

APPENDIX IV SUMMARY OF PRINCIPLE LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

This Appendix summarizes certain aspects of the laws and regulations of PRC which are relevant to our Company’s operations and business. Laws and regulations relating to taxation in PRC are discussed separately in “Appendix III—Taxation and Foreign Exchange” to this document. This Appendix also contains a summary of laws and regulatory provisions of the PRC Company Law. The principal objective of this summary is to provide [REDACTED] with an overview of the principal laws and regulatory provisions applicable to our Company. This summary is not intended to include all the information which is important to the [REDACTED]. For a discussion of laws and regulations which are relevant to our Company’s business, see “Regulatory Overview” in this document.

THE PRC LEGAL SYSTEM

The PRC legal system is based on the PRC Constitution (《中華人民共和國憲法》) (“**Constitution**”) and comprises written laws, administrative regulations, local regulations, separate regulations, rules and regulations of departments of the State Council, rules and regulations of local governments, autonomous regulations, separate regulations of autonomous regions, special administrative region law and international treaties and other regulatory documents signed by the PRC government. Judicial precedents are not binding but may serve as judicial reference and guidance.

According to the Constitution and the Legislation Law of the People’s Republic of China (《中華人民共和國立法法》) (“**Legislation Law**”), which was amended by the National People’s Congress (“**NPC**”) and became effective on March 15, 2023, the NPC and the SCNPC are empowered to exercise the legislative power of the State. The NPC has the power to formulate and amend basic laws governing criminal and civil matters, state organs and other matters. The SCNPC is empowered to formulate and amend laws other than those required to be enacted by the NPC and to supplement and amend any parts of laws enacted by the NPC during the adjournment of the NPC, provided such supplements and amendments are not in conflict with the basic principles of such laws.

The State Council is the highest organ of state administration and has the power to formulate administrative regulations based on the Constitution and laws. The people’s congresses of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities and their respective standing committees may formulate local regulations based on the specific circumstances and actual needs of their respective administrative areas, provided that such local regulations do not contravene any provision of the Constitution, laws or administrative regulations. The people’s congresses of cities divided into districts and their standing committees may formulate local regulations on matters such as urban and rural construction and management, environmental protection and historical and cultural protection based on the specific circumstances and actual needs of such cities, provided that such local regulations do not contravene any provision of the Constitution, laws, administrative

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regulations and local regulations of such provinces or autonomous regions. Where laws have other stipulations on matters of local regulations formulated by cities divided into districts, such stipulations shall prevail. The local regulations of cities divided into districts shall be submitted to the standing committees of the people's congresses of provinces and autonomous regions for approval before implementation. The standing committees of the people's congresses of provinces or autonomous regions shall examine the legality of local regulations submitted for approval, and such approval should be granted within four months if they are not in conflict with the Constitution, laws, administrative regulations and local regulations of their respective provinces or autonomous regions. People's congresses of national autonomous areas have the power to enact autonomous regulations and separate regulations in the light of the political, economic and cultural characteristics of the nationality (nationalities) in the areas concerned. The ministries, commissions, People's Bank of China, National Audit Office and institutions with administrative functions directly under the State Council may formulate rules and regulations within the jurisdiction of their respective departments based on the laws and the administrative regulations, decisions and rulings of the State Council.

The Constitution has supreme legal authority and no laws, administrative regulations, local regulations, autonomous regulations or separate regulations or rules may contravene the Constitution. The authority of laws is greater than that of administrative regulations, local regulations and rules. The authority of administrative regulations is greater than that of local regulations and rules. The authority of the rules enacted by the people's governments of the provinces and autonomous regions is greater than that of the rules enacted by the people's governments of the cities divided into districts within their respective administrative regions.

The NPC has the power to alter or annul any inappropriate laws enacted by the SCNPC, and to annul any autonomous regulations and separate regulations which have been approved by the SCNPC but which contravene the Constitution and the Legislation Law; the SCNPC has the power to annul administrative regulations that contravene the Constitution and laws, to annul local regulations that contravene the Constitution, laws and administrative regulations, and to annul autonomous regulations and separate regulations which have been approved by the standing committees of the people's congresses of the relevant provinces, autonomous regions or municipalities directly under the Central Government, but which contravene the Constitution and the Legislation Law; The State Council has the power to alter or annul any inappropriate ministerial rules and rules of local governments; The people's congresses of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the central government have the power to alter or annul any inappropriate local regulations enacted or approved by their respective standing committees; The standing committees of the local people's congresses have the power to annul inappropriate rules enacted by the people's governments at the corresponding level; The people's governments of provinces and autonomous regions have the power to alter or annul any inappropriate rules enacted by the people's governments at a lower level.

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According to the Constitution and the Legislation Law, the power to interpret laws is vested in the SCNPC. According to the Decision of the SCNPC Regarding the Strengthening of Interpretation of Laws (《全國人民代表大會常務委員會關於加強法律解釋工作的決議》) passed by the SCNPC and effective on June 10, 1981, the Supreme People’s Court shall give interpretation on questions involving the specific application of laws and decrees in court trials. The Supreme People’s Procuratorate shall interpret all issues involving the specific application of laws and decrees in the procuratorial work. Interpretation of questions involving the specific application of laws and decrees in areas unrelated to judicial and procuratorial work shall be provided by the State Council and competent authorities. Where the scope of local regulations needs to be further defined or additional stipulations need to be made, the standing committees of the people’s congresses of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities directly under the Central Government which have enacted these regulations shall provide the interpretations or make the stipulations. Interpretation of questions involving the specific application of local regulations shall be provided by the competent departments of the people’s governments of provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

PRC JUDICIAL SYSTEM

According to the Constitution and the Organization Law of the People’s Courts of the PRC (《中華人民共和國人民法院組織法》) amended by the SCNPC on October 26, 2018 and came into effect on January 1, 2019, the PRC People’s Court is made up of the Supreme People’s Court, the local people’s courts, and other special people’s courts. The local people’s courts are divided into three levels, namely the basic people’s courts, the intermediate people’s courts and the higher people’s courts. The basic people’s courts may set up certain people’s tribunals based on the status of the region, population and cases. The Supreme People’s Court shall be the highest judicial organ of the state. The Supreme People’s Court shall supervise the administration of justice by the local people’s courts at all levels and by the special people’s courts. The people’s courts at a higher level shall supervise the judicial work of the people’s courts at lower levels.

