(a)	(32,784)	(69,579)	(31,179)	(67,811)
Dividend income	4(a)	(14,662)	(16,456)	(11,799)	(13,850)
Change in fair value of investment properties	4(a)	356	(46)	–	–
Gain on disposal of debt securities measured at amortised cost	4(a)	(11)	–	–	–
Interest expense	4(b) & 4(c)	91,556	83,695	91,446	82,818
Depreciation	4(d)	376	360	251	247
Charge for/(Reversal of) impairment allowances	4(f)	97	92	–	(1)
Share of loss/(profit) of associates and joint ventures		3,211	(3,088)	–	–
Gain on disposal of an associate		–	(47)	–	–
Loss on disposal of property, plant and equipment		–	1	–	–
Elimination of exchange differences and other non-cash items		(4,999)	4,326	(3,185)	2,458
Interest received		34,718	68,661	33,027	66,996
Dividends received		14,693	16,356	11,609	13,669
Interest paid		(51,982)	(77,895)	(51,407)	(76,966)
Income tax paid		(153)	(120)	–	–
		190,693	184,563	132,475	146,613
Change in fair value of derivatives and other debt securities issued		785	5,273	616	5,150
Change in carrying amount of:					
– placements with banks and other financial institutions		7,219	3,459	(1,272)	4,698
– financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account		(498,230)	(194,288)	(427,253)	(141,852)
– loan portfolio		(40,194)	(1,906)	–	–
– gold		(186)	(123)	(186)	(123)
– other assets		80,269	(26,693)	78,752	(25,275)
– Certificates of Indebtedness, government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation		39,998	30,745	39,998	30,745
– balance of the banking system		389,778	(10,896)	389,778	(10,896)
– placements by banks and other financial institutions		52,650	(21,346)	52,650	(21,346)
– placements by Fiscal Reserves		(255,658)	(35,994)	(255,658)	(35,994)
– placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies		14,065	7,872	14,065	7,872
– placements by subsidiaries		–	–	2,872	4,887
– Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued		(83,447)	22,717	(83,447)	22,717
– other liabilities		5,662	8,334	(3,077)	6,641
Net cash used in operating activities		(96,596)	(28,283)	(59,687)	(6,163)

Exchange Fund – Statement of Cash Flows (continued)

for the year ended 31 December 2020

		Group		Fund	
(Expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars)	Note	2020	2019	2020	2019
Cash flows from investing activities					
Investment in subsidiaries		–	–	(70)	(80)
Loans to subsidiaries		–	–	(15,982)	(14,828)
Decrease/(Increase) in interests in associates and joint ventures		1,727	(726)	–	–
Proceeds from sale or redemption of financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income		1,136	1,846	–	–
Purchase of financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income		(623)	(1,680)	–	–
Proceeds from sale or redemption of debt securities measured at amortised cost		3,037	1,631	–	–
Purchase of debt securities measured at amortised cost		(773)	(2,176)	–	–
Proceeds from disposal of an associate		–	1,683	–	–
Proceeds from disposal of investment properties		–	3,886	–	–
Additions of investment properties		(105)	(107)	–	–
Additions of property, plant and equipment		(156)	(152)	(99)	(97)
Dividends received from subsidiaries		–	–	221	81
Net cash from/(used in) investing activities		4,243	4,205	(15,930)	(14,924)
Cash flows from financing activities					
Bank loans raised	31(c)	183	418	–	–
Repayment of bank loans	31(c)	–	(2,104)	–	–
Proceeds from issue of other debt securities	31(c)	58,244	31,844	–	–
Redemption of other debt securities issued	31(c)	(37,027)	(29,474)	–	–
Principal portion of lease payments	31(c)	(122)	(115)	(72)	(62)
Capital distribution to non-controlling interests		(25)	(326)	–	–
Dividends paid to non-controlling interests		(9)	(7)	–	–
Net cash from/(used in) financing activities		21,244	236	(72)	(62)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(71,109)	(23,842)	(75,689)	(21,149)
Cash and cash equivalents at 1 January		356,420	382,717	343,482	367,089
Effect of foreign exchange rate changes		3,187	(2,455)	3,185	(2,458)
Cash and cash equivalents at 31 December	31(a)	288,498	356,420	270,978	343,482

The notes on pages 195 to 289 form part of these financial statements.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

1 PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

The Monetary Authority, under delegated authority from the Financial Secretary as Controller of the Exchange Fund (the Fund), manages the Fund in accordance with the provisions of the Exchange Fund Ordinance (Cap. 66). The principal activities of the Fund are safeguarding the exchange value of the currency of Hong Kong and maintaining the stability and integrity of Hong Kong's monetary and financial systems.

The assets of the Fund are managed as four portfolios: the Backing Portfolio, the Investment Portfolio, the Long-Term Growth Portfolio and the Strategic Portfolio. The assets of the Backing Portfolio fully match the Monetary Base, under Hong Kong's Currency Board system. The Investment Portfolio is invested primarily in the bond and equity markets of the member countries of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). The Long-Term Growth Portfolio holds private equity and real estate investments. The Strategic Portfolio holds shares in Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited acquired by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government for the account of the Fund for strategic purposes. Operating segment information is set out in note 32.

2 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

2.1 Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (HKFRSs), which is a collective term that includes all applicable individual HKFRSs, Hong Kong Accounting Standards and Interpretations issued by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA), and accounting principles generally accepted in Hong Kong. A summary of the significant accounting policies adopted by the Fund and its subsidiaries (together referred to as the Group) is set out below.

The HKICPA has issued certain new or revised HKFRSs that are first effective or available for early adoption for the current accounting period of the Group. Note 3 provides information on the changes, if any, in accounting policies resulting from initial application of these developments to the extent that they are relevant to the Group for the current and prior accounting periods reflected in these financial statements.

2.2 Basis of preparation of the financial statements

The Group financial statements include the financial statements of the Group as well as the Group's interests in associates and joint ventures. The principal activities of the principal subsidiaries, associates and joint ventures are shown in notes 17 and 18.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

The measurement basis used in the preparation of the financial statements is historical cost except for the following assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value:

- derivative financial instruments (note 2.6);
- financial assets and financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure account (note 2.6);
- financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income (note 2.6);
- gold (note 2.10); and
- investment properties (note 2.11).

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with HKFRSs requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenditure. The estimates and associated assumptions are based on experience and various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgements about carrying values of assets and liabilities that are not readily apparent from other sources. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

The estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised if the revision affects only that period, or in the period of the revision and future periods if the revision affects both current and future periods.

Judgements made by management in the application of HKFRSs that have significant effect on the financial statements and major sources of estimation uncertainty are disclosed in note 2.19.

Certain comparative figures for 2019 have been reclassified to conform to the current year presentation of the Group financial statements.

2.3 Subsidiaries and non-controlling interests

A subsidiary is an entity controlled by the Group. The Group controls an entity when it is exposed, or has rights, to variable returns from its involvement with the entity and has the ability to affect those returns through its power over the entity. When assessing whether the Group has power, only substantive rights (held by the Group and other parties) are considered.

An investment in a subsidiary is consolidated into the Group financial statements from the date that control commences until the date that control ceases.

Intra-group balances, transactions and cash flows and any unrealised profits and losses arising from intra-group transactions are eliminated in full in preparing the Group financial statements.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

Non-controlling interests represent the equity in a subsidiary not attributable directly or indirectly to the Fund, and in respect of which the Group has not agreed any additional terms with the holders of those interests which would result in the Group as a whole having a contractual obligation in respect of those interests that meets the definition of a financial liability. Non-controlling interests are presented in the Group balance sheet within equity, separately from equity attributable to the owner of the Fund. Non-controlling interests in the results of the Group are presented on the face of the Group income and expenditure account and statement of comprehensive income as an allocation of the surplus or deficit and total comprehensive income or loss for the year between non-controlling interests and the owner of the Fund.

In the balance sheet of the Fund, its investments in subsidiaries are stated at cost less impairment losses, if any (note 2.14).

2.4 Associates and joint ventures

An associate is an entity in which the Group has significant influence, but not control or joint control, over its management, through its power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions.

A joint venture is a type of joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the net assets of the arrangement. Joint control is the contractually agreed sharing of an arrangement, which exists only when decisions about the relevant activities require the unanimous consent of the parties sharing control.

An interest in an associate or a joint venture is accounted for in the Group financial statements under the equity method and is initially recorded at cost, adjusted for any excess or deficit of the Group's share of the acquisition-date fair values of the investee's identifiable net assets over the cost of the investment, if any. Thereafter, the investment is adjusted for the post acquisition change in the Group's share of the net assets of the associate or the joint venture and any impairment loss relating to the investment.

The Group income and expenditure account and statement of comprehensive income include the Group's share of the post-tax results of the associates and the joint ventures for the year. When the Group's share of losses exceeds its interest in the associates or the joint ventures, the Group's interest is reduced to nil and recognition of further losses is discontinued except to the extent that the Group has incurred legal or constructive obligations or made payments on behalf of the associates or the joint ventures. For this purpose, the Group's interest is the carrying amount of the investment under the equity method together with the Group's long-term interests that in substance form part of the Group's net investment in the associates or the joint ventures.

Unrealised profits and losses resulting from transactions between the Group and its associates and joint ventures are eliminated to the extent of the Group's interests in the associates or the joint ventures.

When the Group ceases to have significant influence over an associate or joint control over a joint venture, it is accounted for as a disposal of the entire interest in the associate or the joint venture, with a resulting gain or loss being recognised in the Group income and expenditure account. Any interest retained in the associate or the joint venture at the date when significant influence or joint control is lost is recognised at fair value and this amount is regarded as the fair value on initial recognition of a financial asset (note 2.6).

In the balance sheet of the Fund, interests in associates and joint ventures are stated at cost less impairment losses, if any (note 2.14).

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

2.5 Fair value measurement

The Group measures certain financial instruments, all investment properties and gold at fair value at each reporting date. The fair values of financial instruments measured at amortised cost are disclosed in note 38.2.

Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. The fair value measurement is based on the presumption that the transaction to sell the asset or transfer the liability takes place either:

- (a) in the principal market for the asset or liability; or
- (b) in the absence of a principal market, in the most advantageous market for the asset or liability.

The principal or the most advantageous market must be accessible by the Group.

The fair value of an asset or a liability is measured using the assumptions that market participants would use when pricing the asset or liability, assuming that market participants act in their economic best interest.

A fair value measurement of a non-financial asset takes into account a market participant's ability to generate economic benefits by using the asset in its highest and best use or by selling it to another market participant that would use the asset in its highest and best use.

The Group uses valuation techniques that are appropriate in the circumstances and for which sufficient data are available to measure fair value, maximising the use of relevant observable inputs and minimising the use of unobservable inputs.

The Group measures fair values using the following fair value hierarchy that reflects the significance of inputs used in making the measurements:

- (a) Level 1 – fair values are quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities;
- (b) Level 2 – fair values are determined involving inputs other than quoted prices included in Level 1 that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly (as prices) or indirectly (derived from prices); and
- (c) Level 3 – fair values are determined with inputs that are not based on observable market data (unobservable inputs).

For assets and liabilities that are recognised in the financial statements on a recurring basis, the Group determines whether transfers have occurred between levels in the hierarchy by re-assessing categorisation (based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement as a whole) at the reporting date.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

2.6 Financial assets and financial liabilities

2.6.1 Initial recognition and measurement

The Group recognises financial assets and financial liabilities on the date it becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Regular way purchases and sales of financial instruments are recognised on trade date, the date on which the Group commits to purchase or sell the instruments.

At initial recognition, financial assets and financial liabilities are measured at fair value plus or minus, in the case of a financial asset or financial liability not at fair value through income and expenditure account, transaction costs that are directly attributable to the acquisition of the financial assets or the issue of the financial liabilities. Transaction costs of financial assets and financial liabilities at fair value through income and expenditure account are expensed immediately.

2.6.2 Classification and subsequent measurement

The Group classifies its financial assets into three categories for determining the subsequent measurement methods, on the basis of both the Group's business model for managing the assets and the contractual cash flow characteristics of the assets. The three measurement categories are:

- fair value through income and expenditure account (which is equivalent to the term "fair value through profit or loss" under HKFRS 9 "Financial Instruments");
- fair value through other comprehensive income; and
- amortised cost.

The Group classifies its financial liabilities as subsequently measured at fair value through income and expenditure account, or other financial liabilities.

Financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure account include those that are irrevocably designated by the Group at initial recognition as at fair value through income and expenditure account when doing so results in more relevant information because either:

- (a) the designation eliminates or significantly reduces an accounting mismatch which would otherwise arise; or
- (b) a group of financial liabilities or financial assets and liabilities is managed and its performance is evaluated on a fair value basis in accordance with a documented risk management or investment strategy.

Financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure account also include contracts that contain embedded derivatives which significantly modify the cash flows otherwise required.

The Group reclassifies a financial asset when and only when it changes its business model for managing the asset. A financial liability is not reclassified.

An analysis of the Group's financial assets and financial liabilities by category is set out in note 7.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

2.6.2.1 Debt securities

The Group classifies its debt securities as measured at (a) amortised cost, (b) fair value through other comprehensive income or (c) fair value through income and expenditure account, depending on the Group's business model in managing them and their contractual cash flow characteristics.

(a) Debt securities measured at amortised cost

Debt securities are measured at amortised cost if they are held within a business model whose objective is to hold them for collection of contractual cash flows and the contractual cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest. Debt securities in this category are initially recognised at fair value plus directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently carried at amortised cost. Interest income on these debt securities is recognised in the income and expenditure account using the effective interest method.

The effective interest method is a method of calculating the amortised cost of a financial asset or a financial liability and of allocating and recognising the interest income or interest expense over the relevant period. The effective interest rate is the rate that exactly discounts estimated future cash receipts or payments through the expected life of the financial asset or financial liability to the gross carrying amount of the financial asset or to the amortised cost of the financial liability. When calculating the effective interest rate, the Group estimates cash flows by considering all contractual terms of the financial instrument but does not consider the expected credit losses. The calculation includes all fees received or paid between parties to the contract that are an integral part of the effective interest rate, transaction costs and all other premiums or discounts.

The measurement of loss allowances for debt securities measured at amortised cost is based on the expected credit loss model as described in note 2.9.

(b) Debt securities measured at fair value through other comprehensive income

Debt securities are measured at fair value through other comprehensive income if they are held within a business model whose objective is achieved by both collecting contractual cash flows and selling them and the contractual cash flows represent solely payments of principal and interest. Debt securities in this category are initially recognised at fair value plus directly attributable transaction costs and subsequently carried at fair value. Movements in the carrying amount of these securities are recognised in other comprehensive income, except for interest income, foreign exchange gains or losses, and impairment losses or reversals which are recognised in the income and expenditure account. Upon derecognition, the cumulative gain or loss previously recognised in other comprehensive income is reclassified from equity to the income and expenditure account.

The measurement of loss allowances for debt securities measured at fair value through other comprehensive income is based on the expected credit loss model as described in note 2.9. The loss allowances are recognised in other comprehensive income and do not reduce the carrying amount of such debt securities in the balance sheet.

(c) Debt securities measured at fair value through income and expenditure account

Debt securities that do not meet the criteria for being measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income are measured at fair value through income and expenditure account. Debt securities in this category are initially recognised at fair value with transaction costs immediately charged to the income and expenditure account, and subsequently carried at fair value. Changes in fair value of these securities are recognised in the income and expenditure account in the period in which they arise.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

2.6.2.2 Equity securities and investment funds

Equity securities are measured at fair value through income and expenditure account, unless an election is made to designate them at fair value through other comprehensive income upon initial recognition.

For equity securities measured at fair value through income and expenditure account, changes in fair value are recognised in the income and expenditure account in the period in which they arise.

The Group classifies certain equity securities, which are held for strategic or longer term investment purposes, as fair value through other comprehensive income. The election of fair value through other comprehensive income is made upon initial recognition on an instrument-by-instrument basis and once made is irrevocable. Gains and losses on these equity securities are recognised in other comprehensive income, which are not reclassified subsequently to the income and expenditure account, including when they are derecognised. Dividends on such investments are recognised in the income and expenditure account unless the dividends clearly represent a recovery of part of the cost of the investment.

Investment funds are measured at fair value through income and expenditure account. Changes in fair value of these funds are recognised in the income and expenditure account in the period in which they arise.

2.6.2.3 Derivative financial instruments and hedge accounting

Derivatives are initially recognised at fair value on the date on which a derivative contract is entered into and are subsequently measured at their fair values. Fair values are obtained from market prices in active markets, including recent market transactions, and valuation techniques, including discounted cash flow models and options pricing models, as appropriate. Derivatives are carried as assets when their fair value is positive and as liabilities when their fair value is negative.

The best evidence of the fair value of a derivative at initial recognition is the transaction price (i.e. the fair value of the consideration given or received).

Certain derivatives embedded in other financial instruments are treated as separate derivatives when their economic characteristics and risks are not closely related to those of the host contract and the host contract is not carried at fair value through income and expenditure account. These embedded derivatives are measured at fair value through income and expenditure account.

The method of recognising the resulting fair value gain or loss depends on whether the derivative is designated as a hedging instrument, and if so, the nature of the item being hedged. The Group designates certain derivatives as either (a) hedges of the fair value of recognised assets or liabilities or unrecognised firm commitments (fair value hedge) or (b) hedges of highly probable future cash flows attributable to a recognised asset or liability, or a forecast transaction (cash flow hedge). Hedge accounting is used for derivatives designated in this way provided that certain criteria are met.

The Group documents, at the inception of the transaction, the relationship between hedging instruments and hedged items, as well as its risk management objective and strategy for undertaking various hedge transactions. The Group also documents its assessment, both at hedge inception and on an ongoing basis, of whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions are highly effective in offsetting changes in fair values or cash flows of hedged items.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

(a) Fair value hedge

Changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualified as fair value hedges are recorded in the income and expenditure account, together with any changes in the fair value of the hedged asset or liability that are attributable to the hedged risk.

If the hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, the adjustment to the carrying amount of a hedged item for which the effective interest method is used, is amortised to the income and expenditure account over the period to maturity.

(b) Cash flow hedge

The effective portion of changes in the fair value of derivatives that are designated and qualified as cash flow hedges are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated in equity. The gain or loss relating to the ineffective portion is recognised immediately in the income and expenditure account.

Amounts accumulated in equity are recycled to the income and expenditure account in the periods in which the hedged item will affect the income and expenditure account.

When a hedging instrument expires or is sold, or when a hedge no longer meets the criteria for hedge accounting, any cumulative gain or loss in equity existing at that time remains in equity and is recognised when the forecast transaction is ultimately recognised in the income and expenditure account. When a forecast transaction is no longer expected to occur, the cumulative gain or loss that was reported in equity is immediately transferred to the income and expenditure account.

(c) Derivatives not qualified as hedges for accounting purposes

Derivative instruments entered into as economic hedges that do not qualify for hedge accounting are held at fair value through income and expenditure account. Changes in the fair value of such derivative instruments are recognised in the income and expenditure account.

2.6.2.4 Other financial assets

Other financial assets are measured at amortised cost. This category includes cash and money at call, placements with banks and other financial institutions, and loan portfolio. The measurement of loss allowances for these financial assets is based on the expected credit loss model as described in note 2.9.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

2.6.2.5 Financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure account

The following financial liabilities are measured at fair value through income and expenditure account:

- Exchange Fund Bills and Notes (EFBN) issued which, on initial recognition, are irrevocably designated by the Group as at fair value through income and expenditure account; and
- other debt securities issued, which contain embedded derivatives that significantly modify the cash flows otherwise required.

Financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure account are initially recognised at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognised in the income and expenditure account, except for those changes arising from changes in the Group's own credit risk. Any changes in fair value of liabilities due to changes in the Group's own credit risk are recognised in other comprehensive income and the amount of such changes recognised in other comprehensive income is not reclassified subsequently to the income and expenditure account upon derecognition.

2.6.2.6 Other financial liabilities

Other financial liabilities are financial liabilities other than those measured at fair value through income and expenditure account.

