

## APPENDIX IV

## SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LAWS AND REGULATIONS

### SUMMARY OF PRINCIPAL LEGAL AND REGULATORY PROVISIONS

#### The PRC legal system

The PRC legal system is based on the PRC Constitution (《中華人民共和國憲法》) which was revised and took effect on March 11, 2018 (hereinafter referred to as the “**Constitution**”) and is made up of written laws, administrative regulations, local regulations, autonomous regulations, separate regulations, rules and regulations of State Council departments, rules and regulations of local governments, laws of special administrative regions and international treaties of which the PRC government is the signatory and other regulatory documents. Court judgments do not constitute legally binding precedents, although they are used for the purposes of judicial reference and guidance.

According to the Constitution and the Legislation Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國立法法》) which was revised and took effect on March 15, 2015 (hereinafter referred to as the “**Legislation Law**”), the NPC and its Standing Committee are empowered to exercise the legislative power of the State. The NPC has the power to formulate and amend basic laws governing State organs, civil, criminal and other matters. The Standing Committee of the NPC formulates and amends the laws other than those required to be enacted by the NPC and to supplement and amend parts of the laws enacted by the NPC during the adjournment of the NPC, provided that 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 the provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities and their standing committees may formulate local regulations based on the specific circumstances and actual needs of their respective administrative areas, provided that such regulations do not contravene any provision of the Constitution, laws or administrative regulations. The people’s congresses of cities divided into districts and their respective standing committees may formulate local regulations on aspects 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 regulations and local regulations of their respective provinces or autonomous regions. If the law provides otherwise on the formulation of local regulations by cities divided into districts, those provisions shall prevail. Such local regulations will become enforceable after being reported to and approved by the standing committees of the people’s congresses of the relevant provinces or autonomous regions. The standing committees of the people’s congresses of the provinces or autonomous regions shall examine the legality of local regulations submitted for approval, and such approval shall be granted within four months if they are not in conflict with the Constitution, laws, administrative regulations and local regulations of the relevant provinces or autonomous regions. Where, during the examination for approval of local regulations of cities divided into districts by the standing committees of the people’s congresses of the provinces or autonomous regions, conflicts are identified with the rules and regulations of the people’s governments of

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the provinces or autonomous regions, a decision should be made to resolve the issue. People's congresses of national autonomous areas have the power to enact autonomous regulations and separate regulations in light of the political, economic and cultural characteristics of the ethnic groups in the areas concerned.

The ministries and commissions of the State Council, PBOC, the National Audit Office and the subordinate institutions with administrative functions directly under the State Council may formulate departmental rules and regulations within the permissions of their respective departments based on the laws and administrative regulations, and the decisions and orders of the State Council. Provisions of departmental rules should be the matters related to the enforcement of the laws and administrative regulations, and the decisions and orders of the State Council. The people's governments of the provinces, autonomous regions, municipalities and cities or autonomous prefectures divided into districts may formulate rules and regulations based on the laws, administrative regulations and local regulations of such provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities.

Pursuant to the Resolution of the Standing Committee of the NPC Providing an Improved Interpretation of the Law (《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 on June 10, 1981, in cases where the scope of provisions of laws or decrees needs to be further defined or additional stipulations need to be made, the Standing Committee of the NPC shall provide interpretations or make stipulations by means of decrees. Issues related to the application of laws in a court trial should be interpreted by the Supreme People's Court, issues related to the application of laws in a prosecution process of the procuratorate shall be interpreted by the Supreme People's Procuratorate, and issues related to laws other than the abovementioned shall be interpreted by the State Council and the competent authorities. The State Council and its ministries and commissions are also vested with the power to give interpretations of the administrative regulations and departmental rules which they have promulgated. At the regional level, the power to interpret regional regulations is vested in the regional legislative and administrative authorities which promulgate such regulations.

### **The PRC judicial system**

Under the Constitution, the Law of Organization of the People's Court of the PRC (2018 Revision) (《中華人民共和國人民法院組織法(2018修訂)》) and the Law of Organization of the People's Procuratorate of the PRC (2018 Revision) (《中華人民共和國人民檢察院組織法(2018修訂)》), the people's courts of the PRC are divided into the Supreme People's Court, the local people's courts at all levels and special people's courts. The local people's courts at all levels 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 civil courts 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. The people's procuratorates of the PRC are divided into the Supreme People's Procuratorate, the local people's procuratorates at all levels, Military Procuratorates

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and other special people’s procuratorates. 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 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, the case can be retried according to judicial supervision procedures.

The Civil Procedure Law of the PRC (《中華人民共和國民事訴訟法》) (hereinafter referred to as the “**PRC Civil Procedure Law**”) adopted on April 9, 1991 and latest amended on December 24, 2021, prescribes the conditions for instituting a civil action, the jurisdiction of the people’s court, the procedures for conducting a civil action, and the procedures for enforcement of a civil judgment or ruling. All parties to a civil action conducted within the PRC shall abide by the PRC Civil Procedure Law. A civil case is generally heard by the court located in the defendant’s place of domicile. The court of jurisdiction in respect of a civil action may also be chosen by explicit agreement among the parties to a contract, provided that the people’s court having jurisdiction should be located at places directly connected with the disputes, such as the plaintiff’s or the defendant’s place of domicile, the place where the contract is executed or signed or the place where the object of the action is located. Meanwhile, such choice shall not in any circumstances contravene the regulations of differential jurisdiction and exclusive jurisdiction.

A foreign individual, a stateless person, a foreign enterprise or a foreign organization is given the same litigation rights and obligations as a citizen, a legal person or other organizations of the PRC when initiating actions or defending against litigations at a people’s court. Should a foreign court limit the litigation rights of PRC citizens or enterprises, the PRC court may apply the same limitations to the citizens or enterprises of such foreign country. A foreign individual, a stateless person, a foreign enterprise or a foreign organization shall engage a PRC lawyer in case he or it needs to engage a lawyer for the purpose of initiating actions or defending against litigations at a people’s court. In accordance with the international treaties to which the PRC is a signatory or participant or according to the principle of reciprocity, a people’s court and a foreign court may request each other to serve documents, conduct investigation and collect evidence and conduct other actions on its behalf. A people’s court shall not accommodate any request made by a foreign court which will result in the violation of sovereignty, security or public interests of the PRC.

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All parties to a civil action shall perform the legally effective judgments and rulings. If any party to a civil action refuses to abide by a judgment or ruling 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 the enforcement of the same within two years subject to application for postponed enforcement or revocation. If a party fails to satisfy within the stipulated period a judgment which the court has granted an enforcement approval, the court may, upon the application of the other party, mandatorily enforce the judgment against such party.

Where a party requests for enforcement of a legally effective judgment or ruling made by a people’s court, but the opposite party or his property is not within the territory of the People’s Republic of China, the party may directly apply to the foreign court with jurisdiction for recognition and enforcement of the judgment or ruling, or the people’s court may, in accordance with the provisions of international treaties to which the PRC is a signatory or in which the PRC is a participant or according to the principle of reciprocity, request for recognition and enforcement by the foreign court. Similarly, for a legally effective judgment or ruling made by a foreign court that requires recognition and enforcement by a people’s court of the PRC, a party may directly apply to an intermediate people’s court of the PRC with jurisdiction for recognition and enforcement of the judgment or ruling, or the foreign court may, in accordance with the provisions of international treaties to which its country and the PRC are signatories or in which its country is a participant or according to the principle of reciprocity, request for recognition and enforcement by the people’s court, unless the people’s court considers that the recognition or enforcement of such judgment or ruling would violate the basic legal principles of the PRC, its sovereignty or national security or would not be in social and public interest.