According to the Constitution and the Organization Law of the People’s Procuratorates of the PRC (《中華人民共和國人民檢察院組織法》), amended by the SCNPC on October 26, 2018 and came into effect on January 1, 2019, the People’s Procuratorate is the law supervision organ of the state. The Supreme People’s Procuratorate shall be the highest procuratorial organ. The Supreme People’s Procuratorate shall direct the work of the local people’s procuratorates at all levels and of the special people’s procuratorates; the people’s procuratorates at higher levels shall direct the work of those at lower levels.

The people’s courts employ a two-tier appellate system, i.e., judgments or rulings of the second instance at the people’s courts are final. A party may appeal against the judgment or ruling of the first instance of a local people’s courts. The people’s procuratorate may present a protest to

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the people’s courts at the next higher level in accordance with the procedures stipulated by the laws. In the absence of any appeal by the parties and any protest by the people’s procuratorate within the stipulated period, the judgments or rulings of the people’s courts are final. Judgments or rulings of the second instance of the intermediate people’s courts, the higher people’s courts and the Supreme People’s Court and those of the first instance of the Supreme People’s Court are final. However, if the Supreme People’s Court or the people’s courts at the next higher level finds any definite errors in a legally effective final judgment or ruling of the people’s court at a lower level, or if the chief judge of a people’s court at any level finds any definite errors in a legally effective final judgment or ruling of such court, the case can be retried according to judicial supervision procedures.

The Civil Procedure Law of PRC (《中華人民共和國民事訴訟法》) (“**Civil Procedure Law**”) lastly amended by the SCNPC on September 1, 2023 and became effective on January 1, 2024 sets forth the requirements for instituting a civil action, the jurisdiction of the people’s courts, the procedures to be followed for conducting a civil action and the procedures for enforcement of a civil judgment or order. All parties to a civil action conducted within the PRC must comply with the Civil Procedure Law. Civil cases are generally heard by the courts where the defendants are located. The court of jurisdiction in a civil action may be chosen by express agreement between the parties, provided that the court is located at a place that has direct connection with the dispute, such as the plaintiff’s or the defendant’s place of domicile, the place where the contract is performed or signed or the object of the action is located. However, the choice of the court cannot be in conflict with the regulations of different jurisdictions and exclusive jurisdictions in any case.

A foreign individual, a person without nationality, a foreign-invested enterprise or a foreign organization must have the same litigation rights and obligations as a PRC citizen, legal person or other organizations when initiating or defending any proceedings at a people’s court. If a foreign court limits the litigation rights of PRC citizens and enterprises, the PRC court may apply the same limitations to the citizens and enterprises of such foreign country. A foreign individual, a person without nationality, a foreign-invested enterprise or a foreign organization must engage a PRC lawyer if such person needs to engage a lawyer in initiating or defending any proceedings at a people’s court. Under an international treaty or the principle of reciprocity signed or acceded to by the PRC, the people’s court and foreign courts may require each other to act on their behalf to serve documents, conduct investigations, collect evidence and take other actions on behalf of each other. If the request by a foreign court would result in the violation of the PRC’s sovereignty, security or public interest, the people’s court shall decline the request.

All parties must comply with legally effective civil judgments and rulings. If any party to a civil action refuses to comply with a judgment or order made by a people’s court or an award made by an arbitration tribunal in the PRC, the other party may apply to the people’s court for

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enforcement within two years. Suspension or disruption of the time limit for applying for such enforcement shall comply with the provisions of the applicable law concerning the suspension or disruption of the time-barring of actions.

When a party applies to a people’s court for enforcing an effective judgment or ruling by a people’s court against a party who is not located within the territory of the PRC or whose property is not within the PRC, the party may apply to a foreign court with proper jurisdiction for recognition and enforcement of the judgment or ruling. A foreign judgment or ruling may also be recognized and enforced by the people’s court according to the PRC enforcement procedures if the PRC has entered into, or acceded to, an international treaty with the relevant foreign country, which provides for such recognition and enforcement, or if the judgment or ruling satisfies the court’s examination according to the principle of reciprocity, unless the people’s court finds that the recognition or enforcement of such judgment or ruling will result in a violation of the basic legal principles of the PRC, its sovereignty or security, or for reasons of social and public interests.

THE COMPANY LAW, THE TRIAL ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES OF OVERSEAS SECURITIES OFFERING AND LISTING BY DOMESTIC COMPANIES AND GUIDELINES FOR ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

A joint stock limited company established in the PRC seeking a listing on The HKSE is mainly subject to the following laws and regulations of the PRC.

The Company Law, was lastly revised on December 29, 2023 and came into effect on July 1, 2024.

The Trial Administrative Measures of Overseas Securities offering (《境內企業境外發行證券和上市管理試行辦法》) (“**Overseas Listing Trial Measures**”) and its five interpretative guidelines, were promulgated by the CSRC on February 17, 2023 and came into effect on March 31, 2023 and were applicable to the direct and indirect overseas offering and listing of PRC domestic companies’ securities.

According to the Overseas Listing Trial Measures and its interpretative guidelines, where a domestic company directly conducts offering and listing overseas, it shall formulate its articles of association in line with the Guidelines for Articles of Association of Listed Companies (《上市公司章程指引》) (“**Guidelines for Articles of Association**”) which was issued by the CSRC as amended and effective from time to time, in place of the Mandatory Provisions for Articles of Association of Companies to be Listed Overseas (《到境外上市公司章程必備條款》) which ceased to apply from March 31, 2023.

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Set out below is a summary of the major provisions of the Company Law, the Overseas Listing Trial Measures and the Guidelines for Articles of Association which are applicable to our Company.

General Provisions

“A joint stock limited company” means a corporate legal person incorporated in China under the Company Law, whose registered capital is divided into shares of equal par value. The liability of its shareholders is limited to the extent of the shares they have subscribed for and the liability of a company is limited to the full value of all the property owned by it.