Other financial liabilities repayable on demand are stated at the principal amount payable. These include Certificates of Indebtedness, government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation (note 2.6.2.7), balance of the banking system, placements by Fiscal Reserves (Operating and Capital Reserves), placements by the Bond Fund and placements by the Deposit Protection Scheme Fund.

Other financial liabilities with a fixed maturity and a predetermined rate are carried at amortised cost using the effective interest method. These include placements by banks and other financial institutions, other placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies, placements by subsidiaries, bank loans and other debt securities issued (other than those which contain embedded derivatives).

Placements by Fiscal Reserves (Future Fund) which are repayable on 31 December 2025 (unless otherwise directed by the Financial Secretary according to the terms of the placements) are stated at the principal amount payable. Interest payable on these placements is calculated at a composite rate determined annually (note 2.17.1) and compounded on an annual basis until maturity. If the composite rate is negative for a year, the negative return will first be offset against the balance of interest payable, with the excess portion (if any) written off against the principal amount payable. When the composite rate turns positive in subsequent years, the return will be used to recover fully or partially the amount written off.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

2.6.2.7 Certificates of Indebtedness and government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation

As backing for the banknote issues, each note-issuing bank is required to hold a non-interest-bearing Certificate of Indebtedness issued by the Financial Secretary, which is redeemable on demand. Payments for the issue and redemption of banknotes against these Certificates are made in US dollars at the fixed exchange rate of US\$1=HK\$7.80. Consistent with the requirement for backing banknote issues with US dollars, the issue and redemption of government-issued currency notes and coins are conducted with an agent bank against US dollars at the fixed exchange rate of US\$1=HK\$7.80.

The Group's liabilities in respect of Certificates of Indebtedness represent the US dollars payable to the note-issuing banks on redemption of the Certificates. The Group's liabilities in respect of government-issued currency notes and coins represent the US dollars payable to the agent bank when they are redeemed. Certificates of Indebtedness in issue and government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation are stated in the financial statements at the Hong Kong dollar equivalent of the US dollars required for their redemption using the closing exchange rate at the reporting date.

2.6.3 *Derecognition*

A financial asset is derecognised when the contractual rights to receive the cash flows from the financial asset expire, or where the financial asset together with substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership have been transferred.

A financial liability is derecognised when the obligation specified in the contract is discharged, is cancelled or expires.

Liabilities for EFBN in issue are derecognised when they are repurchased as a result of market making activities. The repurchase is considered as redemption of the debt.

2.6.4 *Offsetting*

Financial assets and financial liabilities are offset and the net amount is reported in the balance sheet where there is a legally enforceable right to offset the recognised amounts and there is an intention to settle on a net basis, or realise the assets and settle the liabilities simultaneously. The legally enforceable right must not be contingent on future events and must be enforceable in the normal course of business and in the event of default, insolvency or bankruptcy of the Group or the counterparty.

2.7 Repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions

Securities sold subject to a simultaneous agreement to repurchase these securities at a certain later date at a fixed price (repurchase agreements) are retained on the balance sheet without changes in their measurement. The proceeds from the sale are reported as liabilities in "placements by banks and other financial institutions" and are carried at amortised cost.

Conversely, securities purchased under agreements to resell (reverse repurchase agreements) are reported as receivables in "placements with banks and other financial institutions" and are carried at amortised cost.

Interest earned on reverse repurchase agreements and interest incurred on repurchase agreements are recognised as interest income and interest expense respectively, over the life of each agreement using the effective interest method.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

2.8 Securities lending agreements

Where securities are loaned with the receipt of cash or other securities as collateral, they are retained on the balance sheet without changes in their measurement. Where cash collateral is received, a liability is recorded in respect of the cash received in “placements by banks and other financial institutions”. Securities received as collateral are not recognised in the financial statements.

2.9 Impairment of financial instruments

The Group applies a three-stage approach to measure expected credit losses and to recognise the corresponding loss allowances (provision in the case of loan commitments and financial guarantee contracts) and impairment losses or reversals, for financial instruments that are not measured at fair value through income and expenditure account, including mainly the following types of financial instruments:

- cash and money at call;
- placements with banks and other financial institutions;
- debt securities measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income;
- loan portfolio;
- loan commitments; and
- financial guarantee contracts.

The change in credit risk since initial recognition determines the measurement bases for expected credit losses:

Stage 1: 12-month expected credit losses

For financial instruments for which there has not been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition, the portion of the lifetime expected credit losses that represent the expected credit losses that result from default events that are possible within the 12 months after the reporting date are recognised.

Stage 2: Lifetime expected credit losses – not credit impaired

For financial instruments for which there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition but that are not credit impaired, lifetime expected credit losses representing the expected credit losses that result from all possible default events over the expected life of the financial instruments are recognised.

Stage 3: Lifetime expected credit losses – credit impaired

For financial instruments that have become credit impaired, lifetime expected credit losses are recognised and interest income is calculated by applying the effective interest rate to the amortised cost rather than the gross carrying amount.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

2.9.1 *Determining significant increases in credit risk*

At each reporting date, the Group assesses whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk for financial instruments since initial recognition by comparing the risk of default occurring over the remaining expected life as at the reporting date with that as at the date of initial recognition. For this purpose, the date of initial recognition of loan commitments and financial guarantee contracts is the date that the Group becomes a party to the irrevocable commitment. The assessment considers quantitative and qualitative historical information as well as forward-looking information. A financial asset is assessed to be credit impaired when one or more events that have a detrimental impact on the estimated future cash flows of that financial asset have occurred.

The Group assesses whether there has been a significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition on an individual or collective basis. For collective assessment, financial instruments are grouped on the basis of shared credit risk characteristics, taking into account investment type, credit risk ratings, date of initial recognition, remaining term to maturity, industry, geographical location of the counterparty or borrower and other relevant factors.

Debt securities with an external credit rating of investment grade are considered to have a low credit risk. Other financial instruments are considered to have a low credit risk if they have a low risk of default and the counterparty or borrower has a strong capacity to meet its contractual cash flow obligations in the near term. The credit risk on these financial instruments is assessed as not having increased significantly since initial recognition.

For a financial asset with lifetime expected credit losses recognised in the previous reporting period, if its credit quality improves and reverses the previously assessed significant increase in credit risk, then the loss allowance reverts from lifetime expected credit losses to 12-month expected credit losses.

When a financial asset is uncollectible, it is written off against the related loss allowance. Such assets are written off after all the necessary procedures have been completed and the amount of the loss has been determined. Subsequent recoveries of amounts previously written off are recognised in the income and expenditure account.

2.9.2 *Measurement of expected credit losses*

Expected credit losses of a financial instrument are an unbiased and probability-weighted estimate of credit losses (i.e. the present value of all cash shortfalls) over the expected life of the financial instrument:

- for financial assets, a credit loss is the difference between the cash flows due to the Group in accordance with the contract and the cash flows that the Group expects to receive, discounted at the effective interest rate. For a financial asset that is credit impaired at the reporting date, the Group measures the expected credit losses as the difference between the asset's gross carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows discounted at the asset's original effective interest rate;
- for undrawn loan commitments, a credit loss is the present value of the difference between the contractual cash flows that are due to the Group if the commitment is drawn down and the cash flows that the Group expects to receive; and
- for financial guarantee contracts, a credit loss is the present value of expected payments to reimburse the holder less any amounts that the Group expects to recover.

Further details on the expected credit losses calculation are set out in note 37.3.3.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

2.10 Gold

Gold is carried at fair value. Changes in the fair value of gold are recognised in the income and expenditure account in the period in which they arise.

2.11 Investment properties

Properties that are held for long-term rental yields, capital appreciation or both, and that are not occupied by the Group, are classified as investment properties.

Investment properties are recognised initially at cost, including related transaction costs. After initial recognition, investment properties are measured at fair value as assessed by independent professional valuers, or by the management based on the latest valuation made by the independent professional valuers. Fair value of the investment properties are measured based on the market or income approach. Under the market approach, the value is determined based on comparable transactions. For the income approach, the fair value is determined using valuation techniques including discounted cash flow and income capitalisation methods.

Any gain or loss arising from a change in fair value or the disposal of an investment property is recognised directly in the income and expenditure account. Rental income from investment properties is recognised in accordance with the accounting policies as set out in note 2.13.2.

2.12 Property, plant and equipment

The following items of property, plant and equipment are stated in the balance sheet at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses (note 2.14):

- buildings held for own use situated on freehold land;
- leasehold land and buildings held for own use;
- plant and equipment, including plant, machinery, furniture, fixtures, equipment, motor vehicles and personal computers; and
- right-of-use assets arising from leases of premises (note 2.13.1).

Intangible assets including computer software licences and system development costs are included in property, plant and equipment.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

Freehold land is not depreciated. For other items of property, plant and equipment, depreciation is calculated to write off their cost less their estimated residual value, if any, on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives as follows:

- leasehold land over the unexpired term of lease
- buildings situated on freehold land 39 years
- buildings situated on leasehold land over the shorter of the unexpired term of lease and their estimated useful lives
- right-of-use assets over the shorter of the lease terms and their estimated useful lives
- plant and equipment 3 to 15 years
- computer software licences and system development costs 3 to 5 years

A gain or loss arising from the disposal of an item of property, plant and equipment is determined as the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount of the asset and is recognised in the income and expenditure account on the date of disposal.

2.13 Leases

2.13.1 As a lessee

A lease is recognised in the balance sheet as a right-of-use asset with a corresponding lease liability at the lease commencement date, except that variable lease payments and payments associated with short-term leases having a lease term of 12 months or less and leases of low-value assets are charged to the income and expenditure account on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

A right-of-use asset, except that meeting the definition of investment property (note 2.11), is recognised as property, plant and equipment and measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses (note 2.12). The right-of-use asset is depreciated on a straight-line basis over the shorter of the lease term and the asset's estimated useful life. A right-of-use asset that meets the definition of investment property is presented in the balance sheet as an investment property.

The lease liability is recognised as other liabilities and is measured at the present value of the lease payments payable over the lease term, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease or, if that rate cannot be readily determined, the Group's incremental borrowing rate. The lease liability is subsequently adjusted by the effect of the interest on and the settlement of the lease liability.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

Lease payments included in the measurement of the Group's lease liability mainly comprise:

- fixed payments, less any lease incentives receivable;
- lease payments in an optional renewal period if the Group is reasonably certain to exercise an extension option; and
- penalties for early termination of a lease unless the Group is reasonably certain not to terminate early.

The lease liability is remeasured if the Group changes its assessment of whether it will exercise an extension or termination option. When the lease liability is remeasured, a corresponding adjustment is made to the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset, or is recorded in the income and expenditure account if the carrying amount of the right-of-use asset has been reduced to zero.

2.13.2 *As a lessor*

The Group enters into contracts as a lessor with respect to some of its properties. These contracts are classified as operating leases because the Group does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of assets to the lessees. Rental income from operating leases is recognised in the income and expenditure account as other income (note 2.17.5) on a straight-line basis over the lease term.

2.14 **Impairment of other assets**

The carrying amounts of other assets, including interests in subsidiaries, interests in associates and joint ventures, and property, plant and equipment, are reviewed at each reporting date to identify any indication of impairment.

If any such indication exists, an impairment loss is recognised in the income and expenditure account whenever the carrying amount of an asset exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs of disposal and value in use.

2.15 **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash and money at call, placements with banks and other financial institutions, and short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to known amounts of cash and subject to an insignificant risk of changes in value, having been within three months of maturity when placed or acquired.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

2.16 Insurance contracts

2.16.1 Life insurance contracts

Premiums are recognised as income when the cash is received from the annuitant, and the policy is issued and becomes effective after the completion of all the underwriting procedures.

Insurance contract liabilities are recognised when contracts are entered into and premiums are recognised. These liabilities are measured by using the Modified Net Level Premium Valuation method for long term business in accordance with the provision of the Insurance (Determination of Long Term Liabilities) Rules (Cap. 41E). The movements in liabilities at each reporting date are recorded in the income and expenditure account.

Insurance claims reflect the cost of all annuity payments, surrenders, withdrawals and death claims arising during the year. Surrenders, withdrawals and death claims are recorded on the basis of notifications received. Annuity payments are recorded when due.

2.16.2 Mortgage insurance contracts

The mortgage insurance business under the Mortgage Insurance Programme of the Group is accounted for on the annual accounting basis. Under the annual accounting approach, the Group makes provisions based on credible estimates of future income and outgoings to determine the underwriting result for the current accounting period. The underwriting result includes any adjustments arising from the correction of the previous estimates.

Gross premiums represent direct business written through authorized institutions as defined under the Banking Ordinance (Cap. 155) during an accounting period. The gross premiums after deduction of discounts and refunds, include the reinsurance premiums to be paid to the approved reinsurers, the risk premiums and servicing fees earned by the Group. The net premiums are recognised as income on a time-apportioned basis during the time the insurance coverage is effective.

Unearned premiums represent that portion of net premiums written which are estimated to relate to risks and services subsequent to the reporting date.

Provisions are made for outstanding claims, claims incurred but not reported and loss reserve at the reporting date.

Reinsurance contracts refer to contracts entered into by the Group with reinsurers under which the Group is compensated for losses on one or more insurance contracts issued by the Group. Benefits to which the Group is entitled under its reinsurance contracts held are recognised as reinsurance assets. These assets consist of claims recoverable from reinsurers and receivables that are dependent on the expected claims and benefits arising under the related reinsured insurance contracts. Amounts recoverable from or due to reinsurers are measured consistently with the amounts associated with the reinsured insurance contracts and in accordance with the terms of each reinsurance contract. Reinsurance assets are primarily premiums for reinsurance contracts and are amortised as an expense.

A reinsurance asset is impaired if there is objective evidence, as a result of an event that occurred after initial recognition of the reinsurance asset, that the Group may not receive all amounts due to it under the terms of the contract, and the impact on the amounts that the Group will receive from the reinsurer can be reliably measured.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

2.16.3 *Other guarantee and insurance contracts*

The Group provides financial guarantees for loan facilities provided to eligible small and medium enterprises (SMEs), in return for a guarantee fee, insurance coverage on reverse mortgage loans and policy reverse mortgage loans provided to elderly people in return for an insurance premium.

In respect of insurance coverage on reverse mortgage loans, the Group entered into reinsurance contract with a reinsurer. Reinsurance contracts refer to contracts entered into by the Group with reinsurers under which the Group is compensated for losses on one or more insurance contracts issued by the Group. Benefits to which the Group is entitled under its reinsurance contracts held are recognised as reinsurance assets. Reinsurance assets are primarily premiums for reinsurance contracts and are amortised as an expense.

A reinsurance asset is impaired if there is objective evidence, as a result of an event that occurred after initial recognition of the reinsurance asset, that the Group may not receive all amounts due to it under the terms of the contract, and the impact on the amounts that the Group will receive from the reinsurer can be reliably measured.

The Group will assess if its recognised liabilities are adequate on each reporting date, using the current estimates of future cash flows under these contracts. If the assessment shows that the carrying amount of its insurance liabilities are inadequate in the light of the estimated future cash flows, the shortfall shall be recognised in the income and expenditure account.

2.17 **Revenue and expenditure recognition**

2.17.1 *Interest income and expense*

Interest on the majority of the placements by Fiscal Reserves (Operating and Capital Reserves) and placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies is payable at a fixed rate determined annually (notes 24 and 25). Interest on these placements is recognised in the income and expenditure account on an accrual basis, using the effective interest method.

Interest on the placements by Fiscal Reserves (Future Fund) is payable at a composite rate which is determined annually and linked with the performance of certain portfolios of assets under the Fund (note 24). Interest on these placements is recognised in the income and expenditure account on an accrual basis, based on the performance of those portfolios.

Interest income and expense for all other interest-bearing financial assets and financial liabilities is recognised in the income and expenditure account on an accrual basis, using the effective interest method.

Once a financial asset or a group of similar financial assets has been written down as a result of an impairment loss, interest income is thereafter recognised using the rate of interest used to discount the future cash flows for the purpose of measuring the impairment loss.

2.17.2 *Dividend income*

Dividend income from listed equity securities is recognised in the income and expenditure account when the share price is quoted ex-dividend. Dividend income from unlisted equity securities is recognised when the shareholder's right to receive payment is unconditionally established.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

Dividends on equity securities measured at fair value through other comprehensive income that clearly represent a recovery of part of the cost of the investment are presented in other comprehensive income.

2.17.3 *Net realised and unrealised gains/(losses)*

Realised gains or losses on financial instruments other than equity securities measured at fair value through other comprehensive income are recognised in the income and expenditure account when the financial instruments are derecognised.

Changes in fair value of financial instruments measured at fair value through income and expenditure account are recognised as unrealised gains or losses in the income and expenditure account in the period in which they arise.

2.17.4 *Bank licence fees*

Bank licence fees are fees receivable from authorized institutions under the Banking Ordinance and are accounted for in the period when the fees become receivable.

2.17.5 *Other income*

Other income includes rental income and fee income from the provision of financial market infrastructure services. Rental income is recognised in accordance with the accounting policies as set out in note 2.13.2. Other income is accounted for in the period when it becomes receivable.

2.17.6 *Contributions to staff retirement schemes*

The Group operates several defined contribution schemes, including the Mandatory Provident Fund Scheme. Under these schemes, contributions payable each year are charged to the income and expenditure account. The assets of the staff retirement schemes are held separately from those of the Group.

2.17.7 *Income tax*

The Fund is not subject to Hong Kong profits tax as it is an integral part of the government. Income tax payable on profits of subsidiaries is recognised as an expense in the period in which profits arise.

Deferred tax assets and liabilities arise from deductible and taxable temporary differences respectively, being the differences between the tax bases of assets and liabilities and their carrying amounts for financial reporting purposes. Deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that future taxable profit will be available against which the assets can be utilised. Deferred tax liabilities are provided in full. For investment properties that are measured at fair value, the amount of deferred tax recognised is measured using the tax rates that would apply on sale of those assets at their carrying value at the reporting date on the presumption that their carrying amounts are recovered entirely through sale. In all other cases, the amount of deferred tax recognised is measured based on the expected manner of realisation or settlement of the carrying amount of the assets and liabilities, using tax rates enacted or substantively enacted at the reporting date. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are not discounted.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

2.18 Foreign currency translation

The financial statements are presented in Hong Kong dollars, which is the Group's and the Fund's functional currency.

Foreign currency transactions during the year are translated into Hong Kong dollars using the spot exchange rates at the transaction dates. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are translated into Hong Kong dollars using the closing exchange rate at the reporting date. Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured in terms of historical cost in a foreign currency are translated into Hong Kong dollars using the spot exchange rates at the transaction dates. Non-monetary assets and liabilities that are measured at fair value in a foreign currency are translated into Hong Kong dollars using the closing exchange rates at the dates when the fair value is determined.

All foreign currency translation differences are presented in aggregate as "net exchange gain/(loss)" in the income and expenditure account. Although it is not practicable to disclose separately the net exchange gain/(loss) on financial assets and financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure account or on derivative financial instruments, the majority of the exchange gains/(losses) relate to these two categories of financial instruments.

The results of foreign operations are translated into Hong Kong dollars at the exchange rates approximating the foreign exchange rates ruling at the dates of the transactions. Balance sheet items are translated into Hong Kong dollars at the closing foreign exchange rates at the reporting date. The resulting exchange differences are recognised in other comprehensive income and accumulated separately in equity in the translation reserve.

On disposal of a foreign operation, the cumulative amount of the exchange differences relating to that foreign operation is reclassified from equity to the income and expenditure account when the gain or loss on disposal is recognised.

2.19 Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The Group makes estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities. Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The Group has considered the impacts arising from the COVID-19 pandemic when reviewing the estimates and assumptions which are based on future economic conditions and sensitive to changes in those conditions. In particular, the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic increase the level of estimation uncertainty for the measurements of fair values of investment properties, fair values of certain financial assets that are derived from unobservable inputs and expected credit losses on financial instruments.

(a) Fair value of investment properties

The fair value of investment properties is revalued by independent professional valuers using property valuation techniques which involve certain assumptions of market conditions. Details of the fair value measurement of investment properties are set out in note 19.1.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

(b) *Fair value of financial instruments*

The majority of valuation techniques employ only observable market data. However, certain financial instruments are valued on the basis of valuation techniques that feature one or more significant market inputs that are unobservable, where the measurement of fair value is more judgemental. Details of the fair value measurement of financial instruments are set out in note 38.