### **The Company Law of the PRC**

The PRC Company Law was adopted by the Standing Committee of the Eighth NPC at its Fifth Session on December 29, 1993 and came into effect on July 1, 1994. It was successively amended on December 25, 1999, August 28, 2004, October 27, 2005, December 28, 2013 and October 26, 2018. The newly revised PRC Company Law has been implemented since October 26, 2018.

Set out below is a summary of the major provisions of the PRC Company Law.

### **General**

A “joint stock limited company” refers to a corporate legal entity incorporated in China under the PRC Company Law with independent legal person properties and entitlements to such legal person properties. The liability of the company for its own debts is limited to the total amount of all assets it owns and the liability of its shareholders for the company is limited to the extent of the shares they subscribe for.

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### **Incorporation**

A company may be established by promotion or subscription. A company shall have a minimum of two but no more than 200 people as its promoters, over half of which shall have a domicile within the PRC. Companies established by promotion are companies of which the registered capital is the total share capital subscribed for by all the promoters registered with the company's registration authorities. No share offering shall be made before the shares subscribed for by promoters are fully paid up. For companies established by share offering, the registered capital is the total paid-up share capital as registered with the company's registration authorities. If laws, administrative regulations and State Council decisions provide otherwise on paid-in registered capital and the minimum registered capital, a company should follow such provisions.

For companies incorporated by way of promotion, the promoters shall subscribe in writing for the shares required to be subscribed for by them and pay up their capital contributions under the articles of association. Procedures relating to the transfer of titles to non-monetary assets shall be duly completed if such assets are to be contributed as capital. Promoters who fail to pay up their capital contributions in accordance with the foregoing provisions shall assume default liabilities in accordance with the covenants set out in the promoters' agreements. After the promoters have confirmed the capital contribution under the articles of association, a board of directors and a supervisory board shall be elected and the board of directors shall apply for registration of establishment by filing the articles of association with the company registration authorities, and other documents as required by the law or administrative regulations.

Where companies are incorporated by subscription, not less than 35% of their total number of shares shall be subscribed for by the promoters, unless otherwise provided by laws or administrative regulations. A promoter who offers shares to the public shall publish a document and prepare a subscription letter to be completed, signed and sealed by subscribers, specifying the number and amount of shares to be subscribed for and the subscribers' addresses. The subscribers shall pay up monies for the shares they subscribe for. Where a promoter is offering shares to the public, such offer shall be underwritten by security companies established under PRC law, and underwriting agreements shall be entered into. A promoter offering shares to the public shall also enter into agreements with banks in relation to the receipt of subscription monies. The receiving banks shall receive and keep in custody the subscription monies, issue receipts to subscribers who have paid the subscription monies and is obliged to furnish evidence of receipt of those subscription monies to relevant authorities in accordance with the agreement. After the subscription monies for the share issue have been paid in full, a capital verification institution established under PRC laws shall be engaged to conduct a capital verification and furnish a certificate thereof. The promoters shall preside over and convene an inauguration meeting within 30 days from the date of the full payment of subscription money. The inauguration meeting shall be formed by the promoters and subscribers. Where the shares issued remain undersubscribed by the deadline stipulated in the document, or where the promoter fails to convene an inauguration meeting within 30 days of the subscription monies for the shares issued being fully paid up, the subscribers may demand

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that the promoters refund the subscription monies so paid together with the interest at bank rates of a deposit for the same period. Within 30 days after the conclusion of the inauguration meeting, the board of directors shall apply to the company registration authority for registration of the establishment of the company. A company is formally established and has the capacity of a legal person after approval of registration has been given by the relevant company registration authority for industry and commerce and a business license has been issued.

A company's promoters shall be liable for: (1) the debts and expenses incurred in the establishment process jointly and severally if the company cannot be incorporated; (2) the subscription monies paid by the subscribers together with interest thereon at bank rates of deposit for the same period jointly and severally if the company cannot be incorporated; and (3) the compensation of any damages suffered by the company in the course of its establishment as a result of the promoters' fault.

### **Share capital**

The promoters may make a capital contribution in currencies, or non-monetary assets such as in kind or intellectual property rights or land use rights which can be appraised with monetary value and transferred lawfully, except for assets which are prohibited from being contributed as capital by the laws or administrative regulations. If a capital contribution is made in non-monetary assets, a valuation of the assets contributed shall be carried out pursuant to the provisions of the laws or administrative regulations on valuation without any over-valuation or under-valuation.

The issuance of shares shall be conducted in a fair and equitable manner. Each share of the same class shall rank *pari passu*. Shares of the same class issued at the same time shall be issued on the same conditions and at the same price. The same price per share shall be paid by any share subscriber (whether an entity or an individual). The share offering price may be equal to or greater than the nominal value of the share, but may not be less than the nominal value.

Under the PRC Company Law, a company issuing registered share certificates shall maintain a shareholder registry which sets forth the following matters: (1) the name and domicile of each shareholder; (2) the number of shares held by each shareholder; (3) the serial numbers of shares held by each shareholder; and (4) the date on which each shareholder acquired the shares.

### **Increase in share capital**

Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the PRC Company Law, where a company is issuing new shares, resolutions shall be passed at a general meeting in accordance with the articles of association in respect of the class and amount of the new shares, the issue price of the new shares, the commencement and end dates for the issue of the new shares and the class and amount of the new shares proposed to be issued to existing shareholders.

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### **Reduction of share capital**

A company shall reduce its registered capital in accordance with the following procedures prescribed by the PRC Company Law: (1) the company shall prepare a balance sheet and a property list; (2) the reduction of registered capital shall be approved by shareholders at a general meeting; (3) the company shall notify its creditors within 10 days and publish an announcement in newspapers within 30 days from the day on which the resolution approving the reduction was passed; (4) the creditors of the company are entitled to require the company to repay its debts or provide guarantees for such debts within 30 days from receipt of the notification or within 45 days from the date of the announcement if he/she/it has not received any notification; and (5) the company shall apply to the company registration authority for change in registration.

### **Repurchase of shares**

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, a company may not repurchase its own shares other than for the following purposes: (1) reducing its registered capital; (2) merging with other companies which hold its shares; (3) carrying out an employee stock ownership plan or equity incentive plan; (4) acquiring its shares at the request of its shareholders who vote in a shareholders' general meeting against a resolution regarding a merger and division; (5) utilizing the shares for conversion of listed corporate bonds which are convertible into shares; and (6) where it is necessary for the listed company to safeguard the value of the company and the interests of its shareholders. The acquisition by a company of its own shares on the grounds set out in item (1) to (2) above shall be approved by way of a resolution of a shareholders' general meeting; the acquisition by a company of its own shares in circumstances as set out in items (3), (5) and (6) above may be approved by way of a resolution at a board meeting with two-third or more of the directors present in accordance with the provisions of the company's articles of association or the authorization of the shareholders' general meeting.

Following the acquisition by a company of its own shares in accordance with these requirements, such shares shall be canceled within 10 days from the date of the acquisition under the circumstance in item (1); such shares shall be transferred or canceled within six months under the circumstances in items (2) or (4); the total shares held by the Company shall not exceed 10% of the total shares issued by the Company and such shares shall be transferred or canceled within three years under the circumstances in items (3), (5) or (6).

A listed company shall perform its information disclosure obligations in accordance with the provisions of the PRC Securities Law when acquiring its own shares. The acquisition by a listed company of its own shares in circumstances as set out in items (3), (5) and (6) of this article shall be conducted through open centralized trading.

