# **Independent Auditor's Report**

### TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF SAUDI TADAWUL GROUP HOLDING COMPANY



Ernst & Young Professional Services (Professional LLC) Paid-up capital (SR 5,500,000 - Five million five hundred thousand Saudi Riyal)

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## **Opinion**

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of Saudi Tadawul Group Holding Company, (the "Company") and its subsidiaries (the "Group"), which comprise the consolidated statement of financial position as at 31 December 2023, and the consolidated statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, consolidated statement of changes in equity and consolidated statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the consolidated financial statements, including material accounting policy information.

In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2023, and its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards that are endorsed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other standards and pronouncements that are endorsed by the Saudi Organization for Chartered and Professional Accountants.

## **Basis for Opinion**

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing that are endorsed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International

Independence Standards) that is endorsed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, that is relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with this Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

## **Key Audit Matters**

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming auditor's opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters. For each matter below, our description of how our audit addressed the matter is provided in that context.

We have fulfilled the responsibilities described in the Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the consolidated financial statements section of our report, including in relation to these matters. Accordingly, our audit included the performance of procedures designed to respond to our assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements. The results of our audit procedures, including the procedures performed to address the matters below, provide the basis for our audit opinion on the accompanying consolidated financial statements.

## Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

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#### Key audit matter

#### Revenue recognition

Revenue is key element of consolidated financial statements due to its materiality and is a key metric for the user of the Group's consolidated financial statements. Due to its scale and significance to the consolidated financial statements revenue recognition is determined as key audit matter.

The Group has recognised revenue of SR 1,073 million for the year ended 31 December 2023 (2022: SR 1,090 million).

The Group's revenue comprises of trading services, listing services, technology and information services, membership services and post-trade services. The recognition of certain revenue streams is automated while others revenue streams is through manual processing, therefore, controls around revenue recognition process are critical for correct recognition of revenue.

Refer to note 3.16 for the accounting policy related to revenue recognition and note 24 for the related disclosure.

#### How our audit addressed the key audit matter

Our audit procedures performed included, among others, the following:

- Obtained our understanding of the revenue recognition process including the recording of the different revenue streams;
- Tested design and implementation of relevant key controls around the revenue recognition process including the recognition of revenue streams;
- Involved our IT specialists to test the operating effectiveness of general IT controls and IT application controls around the revenue recognition of trading services, technology and information services and major post-trade services (clearing, settlement and trading related custody services);
- Performed recalculation of revenue recorded from trading services, listing fees (annual) and part of post-trade services (in relation to trading activity):
- For a sample of transactions, we performed test of details to verify that the revenue recorded from listing fees, technology and information services and other post-trade services exists and is accurate through vouching to sales invoices;
- Evaluated the accounting policies around the recognition of revenue under each revenue stream to determine if the recognition meets the point in time or over the period revenue recognition criteria; and
- Assessed the appropriateness of the presentation and disclosures in the consolidated financial statements with respect to revenue and the relevant accounting policies.

# Other information included in The Group's 2023 Annual Report

Other information consists of the information included in the Group's 2023 annual report, other than the consolidated financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Board of Directors is responsible for the other information in its annual report. The Group's 2023 annual report is expected to be made available to us after the date of this auditor's report.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above when it becomes available and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

When we read the Group's 2023 annual report, if we conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, we are required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance.

# Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Consolidated Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards that are endorsed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other standards and pronouncements that are endorsed by the Saudi Organization for Chartered and Professional Accountants and the provisions of Companies' Law and Company's By-laws, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

## Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF SAUDI TADAWUL GROUP HOLDING COMPANY



In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Group's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Group's financial reporting process.

# Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with International Standards on Auditing that are endorsed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing that are endorsed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

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

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

# Independent Auditor's Report (continued)

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS OF SAUDI TADAWUL GROUP HOLDING COMPANY



We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

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



Riyadh: 1 Ramadhan 1445H (11 March 2024)