(c) *Impairment allowances on loan portfolio*

The Group reviews its loan portfolio to assess expected credit losses on a regular basis. In determining expected credit losses, the Group makes judgements as to whether there is any significant increase in credit risk since initial recognition. It is required to exercise judgements in making assumptions and estimates to incorporate relevant information about external credit ratings, past events, current conditions and forecast of economic conditions. The methodology and assumptions used for estimating both the amount and timing of future cash flows are reviewed regularly to reduce any differences between loss estimates and actual loss experience. Information about the assumptions relating to measurement of expected credit losses is set out in note 37.3.3.

(d) *Provision for outstanding claims on insurance and guarantee portfolios of general insurance business*

The Group reviews the insurance and guarantee portfolios of its general insurance subsidiary to assess provision for outstanding claims, including claims of which the amounts have not been determined and claims arising out of incidents that have not been notified to the insurer and related expenses for settling such claims. In determining the provision for outstanding claims, the Group makes judgements and assumptions including but not limited to the loss severity rate applied, the economic conditions and the local property market in making estimation of the payments which the Group is required to make in fulfilling its obligations under the insurance and guarantee contracts. The methodology and assumptions used for estimating the ultimate claim amount are reviewed regularly.

(e) *Insurance contract liabilities of life insurance business*

The liability for insurance contracts of the Group's life insurance subsidiary is based on current assumptions with a margin for risk and adverse deviation. The main assumptions used relate to mortality, longevity, expenses and discount rates, which are reviewed regularly.

2.20 Related parties

For the purposes of these financial statements, a person or an entity is considered to be related to the Group if:

- (a) the person, or a close member of that person's family:
 - (i) has control or joint control over the Group;
 - (ii) has significant influence over the Group; or
 - (iii) is a member of the key management personnel of the Group.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

- (b) any of the following conditions applies to the entity:
- (i) the entity and the Group are members of the same group (which means that each parent, subsidiary and fellow subsidiary is related to the others);
 - (ii) the entity is an associate or joint venture of the Group (or an associate or joint venture of a member of a group of which the Group is a member);
 - (iii) the entity and the Group are joint ventures of the same third party;
 - (iv) the entity is a joint venture of another entity and the Group is an associate of that entity;
 - (v) the entity is a post-employment benefit plan for the benefit of employees of either the Group or an entity related to the Group;
 - (vi) the entity is controlled or jointly controlled by a person identified in (a);
 - (vii) a person identified in (a)(i) has significant influence over the entity or is a member of the key management personnel of the entity (or of a parent of the entity); or
 - (viii) the entity, or any member of a group of which it is a part, provides key management personnel services to the Group.

Close members of the family of a person are those family members who may be expected to influence, or be influenced by, that person in their dealings with the entity.

2.21 Operating segments

Operating segments are reported in a manner consistent with the internal management reports provided to the chief operating decision maker. The Group comprises the following operating segments:

- management of funds under the Currency Board Operations, including the Backing Portfolio;
- management of funds representing the general reserve assets of the Fund, including the Investment Portfolio, the Long-Term Growth Portfolio and the Strategic Portfolio; and
- maintaining the stability and integrity of Hong Kong's monetary and financial systems, which includes banking supervision and monetary management, and the activities of Hong Kong FMI Services Limited, The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited and Hong Kong Note Printing Limited.

Details of the operating segments of the Group are set out in note 32.

3 CHANGES IN ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The HKICPA has issued certain new or revised HKFRSs that are first effective for the current accounting period of the Group. None of them has impact on the accounting policies of the Group.

The Group has not applied any new standard or interpretation that is not yet effective for the current accounting period (note 39).

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

4 INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

(a) Investment income

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Interest income:				
– from derivative financial instruments	206	109	198	108
– from financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	29,868	63,146	29,626	62,956
– from financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	89	154	–	–
– from financial assets measured at amortised cost	2,621	6,170	1,355	4,747
	32,784	69,579	31,179	67,811
Dividend income:				
– from financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	14,662	16,445	11,578	13,758
– from financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	–	11	–	11
– from subsidiaries	–	–	221	81
	14,662	16,456	11,799	13,850
Income from investment properties:				
– rental income	1,223	1,328	–	–
– change in fair value on revaluation	(356)	46	–	–
	867	1,374	–	–
Net realised and unrealised gains/(losses):				
– on derivative financial instruments	4,019	(4,303)	3,381	(4,124)
– on financial assets and financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	190,080	195,623	134,099	162,237
– on debt securities measured at amortised cost	11	–	–	–
– on gold	191	126	191	126
	194,301	191,446	137,671	158,239
Net exchange gain/(loss)	9,708	(13,923)	9,607	(13,019)
TOTAL	252,322	264,932	190,256	226,881

Net realised and unrealised gains/(losses) included a gain of HK\$855 million (2019: HK\$15 million loss) on hedging instruments designated as fair value hedge and a loss of HK\$849 million (2019: HK\$14 million gain) on hedged items.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

(b) Interest expense on placements by Fiscal Reserves, HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies

	Group and Fund	
	2020	2019
Interest expense on placements by Fiscal Reserves:		
– at a fixed rate determined annually ¹	32,644	29,393
– at market-based rates	–	1
– at a composite rate determined annually ²	37,148	24,354
Interest expense on placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies:		
– at a fixed rate determined annually ¹	11,496	9,013
– at market-based rates	11	32
TOTAL	81,299	62,793

¹ This rate was fixed at 3.7% per annum for 2020 (2019: 2.9%) – notes 24, 25 and 30.

² The composite rate was 12.3% per annum for 2020 (2019: 8.7%) – notes 24 and 30.

(c) Other interest expense

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Interest expense on Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	8,974	19,109	8,974	19,109
Interest expense on placements by subsidiaries	–	–	889	466
Interest expense on derivative financial instruments	17	44	2	10
Interest expense on financial instruments measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	–	69	–	66
Interest expense on lease liabilities	17	19	7	8
Interest expense on other financial instruments	1,249	1,661	275	366
TOTAL	10,257	20,902	10,147	20,025

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

(d) Operating expenses

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Staff costs				
Salaries and other staff costs	1,896	1,747	1,439	1,347
Retirement benefit costs	151	142	124	118
Premises and equipment expenses				
Depreciation	376	360	251	247
Other premises expenses	93	87	74	71
General operating costs				
Maintenance of office and computer equipment	162	136	138	116
Financial information and communication services	83	76	68	63
External relations	13	33	12	31
Public education and publicity	46	50	16	17
Financial infrastructure operation	137	140	63	79
Professional, consulting and other services	119	100	80	67
Training	5	11	4	9
Expenses relating to investment properties				
– Operating expenses	136	197	–	–
– Variable lease payment expenses	19	10	–	–
Others	24	42	28	23
Investment management and custodian fees				
Management and custodian fees	1,767	1,519	1,537	1,375
Transaction costs	271	182	269	180
Withholding tax	745	799	745	799
Professional fees and others	167	257	78	131
TOTAL	6,210	5,888	4,926	4,673

The aggregate emoluments of senior staff members (Executive Directors and above) of the Group are as follows:

	Group	
	2020	2019
Fixed pay	84.5	83.0
Variable pay	22.6	25.5
Other benefits	13.4	11.8
	120.5	120.3

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

Other benefits shown above included provident funds, medical and life insurance, gratuity and annual leave accrued during the year. There were no other allowances or benefits-in-kind.

The numbers of senior staff members (Executive Directors and above) of the Group whose emoluments including other benefits fell within the following bands were shown in the table below. The number of senior staff posts was 18 (2019: 18). The higher figures in the table below reflected staff movements during the respective years.

HK\$	Group	
	2020	2019
1,000,001 to 1,500,000	1	1
3,500,001 to 4,000,000	–	1
4,000,001 to 4,500,000	1	1
4,500,001 to 5,000,000	–	2
5,000,001 to 5,500,000	5	2
5,500,001 to 6,000,000	3	3
6,000,001 to 6,500,000	2	2
6,500,001 to 7,000,000	1	–
7,000,001 to 7,500,000	–	2
7,500,001 to 8,000,000	2	1
8,000,001 to 8,500,000	1	–
8,500,001 to 9,000,000	1	1
9,500,001 to 10,000,000	1	1
10,000,001 to 10,500,000	1	1
10,500,001 to 11,000,000	–	1
	19	19

(e) Note and coin expenses

These represent reimbursements to the note-issuing banks in respect of note-issuing expenses and expenses incurred directly by the Fund in issuing government-issued currency notes and coins.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

(f) Charge for/(Reversal of) impairment allowances

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Charge for/(Reversal of) impairment allowances				
Placements with banks and other financial institutions (note 37.3.3(a))	1	(1)	–	(1)
Debt securities measured at amortised cost (note 37.3.3(b))	2	–	–	–
Loan portfolio (note 37.3.3(c))	73	80	–	–
Provision on loan commitments (note 37.3.3(d))	21	13	–	–
TOTAL	97	92	–	(1)

5 REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR INSURANCE BUSINESS

	Group		
	2020		
	Non-life insurance	Life insurance	Total
Gross premiums written	2,072	2,538	4,610
Reinsurance premiums	(231)	–	(231)
Net premiums written	1,841	2,538	4,379
Movement in unearned premiums, net	(1,386)	–	(1,386)
Net commission and levy expenses	(666)	(1)	(667)
Net premiums earned	(211)	2,537	2,326
Net claims incurred, benefits paid and movement in policyholders' liabilities	(24)	(3,518)	(3,542)
Net premiums earned after provisions	(235)	(981)	(1,216)

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

	Group		
	2019		
	Non-life insurance	Life insurance	Total
Gross premiums written	542	1,631	2,173
Reinsurance premiums	(76)	–	(76)
Net premiums written	466	1,631	2,097
Movement in unearned premiums, net	(110)	–	(110)
Net commission and levy expenses	(138)	–	(138)
Net premiums earned	218	1,631	1,849
Net claims incurred, benefits paid and movement in policyholders' liabilities	(3)	(2,018)	(2,021)
Net premiums earned after provisions	215	(387)	(172)

6 INCOME TAX

(a) Income tax (credited to)/charged in the income and expenditure account

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Current tax				
Hong Kong profits tax:				
– current year	49	47	–	–
– under-provision in prior years	–	3	–	–
Taxation outside Hong Kong:				
– current year	113	158	–	–
– under-provision in prior years	8	83	–	–
Deferred tax				
(Credit)/Charge for current year	(215)	366	–	–
TOTAL	(45)	657	–	–

No provision for Hong Kong profits tax has been made for the Fund as it is an integral part of the government. The provision for Hong Kong profits tax relates to the tax liabilities of the Fund's subsidiaries. For 2020, it is calculated at 16.5% (2019: 16.5%) of the estimated assessable profits for the year. Tax for overseas subsidiaries is charged at the appropriate current rates of taxation ruling in the relevant countries.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

Reconciliation between tax expense and accounting profit at applicable tax rates:

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Surplus before taxation	150,277	178,303	93,712	139,053
(Deficit)/Surplus subject to tax in Hong Kong and elsewhere	(3,606)	6,680	–	–
Tax calculated at domestic tax rates in the respective countries	(599)	1,151	–	–
Tax effect of:				
– non-deductible expenses	1,349	509	–	–
– non-taxable income	(712)	(1,478)	–	–
– tax losses not recognised	–	19	–	–
– utilisation of tax losses previously not recognised	(22)	(1)	–	–
– under-provision in prior years	8	86	–	–
– effect on deferred tax balances arising from change in tax rates	(135)	290	–	–
– others	66	81	–	–
Income tax (credit)/charge	(45)	657	–	–

(b) Tax (recoverable)/payable

	Note	Group		Fund	
		2020	2019	2020	2019
Tax recoverable	16	(21)	–	–	–
Tax payable	30	600	561	–	–
		579	561	–	–

(c) Deferred tax

	Note	Group		Fund	
		2020	2019	2020	2019
Deferred tax assets	16	(203)	(83)	–	–
Deferred tax liabilities	30	443	511	–	–
		240	428	–	–

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

The major components of net deferred tax liabilities and the movements during the year are as follows:

	Group				
	Fair value changes on investment properties	Accelerated tax depreciation	Tax losses	Others	Net deferred tax liabilities
At 1 January 2019	111	35	(77)	(6)	63
Charged/(Credited) to the income and expenditure account	371	1	(5)	(1)	366
Exchange differences	(1)	–	–	–	(1)
At 31 December 2019	481	36	(82)	(7)	428
At 1 January 2020	481	36	(82)	(7)	428
Credited to the income and expenditure account	(91)	(3)	(119)	(2)	(215)
Exchange differences	27	–	–	–	27
At 31 December 2020	417	33	(201)	(9)	240

There was no significant unprovided deferred tax as at 31 December 2020 and 2019.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

7 CATEGORIES OF FINANCIAL ASSETS AND FINANCIAL LIABILITIES

Group – 2020							
	Note	Total	Derivative financial instruments	Financial assets and financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	Financial assets measured at amortised cost	Other financial liabilities
Cash and money at call	8	148,947	–	–	–	148,947	–
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	9	143,149	–	–	–	143,149	–
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	10	4,335,548	–	4,335,548	–	–	–
Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	11	5,789	–	–	5,789	–	–
Derivative financial instruments	12(a)	2,588	2,588	–	–	–	–
Debt securities measured at amortised cost	13	9,730	–	–	–	9,730	–
Loan portfolio	14	49,433	–	–	–	49,433	–
Others		45,129	–	–	–	45,129	–
FINANCIAL ASSETS		4,740,313	2,588	4,335,548	5,789	396,388	–
Certificates of Indebtedness	21	556,204	–	–	–	–	556,204
Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	21	12,844	–	–	–	–	12,844
Balance of the banking system	22	457,466	–	–	–	–	457,466
Placements by banks and other financial institutions	23	87,650	–	–	–	–	87,650
Placements by Fiscal Reserves	24	881,832	–	–	–	–	881,832
Placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies	25	342,471	–	–	–	–	342,471
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	27	1,068,880	–	1,068,880	–	–	–
Derivative financial instruments	12(a)	7,469	7,469	–	–	–	–
Bank loans	28	12,050	–	–	–	–	12,050
Other debt securities issued	29	62,587	–	–	–	–	62,587
Others		246,507	–	–	–	–	246,507
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES		3,735,960	7,469	1,068,880	–	–	2,659,611

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

	Group – 2019						
	Note	Total	Derivative financial instruments	Financial assets and financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	Financial assets measured at amortised cost	Other financial liabilities
Cash and money at call	8	181,527	–	–	–	181,527	–
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	9	153,369	–	–	–	153,369	–
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	10	3,866,803	–	3,866,803	–	–	–
Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	11	6,131	–	–	6,131	–	–
Derivative financial instruments	12(a)	1,289	1,289	–	–	–	–
Debt securities measured at amortised cost	13	12,034	–	–	–	12,034	–
Loan portfolio	14	9,310	–	–	–	9,310	–
Others		127,361	–	–	–	127,361	–
FINANCIAL ASSETS		4,357,824	1,289	3,866,803	6,131	483,601	–
Certificates of Indebtedness	21	516,062	–	–	–	–	516,062
Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	21	12,988	–	–	–	–	12,988
Balance of the banking system	22	67,688	–	–	–	–	67,688
Placements by banks and other financial institutions	23	35,000	–	–	–	–	35,000
Placements by Fiscal Reserves	24	1,137,490	–	–	–	–	1,137,490
Placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies	25	328,406	–	–	–	–	328,406
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	27	1,152,327	–	1,152,327	–	–	–
Derivative financial instruments	12(a)	6,212	6,212	–	–	–	–
Bank loans	28	11,348	–	–	–	–	11,348
Other debt securities issued	29	40,370	–	147	–	–	40,223
Others		201,182	–	–	–	–	201,182
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES		3,509,073	6,212	1,152,474	–	–	2,350,387

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

Fund – 2020							
	Note	Total	Derivative financial instruments	Financial assets and financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	Financial assets measured at amortised cost	Other financial liabilities
Cash and money at call	8	145,255	–	–	–	145,255	–
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	9	121,796	–	–	–	121,796	–
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	10	3,981,157	–	3,981,157	–	–	–
Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	11	1,370	–	–	1,370	–	–
Derivative financial instruments	12(a)	1,791	1,791	–	–	–	–
Others		43,138	–	–	–	43,138	–
FINANCIAL ASSETS		4,294,507	1,791	3,981,157	1,370	310,189	–
Certificates of Indebtedness	21	556,204	–	–	–	–	556,204
Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	21	12,844	–	–	–	–	12,844
Balance of the banking system	22	457,466	–	–	–	–	457,466
Placements by banks and other financial institutions	23	87,650	–	–	–	–	87,650
Placements by Fiscal Reserves	24	881,832	–	–	–	–	881,832
Placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies	25	342,471	–	–	–	–	342,471
Placements by subsidiaries	26	15,469	–	–	–	–	15,469
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	27	1,068,880	–	1,068,880	–	–	–
Derivative financial instruments	12(a)	7,023	7,023	–	–	–	–
Others		225,965	–	–	–	–	225,965
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES		3,655,804	7,023	1,068,880	–	–	2,579,901

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

	Fund – 2019						
	Note	Total	Derivative financial instruments	Financial assets and financial liabilities measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	Financial assets measured at amortised cost	Other financial liabilities
Cash and money at call	8	180,741	–	–	–	180,741	–
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	9	125,201	–	–	–	125,201	–
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	10	3,586,245	–	3,586,245	–	–	–
Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	11	1,210	–	–	1,210	–	–
Derivative financial instruments	12(a)	1,088	1,088	–	–	–	–
Others		123,787	–	–	–	123,787	–
FINANCIAL ASSETS		4,018,272	1,088	3,586,245	1,210	429,729	–
Certificates of Indebtedness	21	516,062	–	–	–	–	516,062
Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	21	12,988	–	–	–	–	12,988
Balance of the banking system	22	67,688	–	–	–	–	67,688
Placements by banks and other financial institutions	23	35,000	–	–	–	–	35,000
Placements by Fiscal Reserves	24	1,137,490	–	–	–	–	1,137,490
Placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies	25	328,406	–	–	–	–	328,406
Placements by subsidiaries	26	12,597	–	–	–	–	12,597
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	27	1,152,327	–	1,152,327	–	–	–
Derivative financial instruments	12(a)	5,728	5,728	–	–	–	–
Others		188,900	–	–	–	–	188,900
FINANCIAL LIABILITIES		3,457,186	5,728	1,152,327	–	–	2,299,131

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

8 CASH AND MONEY AT CALL

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
At amortised cost				
Balance with central banks	6,473	9,272	6,473	9,272
Balance with banks	142,474	172,255	138,782	171,469
TOTAL	148,947	181,527	145,255	180,741

9 PLACEMENTS WITH BANKS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
At amortised cost				
Placements in respect of reverse repurchase agreements:				
– with central banks	8,122	51,016	8,122	51,016
– with banks and other financial institutions	8,942	688	8,942	688
Other placements:				
– with central banks	31,015	–	31,015	–
– with banks	95,075	101,669	73,720	73,500
	143,154	153,373	121,799	125,204
Less: allowances for expected credit losses	(5)	(4)	(3)	(3)
TOTAL	143,149	153,369	121,796	125,201

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

10 FINANCIAL ASSETS MEASURED AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
At fair value				
Debt securities				
Treasury bills and commercial paper				
Listed outside Hong Kong	1,179	423	1,179	423
Unlisted	975,159	740,372	975,159	740,372
Certificates of deposit				
Unlisted	194,020	218,201	194,020	218,201
Other debt securities				
Listed in Hong Kong	6,237	7,098	6,226	7,088
Listed outside Hong Kong	1,934,983	1,767,909	1,934,983	1,767,909
Unlisted	126,467	122,562	126,467	122,562
Total debt securities	3,238,045	2,856,565	3,238,034	2,856,555
Equity securities				
Listed in Hong Kong	207,118	195,141	206,864	194,773
Listed outside Hong Kong	339,697	330,222	337,852	328,646
Unlisted	207,259	212,362	198,407	206,271
Total equity securities	754,074	737,725	743,123	729,690
Investment funds				
Unlisted	343,429	272,513	–	–
TOTAL	4,335,548	3,866,803	3,981,157	3,586,245

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

11 FINANCIAL ASSETS MEASURED AT FAIR VALUE THROUGH OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
At fair value				
Debt securities				
Listed in Hong Kong	1,103	1,102	–	–
Listed outside Hong Kong	1,732	2,012	–	–
Unlisted	1,584	1,807	–	–
	4,419	4,921	–	–
Equity securities				
Unlisted	1,370	1,210	1,370	1,210
TOTAL	5,789	6,131	1,370	1,210

The Group's investment in unlisted equity securities as at 31 December 2020 represents a holding of 4,285 shares (2019: 4,285 shares) in the Bank for International Settlements. As at 31 December 2020 and 2019, the nominal value of each share is 5,000 Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) and is 25% paid up (note 35(a)).

