Zurich’s shareholders approve new Board members and one of the highest dividends in the insurance industry

- Jasmin Staiblin, Michael Halbherr and Barry Stowe elected as new members of the Board of Directors
- Dividend of CHF 19 per share approved
- Zurich has one of the highest dividends in the insurance industry and among Swiss companies, and a total shareholder return of 80% since March 2016, one of the highest among its industry peers
- This year Zurich became the most valuable Swiss financial company by market capitalization

Zurich, April 3, 2019 – Shareholders of Zurich Insurance Group Ltd (Zurich) re-elected Michel M. Liès as Chairman of the Board of Directors and seven other members for another one-year term of office, at today’s Annual General Meeting. Jasmin Staiblin, Michael Halbherr and Barry Stowe were elected as new members of the Board. Zurich’s Board now counts 11 members – 5 are women.

Shareholders also approved the dividend of CHF 19 per share, one of the highest in the insurance industry and in Switzerland. With a total shareholder return of 80% since March 2016, Zurich has outpaced most of its peers. This year Zurich became the most valuable Swiss financial company by market capitalization.

Zurich’s leaders spoke of a proud Swiss company with a global footprint, which helps people and society as a whole by providing protection against risks. They also noted the Group’s strong financial results, which put the company on track to achieve or exceed all of its financial targets for the three-year period from 2017 to 2019. This achievement comes as customers’ needs are changing, leading to a major transformation in the way the company serves its customers.
Michel M. Liès told shareholders that he listened to many business leaders, customers, colleagues, employees and other stakeholders in his first year as Chairman. “These encounters have shown me how wide Zurich’s influence is. How the credo of the Executive Committee is built, putting customers at the center of our thinking and actions. How we create an environment that attracts dedicated employees and enables them to develop and succeed.”

Group Chief Executive Officer Mario Greco said: “We are transforming Zurich to meet the needs and expectations of our customers. This transformation builds on our strength as a uniquely global insurer. We understand the complex and diverse nature of globalization, and manage it like no other in our industry. We use our reach as a global insurer while acting as a local company and speaking local languages.”

In a non-binding advisory vote, 88.2% of shareholders represented approved the remuneration report 2018. They approved a maximum total remuneration for the Board of Directors of CHF 4.89 million for the period until the next Annual General Meeting with 97.5% voting in favor. They voted in favor of a maximum total remuneration of the Executive Committee of CHF 74.7 million for the financial year 2020 with 90.1%. The remuneration reports will continue to be presented to shareholders in an advisory vote in the years to come.

The Management Report, Annual Financial Statements and Consolidated Financial Statements detailing Zurich’s performance in 2018, and all other items on the agenda, were also approved. PricewaterhouseCoopers AG, Zurich, was re-elected as auditor for the 2019 financial year.

There were 1,741 shareholders (incl. proxies), representing 74,176,334 registered shares or 68.6% of the shares entitled to vote, at the meeting in Zurich. Detailed results of all votes will be published on www.zurich.com on April 4, 2019.

In its constituent meeting held after the Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors re-elected Christoph Franz as its Vice-Chairman. The Board of Directors (all CVs to be found here) and its committees now consist of the following members:
• Michel M. Liès, Chairman
• Joan Amble
• Catherine P. Bessant
• Dame Alison Carnwath
• Christoph Franz
• Michael Halbherr
• Jeffrey L. Hayman
• Monica Mächler
• Kishore Mahbubani
• Jasmin Staiblin
• Barry Stowe

**Remuneration Committee**
• Christoph Franz, Chairman
• Catherine P. Bessant
• Michel M. Liès
• Kishore Mahbubani
• Jasmin Staiblin

**Audit Committee**
• Dame Alison Carnwath, Chairman
• Catherine P. Bessant
• Monica Mächler
• Barry Stowe
• Jeffrey L. Hayman

**Risk and Investment Committee**
• Jeffrey L. Hayman, Chairman
• Joan Amble
• Dame Alison Carnwath
• Kishore Mahbubani
• Michael Halbherr
Governance, Nominations and Sustainability Committee

- Michel M. Liès, Chairman
- Dame Alison Carnwath
- Christoph Franz
- Jeffrey L. Hayman
- Monica Mächler

Further information

More information about Zurich’s Corporate Governance structure can be found here.

Zurich Insurance Group (Zurich) is a leading multi-line insurer that serves its customers in global and local markets. With about 54,000 employees, it provides a wide range of property and casualty, and life insurance products and services in more than 210 countries and territories. Zurich’s customers include individuals, small businesses, and mid-sized and large companies, as well as multinational corporations. The Group is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, where it was founded in 1872. The holding company, Zurich Insurance Group Ltd (ZURN), is listed on the SIX Swiss Exchange and has a level I American Depositary Receipt (ZURVY) program, which is traded over-the-counter on OTCQX. Further information about Zurich is available at www.zurich.com.

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