The Company shall not accept the shares of the Company as the subject of pledge.

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### Transfer of shares

Shares held by shareholders may be transferred legally. Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, a shareholder should effect a transfer of his shares on a stock exchange established in accordance with laws or by any other means as required by the State Council. Registered shares may be transferred after the shareholders endorse the back of the share certificates or in other manner specified by laws and administrative regulations. Following the transfer, the company shall enter the names and addresses of the transferees into its share register. No changes of registration in the share register described above shall be effected during a period of 20 days prior to convening a shareholders' general meeting or 5 days prior to the record date for the purpose of determining entitlements to dividend distributions, unless otherwise stipulated by laws on the registration of changes in the share register of listed companies. The transfer of bearer share certificates shall become effective upon the delivery of the certificates to the transferee by the shareholder.

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, shares held by promoters may not be transferred within one year of the establishment of the company. Shares of the company issued prior to the public offering of shares may not be transferred within one year of the date of the company's listing on a stock exchange. Directors, supervisors and the senior management of a company shall declare to the company their shareholdings in it and changes in such shareholdings. During their terms of office, they may transfer no more than 25% of the total number of shares they hold in the company every year. They shall not transfer the shares they hold within one year from the date of the company's listing on a stock exchange, nor within six months after they leave office in the company. The articles of association may set out other restrictive provisions in respect of the transfer of shares in the company held by its directors, supervisors and the senior management.

### Shareholders

Under the PRC Company Law, the rights of shareholders include the rights: (1) to receive a return on assets, participate in significant decision-making and select management personnel; (2) to petition the people's court to revoke any resolution passed on a shareholders' general meeting or a meeting of the board of directors that has been convened or whose voting has been conducted in violation of the laws, administrative regulations or the articles of association, or any resolution the contents of which is in violation of the articles of association, provided that such petition shall be submitted within 60 days of the passing of such resolution; (3) to transfer the shares of the shareholders legally; (4) to attend or appoint a proxy to attend shareholders' general meetings and exercise the voting rights; (5) to inspect the articles of association, share register, counterfoil of company debentures, minutes of shareholders' general meetings, board resolutions, resolutions of the board of supervisors and financial and accounting reports, and to make suggestions or inquiries in respect of the company's operations; (6) to receive dividends in respect of the number of shares held; (7) to participate in distribution of residual properties of the company in proportion to their shareholdings upon the liquidation of the company; and (8) any other shareholders' rights provided for in laws, administrative regulations, other normative documents and the articles of association.



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The obligations of shareholders include the obligation to abide by the company's articles of association, to pay the subscription monies in respect of the shares subscribed for, to be liable for the company's debts and liabilities to the extent of the amount of subscription monies agreed to be paid in respect of the shares taken up by them and any other shareholder obligation specified in the articles of association.

### **Shareholders' general meetings**

The general meeting is the organ of authority of the company, which exercises its powers in accordance with the PRC Company Law. The general meeting may exercise its powers: (1) to decide on the company's operational objectives and investment plans; (2) to elect and dismiss the directors and supervisors not being representative(s) of employees and to decide on the matters relating to the remuneration of directors and supervisors; (3) to review and approve the reports of the board of directors; (4) to review and approve the reports of the board of supervisors or the reports of the supervisors; (5) to review and approve the company's annual financial budgets proposals and final accounts proposals; (6) to review and approve the company's profit distribution proposals and loss recovery proposals; (7) to decide on any increase or reduction of the company's registered capital; (8) to decide on the issue of corporate bonds; (9) to decide on merger, division, dissolution and liquidation of the company or change of its corporate form; (10) to amend the company's articles of association; and (11) to exercise any other authority stipulated in the articles of association.

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, a shareholders' general meeting is required to be held once every year within six months after the end of the previous accounting year. An extraordinary general meeting is required to be held within two months upon the occurrence of any of the following: (1) the number of directors is less than the number required by law or less than two-thirds of the number specified in the articles of association; (2) the total outstanding losses of the company amounted to one-third of the company's total paid-in share capital; (3) shareholders individually or in aggregate holding 10% or more of the company's shares request to convene an extraordinary general meeting; (4) the board deems necessary; (5) the board of supervisors so proposes; or (6) any other circumstances as provided for in the articles of association.

A shareholders' general meeting shall be convened by the board of directors and presided over by the chairman of the board of directors. In the event that the chairman is incapable of performing or is not performing his duties, the meeting shall be presided over by the vice chairman. In the event that the vice chairman is incapable of performing or is not performing his duties, a director recommended by half or more of the directors shall preside over the meeting. Where the board of directors is incapable of performing or is not performing its duties, the board of supervisors shall convene and preside over the shareholders' general meeting in a timely manner. If the board of supervisors fails to convene and preside over the shareholders' general meeting, shareholders individually or in aggregate holding 10% or more of the company's shares for 90 days or more consecutively may unilaterally convene and preside over the shareholders' general meeting.

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In accordance with the PRC Company Law, a notice of the general meeting stating the date and venue of the meeting and the matters to be considered at the meeting shall be given to all shareholders 20 days prior to the meeting. A notice of extraordinary general meeting shall be given to all shareholders 15 days prior to the meeting. For the issuance of bearer share certificates, the time and venue of and matters to be considered at the meeting shall be announced 30 days prior to the meeting. Shareholders individually or jointly holding more than three percent of the shares of the company may submit an interim proposal in writing to the board of directors within 10 days before the general meeting. The board of directors shall notify other shareholders within two days upon receipt of the proposal, and submit the interim proposal to the general meeting for deliberation. The contents of the interim proposal shall fall within the scope of powers of the general meeting, and the proposal shall provide clear agenda and specific matters for a resolution is to be made. A general meeting shall not make any resolution in respect of any matter not set out in the notices. Holders of bearer share certificates who intend to attend a general meeting shall deposit their share certificates with the company during the time from five days before the meeting to the conclusion of the meeting.

Pursuant to the Official Reply of the State Council Regarding Adjusting the Application of Provisions to Matters Including the Notice Period for Convention of Shareholders' Meetings by Overseas Listed Companies (《國務院關於調整適用在境外上市公司召開股東大會通知期限等事項規定的批覆》(Guo Han [2019] No. 97)), which came into effect on October 17, 2019, for those joint stock limited companies registered in the PRC but listed overseas, the requirements for the notice period for convening a shareholders' general meeting, shareholders' proposal right, and the procedures for convening a shareholders' general meeting shall be collectively governed by the relevant provisions of the PRC Company Law

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, shareholders present at a shareholders' general meeting have one vote for each share they hold, save that the Company's shares held by the company are not entitled to any voting rights.

An accumulative voting system may be adopted for the election of directors and supervisors at the general meeting pursuant to the provisions of the articles of association or a resolution of the general meeting. Under the accumulative voting system, each share shall be entitled to the number of votes equivalent to the number of directors or supervisors to be elected at the general meeting, and shareholders may consolidate their votes for one or more directors or supervisors when casting a vote.

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, resolutions of the general meeting shall be passed by more than half of the voting rights held by shareholders present at the meeting, with the exception of resolutions relating to merger, division or dissolution of the company, increase or reduction of registered share capital, change of corporate form or amendments to the articles of association, in each case of which shall be passed by more than two-thirds of the voting rights held by the shareholders present at the meeting. Where the PRC Company Law and the articles of association provide that the transfer or acquisition of significant assets or the provision of external guarantees by the company and such other matters shall be approved by

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way of resolution of the general meeting, the board of directors shall convene a shareholders' general meeting promptly to vote on such matters. A shareholder may entrust a proxy to attend the general meeting on his/her behalf. The proxy shall present the shareholders' power of attorney to the company and exercise voting rights within the scope of authorization.