A company must conduct its business in accordance with laws and regulations as well as public and commercial ethics. A company may invest in other limited liability companies. The liabilities of the company to such invested companies are limited to the amount invested. Unless otherwise provided by laws, a company cannot be the capital contributor who has the joint liabilities associated with the debts of the invested enterprises.

Incorporation

A joint stock limited company may be established by means of promotion or stock floatation. To establish a joint stock limited company, there shall be not less than 1 but not more than 200 promoters, more than half of whom shall have their domiciles within the territory of the PRC.

The promoters of subscription of a joint stock company shall convene an inaugural meeting of the company within 30 days after the share capital has been paid up and shall notify all subscribers of the date of the meeting or make an announcement in this regard 15 days before the meeting. The inaugural meeting may be held only with the presence of subscribers holding more than 50% of the voting rights. The convening and voting procedures for the inaugural meeting of a joint stock limited company incorporated by promotion shall be stipulated in the agreement of the promoters. Powers to be exercised at the inaugural meeting include but are not limited to the adoption of articles of association and the election of members of the board of directors and the supervisory committee of a company. The aforesaid matters shall be resolved by more than 50% of the votes to be cast by subscribers presented at the meeting.

Within 30 days after the conclusion of the inaugural meeting, the board of directors shall apply to the registration authority for registration of the incorporation of the joint stock limited company. A company is formally established and has the status of a legal person after the business license has been issued by the relevant registration authority.

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Registered Shares

Under the Company Law, shareholders may make capital contributions in cash, or with non-monetary property that may be valued in money and legally transferred, such as contribution in kind or with an intellectual property rights, land use rights, shareholding or claims.

The Overseas Listing Trial Measures provides that domestic enterprises that are listed overseas may raise funds and distribute dividends in foreign currencies or Renminbi.

Under the Company Law, a joint stock limited company is required to maintain a register of shareholders, detailing the following information:

- (i) the name and domicile of each shareholder;
- (ii) the class and number of shares subscribed for by each shareholder;
- (iii) the serial number of shares if issued in paper form; and
- (iv) the date on which each shareholder acquired the shares.

Allotment and Issue of Shares

All issues of shares of a joint stock limited company shall be based on the principles of equality and fairness. The same class of shares must carry equal rights. Shares issued at the same time and within the same class must be issued on the same conditions and at the same price. A joint stock limited company may issue shares at a par value or at a premium, but it may not issue shares below the par value.

Domestic enterprises issued and listed overseas shall file with the CSRC in accordance with the Overseas Listing Trial Measures, submit filing reports, legal opinions and other relevant materials, and truthfully, accurately and completely explain shareholders information and other information. Where a domestic enterprise directly issues and is listed overseas, the issuer itself shall file with the CSRC. If a domestic enterprise is indirectly listed overseas, the issuer shall designate a major domestic operating entity as the domestic person responsible and file with the CSRC.

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Increase in Share Capital

Under the Company Law, in the case of a joint stock limited company issuing new shares, resolutions shall be passed at the shareholders’ meeting in respect of the class and number of new shares, the issue price of the new shares, the commencement and end dates for the issuance of new shares and the class and number of the new shares proposed to be issued to original shareholders, if any. If no par value stock is issued, more than one-half of the proceeds from the issuance of the new stocks shall be included in the registered capital. Additionally, if a company intends to make public offering of shares, it is required to complete the registration with the securities regulatory authority of the State Council and announce the document.

Reduction of Share Capital

A company may reduce its registered capital in accordance with the following procedures prescribed by the Company Law:

- (i) the company shall prepare a balance sheet and an inventory of property;
- (ii) the reduction of registered capital must be approved by shareholders at the shareholders’ meeting;
- (iii) the company shall notify its creditors within ten days from the date of the resolution of the shareholders’ meeting to reduce the registered capital and make an announcement in the newspaper or the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System within thirty days;
- (iv) the creditors have the right to demand the company to settle the debts or provide corresponding guarantees within thirty days from the date of receipt of the notice, or within forty-five days from the date of the announcement if the notice has not been received; and
- (v) the company shall apply to the company registration authority for change in registration.

Where a company reduces its registered capital, it shall reduce the amount of capital contribution or shares in proportion to the capital contribution or shares held by the shareholders, unless it is otherwise prescribed by any law, or is agreed upon by all the shareholders of a limited liability company or is otherwise prescribed by the articles of association of a joint stock limited company.

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Share Buy-Back

Under the Company Law, no company may purchase its own shares except under any of the following circumstances:

- (i) where the company’s registered capital is reduced;
- (ii) where it merges with another company holding its shares;
- (iii) where its shares are used for employee stock ownership plan or equity incentives;
- (iv) where any shareholder, who raises objections to the resolution of the shareholders’ meeting on the merger or split-up of the company, requests the company to purchase its shares;
- (v) where its shares are used for converting the corporate bonds into convertible stocks issued by the company; or
- (vi) it is necessary for a listed company to maintain its company value and its shareholders’ equity.

Where a company purchases its own shares under any of the circumstances as mentioned in items (i) or (ii) of the preceding paragraph, a resolution of the shareholders’ meeting shall be adopted. Where a company purchases its own shares under any of the circumstances as mentioned in items (iii), (v) or (vi) of the preceding paragraph, a resolution shall be adopted at the meeting of the board of directors with the attendance of not less than two thirds of the directors, according to the articles of association or the shareholders’ meeting of the company.

After the company purchases its own shares according to the first paragraph of this Article, the shares purchased shall be written off within ten days as of the purchase date under the circumstance as mentioned in item (i); the shares shall be transferred or written off within six months under the circumstance as mentioned in item (ii) or (iv); and the shares held accumulatively by the company shall not exceed 10% of the total shares issued and be transferred or written off within three years under any of the circumstances as mentioned in item (iii), (v) or (vi).

