



## ARTICLE 38(6) CSDR PARTICIPANT DISCLOSURE

### 1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to disclose the levels of protection associated with the different levels of segregation that Citibank Nigeria Limited (*we*) provides in respect of securities that we hold directly for clients with a CSD in the EEA (*CSD*), including a description of the main legal implications of the respective levels of segregation offered and information on the insolvency law applicable. This disclosure is required under Article 38(6) of the Central Securities Depositories Regulation (*CSDR*) in relation to CSDs in the EEA.

Under CSDR, the CSD has its own disclosure obligations and we include links to those disclosures in this document.

This document is not intended to constitute legal or other advice and should not be relied upon as such. Clients should seek their own legal advice if they require any guidance on the matters discussed in this document.

### 2. Background

We record each client's individual entitlement to securities that we hold for that client in one or more client securities accounts established and maintained for such client in our own books and records pursuant to the terms of the custodial services agreement between the client and us and (where appropriate) the provisions of the Investment and Securities Act 2007 (*IS Act*), the Securities and Exchange Commission Rules, 2013 made pursuant to the IS Act (as amended) (*SEC Rules*) and the Central Bank of Nigeria Guidelines for Custodianship in Money Market and other Fixed Income Instruments (*CBN Guidelines*). We also open accounts with the CSD in which we hold clients' securities. We currently make two types of accounts with the CSD available to clients: Individual Client Segregated Accounts (*ISAs*) and Omnibus Client Segregated Accounts (*OSAs*).

An ISA is used by us to hold the securities of a single client and therefore the client's securities are held by us in a CSD account which is separate from accounts used to hold the securities of other clients and our own proprietary securities.

An OSA is used by us to hold the securities of a number of clients on a collective basis. However, we do not hold our own proprietary securities in OSAs.

### 3. Main legal implications of levels of segregation

#### *Insolvency*

Clients' legal entitlement to the securities that we hold for them directly with the CSD would not be affected by our insolvency, whether those securities were held in ISAs or OSAs.

The distribution of the securities in practice on an insolvency would depend on a number of factors, the most relevant of which are discussed below.



### ***Application of Nigerian insolvency law***

Were we to become insolvent, our insolvency proceedings would take place in Nigeria and be governed by Nigerian insolvency law.

Under Nigerian insolvency law, securities that we held on behalf of clients would not form part of our estate on insolvency for distribution to creditors, subject to any security interest we may have and provided that they remained the property of the clients. Rather, they would be deliverable to clients in accordance with each client's proprietary interests in the securities.

As a result, it would not be necessary for clients to make a claim in our insolvency as general unsecured creditors in respect of those securities.

Accordingly, where we hold securities in custody for clients, those securities are considered the property of those clients rather than our own property and as such, they should be protected on our insolvency or resolution. This applies whether the securities are held in an OSA or an ISA.

### ***Nature of clients' interests***

Although our clients' securities are recorded in our name at the relevant CSD, we hold them on behalf of our clients, who are considered as a matter of law to have a beneficial proprietary interest in those securities. This is in addition to any contractual right a client may have against us to have the securities delivered to them.

This applies both in the case of ISAs and OSAs. However, the nature of clients' interests in ISAs and OSAs is different. In relation to an ISA, each client is beneficially entitled to all of the securities held in the ISA attributable to that client. In the case of an OSA, as the securities are held collectively in a single account, each client is normally considered to have a beneficial interest in all securities in the account proportionate to its holding of securities as recorded in our books and records.

Our books and records constitute evidence of our clients' beneficial interests in the securities. The ability to rely on such evidence would be particularly important on our insolvency and in the case of an OSA, since no records of individual clients' entitlements would be held by the relevant CSD.

We are subject to the SEC Rules and CBN Guidelines in Nigeria (***Client Asset Rules***), which contain strict and detailed requirements as to the maintenance of adequate and proper books of accounts and records. We are also subject to regular audits in respect of our compliance with those rules. Subject to the maintenance of books and records in accordance with the SEC Rules, clients should receive the same level of regulatory protection from both ISAs and OSAs".

### ***Shortfalls***

If there were a shortfall between the number of securities that we are obliged to deliver to clients and the number of securities that we hold on their behalf in either an ISA or an OSA, this could result in fewer securities than clients are entitled to being



returned to them on our insolvency. The way in which a shortfall could arise would be different as between ISAs and OSAs (see further below).

#### *How a shortfall may arise*

We do not permit clients to make use of or borrow securities belonging to other clients even where the securities are held in an OSA, in order to reduce the chances of a shortfall arising as a result of the relevant client failing to meet its obligation to reimburse the OSA for the securities used or borrowed.

Where we have been requested to settle a transaction for a client and that client has insufficient securities held with us to carry out that settlement, in the case of both an ISA and an OSA, we only carry out the settlement once the client has delivered to us the securities needed to meet the settlement obligation.

However, a shortfall could arise as a result of inadvertent administrative error or operational issues.