Minutes shall be prepared in respect of matters considered at the general meeting and the chairperson and directors attending the meeting shall endorse such minutes by signature. The minutes shall be kept together with the shareholders' attendance register and the proxy forms.

### **Board of directors**

A company shall have a board of directors, which shall consist of 5 to 19 members. Members of the board of directors may include staff representatives, who shall be democratically elected by the company's staff at a staff representative assembly, general staff meeting or otherwise. The term of a director shall be stipulated in the articles of association, provided that no term of office shall last for more than three years. A director may serve consecutive terms if re-elected. A director shall continue to perform his/her duties as a director in accordance with the laws, administrative regulations and the articles of association until a duly re-elected director takes office, if re-election is not conducted in a timely manner upon the expiry of his/her term of office or if the resignation of director results in the number of directors being less than the quorum.

Under the PRC Company Law, the board of directors may exercise its powers:

- (1) to convene shareholders' general meetings and report on its work to the shareholders' general meetings;
- (2) to implement the resolutions passed by the shareholders at the shareholders' general meetings;
- (3) to decide on the company's operational plans and investment proposals;
- (4) to formulate proposal for the company's annual financial budgets and final accounts;
- (5) to formulate the company's profit distribution proposals and loss recovery proposals;
- (6) to formulate proposals for the increase or reduction of the company's registered capital and the issue of corporate bonds;
- (7) to formulate proposals for the merger, division or dissolution of the company or change of corporate form;
- (8) to decide on the setup of the company's internal management organs;

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- (9) to appoint or dismiss the company's manager and decide on his/her remuneration and, based on the manager's recommendation, to appoint or dismiss any deputy general manager and financial officer of the company and to decide on their remunerations;
- (10) to formulate the company's basic management system; and
- (11) to exercise any other authority stipulated in the articles of association.

Meetings of the board of directors shall be convened at least twice each year. Notices of meeting shall be given to all directors and supervisors 10 days before the meeting. An extraordinary meeting of the board of directors may be proposed to be convened by shareholders representing more than 10% of the voting rights, more than one-third of the directors or the supervisory board. The chairman shall convene the meeting within 10 days of receiving such proposal and preside over the meeting. The board of directors may otherwise determine the means and the period of notice for convening an extraordinary meeting of the board of directors. Meetings of the board of directors shall be held only if more than half of the directors are present. Resolutions of the board of directors shall be passed by more than half of all directors. Each director shall have one vote for a resolution to be approved by the board. Directors shall attend board meetings in person. If a director is unable to attend for any reason, he/she may appoint another director to attend the meeting on his/her behalf by a written power of attorney specifying the scope of authorization. Meanwhile, the board of directors shall keep minutes of resolutions passed at board meetings. The minutes shall be signed by the directors present at the meeting.

If a resolution of the board of directors violates the laws, administrative regulations or the articles of association or resolutions of the general meeting, and as a result of which the company sustains serious losses, the directors participating in the resolution are liable to compensate the company. However, if it can be proved that a director expressly objected to the resolution when the resolution was voted on, and that such objection was recorded in the minutes of the meeting, such director shall be relieved from that liability.

Under the PRC Company Law, the following person may not serve as a director in a company: (1) a person who is unable or has limited ability to undertake any civil liabilities; (2) a person who has been convicted of an offense of corruption, bribery, embezzlement, misappropriation of property or destruction of the socialist economic order, or who has been deprived of his political rights due to his crimes, in each case where less than five years have elapsed since the date of completion of the sentence; (3) a person who has been a former director, factory manager or manager of a company or an enterprise that has entered into insolvent liquidation and who was personally liable for the insolvency of such company or enterprise, where less than three years have elapsed since the date of the completion of the bankruptcy and liquidation of the company or enterprise; (4) a person who has been a legal representative of a company or an enterprise that has had its business license revoked due to violations of the law or has been ordered to close down by law and the person was personally responsible, where less than three years have elapsed since the date of such revocation; and (5) a person who is liable for a relatively large amount of debts that are overdue.

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Where a company elects or appoints a director to which any of the above circumstances applies, such election or appointment shall be null and void. A director to which any of the above circumstances applies during his/her term of office shall be released of his/her duties by the company.

Under the PRC Company Law, the board shall appoint a chairman and may appoint a vice chairman. The chairman and the vice chairman shall be elected with approval of more than half of all the directors. The chairman shall convene and preside over board meetings and review the implementation of board resolutions. The vice chairman shall assist the chairman to perform his/her duties. Where the chairman is incapable of performing, or is not performing his/her duties, the duties shall be performed by the vice chairman. Where the vice chairman is incapable of performing, or is not performing his/her duties, a director jointly elected by more than half of the directors shall perform his/her duties.

### **Supervisory board**

A company shall have a supervisory board composed of not less than three members. The supervisory board shall consist of representatives of the shareholders and an appropriate proportion of representatives of the company's staff, among which the proportion of representatives of the company's staff shall not be less than one-third, and the actual proportion shall be determined in the articles of association. Representatives of the company's staff at the supervisory board shall be democratically elected by the company's staff at the staff representative assembly, general staff meeting or otherwise. The supervisory board shall appoint a chairman and may appoint a vice chairman. The chairman and the vice chairman of the supervisory board shall be elected by more than half of all the supervisors. Directors and senior management members shall not act concurrently as supervisors.

According to the Reply of the Overseas Listing Department of CSRC and the Production System Department of the State Commission for Restructuring the Economic System on Opinions Concerning the Supplement and Amendment to Articles of Association by Companies to Be Listed in Hong Kong (《中國證監會海外上市部、國家體改委生產體制司關於到香港上市公司對公司章程作補充修改的意見的函》), the chairman of the supervisory board shall be selected by more than two-thirds of all the supervisors.

The chairman of the supervisory board shall convene and preside over supervisory board meetings. Where the chairman of the supervisory board is incapable of performing, or is not performing his/her duties, the vice chairman of the supervisory board shall convene and preside over supervisory board meetings. Where the vice chairman of the supervisory board is incapable of performing, or is not performing his/her duties, a supervisor elected by more than half of the supervisors shall convene and preside over supervisory board meetings.

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Each term of office of a supervisor is three years and he/she may serve consecutive terms if re-elected. A supervisor shall continue to perform his/her duties as a supervisor in accordance with the laws, administrative regulations and the articles of association until a duly re-elected supervisor takes office, if re-election is not conducted in a timely manner upon the expiry of his/her term of office or if the resignation of supervisor results in the number of supervisors being less than the quorum.

The supervisory board may exercise its powers:

- (1) to review the company's financial position;
- (2) to supervise the directors and senior management in their performance of their duties and to propose the removal of directors and senior management who have violated laws, regulations, the articles of association or resolutions of the shareholders' general meetings;
- (3) when the acts of a director or a senior management personnel are detrimental to the company's interests, to require the director and senior management to correct these acts;
- (4) to propose the convening of extraordinary shareholders' general meetings and to convene and preside over shareholders' general meetings when the board fails to perform the duty of convening and presiding over shareholders' general meetings under the PRC Company Law;
- (5) to submit proposals to the shareholders' general meetings;
- (6) to bring actions against directors and senior management personnel pursuant to the relevant provisions of the PRC Company Law; and
- (7) to exercise any other authority stipulated in the articles of association.