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Transfer of Shares

Shares held by a shareholder may be transferred according to the law. Under the Company Law, the share transfer by a shareholder shall be conducted on a lawfully established stock exchange or by any other means as prescribed by the State Council. The stocks shall be transferred by a shareholder in the form of endorsement or by any other means prescribed by the relevant laws or administrative regulations. After the transfer, the company shall record the name and domicile of the transferee in the register of shareholders. The register of shareholders shall not be modified within 20 days before any shareholders’ meeting is held, or within 5 days prior to the benchmark date decided by the company for the distribution of dividends. Where it is otherwise provided for in any law, administrative regulation or by the securities regulatory authority of the State Council for the modification of the register of shareholders of a listed company, such provisions shall prevail.

Under the Company Law, shares issued by a company prior to the public offering of shares shall not be transferred within one year from the date on which the shares of the company are listed and traded on a securities exchange. The directors, supervisors and senior executives of the company should declare to the company the shares they hold and the changes thereof. During the term of office as determined when they assume the posts, the shares transferred each year should not exceed 25% of the total shares they hold of the company. Shares of a company held by them shall not be transferred within one year from the date of a company’s listing on a securities exchange, nor within six months after their resignation from their positions with a company.

Where the shares are pledged within the time limit for restricted transfer as provided for by laws and administrative regulations, the pledgee may not exercise the pledge right within such restricted period.

Shareholders

Under the Company Law and Guidelines for Articles of Association the rights of a shareholder include:

- (i) to receive dividends and other forms of distributions in proportion to their shareholdings;
- (ii) to attend or appoint a proxy to attend shareholders’ meetings and to exercise voting rights;
- (iii) to supervise and manage a company’s business operations, and to present proposals or to raise inquiries;

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- (iv) to transfer shares in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and the provisions of the articles of association;
- (v) to inspect the company’s articles of association, share register, counterfoil of company debentures, minutes of shareholders’ meetings, resolutions of meetings of the board of directors, resolutions of meetings of the board of supervisors and financial and accounting reports and to make proposals or enquiries on the company’s operations;
- (vi) in the event of the winding-up or liquidation of a company, to participate in the distribution of remaining property of a company in proportion to the number of shares held; and
- (vii) other rights conferred by laws, administrative regulations and the articles of association.

The obligations of a shareholder include:

- (i) to comply with the articles of association;
- (ii) to pay subscription money according to the number of shares subscribed and the method of subscription;
- (iii) not to abuse their shareholders’ rights to damage the interests of a company or other shareholders; not to abuse the independent legal person status of a company and the limited liability of shareholders to damage the interests of the creditors of a company; and
- (iv) other obligations conferred by laws, administrative regulations and the articles of association.

Shareholders’ meetings

Under the Company Law, the shareholders’ meeting of a joint stock limited company is made up of all shareholders. The shareholders’ meeting is the authority of a company, which shall exercise the following functions and powers:

- (i) electing and replacing directors and supervisors and deciding on their remunerations;
- (ii) deliberating on and approving the reports of the board of directors;
- (iii) deliberating on and approving the reports of the board of supervisors;

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- (iv) deliberating on and approving the plans for profit distribution and making up losses of the company;
- (v) making resolutions on the increase or decrease of the registered capital of the company;
- (vi) making resolutions on the issuance of corporate bonds;
- (vii) making resolutions on the merger, split-up, dissolution, liquidation or change of corporate form of the company;
- (viii) amending the articles of association; and
- (ix) other functions and powers as prescribed in the articles of association.

Under the Company Law, an annual shareholders’ meeting shall be held every year. If any of the following circumstances occurs, an interim shareholders’ meeting shall be held within two months:

- (i) where the number of directors is less than two thirds of the number as provided for by the Company Law or the articles of association;
- (ii) where the unrecovered losses of the company reach one third of the total capital stock;
- (iii) where the shareholders who separately or aggregately hold 10% or more of the company’s shares so request;
- (iv) where the board of directors deems it necessary;
- (v) where the board of supervisors so proposes; or
- (vi) other circumstances as provided for in the articles of association.

The shareholders’ meeting shall be convened by the board of directors and presided over by the chairman of the board of directors. If the chairman is unable or fails to perform his/her duties, the meeting shall be presided over by the deputy chairman. If the deputy chairman is unable or fails to perform his/her duties, the meeting shall be presided over by a director jointly elected by more than half of the directors.

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If the board of directors is unable or fails to perform the duties of convening the shareholders’ meeting, the board of supervisors shall timely convene and preside over the meeting. If the board of supervisors fails to convene and preside over the meeting, shareholders who separately or aggregately hold 10% or more of the shares of the company for 90 or more consecutive days may convene and preside over the meeting by themselves.

If the shareholders who separately or aggregately hold 10% or more of the shares of the company request to convene an interim shareholders’ meeting, the board of directors and the board of supervisors shall, within 10 days after the receipt of such request, decide whether to hold an interim shareholders’ meeting and reply to the shareholders in writing.

The time and place of the meeting and the matters to be deliberated shall be notified to each shareholder 20 days before a shareholders’ meeting is held. For an interim shareholders’ meeting, a notice shall be served 15 days in advance.

The shareholders who separately or aggregately hold 1% or more of the shares of the company may, 10 days before a shareholders’ meeting is held, submit an interim proposal in writing to the board of directors. The interim proposal shall contain a clear topic for discussion and specific matters for resolution. The board of directors shall, within 2 days after it receives such a proposal, notify other shareholders and submit the interim proposal to the shareholders’ meeting for deliberation, unless the interim proposal is in violation of any law, administrative regulation or the articles of association or fails to fall into the scope of functions of the shareholders’ meeting. The company shall not raise the shareholding proportion of the shareholder who brings forward any interim proposal.

Under the Company Law, a shareholder may entrust a proxy to attend a shareholders’ meeting, and it should clarify the matters, power and time limit of the proxy. The proxy shall present a written power of attorney issued by the shareholder to a company and shall exercise his voting rights within the scope of authorization. There is no specific provision in the Company Law regarding the number of shareholders constituting a quorum in a shareholders’ meeting.

Under the Company Law, shareholder who attends the shareholders’ meeting has one vote for each share held by it, except the shareholders of classified shares. The company may not have a voting right for the shares it holds.