12 DERIVATIVE FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Derivative financial instruments refer to financial contracts whose value depends on the value of one or more underlying assets or indices with settlement at a future date.

The Group uses derivative financial instruments to manage its exposures to market risk and facilitate the implementation of investment strategies. The principal derivative financial instruments used are interest rate and currency swap contracts, and forward foreign exchange contracts, which are primarily over-the-counter derivatives, as well as exchange-traded futures contracts.

Market risk arising from derivative financial instruments is included as part of the overall market risk exposure. The credit risk arising from these transactions is marked against the overall credit exposure to individual counterparties. The financial risk management approaches are outlined in note 37.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

(a) Fair values of derivative financial instruments

An analysis of the fair values of derivative financial instruments held by product type is set out below:

	Group				Fund			
	2020		2019		2020		2019	
	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities	Assets	Liabilities
Derivatives categorised as held for trading								
Interest rate derivatives								
Interest rate swap contracts	1,223	79	446	65	1,208	25	441	41
Interest rate futures contracts	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Swaption contracts	1	–	1	–	1	–	1	–
Equity derivatives								
Equity index futures contracts	97	257	65	141	97	257	65	141
Currency derivatives								
Forward foreign exchange contracts	276	6,781	529	5,554	276	6,669	529	5,390
Currency swap contracts	–	224	16	20	–	–	–	–
Bond derivatives								
Bond futures contracts	20	12	32	32	20	12	32	32
Commodity derivatives								
Commodity futures contracts	189	60	20	124	189	60	20	124
	1,806	7,413	1,109	5,936	1,791	7,023	1,088	5,728
Derivatives designated as hedging instruments in fair value hedges								
Interest rate derivatives								
Interest rate swap contracts	405	2	133	54	–	–	–	–
Currency derivatives								
Currency swap contracts	377	54	47	222	–	–	–	–
	782	56	180	276	–	–	–	–
Derivatives designated as hedging instruments in cash flow hedges								
Currency derivatives								
Currency swap contracts	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	2,588	7,469	1,289	6,212	1,791	7,023	1,088	5,728

The fair value hedges consist of currency and interest rate swap contracts that are used to protect against changes in the fair value of certain fixed-rate debt securities issued due to movements in market interest rates and foreign exchange rates. The currency swap contracts under cash flow hedges are used to hedge the portion of foreign exchange risks arising from variability of cash flows from foreign currency denominated debt securities issued.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

(b) Notional amounts of derivative financial instruments

An analysis of the notional amounts of derivative financial instruments held at the reporting date based on the remaining periods to settlement is set out below. The notional amounts of these instruments indicate the volume of outstanding transactions and do not represent the amounts at risk.

	Group									
	Notional amounts with remaining life of									
	2020					2019				
	1 year or less		5 years or less		Over 5 years	1 year or less		5 years or less		Over 5 years
3 months or less	but over 3 months	but over 1 year	3 months or less	but over 3 months		but over 1 year				
	Total	3 months or less	3 months	1 year	5 years	Total	3 months or less	3 months	1 year	5 years
Derivatives categorised as held for trading										
Interest rate derivatives										
Interest rate swap contracts	34,892	1,500	1,600	21,906	9,886	24,100	4	3,001	13,181	7,914
Interest rate futures contracts	–	–	–	–	–	585	–	585	–	–
Swaption contracts	312	192	120	–	–	1,044	896	148	–	–
Equity derivatives										
Equity index futures contracts	55,808	55,808	–	–	–	51,179	51,179	–	–	–
Currency derivatives										
Forward foreign exchange contracts	274,288	271,041	1,405	1,842	–	355,864	352,045	2,450	1,369	–
Currency swap contracts	2,900	–	613	2,041	246	1,842	–	139	1,529	174
Bond derivatives										
Bond futures contracts	42,552	42,552	–	–	–	33,786	33,786	–	–	–
Commodity derivatives										
Commodity futures contracts	33,104	16,236	16,868	–	–	20,643	13,673	6,970	–	–
	443,856	387,329	20,606	25,789	10,132	489,043	451,583	13,293	16,079	8,088
Derivatives designated as hedging instruments in fair value hedges										
Interest rate derivatives										
Interest rate swap contracts	28,250	2,431	14,365	9,825	1,629	18,041	2,444	7,770	5,898	1,929
Currency derivatives										
Currency swap contracts	18,914	2,739	10,210	4,908	1,057	14,174	985	6,920	5,212	1,057
	47,164	5,170	24,575	14,733	2,686	32,215	3,429	14,690	11,110	2,986
Derivatives designated as hedging instruments in cash flow hedges										
Currency derivatives										
Currency swap contracts	269	269	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
TOTAL	491,289	392,768	45,181	40,522	12,818	521,258	455,012	27,983	27,189	11,074

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

	Fund									
	Notional amounts with remaining life of									
	2020					2019				
	1 year or less		5 years or less		Over 5 years	1 year or less		5 years or less		Over 5 years
	Total	3 months or less	3 months	but over 3 months		Total	3 months or less	3 months	but over 3 months	
Derivatives categorised as held for trading										
Interest rate derivatives										
Interest rate swap contracts	16,011	–	1,600	7,600	6,811	15,873	–	1,600	8,000	6,273
Interest rate futures contracts	–	–	–	–	–	585	–	585	–	–
Swaption contracts	312	192	120	–	–	1,044	896	148	–	–
Equity derivatives										
Equity index futures contracts	55,808	55,808	–	–	–	51,179	51,179	–	–	–
Currency derivatives										
Forward foreign exchange contracts	272,446	271,041	1,405	–	–	354,131	352,026	2,105	–	–
Bond derivatives										
Bond futures contracts	42,552	42,552	–	–	–	33,786	33,786	–	–	–
Commodity derivatives										
Commodity futures contracts	33,104	16,236	16,868	–	–	20,643	13,673	6,970	–	–
TOTAL	420,233	385,829	19,993	7,600	6,811	477,241	451,560	11,408	8,000	6,273

13 DEBT SECURITIES MEASURED AT AMORTISED COST

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
At amortised cost				
Debt securities				
Listed in Hong Kong	6,705	7,271	–	–
Listed outside Hong Kong	2,032	2,193	–	–
Unlisted	996	2,571	–	–
	9,733	12,035	–	–
Less: allowances for expected credit losses	(3)	(1)	–	–
TOTAL	9,730	12,034	–	–

Fair value information of the above debt securities is provided in note 38.2.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

14 LOAN PORTFOLIO

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
At amortised cost				
Loans with special 100% guarantee under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme ¹	36,085	–	–	–
Mortgage loans	4,093	4,910	–	–
Other loans	9,419	4,489	–	–
	49,597	9,399	–	–
Less: allowances for expected credit losses	(164)	(89)	–	–
TOTAL	49,433	9,310	–	–

¹ The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited (HKMC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fund, launched the special 100% loan guarantee under the SME Financing Guarantee Scheme (SFGS) through a subsidiary, HKMC Insurance Limited, in April 2020. The loans, which are fully guaranteed by the HKSAR Government, are originated by the participating lenders and sold to the HKMC without recourse upon origination. Accordingly, the default losses of these loans are covered by the HKSAR Government's guarantee and no impairment allowance is recognised in view of the minimal default risk of the HKSAR Government.

15 GOLD

	Group and Fund	
	2020	2019
At fair value		
Gold		
66,798 ounces (2019: 66,798 ounces)	979	793

The fair value of gold is based on quoted price in an active market. It is classified under Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

16 OTHER ASSETS

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Interest and dividends receivable	10,674	12,662	10,234	12,137
Unsettled sales and redemption of securities	25,012	103,350	24,911	102,348
Prepayments, receivables and other assets	8,834	10,886	7,610	8,872
Staff housing loans	259	237	259	237
Loan to the International Monetary Fund	164	239	164	239
Reinsurance assets	378	209	–	–
Tax recoverable	21	–	–	–
Deferred tax assets	203	83	–	–
TOTAL	45,545	127,666	43,178	123,833

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

17 INTERESTS IN SUBSIDIARIES

	Fund	
	2020	2019
Unlisted shares, at cost	7,462	7,392
Loans to subsidiaries	193,244	177,262
TOTAL	200,706	184,654

The following is a list of the principal subsidiaries which are wholly owned by the Fund (except for Hong Kong Note Printing Limited¹) as at 31 December 2020:

Name of company	Principal activities	Issued equity capital
The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited	Investment in mortgages and loans	HK\$7,000,000,000
HKMC Annuity Limited ²	Long term insurance	HK\$5,000,000,000
HKMC Insurance Limited ²	General insurance	HK\$3,000,000,000
HKMC Mortgage Management Limited ²	Loan purchase, origination and servicing	HK\$1,000,000
Hong Kong Note Printing Limited	Banknote printing	HK\$255,000,000
Hong Kong FMI Services Limited	Performance of financial market infrastructure related operations	HK\$167,000,000
Hong Kong Academy of Finance Limited	Financial leadership development	HK\$150,000,000
BNR Finance Company Limited	Investment holding	HK\$1
BNR Investment Company Limited	Investment holding	HK\$1
Debt Capital Solutions Company Limited	Investment holding	HK\$1
Drawbridge Investment Limited	Investment holding	HK\$1
Eight Finance Investment Company Limited	Investment holding	HK\$1
Stewardship Investment Company Limited	Investment holding	HK\$1
Stratosphere Finance Company Limited	Investment holding	HK\$1
Real Avenue Investment Company Limited	Investment properties holding	HK\$1
Real Boulevard Investment Company Limited	Investment properties holding	HK\$1
Real Gate Investment Company Limited	Investment properties holding	HK\$1
Real Horizon Investment Company Limited	Investment properties holding	HK\$1
Real Plaza Investment Company Limited	Investment properties holding	HK\$1
Real Summit Investment Company Limited	Investment properties holding	HK\$1
Real Zenith Investment Company Limited	Investment properties holding	HK\$1

¹ 55% equity interest held by the Fund.

² Subsidiaries indirectly held by the Fund through The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

The place of incorporation and operation of the above subsidiaries are in Hong Kong.

The Fund has committed to inject additional funds up to HK\$20 billion (2019: HK\$20 billion) to The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited as equity for the purpose of financing The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited's additional capital injection to HKMC Annuity Limited for maintaining its margin of solvency above a certain level. Up to 31 December 2020, there had been no capital injection to The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited under this arrangement (2019: Nil).

The Fund has provided The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited with a revolving credit facility of HK\$80 billion (2019: HK\$30 billion) at prevailing market interest rates. As at 31 December 2020, there was no outstanding balance due from The Hong Kong Mortgage Corporation Limited under this facility (2019: Nil).

The Fund has committed to provide a funding support up to HK\$300 million (2019: HK\$300 million) to Hong Kong Academy of Finance Limited for the purpose of financing the company's operations. The outstanding commitment as at 31 December 2020 was HK\$150 million (2019: HK\$220 million).

Loans to subsidiaries which principally hold investments including properties are unsecured, interest-free and repayable on demand.

Placements by subsidiaries are disclosed in note 26.

The financial statements of the principal subsidiaries are audited by firms other than the Audit Commission. The aggregate assets and liabilities of these subsidiaries not audited by the Audit Commission amounted to approximately 11% (2019: 9%) and 3% (2019: 2%) of the Group's total assets and total liabilities, respectively.

18 INTERESTS IN ASSOCIATES AND JOINT VENTURES

	Group	
	2020	2019
Associates¹		
Share of net assets	2,011	2,022
Joint ventures²		
Share of net assets	11,589	13,717
Due from joint ventures	29,118	30,789
	40,707	44,506
TOTAL	42,718	46,528

¹ Investment in an associate, comprising unlisted shares, is held directly by the Fund. In the Fund's balance sheet, the investment is stated at cost of HK\$5,000 (2019: HK\$5,000).

² The Fund does not directly hold investment in joint ventures.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

18.1 Interests in associates

The Group holds investments in two associates. One associate, incorporated in Hong Kong, provides interbank clearing services. Another associate, incorporated outside Hong Kong, holds investment funds. The Group holds equity interests in these associates ranging from 23% to 50%.

Aggregate information of the Group's associates, which are not individually material, is summarised below:

	Group	
	2020	2019
Share of (loss)/profit for the year	(41)	118
Share of other comprehensive income	53	56
Share of total comprehensive income	12	174
Aggregate carrying amount of interests in associates	2,011	2,022

As at 31 December 2020, the Group has no outstanding investment commitments to associates (2019: Nil).

18.2 Interests in joint ventures

The Group holds investments in 22 joint ventures, which are all incorporated outside Hong Kong. The principal activities of these joint ventures are holding overseas investment properties. The Group holds equity interests in these joint ventures ranging from 35% to 99%. Although the Group's equity interest in some of these joint ventures exceeds 50%, they are categorised as joint ventures because important business decisions relating to these joint ventures are required to be made with the consent of all parties. As at 31 December 2020, the aggregate interest in these joint ventures amounted to 0.85% of the Group's total assets.

Aggregate information of the Group's joint ventures, which are not individually material, is summarised below:

	Group	
	2020	2019
Share of (loss)/profit for the year	(3,170)	2,970
Share of other comprehensive income/(loss)	1,042	(209)
Share of total comprehensive (loss)/income	(2,128)	2,761
Aggregate carrying amount of interests in joint ventures	40,707	44,506

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

The Group's share of outstanding investment commitments to joint ventures is shown below:

	Group	
	2020	2019
Commitments to contribute funds	2,988	3,705

19 INVESTMENT PROPERTIES

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
At fair value				
At 1 January	22,481	25,800	–	–
Additions	105	107	–	–
Disposals	–	(3,886)	–	–
Change in fair value on revaluation	(356)	46	–	–
Exchange differences	905	414	–	–
At 31 December	23,135	22,481	–	–

The carrying amount of the Group's investment properties is analysed as follows:

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Held outside Hong Kong				
on freehold	9,426	8,872	–	–
on long-term lease (over 50 years)	13,709	13,609	–	–
TOTAL	23,135	22,481	–	–

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

The Group's investment properties are leased to third parties under operating leases. The gross rental income received and receivable by the Group and the related expenses in respect of these investment properties are summarised as follows:

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Gross rental income	1,223	1,328	–	–
Direct expenses	(155)	(207)	–	–
Net rental income	1,068	1,121	–	–

The Group's total future minimum lease payments receivable under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Within one year	1,027	1,117	–	–
After one year but not later than five years	2,808	2,883	–	–
After five years but not later than ten years	876	1,401	–	–
After ten years but not later than fifteen years	189	283	–	–
After fifteen years but not later than twenty years	–	1	–	–
TOTAL	4,900	5,685	–	–

As at 31 December 2020, investment properties with a fair value of HK\$22,731 million (2019: HK\$21,976 million) were pledged to secure general banking facilities granted to the Group (note 28).

19.1 Fair value measurement of investment properties

The Group's investment properties are revalued by independent professional valuers on an open market value basis at each reporting date. The valuers have valued the Group's investment properties based on income approach with reference to comparable market evidence. The market value which is considered as the fair value of each investment property reflects, among other things, rental income from current leases and assumptions about rental income from future leases in light of the current market conditions. The fair value also reflects, on a similar basis, any cash outflows that could be expected in respect of the property. For all properties, their current use equates to the highest and best use. There has been no change to the valuation technique during the year.

Under the income approach, fair value is estimated using assumptions regarding the benefits and liabilities of ownership over the asset's life including the terminal value. This method involves the projection of a series of cash flows on a real property interest. To this projected cash flow series, a market-derived discount rate is applied to establish the present value of the income stream associated with the asset. The significant unobservable inputs used in the income approach are the selection of discount rates which ranged from 4.10% to 5.00% (2019: 4.25% to 5.10%), net initial yields which ranged from 4.31% to 9.64% (2019: 3.97% to 8.03%) and terminal capitalisation rates which ranged from 3.10% to 3.75% (2019: 3.25% to 3.80%). Significant increases or decreases in any of those inputs in isolation would result in significantly lower or higher fair value measurements, respectively.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

All of the Group's investment properties are classified under Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy. There were no transfers into or out of Level 3 during the year. The net losses recognised in the income and expenditure account relating to revaluation of investment properties held at the reporting date were HK\$356 million (2019: HK\$118 million).

20 PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

	Group				
	Owned assets			Right-of-use assets	Total
	Premises	Plant and equipment	Computer software licences and system development costs	Premises	
Cost					
At 1 January 2019	3,852	1,469	459	428	6,208
Additions	2	104	46	2	154
Disposals	–	(9)	–	–	(9)
At 31 December 2019	3,854	1,564	505	430	6,353
At 1 January 2020	3,854	1,564	505	430	6,353
Additions	–	126	30	400	556
Disposals/write-offs	–	(7)	–	(92)	(99)
At 31 December 2020	3,854	1,683	535	738	6,810
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 January 2019	1,337	1,032	371	–	2,740
Charge for the year	89	128	23	120	360
Written back on disposal	–	(8)	–	–	(8)
At 31 December 2019	1,426	1,152	394	120	3,092
At 1 January 2020	1,426	1,152	394	120	3,092
Charge for the year	89	125	26	136	376
Written back on disposal/write-offs	–	(7)	–	(92)	(99)
At 31 December 2020	1,515	1,270	420	164	3,369
Net book value					
At 31 December 2020	2,339	413	115	574	3,441
At 31 December 2019	2,428	412	111	310	3,261

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

	Fund				
	Owned assets			Right-of-use assets	Total
	Premises	Plant and equipment	Computer software licences and system development costs	Premises	
Cost					
At 1 January 2019	3,843	665	459	321	5,288
Additions	–	51	46	2	99
Disposals	–	(3)	–	–	(3)
At 31 December 2019	3,843	713	505	323	5,384
At 1 January 2020	3,843	713	505	323	5,384
Additions	–	69	30	203	302
At 31 December 2020	3,843	782	535	526	5,686
Accumulated depreciation					
At 1 January 2019	1,330	474	371	–	2,175
Charge for the year	87	72	23	65	247
Written back on disposal	–	(3)	–	–	(3)
At 31 December 2019	1,417	543	394	65	2,419
At 1 January 2020	1,417	543	394	65	2,419
Charge for the year	88	62	26	75	251
At 31 December 2020	1,505	605	420	140	2,670
Net book value					
At 31 December 2020	2,338	177	115	386	3,016
At 31 December 2019	2,426	170	111	258	2,965

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

The net book value of owned premises comprises:

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
In Hong Kong				
Leasehold land and the building situated thereon (leasehold between 10 and 50 years)	2,318	2,406	2,317	2,404
Outside Hong Kong				
Freehold land and the building situated thereon	21	22	21	22
TOTAL	2,339	2,428	2,338	2,426

21 CERTIFICATES OF INDEBTEDNESS, GOVERNMENT-ISSUED CURRENCY NOTES AND COINS IN CIRCULATION

	Group and Fund			
	Certificates of Indebtedness		Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Carrying amount	556,204	516,062	12,844	12,988
Reconciliation with face value:				
Hong Kong dollar face value	559,515	516,605	12,920	13,001
Linked exchange rate for calculating the US dollars required for redemption	US\$1=HK\$7.80	US\$1=HK\$7.80	US\$1=HK\$7.80	US\$1=HK\$7.80
US dollars required for redemption	US\$71,733 million	US\$66,231 million	US\$1,656 million	US\$1,667 million
Market exchange rate for translation into Hong Kong dollars	US\$1=HK\$7.75385	US\$1=HK\$7.7918	US\$1=HK\$7.75385	US\$1=HK\$7.7918
Carrying amount	556,204	516,062	12,844	12,988

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

22 BALANCE OF THE BANKING SYSTEM

Under the interbank payment system based on Real Time Gross Settlement principles, all licensed banks maintain a Hong Kong dollar clearing account with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) for the account of the Fund. The aggregate amount in these clearing accounts, which must not have a negative balance, represents the total level of liquidity in the interbank market.