Supervisors may be present at board meetings and make inquiries or proposals in respect of the resolutions of the board. The supervisory board may investigate any irregularities identified in the operation of the company and, when necessary, may engage an accounting firm to assist its work at the cost of the company.

### **Manager and senior management**

Under the relevant requirements of the PRC Company Law, a company shall have a manager who shall be appointed or removed by the board of directors.

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Other provisions in the articles of association on the manager's powers shall also be complied with. The manager shall be present at meetings of the board of directors. However, the manager shall have no voting rights at meetings of the board of directors unless he/she concurrently serves as a director.

According to the PRC Company Law, senior management refers to manager, deputy manager, financial officer, secretary to the board of a listed company and other personnel as stipulated in the articles of association.

### **Duties of directors, supervisors, general managers and other senior management**

Directors, supervisors and senior management are required under the PRC Company Law to comply with the relevant laws, administrative regulations and the articles of association, and shall be obliged to be faithful and diligent towards the Company. Directors, supervisors and management personnel are prohibited from abusing their authority in accepting bribes or other unlawful income and from misappropriating the company's property. Furthermore, directors and senior management are prohibited from:

- (1) misappropriating company funds;
- (2) depositing company funds into accounts under their own names or the names of other individuals;
- (3) loaning company funds to others or providing guarantees in favor of others supported by company's property in violation of the articles of association or without approval of the general meeting or the board of directors;
- (4) entering into contracts or transactions with the company in violation of the articles of association or without approval of the general meeting;
- (5) using their position to procure business opportunities for themselves or others that should have otherwise been available to the company or operating businesses similar to that of the company for their own benefits or on behalf of others without approval of the general meeting;
- (6) accepting for their own benefit commissions from a third party for transactions conducted with the company;
- (7) unauthorized divulgence of confidential information of the company; and
- (8) other acts in violation of their duty of loyalty to the company.

Income generated by directors or senior management in violation of this Article shall be of the benefit of the Company.

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A director, supervisor or senior management who contravenes law, administrative regulation or the articles of association in the performance of his/her duties resulting in any loss to the company shall be liable to the company for compensation.

Where a director, supervisor or senior management is required to attend a shareholders' general meeting, such director, supervisor or senior management shall attend the meeting and answer the inquiries from shareholders. Directors and senior management shall furnish all true information and data to the supervisory board, without impeding the discharge of duties by the supervisory board or supervisors.

Where a director or senior management contravenes laws, administrative regulations or the articles of association in the performance of his/her duties resulting in any loss to the company, shareholder(s) holding individually or in aggregate more than 1% of the company's shares consecutively for more than 180 days may request in writing that the supervisory board institute litigation at the people's court. Where the supervisory board violates the laws or administrative regulations or the articles of association in the discharge of its duties resulting in any loss to the company, such shareholder(s) may request in writing that the board of directors institute litigation at the people's court on its behalf. If the supervisory board or the board of directors refuses to institute litigation after receiving this written request from the shareholder(s), or fails to institute litigation within 30 days of the date of receiving the request, or in case of emergency where failure to institute litigation immediately will result in irrecoverable damage to the company's interests, such shareholder(s) shall have the power to institute litigation directly at the people's court in its own name for the company's benefit. For other parties who infringe the lawful interests of the company resulting in loss to the company, such shareholder(s) may institute litigation at the people's court in accordance with the procedure described above. Where a director or senior management contravenes any laws, administrative regulations or the articles of association in infringement of shareholders' interests, a shareholder may also institute litigation at the people's court.

### **Finance and accounting**

Under the PRC Company Law, A company shall establish its own financial and accounting systems according to the laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the competent financial departments under the State Council. At the end of each accounting year, a company shall prepare a financial report which shall be audited by an accounting firm in accordance with laws. The financial and accounting reports shall be prepared in accordance with laws, administrative regulations and the regulations of the financial departments under the State Council. The company's financial and accounting reports shall be made available for shareholders' inspection at the company within 20 days before the convening of an annual general meeting. A joint stock limited company that makes public stock offerings shall announce its financial and accounting reports.



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When distributing each year's profits after taxation, the company shall set aside 10% of its profits after taxation for the company's statutory common reserve fund until the fund has reached more than 50% of the PRC company's registered capital. When the company's statutory common reserve fund is not sufficient to make up for the company's losses for the previous years, the current year's profits shall first be used to make good the losses before any allocation is set aside for the statutory common reserve fund. After the company has made allocations to the statutory common reserve fund from its profits after taxation, it may, upon passing a resolution at a shareholders' general meeting, make further allocations from its profits after taxation to the discretionary common reserve fund. After the company has made good its losses and made allocations to its discretionary common reserve fund, the remaining profits after taxation shall be distributed in proportion to the number of shares held by the shareholders, except for those which are not distributed in a proportionate manner as provided by the articles of association.

Profits distributed to shareholders by a resolution of a shareholders' general meeting or the board of directors before losses have been made good and allocations have been made to the statutory common reserve fund in violation of the requirements described above must be returned to the company. The company shall not be entitled to any distribution of profits in respect of its own shares held by it.

The premium over the nominal value per share of the company on issue and other income as required by relevant governmental department to be treated as the capital reserve fund shall be accounted for as the capital reserve fund. The common reserve fund of a company shall be applied to make good the company's losses, expand its business operations or increase its capital. The capital reserve fund, however, shall not be used to make good the company's losses. Upon the transfer of the statutory common reserve fund into capital, the balance of the fund shall not be less than 25% of the registered capital of the company before such transfer.

The company shall have no accounting books other than the statutory books. The company's assets shall not be deposited in any account opened under the name of an individual.

### **Appointment and dismissal of auditors**

Pursuant to the PRC Company Law, the engagement or dismissal of an accounting firm responsible for the company's auditing shall be determined by a shareholders' general meeting or the board of directors in accordance with the articles of association. The accounting firm should be allowed to make representations when the general meeting or the board of directors conducts a vote on the dismissal of the accounting firm. The company should provide true and complete accounting evidence, accounting books, financial and accounting reports and other accounting information to the engaged accounting firm without any refusal or withholding or falsification of data.

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### **Profit distribution**

According to the PRC Company Law, a company shall not distribute profits before losses are covered and the statutory common reserve fund is provided.

### **Amendments to the articles of association**

Pursuant to PRC Company Law, the resolution of a shareholders' general meeting regarding any amendment to a company's articles of association requires affirmative votes by more than two-thirds of the votes held by shareholders attending the meeting.

### **Dissolution and liquidation**

Under the PRC Company Law, a company shall be dissolved for any of the following reasons:

- (1) the term of its operation set out in the articles of association has expired or other events of dissolution specified in the articles of association have occurred;
- (2) the shareholders have resolved at a shareholders' general meeting to dissolve the company;
- (3) the company shall be dissolved by reason of its merger or division;
- (4) the business license of the company is revoked or the company is ordered to close down or to be dissolved in accordance with the laws; or
- (5) the company is dissolved by the people's court in response to the request of shareholders holding shares that represent more than 10% of the voting rights of all shareholders of the company, on the grounds that the operation and management of the company has suffered serious difficulties that cannot be resolved through other means, rendering ongoing existence of the company a cause for significant losses to the shareholders' interests.

In the event of paragraph (1) above, the company may carry on its existence by amending its articles of association. The amendments to the articles of association in accordance with the provisions described above shall require the approval of more than two-thirds of voting rights of shareholders attending a shareholders' general meeting.