Under the Company Law and the Guidelines for Articles of Association, a resolution made at the shareholders’ meeting shall be adopted by more than half of the voting rights held by the shareholders who attend the meeting. A resolution made at the shareholders’ meeting on modifying

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the articles of association, increasing or reducing the registered capital as well as merger, split-up, dissolution or change of the corporate form shall be adopted by two thirds or more of the voting rights held by the shareholders who attend the meeting.

The shareholders’ meeting may, in electing the directors or supervisors, adopt a cumulative voting system according to the articles of association or the resolutions of the shareholders’ meeting. Under the cumulative voting system, when the shareholders’ meeting elects the directors or supervisors, each shareholder is entitled to one vote per share, multiplied by the number of candidates and uses them all for one candidate for director or supervisor.

The Board of Directors

Under the Company Law, a joint stock limited company shall have a board of directors, which consists of more than three members. The term of office of directors shall be prescribed in the articles of association, but each term shall not exceed three years. After the term of office of a director expires, he/she may be reelected to serve another term.

Under any of the following circumstances, anyone may not act as a director of a company:

- (i) having no capacity for civil conduct or having limited capacity for civil conduct;
- (ii) having been sentenced to any criminal penalty due to an offence of corruption, bribery, encroachment of property, misappropriation of property or disrupting the order of the socialist market economy, or having been deprived of political rights due to a crime, where a five-year period has not elapsed since the expiration of execution period; If he/she is pronounced for suspension of sentence, a two-year period has not elapsed since the expiration of the suspension of sentence;
- (iii) serving as a director, factory director or executive of a company or enterprise which has been bankrupt and liquidated and being personally liable for the bankruptcy of such company or enterprise, where a three-year period has not elapsed since the completion of the bankruptcy and liquidation;
- (iv) acting as the legal representative of a company or enterprise whose business license has been revoked or which was ordered to close down due to any violation of the law and being personally liable, where a three-year period has not elapsed since the date of revocation of business license or the order for closure; or
- (v) being listed as a dishonest person subject to enforcement by the people’s court due to his/her failure to pay off a relatively large amount of due debts.

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The board of directors shall convene at least two meetings every year. Each meeting shall be notified to all directors and supervisors 10 days before it is held. The board of directors shall exercise the following functions and powers:

- (i) convening the shareholders’ meeting and reporting its work to the shareholders’ meeting;
- (ii) executing the resolutions of the shareholders’ meeting;
- (iii) deciding the business plans and investment scheme of the company;
- (iv) formulating the plans for profit distribution and making up for loss of the company;
- (v) formulating the plan for increasing or decreasing the registered capital, as well as the plan for issuance of corporate bonds;
- (vi) formulating the plan for merger, division, dissolution, or change of corporate form of the company;
- (vii) deciding the establishment of the internal management organization of the company;
- (viii) deciding the establishment of the internal management body of the company; deciding the appointment or dismissal of the executive of the company and the remuneration thereof, and, according to the nomination of the executive, deciding on hiring or dismissing deputy executives and financial director of the company as well as their remuneration;
- (ix) formulating the basic management rules of the company; and
- (x) other functions and powers specified in the articles of association or granted by the shareholders’ meeting.

No meeting of the board of directors may be held unless more than half of the directors are present. A resolution made by the board of directors shall be adopted by more than half of all the directors. For voting on a resolution of the board of directors, each director shall have one vote. The board of directors shall prepare minutes regarding the decisions on the matters discussed at the meetings, which shall be signed by the directors present.

The directors shall attend the meeting of the board of directors in person. Where any director is unable to attend the meeting for any reason, he/she may, by issuing a written power of attorney, entrust another director to attend the meeting on his/her behalf. The power of attorney shall

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indicate the scope of authorization. The directors shall be responsible for the resolutions made by the board of directors. Where a resolution of the board of directors is in violation of any law, administrative regulation, article of association or resolution of the shareholders’ meeting and causes any serious loss to the company, the directors who participate in adopting such resolution shall be liable for compensation to the company. If a director is proved to have expressed his/her objection to the voting on such resolution and such objection has been recorded in the minutes, he/she may be exempted from liability.

The Board of Supervisors

Under the Company Law, a joint stock limited company may have a board of supervisors which shall comprise 3 members or more. The members of the board of supervisors shall include shareholders’ representatives and an appropriate proportion of employees’ representatives of the company, among which the proportion of the employees’ representatives shall not be lower than one third, and the concrete proportion shall be specified in the articles of association. The employees’ representatives who serve as members of the board of supervisors shall be democratically elected by employees through the employees’ representative congress, employees’ congress or by other means. No director or senior executive may concurrently hold the post of supervisor.

The board of supervisors shall exercise the following functions and powers:

- (i) examining the financial affairs of the company;
- (ii) supervising the acts of the directors and senior executives in the performance of their duties, and proposing the removal of the directors and senior executives who have violated laws, administrative regulations, the articles of association or the resolutions of the shareholders’ meeting;
- (iii) requiring the directors and senior executives to correct their acts if such acts damage the interests of the company;
- (iv) proposing to convene interim shareholders’ meetings, and convening and presiding over the shareholders’ meeting when the board of directors fails to implement the duties to convene and preside over the shareholders’ meeting as prescribed in the Company Law;
- (v) presenting proposals to the shareholders’ meetings;
- (vi) initiating lawsuits against the directors and senior executives according to Article 189 of the Company Law; and

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(vii) other functions and powers provided for in the articles of association.

A joint-stock company may, instead of setting up board of supervisors, in accordance with the provisions of its articles of association, set up an audit committee consisting of directors on its board of directors to exercise the powers and functions of the board of supervisors.

On December 27, 2024, the CSRC promulgated the Transitional arrangements relating to the implementation of the rules under the new Company Law (《關於新<公司法>配套制度規則實施相關過渡期安排》), Listed companies shall, before January 1, 2026, in accordance with the provisions of the Company Law, the Provisions of the State Council on Implementation of the Registered Capital Management System under the Company Law of the PRC and the supporting rules of the CSRC (《國務院關於實施<中華人民共和國公司法>註冊資本登記管理制度的規定》), provide in the articles of association for the establishment of an audit committee in the board of directors, exercising the powers and functions of the supervisory board as stipulated in the Company Law, the listed companies will then have no supervisory board or supervisors. Before a listed company adjusts the establishment of the company’s internal supervisory body, the supervisory board or supervisors shall continue to comply with the provisions in the original rules of the CSRC.