Under the weak-side Convertibility Undertaking, the HKMA undertakes to convert Hong Kong dollars in these clearing accounts into US dollars at the fixed exchange rate of US\$1=HK\$7.85. Likewise, under the strong-side Convertibility Undertaking, licensed banks can convert US dollars into Hong Kong dollars in these accounts, as the HKMA undertakes to buy US dollars at the fixed exchange rate of US\$1=HK\$7.75. Within the Convertibility Zone bounded by the two Convertibility Undertakings, the HKMA may choose to conduct market operations in a manner consistent with Currency Board principles. Such operations can result in matching changes in the balances of these accounts.

The balance of the banking system is repayable on demand and non-interest-bearing.

23 PLACEMENTS BY BANKS AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

	Group and Fund	
	2020	2019
At amortised cost		
Placements by banks	87,650	35,000
TOTAL	87,650	35,000

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

24 PLACEMENTS BY FISCAL RESERVES

	Group and Fund	
	2020	2019
Placements by Operating and Capital Reserves		
(i) with interest payable at a fixed rate determined annually		
General Revenue Account	402,880	566,451
Capital Works Reserve Fund	175,609	247,693
Civil Service Pension Reserve Fund	42,770	39,426
Disaster Relief Fund	42	38
Innovation and Technology Fund	24,570	25,265
Lotteries Fund	21,350	23,806
Capital Investment Fund	5,772	6,506
Loan Fund	3,843	3,771
	676,836	912,956
(ii) with interest payable at market-based rates		
General Revenue Account	5	4
	676,841	912,960
Placements by Future Fund with interest payable at a composite rate determined annually		
Land Fund	200,191	219,730
General Revenue Account	4,800	4,800
	204,991	224,530
TOTAL	881,832	1,137,490

Fiscal Reserves comprise Operating and Capital Reserves and the Future Fund.

Placements by Operating and Capital Reserves are repayable on demand. Interest on the majority of these placements is payable at a fixed rate determined every January. The rate is the average annual investment return of the Fund's Investment Portfolio for the past six years or the average annual yield of three-year Government Bond for the previous year subject to a minimum of zero percent, whichever is the higher. This rate was fixed at 3.7% per annum for 2020 (2019: 2.9%).

The Future Fund was established on 1 January 2016. Placements by Future Fund comprise an initial endowment from the balance of the Land Fund and periodic top-ups from the General Revenue Account as directed by the Financial Secretary. These placements are divided into two portions: one linked with the performance of the Investment Portfolio and another linked with the performance of the Long-Term Growth Portfolio. Interest on these placements is payable at a composite rate which is computed annually, on a weighted average basis, with reference to the above-mentioned fixed rate determined for placements by Operating and Capital Reserves and the annual rate of return linked with the performance of the Long-Term Growth Portfolio. The composite rate for 2020 was 12.3% (2019: 8.7%). Placements by Future Fund, together with the interest thereon (note 30), are repayable on 31 December 2025 unless otherwise directed by the Financial Secretary according to the terms of the placements. During the year, part of the placements by Future Fund amounting to HK\$19,539 million (2019: Nil) was withdrawn as directed by the Financial Secretary.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

25 PLACEMENTS BY HKSAR GOVERNMENT FUNDS AND STATUTORY BODIES

	Group and Fund	
	2020	2019
Placements with interest payable at a fixed rate¹ determined annually		
Bond Fund	150,846	138,613
Community Care Fund	9,806	15,301
Elite Athletes Development Fund	11,183	5,591
Employees Retraining Board	11,059	13,723
Environment and Conservation Fund	5,803	5,674
Hospital Authority	15,866	23,415
Housing Authority	38,151	33,806
Language Fund	6,429	6,200
Research Endowment Fund	49,990	49,092
Samaritan Fund	6,446	6,216
Trading Funds	9,597	8,201
West Kowloon Cultural District Authority	8,902	8,585
Other funds ²	13,311	12,980
	337,389	327,397
Placements with interest payable at market-based rates		
Deposit Protection Scheme Fund	5,082	1,009
TOTAL	342,471	328,406

¹ The rate is the average annual investment return of the Fund's Investment Portfolio for the past six years or the average annual yield of three-year Government Bond for the previous year subject to a minimum of zero percent, whichever is the higher. This rate was fixed at 3.7% per annum for 2020 (2019: 2.9%).

² This is a collective placement by 15 HKSAR Government funds (2019: 15 HKSAR Government funds).

26 PLACEMENTS BY SUBSIDIARIES

	Fund	
	2020	2019
Placements¹ by:		
HKMC Annuity Limited	12,297	9,539
HKMC Insurance Limited	3,172	3,058
TOTAL	15,469	12,597

¹ Placements by subsidiaries are unsecured, interest-bearing and have fixed repayment terms from 6 to 10 years.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

27 EXCHANGE FUND BILLS AND NOTES ISSUED

	Group and Fund	
	2020	2019
At fair value		
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued		
Exchange Fund Bills	1,043,062	1,126,087
Exchange Fund Notes	26,118	26,838
	1,069,180	1,152,925
Exchange Fund Bills held	(300)	(598)
TOTAL	1,068,880	1,152,327

Exchange Fund Bills and Notes (EFBN) issued are unsecured obligations of the Fund and are one of the components of the Monetary Base in the Currency Board Account. Exchange Fund Bills are issued by the Fund for maturities not exceeding one year. Exchange Fund Notes are issued by the Fund with maturities of 2 years or more.

Since January 2015, the Fund has ceased to issue Exchange Fund Notes with tenors of three years or above to avoid overlapping with Government Bonds of the same tenors. To maintain the overall size of Exchange Fund paper, the Fund has issued additional Exchange Fund Bills to replace maturing Exchange Fund Notes of those tenors.

Exchange Fund Bills held by the Fund as a result of market making activities are considered as redemption of the bills issued and are netted off.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

An analysis of the nominal value of EFBN issued at the beginning and the end of year is set out below:

	Group and Fund			
	2020		2019	
	Exchange Fund Bills	Exchange Fund Notes	Exchange Fund Bills	Exchange Fund Notes
Issued by the Currency Board Operations segment				
Nominal value at 1 January	1,130,094	26,600	1,102,302	32,200
Issuance	3,313,257	4,800	3,317,384	4,800
Redemption	(3,400,221)	(6,400)	(3,289,592)	(10,400)
Nominal value at 31 December	1,043,130	25,000	1,130,094	26,600
Long positions held by the Financial Stability and Other Activities segment				
Nominal value at 31 December	(300)	–	(600)	–
Total nominal value	1,042,830	25,000	1,129,494	26,600
Carrying amount, at fair value	1,042,762	26,118	1,125,489	26,838
Difference	68	(1,118)	4,005	(238)

The fair value changes of EFBN issued are attributable to changes in benchmark interest rates.

28 BANK LOANS

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
At amortised cost				
Bank loans repayable:				
After one year but not later than two years	–	3,747	–	–
After two years but not later than five years	1,685	–	–	–
After five years but not later than ten years	10,365	7,601	–	–
TOTAL	12,050	11,348	–	–

As at 31 December 2020, the banking facilities of the Group were secured by mortgage over the investment properties with a fair value of HK\$22,731 million (2019: HK\$21,976 million) (note 19).

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

29 OTHER DEBT SECURITIES ISSUED

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Debt securities issued, carried at amortised cost	18,158	10,967	–	–
Debt securities issued, designated as hedged items under fair value hedge	44,158	29,256	–	–
Debt securities issued, designated as hedged items under cash flow hedge	271	–	–	–
Debt securities issued, measured at fair value	–	147	–	–
TOTAL	62,587	40,370	–	–

An analysis of the nominal value of other debt securities issued at the beginning and the end of year is set out below:

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Total debt securities issued				
Nominal value at 1 January	40,585	38,146	–	–
Issuance	58,372	31,891	–	–
Redemption	(37,027)	(29,474)	–	–
Exchange differences	23	22	–	–
Nominal value at 31 December	61,953	40,585	–	–
Carrying amount	62,587	40,370	–	–
Difference	(634)	215	–	–
Debt securities issued, measured at fair value				
Nominal value	–	184	–	–
Carrying amount, at fair value	–	147	–	–
Difference	–	37	–	–

The fair value changes of debt securities issued measured at fair value are attributable to changes in benchmark interest rates. As at 31 December 2020, there were no debt securities issued measured at fair value.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

30 OTHER LIABILITIES

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Unsettled purchases of securities	46,598	50,120	46,598	50,120
Housing Reserve ¹	65,931	63,572	65,931	63,572
Accrued interest on placements by Fiscal Reserves (Future Fund) ²	110,688	73,540	110,688	73,540
Accrued interest on placements by a subsidiary	–	–	868	285
Other interest payable	523	599	115	166
Accrued charges and other liabilities	11,089	6,580	1,502	1,057
Lease liabilities	990	717	409	278
Insurance liabilities	11,187	6,502	–	–
Provision for expected credit losses on loan commitments	41	18	–	–
Tax payable	600	561	–	–
Deferred tax liabilities	443	511	–	–
TOTAL	248,090	202,720	226,111	189,018

¹ In accordance with the directives made by the Financial Secretary in December 2014 and December 2015, the accrued interest on placements by Fiscal Reserves earned for 2014 and 2015 with a total of HK\$72,642 million were not paid on 31 December of the respective years but were set aside for the Housing Reserve which was established for the purpose of financing the development of public housing and public housing-related projects and infrastructure. The Housing Reserve earns interest at the fixed rate (note 24) on an annual basis. The interest accrued on the Housing Reserve for 2020 was HK\$2,359 million (2019: HK\$2,387 million). As announced by the Financial Secretary in his 2019–20 Budget Speech in February 2019, the Housing Reserve will be paid and brought back to the Fiscal Reserves over four financial years ending 31 March 2020 to 2023. Part of the Housing Reserve amounting to HK\$21,191 million was paid and brought back to the Fiscal Reserves in 2019. There was no such transaction during the year. In February 2021, an amount of HK\$21,975 million was paid and brought back to the Fiscal Reserves.

² In accordance with the directive made by the Financial Secretary in December 2015, the accrued interest on placements by Future Fund should be rolled over and compounded at the composite rate (note 24) on an annual basis and shall only be paid upon maturity of the placements (i.e. 31 December 2025) unless otherwise directed by the Financial Secretary according to the terms of the placements. As announced by the Financial Secretary in his 2021–22 Budget Speech in February 2021, starting from the financial year ending 31 March 2022, accrued interest on placements by Future Fund will be brought back to the Government's accounts on a progressive basis, with an amount of HK\$25,000 million to be brought back in the first year.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

31 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AND OTHER CASH FLOW INFORMATION

(a) Components of cash and cash equivalents

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Cash and money at call	148,947	181,527	145,255	180,741
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	134,355	137,355	120,527	125,204
Treasury bills and commercial paper	5,196	33,563	5,196	33,563
Certificates of deposit	–	3,975	–	3,974
TOTAL	288,498	356,420	270,978	343,482

(b) Reconciliation of cash and cash equivalents

	Note	Group		Fund	
		2020	2019	2020	2019
Amounts shown in the balance sheet					
Cash and money at call	8	148,947	181,527	145,255	180,741
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	9	143,154	153,373	121,799	125,204
Treasury bills and commercial paper	10	976,338	740,795	976,338	740,795
Certificates of deposit	10	194,020	218,201	194,020	218,201
		1,462,459	1,293,896	1,437,412	1,264,941
Less: Amounts with original maturity beyond 3 months		(1,173,961)	(937,476)	(1,166,434)	(921,459)
Cash and cash equivalents in the statement of cash flows		288,498	356,420	270,978	343,482

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

(c) Reconciliation of liabilities arising from financing activities

The table below shows changes in the liabilities arising from financing activities, which are liabilities for which cash flows were, or future cash flows will be, classified in the statement of cash flows as cash flows from financing activities.

	Group			Fund
	Bank loans	Other debt securities issued	Lease liabilities	Lease liabilities
	(note 28)	(note 29)	(note 30)	(note 30)
At 1 January 2019	12,795	37,928	817	338
Changes from financing cash flows				
Bank loans raised	418	–	–	–
Repayment of bank loans	(2,104)	–	–	–
Proceeds from issue of other debt securities	–	31,844	–	–
Redemption of other debt securities issued	–	(29,474)	–	–
Principal portion of lease payments	–	–	(115)	(62)
Non-cash changes				
Increase in lease liabilities relating to new leases	–	–	2	2
Amortisation	31	67	18	8
Exchange differences	208	22	13	–
Change in fair value	–	(17)	–	–
Other changes				
Interest portion of lease payments	–	–	(18)	(8)
At 31 December 2019	11,348	40,370	717	278
At 1 January 2020	11,348	40,370	717	278
Changes from financing cash flows				
Bank loans raised	183	–	–	–
Proceeds from issue of other debt securities	–	58,244	–	–
Redemption of other debt securities issued	–	(37,027)	–	–
Principal portion of lease payments	–	–	(122)	(72)
Non-cash changes				
Increase in lease liabilities relating to new leases	–	–	383	203
Amortisation	15	127	17	7
Exchange differences	504	22	12	–
Change in fair value	–	851	–	–
Other changes				
Interest portion of lease payments	–	–	(17)	(7)
At 31 December 2020	12,050	62,587	990	409

The total cash outflows for leases of the Group and the Fund in 2020 were HK\$158 million (2019: HK\$143 million) and HK\$79 million (2019: HK\$70 million) respectively.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

32 OPERATING SEGMENT INFORMATION

The Group determines its operating segments based on the reports reviewed by the chief operating decision maker. As a central banking institution, the HKMA is responsible for managing the Fund and maintaining the monetary and banking stability of Hong Kong. The Group comprises operating segments as stated in note 2.21.

	Group							
	Currency Board Operations (note (a))		Reserves Management		Financial Stability and Other Activities		Total	
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Income								
Interest and dividend income	14,277	41,203	31,559	42,446	1,610	2,386	47,446	86,035
Investment gains/(losses)	19,527	5,705	182,015	174,133	3,334	(941)	204,876	178,897
Other income	–	–	52	54	2,901	2,426	2,953	2,480
	33,804	46,908	213,626	216,633	7,845	3,871	255,275	267,412
Expenditure								
Interest expense	8,974	19,120	81,894	63,581	688	994	91,556	83,695
Other expenses	1,544	1,387	2,174	2,175	6,513	4,987	10,231	8,549
	10,518	20,507	84,068	65,756	7,201	5,981	101,787	92,244
Surplus/(Deficit) before share of (loss)/profit of associates and joint ventures	23,286	26,401	129,558	150,877	644	(2,110)	153,488	175,168
Share of (loss)/profit of associates and joint ventures, net of tax	–	–	(3,248)	3,055	37	33	(3,211)	3,088
Gain on disposal of an associate	–	–	–	47	–	–	–	47
Surplus/(Deficit) before taxation	23,286	26,401	126,310	153,979	681	(2,077)	150,277	178,303

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

	Group									
	Currency Board Operations		Reserves		Financial Stability and		Re-allocation		Total	
	(note (a))		Management		Other Activities		(notes (b) & (c))			
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
Assets										
Backing Assets										
Investment in designated										
US dollar assets	2,302,796	1,844,330	–	–	–	–	–	–	2,302,796	1,844,330
Interest receivable on designated										
US dollar assets	3,509	4,329	–	–	–	–	–	–	3,509	4,329
Other investments	–	–	2,320,522	2,327,804	136,410	114,040	(300)	12,802	2,456,632	2,454,646
Other assets	–	–	40,444	46,911	6,427	6,356	1,194	74,620	48,065	127,887
TOTAL ASSETS	2,306,305	1,848,659	2,360,966	2,374,715	142,837	120,396	894	87,422	4,811,002	4,431,192
Liabilities										
Monetary Base										
Certificates of Indebtedness	556,204	516,062	–	–	–	–	–	–	556,204	516,062
Government-issued currency notes										
and coins in circulation	12,844	12,988	–	–	–	–	–	–	12,844	12,988
Balance of the banking system	457,466	67,688	–	–	–	–	–	–	457,466	67,688
Exchange Fund Bills and										
Notes issued	1,069,180	1,152,925	–	–	–	–	(300)	(598)	1,068,880	1,152,327
Interest payable on										
Exchange Fund Notes	110	122	–	–	–	–	–	–	110	122
Net accounts (receivable)/payable	(1,194)	(87,991)	–	–	–	–	1,194	88,020	–	29
Placements by banks and										
other financial institutions	–	–	87,650	35,000	–	–	–	–	87,650	35,000
Placements by Fiscal Reserves	–	–	881,832	1,137,490	–	–	–	–	881,832	1,137,490
Placements by HKSAR Government										
funds and statutory bodies	–	–	337,389	327,397	5,082	1,009	–	–	342,471	328,406
Bank loans	–	–	12,050	11,348	–	–	–	–	12,050	11,348
Other debt securities issued	–	–	678	659	61,909	39,711	–	–	62,587	40,370
Other liabilities	–	–	233,061	195,597	22,388	13,184	–	–	255,449	208,781
TOTAL LIABILITIES	2,094,610	1,661,794	1,552,660	1,707,491	89,379	53,904	894	87,422	3,737,543	3,510,611

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

(a) Currency Board Operations

Starting from 1 October 1998, specific US dollar assets of the Fund have been designated to back the Monetary Base, which comprises Certificates of Indebtedness, government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation, balance of the banking system and EFBN issued. While specific assets of the Fund have been earmarked for backing the Monetary Base, all the Fund's assets are available for the purpose of supporting the Hong Kong dollar exchange rate under the Linked Exchange Rate system.

In accordance with an arrangement approved by the Financial Secretary in January 2000, assets can be transferred between the Backing Portfolio and general reserves when the Backing Ratio reaches either the upper trigger point (112.5%) or the lower trigger point (105%). This arrangement allows transfer of excess assets out of the Backing Portfolio to maximise their earning potential while ensuring that there are sufficient liquid assets in the Backing Portfolio. The Backing Ratio stood at 109.93% as at 31 December 2020 (2019: 111.21%).

(b) Re-allocation of assets and liabilities

For the purpose of the Currency Board Operations segment, certain liabilities of the Fund are deducted from the Backing Assets and certain assets are deducted from the Monetary Base in order to allow proper computation of the Backing Ratio. The following items are re-allocation adjustments to reconcile the segmental information to the Group balance sheet:

- (i) the Backing Assets are presented on a net basis in the Currency Board Operations. Accounts payable for unsettled purchases of securities and redemption of Certificates of Indebtedness are included in "net accounts payable" to offset corresponding investments in the Backing Assets. As at 31 December 2020, there were no "other liabilities" (2019: Nil) deducted from the Backing Assets; and
- (ii) the Monetary Base is also presented on a net basis. As at 31 December 2020, deductions from the Monetary Base comprising "other assets" of HK\$1,194 million (2019: HK\$88,020 million) consisted of three components:
 - as Hong Kong dollar interest rate swaps have been used as a means to manage the cost of issuing Exchange Fund Notes, interest receivable of HK\$29 million (2019: HK\$5 million) and unrealised gains of HK\$1,165 million (2019: HK\$431 million) on these interest rate swaps are included in "net accounts (receivable)/payable" to reduce the Monetary Base;
 - when Hong Kong dollar overnight advances secured on EFBN have been made to banks under the Discount Window Operations, the advances are included in "net accounts (receivable)/payable" to reduce the Monetary Base. There were no such advances as at 31 December 2020 (2019: HK\$13,400 million); and
 - EFBN issued on tender date but not yet settled are included in "net accounts (receivable)/payable" to reduce the Monetary Base. There was no such receivable as at 31 December 2020 (2019: HK\$74,184 million).