Where the company is dissolved under the circumstances set forth in paragraph (1), (2), (4) or (5) above, it should establish a liquidation committee within 15 days of the date on which the dissolution matter occurs. The liquidation committee shall be composed of directors or any other person determined by a shareholders' general meeting. If a liquidation committee is not established within the stipulated period, the company's creditors can apply to the people's court for setting up a liquidation committee with designated relevant personnel to conduct the liquidation. The people's court should accept such application and form a liquidation committee to conduct liquidation in a timely manner.

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The liquidation committee may exercise following powers during the liquidation:

- (1) to sort out the company's assets and to prepare a balance sheet and an inventory of assets;
- (2) to notify the company's creditors or publish announcements;
- (3) to deal with any outstanding business related to the liquidation;
- (4) to pay any overdue tax together with any tax arising during the liquidation process;
- (5) to settle the company's claims and liabilities;
- (6) to handle the company's remaining assets after its debts have been paid off; and
- (7) to represent the company in any civil procedures.

The liquidation committee shall notify the company's creditors within 10 days of its establishment, and publish an announcement in newspapers within 60 days.

A creditor shall lodge his claim with the liquidation committee within 30 days of receipt of the notification or within 45 days of the date of the announcement if he has not received any notification.

A creditor shall report all matters relevant to his claimed creditor's rights and furnish relevant evidence. The liquidation committee shall register such creditor's rights. The liquidation committee shall not make any settlement to creditors during the period of the claim.

Upon disposal of the company's property and preparation of the required balance sheet and inventory of assets, the liquidation committee shall draw up a liquidation plan and submit this plan to a shareholders' general meeting or a people's court for endorsement. The remaining part of the company's assets, after payment of liquidation expenses, employee wages, social insurance expenses and statutory compensation, outstanding taxes and the company's debts, shall be distributed to shareholders in proportion to shares held by them. The company shall continue to exist during the liquidation period, although it cannot conduct operating activities that are not related to the liquidation. The company's property shall not be distributed to shareholders before repayments are made in accordance with the requirements described above.

Upon liquidation of the company's property and preparation of the required balance sheet and inventory of assets, if the liquidation committee becomes aware that the company does not have sufficient assets to meet its liabilities, it must apply to a people's court for a declaration of bankruptcy in accordance with the laws. Following such declaration by the people's court, the liquidation committee shall hand over the administration of the liquidation to the people's court.

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Upon completion of the liquidation, the liquidation committee shall prepare a liquidation report and submit it to the shareholders' general meeting or the people's court for verification, and to the company registration authority for the cancellation of company registration, and an announcement of its termination shall be published. Members of the liquidation committee shall be faithful in the discharge of their duties and shall perform their liquidation duties in compliance with laws. Members of the liquidation committee shall be prohibited from abusing their authority in accepting bribes or other unlawful income and from misappropriating the company's properties. Members of the liquidation committee who have caused the company or its creditors to suffer from any loss due to intentional fault or gross negligence, should be liable for making compensations to the company or its creditors. In addition, liquidation of a company declared bankrupt according to laws shall be processed in accordance with the laws on corporate bankruptcy.

### **Overseas listing**

The shares of a company shall only be listed overseas after filed with the CSRC, and the listing must be arranged in accordance with procedures specified by the State Council.

### **Loss of share certificates**

A shareholder may, in accordance with the public notice procedures set out in the PRC Civil Procedure Law, apply to a people's court if his share certificate(s) in registered form is either stolen, lost or destroyed, for a declaration that such certificate(s) will no longer be valid. After the people's court declares that such certificate(s) will no longer be valid, the shareholder may apply to the company for the issue of a replacement certificate(s).

### **Merger and division**

Under the PRC Company Law, a merger agreement shall be signed by merging companies and the involved companies shall prepare respective balance sheets and inventory of assets. The companies shall within 10 days of the date of passing the resolution approving the merger notify their respective creditors and publicly announce the merger in newspapers within 30 days. A creditor may, within 30 days from the date of reception of the notification, or within 45 days from the date of the announcement if he has not received such notification, request the company to settle any outstanding debts or provide corresponding guarantees.

In case of a merger, the credits and debts of the merging parties shall be assumed by the surviving or the new company. In case of a division, the company's assets shall be divided and a balance sheet and an inventory of assets shall be prepared. The companies shall within 10 days of the date of passing the resolution approving the division notify their respective creditors and publicly announce the division in newspapers within 30 days.

Unless an agreement in writing is reached with creditors before the company's division in respect of the settlement of debts, the liabilities of the company which have accrued prior to the division shall be jointly borne by the divided companies.

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Changes in the registration as a result of the merger or division shall be registered with the relevant administration authority of the company in accordance with the law.

### **The PRC Securities Laws, Regulations and Regulatory Regimes**

The PRC has promulgated a series of regulations that relate to the issue and trading of the Shares and disclosure of information. In October 1992, the State Council established the Securities Committee and 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 CSRC. CSRC is the regulatory arm of the Securities Committee and is responsible for the drafting of regulatory provisions governing securities markets, supervising securities companies, regulating public offerings of securities by PRC companies in the PRC or overseas, regulating the trading of securities, compiling securities-related statistics and undertaking relevant research and analysis. In April 1998, the State Council consolidated the Securities Committee and CSRC and reformed CSRC.

On April 22, 1993, the State Council promulgated the Provisional Regulations Concerning the Issue and Trading of Shares (《股票發行與交易管理暫行條例》) govern the application and approval procedures for public offerings of shares, issuing of and trading of shares, the acquisition of listed companies, deposit, clearing and transfer of shares, the disclosure of information, investigation, penalties and dispute resolutions with respect to a listed company.

On December 25, 1995, the State Council promulgated the Special Regulations of the State Council Concerning 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特別規定》), which were repealed on March 31, 2023. These regulations principally governed the issue, subscription, trading and declaration of dividends and other distributions of domestic listed foreign shares and disclosure of information of joint stock limited companies having domestic listed foreign shares.

The PRC Securities Law (《中華人民共和國證券法》) (the “**Securities Law**”) took effect on July 1, 1999 and was revised as of August 28, 2004, October 27, 2005, June 29, 2013, August 31, 2014 and December 28, 2019, respectively. The latest revised Securities Law was implemented on March 1, 2020. It was the first national securities law in the PRC, comprehensively regulating activities in the PRC securities market, and is divided into 14 chapters and 226 articles, including the issue and trading of securities, takeovers by listed companies and the duties and responsibilities of the securities exchanges, securities companies, securities clearing institutions and securities regulatory authorities. Article 224 of the Securities Law provides that domestic enterprises shall satisfy the relevant requirements of the State Council when it issues securities or lists securities outside the PRC directly or indirectly. Currently, the issue and trading of foreign issued securities (including shares) are principally governed by the regulations and rules promulgated by the State Council and CSRC.

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### Arbitration and enforcement of arbitral awards

The Arbitration Law of the PRC (2017 Amendment) (《中華人民共和國仲裁法(2017修正)》) (the “**PRC Arbitration Law**”) was enacted by the Standing Committee of the NPC on August 31, 1994, which became effective on September 1, 1995 and was amended on August 27, 2009 and September 1, 2017. It is applicable to, among other matters, economic disputes involving foreign parties where all parties have entered into a written agreement to resolve disputes by arbitration before an arbitration committee constituted in accordance with the PRC Arbitration Law. The PRC Arbitration Law provides that an arbitration committee may, before the promulgation of arbitration regulations by the PRC Arbitration Association, formulate interim arbitration provisions in accordance with the PRC Arbitration Law and the PRC Civil Procedure Law. Where the involved parties have agreed to settle disputes by means of arbitration, a people’s court will refuse to handle a legal proceeding initiated by one of the parties at such people’s court, unless the arbitration agreement has lapsed.