Managers and Senior Executives

Under the Company Law, a joint stock limited company may have a manager, who shall be appointed or removed as decided by the board of directors. The manager shall be responsible to the board of directors and exercise his/her functions and powers according to the articles of association or the authorization of the board of directors. The manager shall attend the meetings of the board of directors as a non-voting member.

According to the Company Law, senior executives refers to the company manager, deputy company manager, head of finance, secretary to the board of directors of a listed company, and any other persons as specified in the company’s articles of association.

Duties of Directors, Supervisors and Senior Executive

Directors, supervisors and senior executives of the company are required under the Company Law to comply with the relevant laws, regulations and the articles of association, and have fiduciary and diligent duties to the company. Directors, supervisors and senior executives shall assume the obligation of loyalty to the company and take measures to avoid the conflict between their own interests and those of the company and may not seek any improper interests by taking advantage of their powers.

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The directors, supervisors and senior executives shall assume the duty of diligence to the company. When performing their duties, they shall, for the best interests of the company, exercise the reasonable care that shall be generally possessed by a manager.

Directors, supervisors and senior executives are prohibited from:

- (i) embezzling the property or misappropriating the funds of the company;
- (ii) (depositing the funds of the company into an account opened in his/her own name or in the name of any other individual;
- (iii) giving bribes or accepting any other illegal proceeds by taking advantage of his/her power;
- (iv) taking commissions from the transactions between the company and any other person into his/her own pocket;
- (v) unlawfully disclosing the confidential information of the company; or
- (vi) other acts in violation of the obligation of loyalty to the company.

Where any director, supervisor or senior executive directly or indirectly concludes a contract or conducts a transaction with his/her company, he/she shall report the matters relating to the conclusion of the contract or transaction to the board of directors or shareholders’ meeting, which shall be subject to the resolution of the board of directors or shareholders’ meeting according to the articles of association.

Where any of the near relatives of the directors, supervisors or senior executives, or any of the enterprises directly or indirectly controlled by the directors, supervisors or senior executives or any of their near relatives, or any of the related parties who has any other related-party relationship with the directors, supervisors or senior executives, concludes a contract or conducts a transaction with the company, the provisions of the preceding paragraph shall apply.

No director, supervisor or senior executive may take advantage of his/her position to seek any business opportunity that belongs to the company for himself/herself or any other person except under any of the following circumstances:

- (i) where he/she has reported to the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting and has been approved by a resolution of the board of directors or the shareholders’ meeting according to the articles of association; or

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- (ii) where the company cannot make use of the business opportunity as stipulated by laws, administrative regulations or the articles of association.

Where any director, supervisor or senior executive fails to report to the board of directors or the shareholders' meeting and obtain an approval by resolution of the board of directors or the shareholders' meeting according to the articles of association, he/she may not engage in any business that is similar to that of the company where he/she holds office for himself/herself or for any other person.

Where any director, supervisor or senior executive violates any law, administrative regulation or the articles of association during the performance of duties and causes any loss to the company, he/she shall be liable for compensation.

Finance and Accounting

Under the Company Law, a company shall establish its financial and accounting systems according to laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the financial department of the State Council. At the end of each fiscal year, the company shall prepare a financial accounting report which shall be audited by an accounting firm in accordance with the law. The financial accounting report shall be prepared in accordance with the laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the financial department of the State Council.

The financial accounting report of a joint stock limited company shall be made available for inspection by the shareholders at the company not later than twenty days before the annual meeting of shareholders; a joint stock limited company that has publicly issued shares shall announce its financial accounting report.

The premiums received by a company from the issuance of shares at an issue price in excess of the par value of the shares, the amount of share proceeds from the issuance of no-par shares that have not been credited to the registered capital, and other items required by the financial department of the State Council to be included in the capital reserve shall be classified as the capital reserve of the company.

The reserve of a company shall be used for making up losses, expanding the production and business scale or increasing the registered capital of the company. Where the reserve of a company is used for making up losses, the discretionary reserve and statutory reserve shall be firstly used. If losses still cannot be made up, the capital reserve can be used according to the relevant provisions. Where the statutory reserve is converted to increase registered capital, the amount of such reserve retained shall not be less than 25% of the registered capital of the company prior to the conversion.

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No company may keep any accounting books other than the statutory accounting books. No account shall be opened in the name of any individual for the deposit of a company’s funds.

Appointment and Dismissal of Accounting Firms

Pursuant to the Company Law, the employment or dismissal of an accounting firm undertaking a company’s auditing business shall be decided by the shareholders’ meeting, the board of directors or the board of supervisors in accordance with the provisions of the company’s articles of association. When a company’s shareholders’ meeting, board of directors or the board of supervisors votes on the dismissal of an accounting firm, the accounting firm shall be allowed to state its own opinions. A company shall provide true and complete accounting documents, accounting books, financial accounting reports and other accounting information to the accounting firm engaged by it, and shall not refuse, conceal or misrepresent them.

The Guidelines for Articles of Association provide that the Company’s engagement of an accounting firm shall be decided by the shareholders’ meeting. The board of directors shall not engage any accounting firm before the decision is made by the shareholders’ meeting. The audit fee to the accounting firm shall be decided by the shareholders’ meeting.

Profit Distribution

Where a company distributes profits to shareholders in violation of the provisions of the Company Law, the shareholders shall refund the profits distributed to the company, and the shareholders and the liable directors, supervisors and senior executives shall be held liable for compensation if any loss is caused to the company.

Dissolution and Liquidation

According to the Company Law, a company shall be dissolved for the following reasons:

- (i) the expiration of the business period stipulated in the company’s articles of association or the occurrence of other causes of dissolution stipulated in the company’s articles of association;
- (ii) dissolution by a resolution of the shareholders’ meeting;
- (iii) dissolution due to merger or demerger of the company;
- (iv) suspension of the business license, being ordered to close down or being revoked in accordance with the law; or

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- (v) being dissolved by the People’s Court in accordance with the provisions of Article 231 of the Company Law.