(c) Exchange Fund Bills and Notes held

EFBN held by the Financial Stability and Other Activities segment are treated as redemption of EFBN issued in the Currency Board Operations segment.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

33 PLEDGED ASSETS

Assets are pledged as margin for futures contracts and securities lending agreements and as collateral for securing general banking facilities. Securities lent do not include EFBN in issue. There are no financial assets pledged against contingent liabilities.

		Group		Fund	
	Note	2020	2019	2020	2019
Assets pledged					
Cash and money at call		76	92	76	92
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account		8,800	4,842	8,800	4,842
Equity interests in associates		1,739	1,669	–	–
Investment properties	19	22,731	21,976	–	–
Secured liabilities					
Commodity futures contracts, at fair value		–	104	–	104
Equity index futures contracts, at fair value		160	76	160	76
Bank loans	28	12,050	11,348	–	–
Other debt securities issued		678	659	–	–

During the year, the Group entered into collateralised reverse repurchase agreements, repurchase agreements and securities lending transactions that may result in credit exposure in the event that the counterparty to the transaction is unable to fulfil its contractual obligations. The Group controls credit risk associated with these activities by monitoring counterparty credit exposure and collateral values on a daily basis and requiring additional collateral to be deposited with or returned to the Group when deemed necessary.

These transactions are conducted under terms that are usual and customary to standard lending, and securities borrowing and lending activities.

34 COMMITMENTS

(a) Capital commitments

Capital expenditure authorised but not provided for in the financial statements at the reporting date is as follows:

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Contracted for	13	19	6	16
Authorised but not yet contracted for	1,477	784	1,356	732
TOTAL	1,490	803	1,362	748

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

(b) Credit facility to the International Monetary Fund

The Fund has participated in the New Arrangements to Borrow (NAB), a standby credit facility provided to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for the purpose of managing instability in the international monetary system. The facility is subject to periodic review and renewal. As at 31 December 2020, the Fund had an undertaking under the NAB to lend foreign currencies to the IMF up to HK\$3,809 million equivalent (2019: HK\$3,672 million equivalent), in the form of a loan bearing prevailing market interest rates. The outstanding principal due from the IMF under the NAB amounted to HK\$164 million equivalent (2019: HK\$239 million equivalent) (note 16).

(c) Credit facility to the Hong Kong Deposit Protection Board

The Fund has provided the Hong Kong Deposit Protection Board (HKDPB) with a standby credit facility of HK\$120 billion (2019: HK\$120 billion) at prevailing market interest rates for meeting the necessary liquidity required for payment of compensation in the event of a bank failure. As at 31 December 2020, there was no outstanding balance due from the HKDPB under this facility (2019: Nil).

(d) Repurchase agreements with other central banks

The Fund has entered into bilateral repurchase agreements with various central banks in Asia and Australasia amounting up to HK\$44,585 million equivalent (2019: HK\$44,803 million equivalent). The arrangement allows each organisation to enhance the liquidity of its foreign reserve portfolio with minimal additional risk. As at 31 December 2020, there was no outstanding transaction with any central bank under this arrangement (2019: Nil).

(e) Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation Agreement

The Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM) was established under the aegis of the 10 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member countries together with China, Japan and Korea (ASEAN+3) to provide short-term US dollars through currency swap transactions to participants facing balance-of-payments and liquidity difficulties with a total size of US\$240 billion (2019: US\$240 billion). Hong Kong, through the HKMA, participates in the CMIM and has undertaken to commit up to US\$8.4 billion (2019: US\$8.4 billion) out of the Fund. Hong Kong has the right to request liquidity support up to US\$6.3 billion (2019: US\$6.3 billion) from the CMIM in case of emergency. Up to 31 December 2020, there had been no request to activate the CMIM (2019: Nil).

(f) Bilateral swap agreement

The People's Bank of China and the HKMA renewed a bilateral currency swap agreement in November 2020 for a term of five years, with the maximum size expanded from RMB400 billion/HK\$470 billion to RMB500 billion/HK\$590 billion. The arrangement helps facilitate the development of offshore renminbi business in Hong Kong. As at 31 December 2020, there was no currency swap activated under this arrangement (2019: Nil).

(g) Investment commitments

The Group's subsidiaries with principal activities of holding investments, including properties, had outstanding investment commitment of HK\$232,512 million equivalent as at 31 December 2020 (2019: HK\$232,366 million equivalent).

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

35 CONTINGENT LIABILITIES

(a) Uncalled portion of investment in the Bank for International Settlements

As at 31 December 2020, the Fund had a contingent liability of up to 16.1 million SDRs or HK\$180 million equivalent (2019: 16.1 million SDRs or HK\$174 million equivalent), in respect of the uncalled portion of its 4,285 shares (2019: 4,285 shares) in the Bank for International Settlements (note 11).

SDR is an international reserve asset created by the IMF. Its value is based on a basket of five major currencies comprising US dollar, euro, renminbi, Japanese yen and pound sterling. As at 31 December 2020, SDR 1 was valued at US\$1.44498 (2019: US\$1.38610).

(b) Financial guarantees

The Group has provided guarantees in respect of bank loans granted to joint ventures. The maximum liability as at 31 December 2020 was HK\$1,583 million equivalent (2019: HK\$1,606 million equivalent).

36 MATERIAL RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

Transactions with related parties are conducted at rates determined by the Monetary Authority taking into account the nature of each transaction on a case-by-case basis.

All the material related party transactions and balances, including commitments, are disclosed in notes 4(b), 4(d), 14, 17, 18, 24, 25, 26, 30 and 34(c).

The Exchange Fund Advisory Committee (EFAC) and its Sub-Committees advise the Financial Secretary in his control of the Fund. Members of the EFAC and its Sub-Committees are appointed in a personal capacity by the Financial Secretary for the expertise and experience that they can bring to the Committees. Transactions with companies related to members of the EFAC and its Sub-Committees, if any, have been conducted as a normal part of the operation of the Group and on terms consistent with its ongoing operations.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

37 FINANCIAL RISK MANAGEMENT

This note presents information about the nature and extent of risks to which the Group is exposed, in particular those arising from financial instruments, and the risk management framework of the Group. The principal financial risks the Group is exposed to are credit risk, market risk and liquidity risk.

37.1 Governance

The Financial Secretary is advised by the EFAC in his control of the Fund. The EFAC is established under section 3(1) of the Exchange Fund Ordinance, which requires the Financial Secretary to consult the Committee in his exercise of control of the Fund. Members of the EFAC are appointed in a personal capacity by the Financial Secretary under the delegated authority of the Chief Executive of the HKSAR for the expertise and experience that they can bring to the Committee. Such expertise and experience include knowledge of monetary, financial, investment management and economic affairs, as well as of accounting, management, business and legal matters.

The EFAC is assisted in its work by five Sub-Committees, which monitor specific areas of the HKMA's work and report and make recommendations to the Financial Secretary through the EFAC.

Among these Sub-Committees, the Investment Sub-Committee (ISC) monitors the HKMA's investment management activities and makes recommendations on the investment policy and strategy of the Fund and on risk management and other related matters. Operating within the policies and guidelines endorsed by the EFAC or its delegated authority, the Exchange Fund Investment Office (EFIO) of the HKMA conducts the day-to-day management of the Fund's investment activities, with the Risk and Compliance Department, which is independent of the front office functions of the EFIO, carrying out the risk management activities of the Fund.

37.2 Investment management and control

Investment activities of the Fund are conducted in accordance with the investment benchmark derived from the Fund's investment objectives. The investment benchmark directs the strategic asset allocation of the Fund and is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it consistently meets the investment objectives. Changes to the investment benchmark, if required, must be endorsed by the EFAC.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

The Fund's target asset and currency mix are as follows:

	2020	2019
Asset type		
Bonds	73%	73%
Equities and related investments	27%	27%
	100%	100%
Currency		
US dollar and Hong Kong dollar	88%	89%
Others ¹	12%	11%
	100%	100%

¹ Other currencies included mainly euro, renminbi, pound sterling and Japanese yen.

In addition to the investment benchmark, the EFAC determines the risk tolerance level governing the extent to which the Fund's asset and currency mix may deviate from the investment benchmark, taking into account the risk volatility of and correlation across the asset classes and markets that the Fund is allowed to invest in. Authority to take medium term investment decisions is delegated to senior management of the HKMA down to the Executive Director level.

The Risk and Compliance Department is responsible for risk management and compliance monitoring regarding the investments of the Fund. It monitors the risk exposure of the Fund, checks compliance of investment activities against established guidelines and reports and follows up any identified breaches.

37.3 Credit risk

Credit risk is the risk of financial loss when a counterparty or a borrower fails to meet its contractual obligations. The Group's credit risk arises principally from the investments of the Fund and the loan portfolio held by the subsidiaries.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

37.3.1 *Management of credit risk*

The HKMA maintains effective credit risk management over the investments of the Fund. Based on the delegated authority of the EFAC, the Credit, Rules and Compliance Committee (CRCC) was established within the HKMA with the following responsibilities: (i) to establish and maintain the Credit Exposure Policy to govern the investments of the Fund; (ii) to review the adequacy of the existing credit risk management practices and, where necessary, formulate proposals for amendments; (iii) to conduct analysis of credit risk issues; (iv) to establish and review credit limits for the approved issuers and counterparties; (v) to review and consider proposals of amendments to the Operational Rules for Exchange Fund Investments as appropriate, and make recommendations to the Monetary Authority for endorsement; and (vi) to monitor the compliance of the investments of the Fund with the established policies and limits, and report and follow up any identified breaches. The CRCC is chaired by the Deputy Chief Executive (Monetary) whose responsibilities are independent of the day-to-day investment activities of the Fund, and includes representatives from the EFIO, the Risk and Compliance Department, the Monetary Management Department, and the Research Department of the HKMA.

In light of the rapidly evolving risk environment, the HKMA will remain vigilant in monitoring and managing the Fund's credit risk exposure, and will sustain the impetus for better credit risk management practices to support the investment activities of the Fund.

Credit limits are established in accordance with in-house methodologies as set out in the Operational Rules for Exchange Fund Investments and the Credit Exposure Policy to limit exposures to counterparty, issuer and country risks arising from the investments of the Fund.

(a) *Counterparty risk*

The Fund selects its counterparties in lending, placement, derivatives and trading transactions prudently and objectively. Since the Fund conducts transactions with a counterparty for a range of financial instruments, credit limits are established to limit the overall exposure to each authorised counterparty based on its credit ratings, financial strength and other relevant information.

Counterparty credit exposures are measured according to the risk nature of financial products involved in the transaction. Counterparty credit exposures of derivatives include an estimate for the potential future credit exposure of the derivative contracts, in addition to their positive mark-to-market replacement value.

(b) *Issuer risk*

Issuer risk arises from investments in debt securities. Credit limits for approved issuers are set on both individual and group levels to control the risk of loss arising from the default of debt securities issuers and to prevent undue risk concentration.

Moreover, to be qualified as an approved investment, a new market or financial instrument must meet the minimum credit, security and liquidity requirements of the Fund.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

(c) Country risk

Country risk is broadly defined to include both the sovereign risk and the transfer risk. Sovereign risk denotes a government's ability and willingness to repay its obligations. Transfer risk is the risk that a borrower may not be able to secure foreign exchange to service its external obligations, for example, due to an action by the government to impose restrictions on the transfer of funds from the debtors in the country to foreign creditors. Under the existing framework, country limits are established to control the Fund's overall credit risk exposures to the countries endorsed by the CRCC.

The above credit limits are reviewed regularly. Credit exposure is monitored against these limits on a daily basis. To ensure prompt identification, proper approval and consistent monitoring of credit risk, the Fund has implemented a unified automated credit monitoring system which provides fully-integrated straight-through-processing linking the front, middle and back office functions. The pre-deal checking takes place in the front office prior to the commitment of any transaction to ensure that the intended transaction will not exceed the credit limits. The end-of-day compliance checking further verifies that the Fund complies with the established credit policies and procedures.

Any breaches of credit limits are reported to the CRCC and the ISC, and are followed up by the Risk and Compliance Department in a timely manner. The approval authorities to sanction these breaches are set out in the Credit Exposure Policy.

To manage the exposure to credit risk arising from the loan portfolio and mortgage insurance business, a prudent risk management framework is established to (i) select Approved Sellers carefully, (ii) adopt prudent mortgage purchasing criteria and insurance eligibility criteria, (iii) conduct effective and in-depth due diligence reviews, (iv) implement robust project structures and financing documentation, (v) perform an ongoing monitoring and reviewing mechanism, and (vi) ensure adequate protection for higher-risk mortgages.

37.3.2 Exposure to credit risk

The maximum exposure to credit risk of the financial assets of the Group and the Fund at the reporting date is equal to their carrying amounts. The maximum exposures to credit risk of off-balance sheet exposures are as follows:

	Note	Group		Fund	
		2020	2019	2020	2019
Risk in force – mortgage insurance	37.6	54,543	27,885	–	–
Risk in force – other guarantees and insurance	37.6	15,020	12,510	–	–
Loan commitments, guarantees and other credit related commitments		239,115	238,655	313,513	263,837
TOTAL		308,678	279,050	313,513	263,837

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

37.3.3 Credit quality and expected credit losses measurement

In general, expected credit losses are calculated using three main parameters, i.e. probability of default, loss given default and exposure at default. The 12-month expected credit losses are calculated by multiplying the 12-month probability of default, loss given default and exposure at default. Lifetime expected credit losses are calculated using the lifetime probability of default instead. The probability of default represents the expected point-in-time probability of a default over either (i) the next 12 months (i.e. 12-month probability of default) or (ii) the remaining lifetime of the financial instrument (i.e. lifetime probability of default), based on conditions existing at the reporting date and forward-looking information that affect credit risk. The exposure at default represents the expected balance at default, taking into account the repayment of principal and interest from the reporting date to the default event together with any expected drawdown of a committed loan. The loss given default represents expected losses on the exposure at default given the event of default, taking into account, among other attributes, the mitigating effect of collateral value at the time it is expected to be realised and the time value of money.

While cash and money at call, loans with special 100% guarantee under the SFGS and financial guarantee contracts are subject to the impairment requirements, the Group has estimated that their expected credit losses are minimal and considers that no loss allowance is required. Credit quality and expected credit losses measurement for other financial instruments are analysed below.

(a) Placements with banks and other financial institutions

The Group has established an expected credit losses calculation methodology that is based on the probability of default assigned to each counterparty according to their external credit ratings and the related historical credit losses experience, adjusted for forward-looking information, to determine the amounts of loss allowances.

These financial assets are considered to have a low credit risk. The loss allowances are measured at amounts equal to 12-month expected credit losses.

The credit quality of placements with banks and other financial institutions is analysed below:

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Credit rating¹				
AA– to AA+	61,755	81,530	61,560	78,325
A– to A+	42,996	66,493	25,362	44,549
Lower than A– or un-rated ²	38,403	5,350	34,877	2,330
Gross carrying amount	143,154	153,373	121,799	125,204
Less: allowances for expected credit losses	(5)	(4)	(3)	(3)
Carrying amount	143,149	153,369	121,796	125,201

¹ This is the lowest of ratings designated by Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch.

² This included mainly balance with central banks which is not rated.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

The movements in loss allowances for placements with banks and other financial institutions during the year are as follows:

	Group	Fund
At 1 January 2019	5	4
Decrease in loss allowances recognised in the income and expenditure account	(1)	(1)
At 31 December 2019	4	3
At 1 January 2020	4	3
Increase in loss allowances recognised in the income and expenditure account	1	–
At 31 December 2020	5	3

(b) Debt securities

The Group predominantly invests in liquid OECD member countries' government bonds and other quasi-government debt securities issues. As at 31 December 2020, approximately 69% (2019: 70%) of the debt securities held by the Group were rated "double-A" or above by Moody's, Standard & Poor's or Fitch.

For debt securities measured at amortised cost or fair value through other comprehensive income, the Group has established an expected credit losses calculation methodology that is based on the probability of default assigned to each issuer according to their external credit ratings and the related historical credit losses experience, adjusted for forward-looking information, to determine the amounts of loss allowances.

These debt securities are considered to have a low credit risk. The loss allowances are measured at amounts equal to 12-month expected credit losses.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

The credit quality of debt securities is analysed below:

(i) Debt securities measured at fair value

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Credit rating¹				
Debt securities measured at fair value through income and expenditure account				
AAA	464,536	477,042	464,536	477,042
AA– to AA+	1,763,112	1,518,751	1,763,112	1,518,751
A– to A+	450,126	416,496	450,126	416,496
Lower than A – or un-rated ²	560,271	444,276	560,260	444,266
TOTAL	3,238,045	2,856,565	3,238,034	2,856,555
Debt securities measured at fair value through other comprehensive income				
AA– to AA+	3,022	2,798	–	–
A– to A+	1,397	2,123	–	–
TOTAL	4,419	4,921	–	–

¹ This is the lowest of ratings designated by Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch.

² This included mainly debt securities issued by the Bank for International Settlements which are not rated.

(ii) Debt securities measured at amortised cost

	Group	
	2020	2019
Credit rating¹		
AAA	77	527
AA– to AA+	1,169	2,376
A– to A+	8,487	8,898
Lower than A– or un-rated	–	234
Gross carrying amount	9,733	12,035
Less: allowances for expected credit losses	(3)	(1)
Carrying amount	9,730	12,034

¹ This is the lowest of ratings designated by Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

There were no movements in loss allowances for debt securities measured at fair value through other comprehensive income in 2020 and 2019. The movements in loss allowances for debt securities measured at amortised cost during the year are as follows:

	Group	
	2020	2019
At 1 January	1	1
Increase in loss allowances recognised in the income and expenditure account	2	–
At 31 December	3	1

(c) Loan portfolio

The Group uses three categories for loans which reflect their credit risk and how the loss allowances are determined for each of those categories. These categories do not apply to loans with special 100% guarantee under the SFGS because their expected credit losses are minimal in view of the full guarantee provided by the HKSAR Government.

A summary of the assumptions underpinning the Group's expected credit loss model on loans is as follows:

Category	Group definition of category	Basis for calculation of expected credit losses
Stage 1	Loans that have a low credit risk with borrowers having a strong capacity to meet the contractual obligations at the reporting date or there have not been significant increases in credit risk since initial recognition	12-month expected credit losses
Stage 2	Loans for which there have been significant increases in credit risk since initial recognition, where significant increases in credit risk are presumed when contractual payments are more than 30 days past due	Lifetime expected credit losses – not credit impaired
Stage 3	Loans that have objective evidence of impairment including those that exhibit characteristics of non-repayment or those with contractual payments that are 90 days past due	Lifetime expected credit losses – credit impaired

Loans will be written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery on the delinquent interest and/or principal repayments.

Over the term of the loans, the Group accounts for its credit risk by appropriately providing for expected credit losses on a timely basis. In determining the expected credit losses, the Group considers historical credit risk information with reference to external or internal credit ratings and applies forward-looking factors, such as macroeconomic data and credit outlook of the borrowers, to perform multi-scenario analysis.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

The credit quality of loan portfolio is analysed below:

	Group – 2020			
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total
Loan portfolio with external credit rating¹				
BBB– to BBB+	1,236	–	–	1,236
BB– to BB+	1,531	–	–	1,531
Lower than BB–	3,118	272	296	3,686
Gross carrying amount	5,885	272	296	6,453
Less: allowances for expected credit losses	(35)	(23)	(103)	(161)
	5,850	249	193	6,292
Loan portfolio with internal credit rating				
Gross carrying amount	7,046	9	4	7,059
Less: allowances for expected credit losses	(2)	–	(1)	(3)
	7,044	9	3	7,056
TOTAL	12,894	258	196	13,348

	Group – 2019			
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total
Loan portfolio with external credit rating¹				
BBB– to BBB+	139	–	–	139
BB– to BB+	1,346	–	–	1,346
Lower than BB–	701	–	284	985
Gross carrying amount	2,186	–	284	2,470
Less: allowances for expected credit losses	(13)	–	(75)	(88)
	2,173	–	209	2,382
Loan portfolio with internal credit rating				
Gross carrying amount	6,917	8	4	6,929
Less: allowances for expected credit losses	–	–	(1)	(1)
	6,917	8	3	6,928
TOTAL	9,090	8	212	9,310

¹ These are equivalent ratings of Moody's, Standard & Poor's or Fitch provided by an external institution.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

The movements in loss allowances for loan portfolio during the year are as follows:

	Group			
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total
At 1 January 2019	8	–	1	9
Increase in loss allowances for net new lending	6	–	29	35
Increase in loss allowances for change in credit risk	–	–	45	45
Transfers into Stage 3	(1)	–	1	–
At 31 December 2019	13	–	76	89
At 1 January 2020	13	–	76	89
Increase in loss allowances for net new lending	23	7	3	33
Increase in loss allowances for change in credit risk	2	13	25	40
Transfers into Stage 2	(1)	1	–	–
Exchange differences	–	2	–	2
At 31 December 2020	37	23	104	164

As at 31 December 2020, there was no repossessed asset obtained (2019: Nil).