Under the PRC Arbitration Law and PRC Civil Procedure Law, an arbitral award shall be final and binding on the parties involved in the arbitration. If one party fails to comply with the arbitral award, the other party to the award may apply to a people’s court for its enforcement. However, the people’s court may refuse to enforce an arbitral award made by an arbitration commission if there is any procedural irregularity (including but not limited to irregularity in the composition of the arbitration tribunal, or the making of an award on matters beyond the scope of the arbitration agreement or outside the jurisdiction of the arbitration commission).

Any party seeking to enforce an award of a foreign affairs arbitration organ of the PRC against a party who or whose property is not located within the PRC may apply to a foreign court with jurisdiction over the relevant matters for recognition and enforcement of the award. Likewise, an arbitral award made by a foreign arbitral body may be recognized and enforced by a PRC court in accordance with the principle of reciprocity or any international treaties concluded or acceded to by the PRC.

The PRC acceded to the Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards (《承認及執行外國仲裁裁決公約》) (the “**New York Convention**”) passed on June 10, 1958 pursuant to a resolution passed by the Standing Committee of the NPC on December 2, 1986. The New York Convention provides that all arbitral awards made in a state which is a party to the New York Convention shall be recognized and enforced by other parties thereto subject to their rights to refuse recognition and enforcement under certain circumstances, including where the recognition or enforcement of the arbitral award is against the public policy of that state. At the time of the PRC’s accession to the Convention, the Standing Committee of the NPC declared that (1) the PRC will only apply the New York Convention to the recognition and enforcement of arbitral awards made in the territories of other parties based on the principle of reciprocity; and (2) the New York Convention will only apply to disputes deemed under PRC laws to be arising from contractual or non-contractual mercantile legal relations.

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An arrangement for mutual enforcement of arbitral awards between Hong Kong and the Supreme People’s Court of China was reached. The Supreme People’s Court of China adopted the Arrangements on the Mutual Enforcement of Arbitral Awards between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (《關於內地與香港特別行政區相互執行仲裁裁決的安排》) on June 18, 1999, which went into effect on February 1, 2000, which was amended by the Supplemental Arrangement of the Supreme People’s Court for the Mutual Enforcement of Arbitral Awards between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region implemented in November 27, 2020 and the Supplemental Arrangement of the Supreme People’s Court for the Mutual Enforcement of Arbitral Awards between the Mainland and the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (2021) (《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(2021年)》) implemented in May 19, 2021. The arrangements reflects the spirit of the New York Convention. Under the arrangements, the awards by the Mainland arbitral bodies recognized by Hong Kong may be enforced in Hong Kong and the awards by the Hong Kong arbitral bodies may also be enforced in the Mainland China. If the Mainland court finds that the enforcement of awards made by the Hong Kong arbitral bodies in the Mainland will be against public interests of the Mainland, the awards may not be enforced.

### SUMMARY OF MATERIAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HONG KONG AND PRC COMPANY LAW

The Hong Kong laws applicable to a company incorporated in Hong Kong are the Companies Ordinance and the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance and are supplemented by common law and the rules of equity that are applicable to Hong Kong. As a joint stock limited company established in the PRC that is seeking a listing of shares on the Stock Exchange, the Company is governed by the PRC Company Law and all other rules and regulations promulgated pursuant to the PRC Company Law.

Set out below is a summary of certain material differences between Hong Kong laws applicable to a company incorporated in Hong Kong and the PRC Company Law applicable to a joint stock limited company incorporated under the PRC Company Law. This summary is, however, not intended to be an exhaustive comparison.

#### **Incorporation of company**

Under Hong Kong laws, a company with share capital, shall be incorporated by the Registrar of Companies in Hong Kong and the company will acquire an independent corporate existence upon its incorporation. A company may be incorporated as a public company or a private company. Pursuant to the Companies Ordinance, the articles of association of a private company incorporated in Hong Kong shall contain provisions that restrict a member’s right to transfer shares. A public company’s articles of association do not contain such provisions.

Under the PRC Company Law, a joint stock limited company may be incorporated by promotion or subscription. The amended PRC Company Law which came into effect on October 26, 2018 has no provision on the maximum registered capital of joint stock companies, except that laws, administrative regulations and State Council decisions have separate provisions on paid-in registered capital and the minimum registered capital of joint stock companies, in which case the company should follow such provisions.

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### Share capital

The Companies Ordinance does not provide for authorized share capital. The share capital of a Hong Kong company would be its issued share capital. The full proceeds of a share issue will be credited to share capital and becomes a company's share capital. Under Hong Kong laws, the directors of a Hong Kong company may, with the prior approval of the shareholders if required, issue new shares of the company. The PRC Company Law provides that any increase in our registered capital must be approved by our shareholders' general meeting and the relevant PRC governmental and regulatory authorities. There are no minimum capital requirements for companies incorporated in Hong Kong.

Under the PRC Company Law, the shares may be subscribed for in the form of money or non-monetary assets (other than assets not entitled to be used as capital contributions under relevant laws and administrative regulations). For non-monetary assets to be used as capital contributions, appraisals and transfer procedures of property rights must be carried out to ensure no over-valuation or under-valuation of the assets. There is no such restriction on a Hong Kong company under Hong Kong laws.

### Restrictions on shareholding and transfer of shares

Under PRC laws, our Domestic Shares, which are denominated and subscribed for in Renminbi, may only be subscribed for and traded by the government or government authorized departments, PRC legal persons, natural persons, qualified foreign institutional investors, or eligible foreign strategic investors. Overseas listed shares, which are denominated in Renminbi and subscribed for in a foreign currency other than Renminbi, may only be subscribed for, and traded by investors from Hong Kong, Macau or Taiwan or any country and territory outside the PRC, or qualified domestic institutional investors. However, qualified institutional investors and individual investors may trade Southbound Hong Kong trading Link and Northbound Shanghai trading Link (or the Northbound Shenzhen trading Link) shares via participating in Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect.

Under the PRC Company Law, a promoter of a joint stock limited company is not allowed to transfer the shares it holds for a period of one year after the date of establishment of the company. Shares in issue prior to the public offering cannot be transferred within one year from the listing date of the shares on a stock exchange. Shares in a joint stock limited company held by its directors, supervisors and senior management transferred each year during their term of office shall not exceed 25% of the total shares they held in the company, and the shares they held in the company cannot be transferred within one year from the listing date of the shares, and also cannot be transferred within half a year after such person has left office. The articles of association may set other restrictive requirements on the transfer of the company's shares held by its directors, supervisors and senior management. There are no such restrictions on shareholdings and transfers of shares under Hong Kong laws apart from six-month lockup on the company's issue of shares and the 12-month lockup on controlling shareholders' disposal of shares.



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### **Financial assistance for acquisition of shares**

The PRC Company Law does not prohibit or restrict a joint stock limited company or its subsidiaries from providing financial assistance for the purpose of an acquisition of its own or its holding company's shares.

### **Variation of class rights**

The PRC Company Law has no special provision relating to variation of class rights. However, the PRC Company Law states that the State Council can promulgate separate regulations relating to other kinds of shares.

Under the Companies Ordinance, no rights attached to any class of shares can be varied except (i) with the approval of a special resolution of the holders of the relevant class at a separate general meeting; (ii) with the consent in writing of the holders representing at least 75% of the total voting rights of holders of the relevant class of shares or (iii) if there are provisions in the articles of association relating to the variation of those rights, then in accordance with those provisions.