If any of the situations as mentioned in the preceding paragraph arises, a company shall publicize the situations through the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System within ten days.

Where the company is dissolved in accordance with sub-paragraph (i) above, it may carry on its existence by amending its articles of association or upon a resolution of the shareholders’ meeting, which must be approved by more than two-thirds of the voting rights held by the shareholders present at the shareholders’ meeting. Where the company is dissolved pursuant to sub-paragraphs (i), (ii), (iv) or (v) above, it shall be liquidated. The directors, who are the liquidation obligors of the company, shall form a liquidation group to carry out liquidation within 15 days from the date of occurrence of the cause of dissolution. The liquidation group shall be composed of the directors, unless it is otherwise provided for in the company’s Articles of Association or it is otherwise elected by the shareholders’ meeting. The liquidation obligors shall be liable for compensation if they fail to fulfill their obligations of liquidation in a timely manner, and thus any loss is caused to the company or the creditors.

The liquidation group fails to be formed within the time limit or fails to carry out the liquidation after its formation, any interested party may request the people’s court to designate relevant persons to form a liquidation group. The people’s court shall accept such requests and organize a liquidation group to carry out the liquidation in a timely manner.

The liquidation group may exercise the following functions during the period of liquidation:

- (i) liquidating the property of the company, preparing a balance sheet and an inventory of property, respectively;
- (ii) notifying the company’s creditors by mail or public announcement;
- (iii) handling and liquidating the unfinished business of the company;
- (iv) paying off the taxes overdue by the company and the taxes incurred in the process of liquidation;
- (v) liquidation of claims and debts;
- (vi) distributing the remaining property after all the debts of the company are paid off; and

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(vii) representing the company in civil litigation activities.

The liquidation group shall notify the company’s creditors within ten days as of its formation and shall make a public announcement in the newspaper or on the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System within 60 days. The creditors shall file their proofs of claim with the liquidation group within 30 days as of the receipt of the notice or within 45 days as of the issuance of the public announcement in the case of failing to receive such notice. When filing a proof of claim, the creditor shall describe the relevant matters of claim and provide the relevant evidentiary materials. The liquidation group shall register the proof of claim. During the period for filing proofs of claims, the liquidation group shall not pay off for any of the creditors.

The liquidation group shall, after liquidating the property of the company and preparing a balance sheet and an inventory of property, make a plan of liquidation and report the same to the shareholders’ meeting or the people’s court for confirmation.

After paying off the liquidation expenses, wages of employees, social insurance premiums and statutory compensations, the outstanding taxes and the debts of the company with the property of the company, the remaining assets may, in the case of a limited liability company, be distributed in proportion to capital contributions of the shareholders, and in the case of a joint stock limited company, distributed in proportion to the shares held by the shareholders.

During the period of liquidation, the company survives, but shall not carry out any business operation unrelated to the liquidation. The property of the company shall not be distributed to the shareholders until it has been liquidated in accordance with the preceding paragraph.

Where the liquidation group finds that the property of the company is not sufficient for paying off the debts after liquidating the property of the company and preparing a balance sheet and an inventory of property, it shall file an application to a people’s court for bankruptcy liquidation. After the people’s court accepts the application for bankruptcy, the liquidation group shall hand over the liquidation matters to the bankruptcy administrator designated by the people’s court.

The members of the liquidation group performing their duties of liquidation are obliged to loyalty and diligence. Any member of the liquidation group who neglects to fulfill his/her liquidation duties, thus causing any loss to the company shall be liable for compensation, and any member of the liquidation group who cause any loss to any creditor due to his/her intentional or gross negligence shall be liable for compensation.

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Upon completion of the liquidation of the company, the liquidation group shall produce a liquidation report, report the same to the shareholders’ meeting or the people’s court for confirmation, and submit the same to the company registration authority to apply for deregistration of the company.

Where, after three years since the business license of a company is revoked, or the company is ordered to close down or is revoked, the company fails to apply for its deregistration with the company registration authority, the said authority may announce the company’s deregistration through the National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System for a period of no less than 60 days. If there is no objection after the announcement period expires, the company registration authority may deregister the company.

Overseas Listing

According to the Overseas Listing Trial Measures, where an issuer makes an overseas initial public offering or listing, it shall file with the CSRC within 3 working days after submitting the application documents for overseas issuance and listing. If an issuer issues securities in the same overseas market after overseas issuance and listing, it shall file with the CSRC within 3 working days after the completion of the issuance. If an issuer issues and list in other overseas markets after overseas issuance and listing, it shall be filed in accordance with the provisions of the first paragraph of Article 16 of the Overseas Listing Trial Measures. Moreover, if the filing materials are complete and meet the requirements, the CSRC shall complete the filing within 20 working days from the date of receiving the filing materials, and publicize the filing information through the website. If the filing materials are incomplete or do not meet the requirements, the CSRC shall inform the issuer of the materials to be supplemented within 5 working days after receiving the filing materials. The issuer shall supplement the materials within 30 working days.

Suspension and Termination of Listing

The Company Law has deleted provisions governing suspension and termination of listing. The PRC Securities Law (2019 revision) (《中華人民共和國證券法(2019年修訂)》) has also deleted provisions regarding suspension of listing. Where listed securities fall under the delisting circumstances stipulated by the stock exchange, the stock exchange shall terminate its listing and trading in accordance with the business rules.

According to the Overseas Listing Trial Measures, upon the occurrence of voluntary or mandatory delisting after an issuer has offered and listed securities in an overseas market, the issuer shall submit a report thereof to CSRC within 3 working days after the occurrence and public disclosure of the event.