(d) Loan commitments

The movements in provision for expected credit losses on loan commitments during the year are as follows:

	Group			
	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total
At 1 January 2019	5	–	–	5
Increase in provision for expected credit losses recognised in the income and expenditure account	13	–	–	13
At 31 December 2019	18	–	–	18
At 1 January 2020	18	–	–	18
Increase in provision for expected credit losses recognised in the income and expenditure account	9	10	2	21
Transfers into Stage 2	(1)	1	–	–
Exchange differences	–	2	–	2
At 31 December 2020	26	13	2	41

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

37.3.4 Concentration of credit risk

The majority of the Group's credit risk exposures are from the holding of highly liquid debt securities issued or guaranteed by OECD member countries' governments and other quasi-government entities. The maximum credit risk exposure by industry group is analysed below:

	Group		Fund	
	2020	2019	2020	2019
Governments and government agencies ¹	2,406,068	2,133,229	2,368,487	2,131,731
Supra-nationals	194,355	188,750	194,053	188,698
States, provinces and public-sector entities ²	180,898	179,150	260,590	208,942
Financial institutions	457,947	516,392	424,431	477,828
Others ³	711,022	607,999	809,213	721,275
TOTAL	3,950,290	3,625,520	4,056,774	3,728,474

¹ These included debt securities guaranteed by governments.

² These included debt securities guaranteed by states.

³ These included debt securities issued by the Bank for International Settlements.

37.4 Market risk

Market risk is the risk that changes in market variables such as interest rates, exchange rates and equity prices may affect the fair values or cash flows of investments.

37.4.1 Types of market risk

(a) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk refers to the risk of loss arising from changes in market interest rates. This can be further classified into fair value interest rate risk and cash flow interest rate risk.

Fair value interest rate risk is the risk that the fair value of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. The Group is exposed to fair value interest rate risk since a substantial portion of its investments is in fixed-rate debt securities. These securities are subject to interest rate risk as their fair values will fall when market interest rates increase. Other significant financial assets and financial liabilities with a fixed interest rate, and therefore subject to interest rate risk, include placements with banks and other financial institutions and EFBN issued.

Cash flow interest rate risk is the risk that future cash flows of a financial instrument will fluctuate because of changes in market interest rates. Because the Group has no significant floating-rate investments and liabilities, the Group's future cash flows are not materially affected by potential changes in market interest rates.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

(b) Currency risk

Currency risk is the risk of loss arising from changes in foreign exchange rates. A large portion of the Group's foreign currency assets is held in US dollars with the remaining mainly in other major international currencies. When the exchange rates of the relevant foreign currencies against the Hong Kong dollar fluctuate, the value of these foreign currency assets expressed in Hong Kong dollar will vary accordingly.

Due to the linked exchange rate of the US dollar relative to the Hong Kong dollar, the Group's currency risk principally arises from its assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies other than the US dollar.

(c) Equity price risk

Equity price risk is the risk of loss arising from changes in prices or valuation. The Group's equity and related investments are subject to price risk since the value of these investments will decline if market prices or valuation fall.

The majority of the equity securities held by the Group are constituent stocks of major stock market indexes and companies with large market capitalisation.

37.4.2 *Management of market risk*

The market risk of the Fund as a whole is regularly measured and monitored to prevent excessive risk exposure. The investment benchmark and tracking error limit of the Fund govern the asset allocation strategies. These, together with the volatility of asset markets, will affect the Fund's market risk exposure. The Fund uses derivative financial instruments to manage its exposures to market risk and facilitate the implementation of investment strategies. The market risk of the Fund is mainly measured and monitored using a Value-at-Risk (VaR) methodology.

VaR is calculated using the parametric approach based on a 95% confidence level and one-month time horizon. The result represents the maximum expected loss of the Fund over a one-month period under normal market conditions, with a 5% chance that the actual loss may exceed the calculated VaR. The Fund's absolute VaR and the relative VaR (i.e. the VaR of the Fund relative to its investment benchmark), expressed in dollar amounts, are measured by the Risk and Compliance Department and reported to management, the ISC and the EFAC on a regular basis.

The relative VaR of the Fund is also used to calculate the actual tracking error of the Fund against its investment benchmark. This is regularly monitored against the tracking error limit endorsed by the EFAC to ensure that the market risk exposure of the Fund is within its limit. The tracking error of a portfolio indicates how well the portfolio tracks its investment benchmark. The smaller the tracking error, the closer the portfolio tracks its benchmark. The tracking error limit is established to prevent the Fund from taking unduly large market risk with respect to its investment benchmark. The actual tracking error of the Fund is regularly reported to the ISC and the EFAC, and any breach of the limit is followed up in a timely manner.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

VaR is a widely accepted measure of market risk within the financial services industry. It provides users with a single amount to measure market risk and takes into account multiple risks. VaR should however be assessed in the context of some of its inherent limitations. The calculation of VaR involves a number of assumptions that may or may not be valid in a real life scenario, in particular in extreme market conditions. The calculation of VaR assumes that future events can be predicted by historical data, and that changes in risk factors follow a normal distribution. The end-of-day basis does not reflect intraday exposures. In addition, the confidence level on which calculation of VaR is based needs to be taken into account as it indicates the possibility that a larger loss could be realised.

To compensate for some of the limitations of VaR, the HKMA also conducts stress tests to estimate the potential losses under extremely adverse market conditions. This serves to identify the major attributes of market risk under extreme market conditions, and helps to prevent the Fund from being exposed to excessive market risk. The results of the stress tests are also reported to the ISC and the EFAC on a regular basis.

To manage the interest rate risk arising from the fixed-rate debt securities issued by the Group to fund the purchase of portfolios of loans, a major portion of the risk is hedged using fair value hedges in the form of interest rate swaps by swapping into floating-rate funding to better match the floating-rate assets.

The Fund's investment in less liquid assets (i.e. private equity and real estate) is grouped under the Long-Term Growth Portfolio. The investment risks of the less liquid assets are managed at the aggregate level through such measures as asset class approval, allocation limit and aggregate general partner exposure. The cap for the market value of the Long-Term Growth Portfolio is set at the sum of one-third of the accumulated surplus of the Fund, and the portion of the placements by Future Fund and placements by subsidiaries of the Fund linked to the Long-Term Growth Portfolio.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

37.4.3 Exposure to market risk

(a) Interest rate risk

The interest rate gap position in respect of the Group's major interest-bearing assets and liabilities, including the net repricing effect of interest rate derivatives is shown below. The assets and liabilities are stated at carrying amounts at the reporting date and categorised by the earlier of contractual repricing dates or maturity dates.

	Group – 2020							Non-interest-bearing financial instruments
	Repricing period of interest-bearing financial instruments							
	1 month or less	3 months or less but over 1 month	1 year or less but over 3 months	5 years or less but over 1 year	10 years or less but over 5 years	Over 10 years	Total	
Assets								
Cash and money at call	148,261	–	–	–	–	–	148,261	686
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	129,420	11,476	2,234	–	–	–	143,130	19
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	306,099	352,624	1,140,785	1,008,757	264,581	154,640	3,227,486	1,108,062
Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	544	2,836	303	410	326	–	4,419	1,370
Debt securities measured at amortised cost	911	23	387	3,317	5,092	–	9,730	–
Loan portfolio	41,901	2,263	5,137	7	125	–	49,433	–
Interest-bearing assets	627,136	369,222	1,148,846	1,012,491	270,124	154,640	3,582,459	
Liabilities								
Placements by banks and other financial institutions	82,650	5,000	–	–	–	–	87,650	–
Placements by Fiscal Reserves with interest payable at market-based rates¹	5	–	–	–	–	–	5	–
Placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies with interest payable at market-based rates¹	5,082	–	–	–	–	–	5,082	–
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	279,369	535,634	234,213	14,339	5,325	–	1,068,880	–
Bank loans	5,738	–	–	–	6,312	–	12,050	–
Other debt securities issued	7,152	12,012	25,856	12,043	2,725	2,799	62,587	–
Interest-bearing liabilities	379,996	552,646	260,069	26,382	14,362	2,799	1,236,254	
Net interest-bearing assets/(liabilities)	247,140	(183,424)	888,777	986,109	255,762	151,841	2,346,205	
Interest rate derivatives (net position, notional amounts)	4,484	(24,830)	11,111	3,688	5,670	(5)	118	
Interest rate sensitivity gap	251,624	(208,254)	899,888	989,797	261,432	151,836	2,346,323	

¹ Placements by Fiscal Reserves, HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies with interest payable at a fixed rate or a composite rate determined annually are excluded because their interest rates are not determined on the basis of market interest rates (notes 24 and 25). As at 31 December 2020, such placements amounted to HK\$1,219,216 million.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

	Group – 2019							Non-interest-bearing financial instruments
	Repricing period of interest-bearing financial instruments							
	1 month or less	3 months or less but over 1 month	1 year or less but over 3 months	5 years or less but over 1 year	10 years or less but over 5 years	Over 10 years	Total	
Assets								
Cash and money at call	181,185	–	–	–	–	–	181,185	342
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	131,945	20,103	1,302	–	–	–	153,350	19
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	435,687	508,518	542,917	912,318	268,084	178,848	2,846,372	1,020,431
Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	–	2,786	1,126	706	303	–	4,921	1,210
Debt securities measured at amortised cost	–	1,575	1,224	4,122	5,113	–	12,034	–
Loan portfolio	6,729	1,228	1,310	11	32	–	9,310	–
Interest-bearing assets	755,546	534,210	547,879	917,157	273,532	178,848	3,207,172	
Liabilities								
Placements by banks and other financial institutions	30,000	5,000	–	–	–	–	35,000	–
Placements by Fiscal Reserves with interest payable at market-based rates ¹	4	–	–	–	–	–	4	–
Placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies with interest payable at market-based rates ¹	1,009	–	–	–	–	–	1,009	–
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	359,947	468,255	303,695	14,274	6,156	–	1,152,327	–
Bank loans	5,385	–	–	–	5,963	–	11,348	–
Other debt securities issued	3,069	12,156	12,028	7,589	2,796	2,732	40,370	–
Interest-bearing liabilities	399,414	485,411	315,723	21,863	14,915	2,732	1,240,058	
Net interest-bearing assets	356,132	48,799	232,156	895,294	258,617	176,116	1,967,114	
Interest rate derivatives (net position, notional amounts)	4,877	(20,312)	5,829	4,551	4,696	–	(359)	
Interest rate sensitivity gap	361,009	28,487	237,985	899,845	263,313	176,116	1,966,755	

¹ Placements by Fiscal Reserves, HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies with interest payable at a fixed rate or a composite rate determined annually are excluded because their interest rates are not determined on the basis of market interest rates (notes 24 and 25). As at 31 December 2019, such placements amounted to HK\$1,464,883 million.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

	Fund – 2020							Non-interest-bearing financial instruments
	Repricing period of interest-bearing financial instruments							
	1 month or less	3 months or less but over 1 month	1 year or less but over 3 months	5 years or less but over 1 year	10 years or less but over 5 years	Over 10 years	Total	
Assets								
Cash and money at call	144,968	–	–	–	–	–	144,968	287
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	121,021	775	–	–	–	–	121,796	–
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	306,099	352,624	1,140,785	1,008,757	264,581	154,640	3,227,486	753,671
Interest-bearing assets	572,088	353,399	1,140,785	1,008,757	264,581	154,640	3,494,250	
Liabilities								
Placements by banks and other financial institutions	82,650	5,000	–	–	–	–	87,650	–
Placements by Fiscal Reserves with interest payable at market-based rates ¹	5	–	–	–	–	–	5	–
Placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies with interest payable at market-based rates ¹	5,082	–	–	–	–	–	5,082	–
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	279,369	535,634	234,213	14,339	5,325	–	1,068,880	–
Interest-bearing liabilities	367,106	540,634	234,213	14,339	5,325	–	1,161,617	
Net interest-bearing assets/(liabilities)	204,982	(187,235)	906,572	994,418	259,256	154,640	2,332,633	
Interest rate derivatives (net position, notional amounts)	(618)	(13,813)	1,600	7,600	5,236	(5)	–	
Interest rate sensitivity gap	204,364	(201,048)	908,172	1,002,018	264,492	154,635	2,332,633	

¹ Placements by Fiscal Reserves, HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies, and subsidiaries with interest payable at a fixed rate or a composite rate determined annually are excluded because their interest rates are not determined on the basis of market interest rates (notes 24, 25 and 26). As at 31 December 2020, such placements amounted to HK\$1,234,685 million.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

	Fund – 2019							Non-interest-bearing financial instruments
	Repricing period of interest-bearing financial instruments							
	1 month or less	3 months or less but over 1 month	1 year or less but over 3 months	5 years or less but over 1 year	10 years or less but over 5 years	Over 10 years	Total	
Assets								
Cash and money at call	180,600	–	–	–	–	–	180,600	141
Placements with banks and other financial institutions	124,422	779	–	–	–	–	125,201	–
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	435,687	508,518	542,917	912,318	268,084	178,848	2,846,372	739,873
Interest-bearing assets	740,709	509,297	542,917	912,318	268,084	178,848	3,152,173	
Liabilities								
Placements by banks and other financial institutions	30,000	5,000	–	–	–	–	35,000	–
Placements by Fiscal Reserves with interest payable at market-based rates ¹	4	–	–	–	–	–	4	–
Placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies with interest payable at market-based rates ¹	1,009	–	–	–	–	–	1,009	–
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	359,947	468,255	303,695	14,274	6,156	–	1,152,327	–
Interest-bearing liabilities	390,960	473,255	303,695	14,274	6,156	–	1,188,340	
Net interest-bearing assets	349,749	36,042	239,222	898,044	261,928	178,848	1,963,833	
Interest rate derivatives (net position, notional amounts)	19	(15,441)	1,600	8,000	5,822	–	–	
Interest rate sensitivity gap	349,768	20,601	240,822	906,044	267,750	178,848	1,963,833	

¹ Placements by Fiscal Reserves, HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies, and subsidiaries with interest payable at a fixed rate or a composite rate determined annually are excluded because their interest rates are not determined on the basis of market interest rates (notes 24, 25 and 26). As at 31 December 2019, such placements amounted to HK\$1,477,480 million.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

(b) Currency risk

The currency exposure of the Group is summarised below:

	Group			
	2020		2019	
	Assets (in HK\$ billion)	Liabilities (in HK\$ billion)	Assets (in HK\$ billion)	Liabilities (in HK\$ billion)
Hong Kong dollar	276.6	3,082.9	334.9	2,899.8
US dollar	4,014.1	627.5	3,615.4	585.9
	4,290.7	3,710.4	3,950.3	3,485.7
Others ¹	520.3	27.1	480.9	24.9
TOTAL	4,811.0	3,737.5	4,431.2	3,510.6

	Fund			
	2020		2019	
	Assets (in HK\$ billion)	Liabilities (in HK\$ billion)	Assets (in HK\$ billion)	Liabilities (in HK\$ billion)
Hong Kong dollar	221.0	3,033.0	303.7	2,872.2
US dollar	3,829.1	616.1	3,482.4	579.6
	4,050.1	3,649.1	3,786.1	3,451.8
Others ¹	449.1	6.9	420.6	5.5
TOTAL	4,499.2	3,656.0	4,206.7	3,457.3

¹ Other currencies included mainly euro, renminbi, pound sterling and Japanese yen.

(c) Equity price risk

As at 31 December 2020 and 2019, the majority of equity investments were reported as “financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account” as shown in note 10.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

37.4.4 Sensitivity analysis

The Value-at-Risk positions of the Fund as at 31 December and during the year, based on a 95% confidence level and one-month time horizon, are as follows:

	Fund	
	2020	2019
Value-at-Risk		
At 31 December ¹	43,255	30,779
During the year		
Average	61,579	34,400
Maximum	108,318	44,918
Minimum	31,121	28,954

¹ The amount represented 1.0% of the Fund's investments which were subject to VaR measurement as at 31 December 2020 (2019: 0.8%).

37.5 Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk refers to the risk that the Group may not have sufficient funds available to meet its liabilities as they fall due. In addition, the Group may not be able to liquidate its financial assets at a price close to fair value within a short period of time.