Nothing in this paragraph should be construed to override any obligation that the client owes us in respect of any irrevocable payment or delivery obligations (as these terms are defined in the custodial services agreement which we have in place with the client as amended or supplemented from time to time) which we incur in settling that client's trades.

#### *Treatment of a shortfall*

In the case of an ISA, the whole of any shortfall on the relevant account would be attributable to the client for whom the account is held and would not be shared with other clients for whom we hold securities. Similarly, the client would not be exposed to a shortfall on an account held for another client or clients.

In the case of an OSA, the shortfall would be shared among the clients with an interest in the OSA. **Therefore, a client may be exposed to a shortfall even where securities have been lost in circumstances which are completely unrelated to that client.**

#### *Shortfall mitigation rules*

The risk of a shortfall arising is, however, mitigated as a result of our obligation under the Client Asset Rules in certain situations to set aside our own cash or securities to cover shortfalls identified during the process of reconciling our records with those of the CSD.

If a shortfall arose, the client would have a claim against us for any loss suffered. If we were to become insolvent prior to covering a shortfall as required by the Client Asset Rules, clients would rank as general unsecured creditors for any amounts owing to them in connection with such a claim. Clients would therefore be exposed to the risks of our insolvency, including the risk that they may not be able to recover all or part of any amounts claimed.

On our insolvency, if securities were held in an ISA, the entire loss (equal to the shortfall) would be borne by the client for whom the relevant account was held. If



securities were held in an OSA, each of the clients with an interest in that account would bear a loss equal to the amount of the shortfall allocated to it.

In order to calculate clients' shares of any shortfall in respect of an OSA, each client's entitlement to securities held within that account would need to be established as a matter of law and fact based on our books and records. Any shortfall in a particular security held in an OSA would then be allocated among all clients with an interest in that security in the account. It is likely that this allocation would be made rateably between clients with an interest in that security in the OSA, although arguments could be made that in certain circumstances a shortfall in a particular security in an OSA should be attributed to a particular client or clients. It may therefore be a time consuming process to confirm each client's entitlement. This could give rise to delays in returning securities and initial uncertainty for a client as to its actual entitlement on an insolvency. Ascertaining clients' entitlements could also give rise to the expense of litigation, which could be paid out of clients' securities in the event of our insolvency.

### ***Security interests***

#### *Security interest granted to third party*

Security interests granted over clients' securities (which for the avoidance of doubt must always be granted in accordance with the terms of the custodial services agreement and/or additional contractual agreements that we have in place with them) could have a different impact in the case of ISAs and OSAs.

Where the client purports to grant a security interest over its interest in securities held by us which we hold in an OSA and the security interest was asserted against the CSD with which the account was held, there could be a delay in the return of securities from that account to all clients holding securities in the relevant account. However, in practice, we would expect that the beneficiary of a security interest over a client's securities would perfect its security by notifying us rather than the CSD and would seek to enforce the security against us rather than against the CSD, with which it had no relationship. We would also expect the CSD to refuse to recognise a claim asserted by anyone other than ourselves as account holder.

#### *Security interest granted to CSD*

Whether or not the CSD may benefit from a security interest will be regulated by the CSD's own rules. Such rules may also regulate the CSD's approach to enforcement of such security interest. Should the CSD benefit from a security interest over securities held for a client, there could be a delay in the return of securities to a client (and a possible shortfall) in the event that we failed to satisfy our obligations to the CSD and the security interest was enforced. This applies whether the securities are held in an ISA or an OSA. However, in practice, we would expect that a CSD would first seek recourse to any securities held in our own proprietary accounts to satisfy our obligations and only then make use of securities in client accounts. We would also expect a CSD to enforce its security rateably across client accounts held with it.



### *Corporate actions*

Where securities are held in an ISA or an OSA and clients are entitled to a fractional entitlement on a corporate action, clients will receive the fractional entitlement as we are required to act as agents for clients in corporate actions to collect on their behalf, interest, coupons, proceeds and any accrued benefits during the tenors of their securities and at redemption.

Our insolvency may have an impact on our ability to collect any entitlements, such as dividends, due on clients' securities held in an ISA or OSA or exercise any voting rights in respect of those securities.

#### **4. CSD disclosures**

Set out below are links to the disclosures made by the CSD:

<https://my.euroclear.com/apps/en/reference-search.html#q=eq:rights%20of%20participants&entity=eq:ef:eui:eb&limit=0>

These disclosures have been provided by the CSD. We have not investigated or performed due diligence on the disclosures and clients rely on the CSD disclosures at their own risk.



## GLOSSARY

**Central Securities Depository** or **CSD** is an entity which records legal entitlements to dematerialised securities and operates a system for the settlement of transactions in those securities.

**Central Securities Depositories Regulation** or **CSDR** refers to EU Regulation 909/2014 which sets out rules applicable to CSDs and their participants.

**direct participant** means an entity that holds securities in an account with a CSD and is responsible for settling transactions in securities that take place within a CSD. A direct participant should be distinguished from an indirect participant, which is an entity, such as a global custodian, which appoints a direct participant to hold securities for it with a CSD.

**EEA** means the European Economic Area.



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