### **Directors, senior management and supervisors**

The PRC Company Law, unlike the Companies Ordinance, does not contain any requirements relating to the declaration of directors' interests in material contracts, restrictions on companies providing certain benefits to directors and guarantees in respect of directors' liability and prohibitions against compensation for loss of office without shareholders' approval.

### **Board of supervisors**

Under the PRC Company Law, a joint stock limited company's directors and the senior management are subject to the supervision of the board of supervisors. There is no mandatory requirement for the establishment of the board of supervisors for a company incorporated in Hong Kong.

### **Derivative action by minority shareholders**

According to Hong Kong laws, as permitted by court, shareholders may initiate a derivative action on behalf of the company against directors who have any misconduct to the company if the directors control a majority of votes at a general meeting, thereby effectively preventing a company from suing the directors in breach of their duties in its own name.

The PRC Company Law provides shareholders of a joint stock limited company with the right so that in the event where the directors and senior management violate their obligations and cause damages to a company, the shareholders individually or jointly holding more than 1% of the shares in the company for more than 180 consecutive days may request in writing

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the board of supervisors to initiate proceedings in the people's court. In the event that the board of supervisors violates their obligations and cause damages to company, the above said shareholders may send written request to the board of directors to initiate proceedings in the people's court. Upon receipt of aforesaid written request from the shareholders, if the board of supervisors or the board of directors refuses to initiate such proceedings, or has not initiated proceedings within 30 days from the date of receipt of the request, or if under urgent situations, failure of initiating immediate proceeding may cause irremediable damages to the company, the above said shareholders shall, for the benefit of the company's interests, have the right to initiate proceedings directly to the people's court in their own name. limited company is required to give an undertaking in favor of the company acting as agent for the shareholders. This allows minority shareholders to take action against directors and supervisors of the company in default.

### **Protection of minorities**

Under Hong Kong laws, a shareholder who complains that the business of a company incorporated in Hong Kong are conducted in a manner unfairly prejudicial to his interests may petition to the court to make an appropriate order to give relief to the unfairly prejudicial conduct. Alternatively, pursuant to the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance, a shareholder may seek to wind up the company on the just and equitable ground. In addition, on the application of a specified number of members, the Financial Secretary may appoint inspectors who are given extensive statutory powers to investigate the affairs of a company incorporated or registered in Hong Kong.

According to the PRC Company Law, in the event that the company encounters substantial difficulties in its operation and management and its continuance shall cause a significant loss to the interest of its shareholders, and where this cannot be resolved through other means, the shareholders who hold more than 10% of the total shareholders' voting rights of the company may present a petition to the People's Court for the dissolution of the company.

### **Notice of shareholders' general meetings**

Under the PRC Company Law, notice of a shareholders' annual general meeting and an extraordinary shareholders meeting must be given to shareholders at least 20 days and 15 days before the meeting, respectively.

For a company incorporated in Hong Kong, the notice period for an annual general meeting is at least 21 days and in any other case, at least 14 days for a limited company and at least 7 days for an unlimited company.

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### **Quorum for shareholders' general meetings**

Under the Companies Ordinance, the quorum for a general meeting must be at least two members unless the articles of association of the company otherwise provided. For companies with only one shareholder, the quorum must be one member. The PRC Company Law does not specify the quorum for a shareholders' general meeting.

### **Voting**

Under the Companies Ordinance, an ordinary resolution is passed by a simple majority of affirmative votes cast by shareholders present in person, or by proxy, at a general meeting, and a special resolution is passed by not less than three-fourths of affirmative votes casted by shareholders present in person, or by proxy, at a general meeting.

Under the PRC Company Law, the passing of any resolution requires more than one-half of the affirmative votes held by our shareholders present at a shareholders' meeting except in cases such as proposed amendments to our articles of association, increase or decrease of registered capital, merger, division, dissolution or transformation, which require two-thirds of the affirmative votes cast by shareholders present at a shareholders' general meeting.

### **Financial disclosure**

Under the PRC Company Law, a joint stock limited company is required to make available at the company for inspection by shareholders its financial report 20 days before its shareholders' annual general meeting. In addition, a joint stock limited company of which the shares are publicly issued must publish its financial report. The Companies Ordinance requires a company incorporated in Hong Kong to send to every shareholder a copy of its financial statements, auditors' report and directors' report, which are to be presented before the company's annual general meeting, not less than 21 days before such meeting. A joint stock limited company is required under the PRC laws to prepare its financial statements in accordance with the PRC GAAP.

### **Information on directors and shareholders**

The PRC Company Law gives shareholders the right to inspect the company's articles of association, minutes of the shareholders' general meetings, share register, counterfoil of company debentures, resolutions of board meetings, resolutions of the board of supervisors meeting and financial and accounting reports, which is similar to the shareholders' rights of Hong Kong companies under Hong Kong laws.

### **Receiving agent**

Under the PRC Company Law and Hong Kong laws, dividends once declared are debts payable to shareholders. The limitation period for debt recovery action under Hong Kong law is six years, while under PRC laws, this limitation period is three years.

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### **Corporate reorganization**

Corporate reorganization involving a company incorporated in Hong Kong may be effected in a number of ways, such as a transfer of the whole or part of the business or property of the company in the course of voluntary winding up to another company pursuant to Section 237 of the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance or a compromise or arrangement between the company and its creditors or between the company and its shareholders under Section 673 and Section 674 of the Companies Ordinance, which requires the sanction of the court. In addition, subject to the shareholders’ approval, an intra-group wholly-owned subsidiary company may also be amalgamated horizontally or vertically under the Companies Ordinance.

Under PRC laws, merger, division, dissolution or change the form of a joint stock limited company has to be approved by shareholders in general meeting.

### **Dispute arbitration**

In Hong Kong, disputes between shareholders on the one hand, and a company incorporated in Hong Kong or its directors on the other hand, may be resolved through legal proceedings in the courts.

### **Statutory reserve fund withdrawal**

Under the PRC Company Law, when a joint stock limited company allocating the after-tax profits of the current year, a company shall allocate (10) ten percent of its profit to the statutory common reserve fund. There are no corresponding provisions under Hong Kong laws.

### **Remedies of the company**

Under the PRC Company Law, if a director, supervisor or senior management in carrying out his duties infringes any law, administrative regulation or the articles of association of a company, which results in damage to the company, that director, supervisor or senior management should be responsible to the company for such damages. In addition, the Listing Rules require listed companies’ articles of association to provide for remedies of the company similar to those available under Hong Kong laws (including rescission of the relevant contract and recovery of profits from a director, supervisor or senior management).

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### **Dividends**

A company has the power in certain circumstances to withhold, and pay to the relevant tax authorities, any tax payable under PRC laws on any dividends or other distributions payable to a shareholder. Under Hong Kong laws, the limitation period for an action to recover a debt (including the recovery of dividends) is six years, whereas under PRC laws, the relevant limitation period is three years. A company must not exercise its powers to forfeit any unclaimed dividend in respect of shares until after the expiry of the applicable limitation period.

### **Fiduciary duties**

In Hong Kong, directors owe fiduciary duties to the company, including the duty not to act in conflict with the company’s interests. Furthermore, the Companies Ordinance has codified the directors’ statutory duty of care.

Under the PRC Company Law, directors, supervisors and senior management should be loyal and diligent.

### **Closure of register of members**

The Companies Ordinance requires that the register of members of a company must not generally be closed for the registration of transfers of shares for more than 30 days (extendable to 60 days under certain circumstances) in a year, whereas, as required by the PRC Company Law, share transfers shall not be registered within 30 days before the date of a shareholders’ general meeting or within five days before the base date set for the purpose of distribution of dividends.