37.5.1 Management of liquidity risk

To ensure sufficient liquidity to meet liabilities and the ability to raise funds to meet exceptional needs, the Group invests primarily in liquid financial markets and instruments that are readily saleable to meet liquidity needs. There are internal investment restrictions to prevent undue concentrations in individual debt securities issues, debt securities issuers, and groups of closely related debt securities issuers. There are also limitations on the maximum proportion of assets that can be placed in fixed term deposits and less liquid assets, and requirements regarding the ability to convert foreign currency assets into cash. In addition, prudent liquidity control measures are imposed on the Fund's investments in less liquid credit assets such as asset-backed securities. All these restrictions and limits are designed to promote the liquidity of assets and consequently minimise the liquidity risk. The liquidity risk for the Fund's investment is monitored on an aggregate basis through appropriate portfolio mix with sufficient liquid assets to offset investments of less liquid assets. Compliance with these limits is monitored by the Risk and Compliance Department and any breaches are reported to the ISC and are promptly followed up.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

37.5.2 Exposure to liquidity risk

The remaining contractual maturities at the reporting date of major financial liabilities, commitments and derivative financial liabilities, which are based on contractual undiscounted cash flows and the earliest date on which the Group can be required to pay, are shown below:

	Group – 2020						Total
	Remaining maturity						
	1 month or less	3 months or less but over 1 month	1 year or less but over 3 months	5 years or less but over 1 year	10 years or less but over 5 years	Over 10 years	
Non-derivative cash outflows							
Certificates of Indebtedness	556,204	–	–	–	–	–	556,204
Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	12,844	–	–	–	–	–	12,844
Balance of the banking system	457,466	–	–	–	–	–	457,466
Placements by banks and other financial institutions	82,650	5,000	–	–	–	–	87,650
Placements by Fiscal Reserves	676,841	–	–	204,991	–	–	881,832
Placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies	185,869	15,000	24,000	91,272	26,330	–	342,471
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	279,371	535,797	234,449	14,626	5,019	–	1,069,262
Bank loans	59	12	211	2,808	10,691	–	13,781
Other debt securities issued	6,417	8,529	27,276	16,139	3,078	3,916	65,355
Lease liabilities	11	25	92	456	116	2,037	2,737
Other liabilities (excluding lease liabilities)	117,183	16,985	35	110,798	–	–	245,001
Loan commitments, guarantees and other credit related commitments	239,115	–	–	–	–	–	239,115
TOTAL	2,614,030	581,348	286,063	441,090	45,234	5,953	3,973,718
Derivative cash outflows/(inflows)							
Derivative financial instruments settled:							
– on net basis	331	4	(5)	123	13	–	466
– on gross basis							
Total outflows	64,550	190,874	12,561	7,162	1,375	–	276,522
Total inflows	(63,238)	(185,840)	(12,678)	(7,101)	(1,360)	–	(270,217)
TOTAL	1,643	5,038	(122)	184	28	–	6,771

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

	Group – 2019						Total
	Remaining maturity						
	1 month or less	3 months or less but over 1 month	1 year or less but over 3 months	5 years or less but over 1 year	10 years or less but over 5 years	Over 10 years	
Non-derivative cash outflows							
Certificates of Indebtedness	516,062	–	–	–	–	–	516,062
Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	12,988	–	–	–	–	–	12,988
Balance of the banking system	67,688	–	–	–	–	–	67,688
Placements by banks and other financial institutions	30,000	5,000	–	–	–	–	35,000
Placements by Fiscal Reserves	912,960	–	–	–	224,530	–	1,137,490
Placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies	167,994	17,500	9,640	92,052	41,220	–	328,406
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	360,203	469,906	306,271	15,254	6,340	–	1,157,974
Bank loans	55	7	209	4,559	7,966	–	12,796
Other debt securities issued	(388)	4,630	17,015	14,522	3,375	3,997	43,151
Lease liabilities	10	23	91	259	45	1,993	2,421
Other liabilities (excluding lease liabilities)	108,193	17,865	278	41	73,540	–	199,917
Loan commitments, guarantees and other credit related commitments	238,655	–	–	–	–	–	238,655
TOTAL	2,414,420	514,931	333,504	126,687	357,016	5,990	3,752,548
Derivative cash outflows/(inflows)							
Derivative financial instruments settled:							
– on net basis	311	11	(21)	132	31	2	466
– on gross basis							
Total outflows	176,683	122,903	8,322	7,112	1,303	–	316,323
Total inflows	(173,310)	(121,188)	(8,287)	(7,090)	(1,271)	–	(311,146)
TOTAL	3,684	1,726	14	154	63	2	5,643

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

	Fund – 2020						Total
	Remaining maturity						
	1 month or less	3 months or less but over 1 month	1 year or less but over 3 months	5 years or less but over 1 year	10 years or less but over 5 years	Over 10 years	
Non-derivative cash outflows							
Certificates of Indebtedness	556,204	–	–	–	–	–	556,204
Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	12,844	–	–	–	–	–	12,844
Balance of the banking system	457,466	–	–	–	–	–	457,466
Placements by banks and other financial institutions	82,650	5,000	–	–	–	–	87,650
Placements by Fiscal Reserves	676,841	–	–	204,991	–	–	881,832
Placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies	185,869	15,000	24,000	91,272	26,330	–	342,471
Placements by subsidiaries	671	–	–	7,900	6,898	–	15,469
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	279,371	535,797	234,449	14,626	5,019	–	1,069,262
Lease liabilities	7	15	58	302	41	–	423
Other liabilities (excluding lease liabilities)	97,260	16,765	33	111,400	–	–	225,458
Credit related commitments	313,513	–	–	–	–	–	313,513
TOTAL	2,662,696	572,577	258,540	430,491	38,288	–	3,962,592
Derivative cash outflows/(inflows)							
Derivative financial instruments settled:							
– on net basis	329	1	2	9	13	–	354
– on gross basis							
Total outflows	61,860	190,469	1,442	–	–	–	253,771
Total inflows	(60,448)	(185,398)	(1,406)	–	–	–	(247,252)
TOTAL	1,741	5,072	38	9	13	–	6,873

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

	Fund – 2019						Total
	Remaining maturity						
	1 month or less	3 months or less but over 1 month	1 year or less but over 3 months	5 years or less but over 1 year	10 years or less but over 5 years	Over 10 years	
Non-derivative cash outflows							
Certificates of Indebtedness	516,062	–	–	–	–	–	516,062
Government-issued currency notes and coins in circulation	12,988	–	–	–	–	–	12,988
Balance of the banking system	67,688	–	–	–	–	–	67,688
Placements by banks and other financial institutions	30,000	5,000	–	–	–	–	35,000
Placements by Fiscal Reserves	912,960	–	–	–	224,530	–	1,137,490
Placements by HKSAR Government funds and statutory bodies	167,994	17,500	9,640	92,052	41,220	–	328,406
Placements by subsidiaries	365	–	–	4,900	7,332	–	12,597
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	360,203	469,906	306,271	15,254	6,340	–	1,157,974
Lease liabilities	5	12	53	222	–	–	292
Other liabilities (excluding lease liabilities)	96,833	17,850	50	226	73,540	–	188,499
Credit related commitments	263,837	–	–	–	–	–	263,837
TOTAL	2,428,935	510,268	316,014	112,654	352,962	–	3,720,833
Derivative cash outflows/(inflows)							
Derivative financial instruments settled:							
– on net basis	297	6	(2)	25	14	–	340
– on gross basis							
Total outflows	175,665	121,820	1,006	–	–	–	298,491
Total inflows	(172,292)	(120,127)	(1,007)	–	–	–	(293,426)
TOTAL	3,670	1,699	(3)	25	14	–	5,405

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

37.6 Insurance risk

The Group, through its life insurance subsidiary, offers annuity product to personal customers. Insurance risk arises from an inaccurate assessment of the risks entailed in writing and pricing an insurance policy. The major insurance risk is the longevity risk which arises from the possibility that actual life expectancy of annuitants being longer than expected.

Insurance risk is managed by adopting a prudent set of assumptions and conducting regular experience studies. Asset-liability mismatch risk inherent to the annuity product is due to asset volatility and return, uncertain annuity liabilities, cash flow mismatch and currency mismatch between assets and liabilities. To mitigate such risk, the Group actively monitors the performance and steadfastly maintains control over asset allocation.

The Group established Longevity Risk Committee to manage longevity risk of the Group. Its duties include approving longevity risk management policies and hedging transactions and reviewing longevity experiences and exposures of the Group. It also monitors and analyses the general trend, technological changes and their implications for human longevity.

The Group, through its general insurance subsidiary, provides mortgage insurance cover in respect of mortgage loans and reverse mortgage loans originated by participating lenders and secured on residential properties in Hong Kong, life insurance policies and, if applicable, other assets; and operates a scheme for the HKSAR Government providing financial guarantee on loans advanced by participating lenders for local SMEs. The Group faces insurance risk of the possibility of the insured event occurring and the uncertainty of the amount of the resulting claim.

Under the Mortgage Insurance Programme, the Group offers mortgage insurance that covers participating lenders for first credit losses, in general, of up to 40% of the value of properties financed under mortgage loans with loan-to-value ratio 90% or below at origination. The Group reinsures the exposure with approved reinsurers. As at 31 December 2020, the total risk-in-force was HK\$54.5 billion (2019: HK\$27.9 billion), of which HK\$47.6 billion (2019: HK\$23.1 billion) was retained by the Group after reinsurance.

The Group also provides financial guarantee cover to participating authorized institutions up to 50% to 70% of the banking facilities granted to SMEs in Hong Kong, and insurance cover in respect of reverse mortgage loans originated by participating lenders and secured on residential properties, life insurance policies and, if applicable, other assets. As at 31 December 2020, the total risk-in-force of the reverse mortgage loans was HK\$15.0 billion (2019: HK\$12.5 billion), of which HK\$12.3 billion (2019: HK\$11.2 billion) was retained by the Group after reinsurance.

For a portfolio of insurance contracts where the theory of probability is applied to pricing and provisioning, the principal risk that the Group faces under its insurance contracts is that the actual claims exceed the carrying amount of the insurance liabilities. This could occur because the frequency or severity of claims is greater than estimated. Insurance events are random and the actual number and amount of claims and benefits will vary from year to year from the estimate established using statistical techniques.

Experience shows that the larger the portfolio of similar insurance contracts, the smaller the relative variability about the expected outcome will be. In addition, a more diversified portfolio is less likely to be affected across the board by a change in any subset of the portfolio. The Group has developed a business strategy to diversify the type of insurance risks accepted and within each of the key categories to achieve a sufficiently large population of risks to reduce the variability of the expected outcome.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

The frequency and severity of claims can be affected by several factors. The most significant factors are a downturn in the economy, a slump in local property market and a low mortality rate of reverse mortgage borrowers. Economic downturn, which may cause a rise in defaulted payment, affects the frequency of claims and collateral value. A drop in property prices, where the collateral values fall below the outstanding balance of the mortgage loans, will increase the severity of claims. Low mortality rate of reverse mortgage borrowers means longer payout period and larger loan balance will be over time. This will affect the frequency and severity of claims as there is a risk of the property value being insufficient to cover the outstanding loan balance in the future.

The Group manages these risks by adopting a set of prudent insurance underwriting eligibility criteria. To ensure sufficient provision is set aside for meeting future claim payments, the Group calculates technical reserves on prudent liability valuation assumptions and the methods prescribed in the regulatory guidelines. The Group also takes out quota-share reinsurance from its approved mortgage reinsurers in an effort to limit its risk exposure under the mortgage insurance business and reverse mortgage business. The reinsurers are selected according to prudent criteria and their credit ratings are reviewed regularly. For financial guarantee cover provided to participating lenders, the Group relies on the lenders' prudent credit assessment on the borrowers to mitigate default risk and any loss in the loan facility will be shared proportionately between the Group and the lender on a pari passu basis to minimise moral hazards. The mortality assumptions of reverse mortgages are also reviewed on a regular basis, to assess the risk of larger deviation between the actual and expected operating results.

37.7 Operational risk

Operational risk is the risk of loss resulting from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems or from external events. Operational risk is inherent in all aspects of the Group's operations covering all business segments.

The Group's objective is to cost-effectively manage operational risk to prevent financial losses or damage to the Group's reputation.

The primary responsibility for the development and implementation of controls to address operational risk rests with line management, with oversight by an internal high-level Risk Committee. The Committee is chaired by the Chief Executive of the HKMA with the Deputy Chief Executives and the Senior Executive Director (Development) as members. The Risk Committee provides direction and guidance for line management in managing operational risk.

Operational risk management is supported by a formal risk assessment process. This is conducted annually and supplemented with quarterly updates. It requires each division to assess and rank the potential impact and likelihood of occurrence of financial and operational risks. It also requires divisions to review the procedures and controls in place for addressing the identified risks. This risk and control self-assessment is reviewed by the Internal Audit Division of the HKMA to ensure consistency and reasonableness before submission to the Risk Committee, which has the responsibility for ensuring that the identified risks are properly addressed. Results of this risk assessment are also taken into account, in conjunction with other risk factors, for the development of an annual Internal Audit work plan. The Internal Audit Division will audit the risk areas at various frequencies depending on the levels of risks and the results of past audits. It reports its findings regularly to the EFAC Audit Sub-Committee and the Chief Executive of the HKMA and follows up on outstanding issues to ensure that they are resolved in a proper manner.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

Operational risk is also inherent in the investment activities and processes of the EFIO. To enhance its operational risk oversight, the Risk and Compliance Department formalised its operational risk management framework for the EFIO. The key elements of the framework include identification and monitoring of key risk indicators; reporting to the senior management of the HKMA on the operational risk profile of the EFIO; handling of operational risk incidents; and issuing monthly operational risk reports to relevant senior executives.

38 FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

38.1 Fair value of financial instruments measured at fair value on a recurring basis

38.1.1 Fair value hierarchy

The carrying values of financial instruments measured at fair value at the reporting date across the three levels of the fair value hierarchy are shown below:

	Group – 2020			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets				
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account				
Treasury bills and commercial paper	114,802	861,536	–	976,338
Certificates of deposit	–	194,020	–	194,020
Other debt securities	1,975,963	91,724	–	2,067,687
Equity securities	544,970	132,578	76,526	754,074
Investment funds	–	–	343,429	343,429
	2,635,735	1,279,858	419,955	4,335,548
Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income				
Debt securities	2,835	1,584	–	4,419
Equity securities	–	–	1,370	1,370
	2,835	1,584	1,370	5,789
Derivative financial instruments	306	2,282	–	2,588
TOTAL	2,638,876	1,283,724	421,325	4,343,925
Liabilities				
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	–	1,068,880	–	1,068,880
Derivative financial instruments	329	7,140	–	7,469
TOTAL	329	1,076,020	–	1,076,349

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

	Group – 2019			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets				
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account				
Treasury bills and commercial paper	15,946	724,849	–	740,795
Certificates of deposit	–	218,201	–	218,201
Other debt securities	1,789,529	108,040	–	1,897,569
Equity securities	523,787	148,903	65,035	737,725
Investment funds	–	–	272,513	272,513
	2,329,262	1,199,993	337,548	3,866,803
Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income				
Debt securities	3,114	1,807	–	4,921
Equity securities	–	–	1,210	1,210
	3,114	1,807	1,210	6,131
Derivative financial instruments	117	1,172	–	1,289
TOTAL	2,332,493	1,202,972	338,758	3,874,223
Liabilities				
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	–	1,152,327	–	1,152,327
Derivative financial instruments	297	5,915	–	6,212
Other debt securities issued, measured at fair value	–	147	–	147
TOTAL	297	1,158,389	–	1,158,686

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

	Fund – 2020			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets				
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account				
Treasury bills and commercial paper	114,802	861,536	–	976,338
Certificates of deposit	–	194,020	–	194,020
Other debt securities	1,975,952	91,724	–	2,067,676
Equity securities	544,716	132,578	65,829	743,123
	2,635,470	1,279,858	65,829	3,981,157
Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income				
Equity securities	–	–	1,370	1,370
Derivative financial instruments	306	1,485	–	1,791
TOTAL	2,635,776	1,281,343	67,199	3,984,318
Liabilities				
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	–	1,068,880	–	1,068,880
Derivative financial instruments	329	6,694	–	7,023
TOTAL	329	1,075,574	–	1,075,903

	Fund – 2019			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Assets				
Financial assets measured at fair value through income and expenditure account				
Treasury bills and commercial paper	15,946	724,849	–	740,795
Certificates of deposit	–	218,201	–	218,201
Other debt securities	1,789,519	108,040	–	1,897,559
Equity securities	523,419	148,903	57,368	729,690
	2,328,884	1,199,993	57,368	3,586,245
Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income				
Equity securities	–	–	1,210	1,210
Derivative financial instruments	117	971	–	1,088
TOTAL	2,329,001	1,200,964	58,578	3,588,543
Liabilities				
Exchange Fund Bills and Notes issued	–	1,152,327	–	1,152,327
Derivative financial instruments	297	5,431	–	5,728
TOTAL	297	1,157,758	–	1,158,055

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

The Group's policy is to recognise transfers between levels of fair value hierarchy as at the reporting date in which they occur. During the year, there were no transfers of financial instruments between Level 1 and Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

An analysis of the movement between opening and closing balances of Level 3 financial assets, measured at fair value using a valuation technique with significant unobservable inputs, is shown below:

	2020			
	Group		Fund	
	Measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	Measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	Measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	Measured at fair value through other comprehensive income
At 1 January 2020	337,548	1,210	57,368	1,210
Net gains recognised in the income and expenditure account	46,042	–	5,232	–
Net gains recognised in other comprehensive income	–	160	–	160
Purchases	76,255	–	26,327	–
Sales	(42,791)	–	(25,743)	–
Exchange differences	256	–	–	–
Transfers into Level 3	3,260	–	3,260	–
Transfers out of Level 3	(615)	–	(615)	–
At 31 December 2020	419,955	1,370	65,829	1,370
Net gains recognised in the income and expenditure account relating to revaluation of those assets held at the reporting date	47,085	–	6,275	–

	2019			
	Group		Fund	
	Measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	Measured at fair value through other comprehensive income	Measured at fair value through income and expenditure account	Measured at fair value through other comprehensive income
At 1 January 2019	274,487	1,144	45,079	1,144
Net gains recognised in the income and expenditure account	17,996	–	4,241	–
Net gains recognised in other comprehensive income	–	66	–	66
Purchases	80,249	–	21,396	–
Sales	(34,155)	–	(12,377)	–
Exchange differences	(58)	–	–	–
Transfers into Level 3	1,299	–	1,299	–
Transfers out of Level 3	(2,270)	–	(2,270)	–
At 31 December 2019	337,548	1,210	57,368	1,210
Net gains recognised in the income and expenditure account relating to revaluation of those assets held at the reporting date	18,132	–	3,857	–

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

During the year, certain financial instruments were transferred between Level 2 and Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy reflecting changes in transparency of observable market data for these instruments.

38.1.2 Valuation techniques and key inputs

The fair value of financial instruments classified under Level 1 is based on quoted market prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities at the reporting date.

In the absence of quoted market prices in active markets, the fair value of financial instruments classified under Level 2 is estimated using present value or other valuation techniques, with inputs based on market conditions existing at the reporting date. Specific valuation techniques and key inputs used to value these financial instruments include:

- (a) quoted market price or broker quotes for similar instruments;
- (b) derivative financial instruments are priced using models with observable market inputs including interest rate swap and foreign exchange contracts; and
- (c) commercial paper and debt securities are priced using discounted cash flow techniques with observable yield curves.

For unlisted investment funds and certain unlisted equity securities which are classified under Level 3, their fair values are estimated by making reference to valuation reports provided by external investment managers. It is not practicable to quote a range of key unobservable inputs.

For certain unlisted equity securities valued by the Group, which are classified under Level 3, their fair values are derived from Comparable Company Valuation Model, which derives the valuation of an investment through the product of its earnings, earning multiples of comparable public companies and a discount factor for a lack of liquidity. Significant unobservable inputs used under this valuation method include earning multiples of similar companies and liquidity discount:

Significant unobservable inputs	Quantitative amount	
	2020	2019
Earning multiples of similar companies	5.3 – 21.5	5.8 – 18.1
Liquidity discount	20%	20%

The shareholding in the Bank for International Settlements (note 11) is also classified under Level 3. Its fair value is estimated based on the Group's interest in the net asset value of the Bank at the reporting date, discounted at 30% to reflect the discount rate used by the Bank for share repurchases.

If the fair values of these investments had increased/decreased by 10%, it would have resulted in an increase/a decrease in the Group's surplus for the year of HK\$41,996 million (2019: HK\$33,755 million) and in other comprehensive income of HK\$137 million (2019: \$121 million).

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

38.2 Fair value of debt securities not measured at fair value on a recurring basis

The fair values of debt securities measured at amortised cost and other debt securities issued that were not measured at fair value are shown below:

		Group – 2020			
		Carrying value	Fair value		
	Note		Level 1	Level 2	Total
Financial assets					
Debt securities measured at amortised cost	13	9,730	9,499	1,050	10,549
Financial liabilities					
Other debt securities issued	29	62,587	–	63,608	63,608

		Group – 2019			
		Carrying value	Fair value		
	Note		Level 1	Level 2	Total
Financial assets					
Debt securities measured at amortised cost	13	12,034	9,913	2,604	12,517
Financial liabilities					
Other debt securities issued	29	40,223	–	40,703	40,703

In the absence of quoted market prices in active markets, the fair values of debt securities classified under Level 2 are estimated using present value or other valuation techniques, with inputs based on market conditions existing at the reporting date. The valuation technique for other debt securities issued is the use of discounted cash flow model based on a current yield curve appropriate for their remaining term to maturity.

All other financial instruments of the Group and the Fund are measured at fair value or carried at amounts not materially different from their fair values as at 31 December 2020 and 2019.

Exchange Fund – Notes to the Financial Statements (continued)

(Amounts expressed in millions of Hong Kong dollars, unless otherwise stated.)

39 POSSIBLE IMPACT OF AMENDMENTS, NEW STANDARDS AND INTERPRETATIONS ISSUED BUT NOT YET EFFECTIVE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

Up to the date of issue of these financial statements, the HKICPA has issued a number of amendments, new standards and interpretations which are not yet effective for the year ended 31 December 2020 and which have not been adopted in these financial statements. The new standards include:

	Effective for accounting periods beginning on or after
HKFRS 17 “Insurance Contracts”	1 January 2023

The Group is in the process of assessing the possible impact on its financial statements in the period of initial application of HKFRS 17.

HKFRS 17 “Insurance Contracts”

HKFRS 17 establishes a comprehensive global insurance standard which provides guidance on the recognition, measurement, presentation and disclosure of insurance contracts. The standard requires entities to measure insurance contract liabilities at their current fulfilment values. The Group is yet to assess the full impact of the standard on its financial position and results of operations. The new standard is effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 January 2023 and will be applied retrospectively with restatement of comparatives unless impracticable. At this stage, the Group does not intend to adopt the standard before its effective date.

40 APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The financial statements were approved by the Financial Secretary on the advice of the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee on 1 April 2021.