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SECURITIES LAWS AND REGULATIONS

In October 1992, the State Council established the Securities Committee and the CSRC. The Securities Committee is responsible for coordinating the drafting of securities regulations, formulating securities-related policies, planning the development of securities markets, directing, coordinating and supervising all securities-related institutions in the PRC and administering the CSRC. The CSRC is the regulatory arm of the Securities Committee and is responsible for the drafting of regulatory provisions of securities markets, supervising securities companies, regulating listing of securities by PRC companies in the PRC or overseas, regulating the trading of securities, compiling securities-related statistics and undertaking research and analysis. On March 29, 1998, the State Council consolidated the above two departments and reformed the CSRC.

The Provisional Regulations Concerning the Issue and Trading of Shares (《股票發行與交易管理暫行條例》) promulgated by the State Council and effective on April 22, 1993 provide the application and approval procedures for listing of shares, trading in shares, the acquisition of listed companies, the deposit, settlement and transfer of listed shares, the disclosure of information with respect to a listed company, investigation and penalties and dispute arbitration.

The Regulations of the State Council Concerning the Domestic Listed Foreign Shares of Joint Stock Limited Companies (《國務院關於股份有限公司境內上市外資股的規定》), which were promulgated by the State Council and came into effect on December 25, 1995, mainly provide for the issue, subscription, trading and payment of dividends of domestic listed foreign shares and disclosure of information of joint stock limited companies with domestic listed foreign shares.

The Securities Law of the PRC, which was amended by the Standing Committee of the NPC on December 28, 2019 and came into effect on March 1, 2020, provides a series of provisions regulating, among other things, the issue and trading of securities, takeovers by listed companies, securities exchanges, securities companies and the duties and responsibilities of the State Council’s securities regulatory authorities in the PRC, and comprehensively regulates activities in the PRC securities market. The Securities Law provides that a domestic enterprise must comply with the relevant provisions of the State Council in issuing securities directly or indirectly outside the PRC or listing and trading its securities outside the PRC. Currently, the issue and trading of foreign issued shares are mainly governed by the rules and regulations promulgated by the State Council and the CSRC.

ARBITRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ARBITRAL AWARDS

Under the Arbitration Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國仲裁法》) (“**Arbitration Law**”), last amended by the SCNPC on September 1, 2017 and effective on January 1, 2018, the Arbitration Law is applicable to economic disputes involving foreign parties, and all parties have

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entered into a written agreement to refer the matter to an arbitration committee constituted in accordance with the Arbitration Law. An arbitration committee may, before the promulgation by the PRC Arbitration Association of arbitration regulations, formulate interim arbitration rules in accordance with relevant regulations under the Arbitration Law and the Civil Procedure Law. Where both parties have agreed to settle disputes by means of arbitration, the people’s court will refuse to take legal action brought by a party in the people’s court.

Under the Arbitration Law, an arbitral award is final and binding on the parties. If a party fails to comply with an award, the other party to the award may apply to the people’s court for enforcement according to the Civil Procedure Law. If there is evidence to prove that any of the following circumstances exists: the parties have not stipulated an arbitration clause in the contract or have not reached a written arbitration agreement afterwards; the respondent has not been notified of the appointment of the Court of Arbitration or the arbitration proceedings or failed to present views for other reasons for which the respondent is not responsible; the composition of the arbitral tribunal or the arbitration procedures are not in accordance with the arbitration rules; the matters awarded are outside the scope of the arbitration agreement, or the arbitration committee has no jurisdiction to arbitrate, the people’s court may rule not to enforce such award. A party seeking to enforce an arbitral award of foreign arbitration commission against a party who or whose property is not within the PRC shall apply to a foreign court with jurisdiction over the case for recognition and enforcement. Similarly, an arbitral award made by a foreign arbitration body may be recognized and enforced by the people’s court in accordance with the principles of reciprocity or any international treaty concluded or acceded to by the PRC.

According to the Arrangement of the Supreme People’s Court on Mutual Enforcement of Arbitral Awards between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (《最高人民法院關於內地與香港特別行政區相互執行仲裁裁決的安排》) promulgated by the Supreme People’s Court on January 24, 2000 and effective on February 1, 2000, and the Supplementary Arrangement of the Supreme People’s Court on Mutual Enforcement of Arbitral Awards between the PRC and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (《最高人民法院關於內地與香港特別行政區相互執行仲裁裁決的補充安排》) promulgated by the Supreme People’s Court on May 18, 2021 and effective on May 19, 2021, awards made by arbitral authorities in PRC can be applied for enforcement in Hong Kong, and Hong Kong arbitration awards can also be applied for enforcement in the PRC.

JUDICIAL JUDGMENT AND ITS ENFORCEMENT

Under the Supreme People’s Court’s Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters by the Courts of the Mainland and of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region Pursuant to Choice of Court Agreements between Parties Concerned (《最高人民法院關於內地與香港特別行政區法院相互認可和執行當事人協議管

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轄的民商事案件判決的安排》) promulgated by the Supreme People’s Court on July 3, 2008 and effective on August 1, 2008 and was abolished on January 29, 2024, as for an enforceable final judgment made by a court in PRC or Hong Kong court concerning a civil and commercial case under a written agreement on jurisdiction, in which payment must be made, the party concerned may, under the Arrangement, apply to a court in PRC or a Hong Kong court for recognition and enforcement. The term “written agreement on jurisdiction” refers to agreements clearly stipulated in written form by parties concerned that a court in PRC or Hong Kong court has sole jurisdiction as to the effectiveness of the Arrangement, so as to settle disputes relevant to a certain legal relationship that has either arisen or might arise. Therefore, the party concerned may apply to the court in PRC or the court of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region to recognize and enforce the final judgment made in PRC or Hong Kong that meet certain conditions of the aforementioned regulations.

On January 25, 2024, the Supreme People’s Court promulgated the Arrangement on Reciprocal Recognition and Enforcement of Judgements in Civil and Commercial Matters by the Courts of the Mainland and of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (《關於內地與香港特別行政區法院相互認可和執行民商事案件判決的安排》) (“**New Arrangement**”), which takes into effect on January 29, 2024 and seeks to establish a mechanism with further clarification on and certainty for recognition and enforcement of judgements in a wider range of civil and commercial matters between Hong Kong Special Administrative Region and the China. The New Arrangement discontinued the requirements for a choice of court agreement for bilateral recognition and enforcement.