

COMPANY NUMBER: [COMPANY-NUMBER]

THE COMPANIES ACT 2006

PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES

ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

OF

[COMPANY-NAME]

1. INTERPRETATION

1.1 The following definitions and rules of interpretation apply in these Articles:

Model Articles: means the model articles for private companies limited by shares contained in Schedule 1 of the Companies (Model Articles) Regulations 2008 (*SI 2008/3229*) as amended prior to the date of adoption of these Articles.

1.2 Save as otherwise specifically provided in these Articles, words and expressions which have particular meanings in the Model Articles shall have the same meanings in these Articles, subject to which and unless the context otherwise requires, words and expressions which have particular meanings in the Act shall have the same meanings in these Articles.

1.3 Headings in these Articles are used for convenience only and shall not affect the construction or interpretation of these Articles.

1.4 A reference in these Articles to an "article" is a reference to the relevant article of these Articles unless expressly provided otherwise.

1.5 Where the context permits, **other** and **otherwise** are illustrative and shall not limit the sense of the words preceding them.

1.6 The Model Articles shall apply to the company, except in so far as they are modified or excluded by, or are inconsistent with, these Articles.

1.7 Article 30 of the Model Articles shall not apply to the company.

2. PROCEDURE FOR DECLARING DIVIDENDS

2.1 The Company may by ordinary resolution declare dividends, and the directors may decide to pay interim dividends.

- 2.2 For the avoidance of doubt, each different designation of shares shall constitute a different class of shares; and where this article permits differentiation in payment of dividends (whether as to amount or percentage, or as to whether or not a dividend shall be paid at all) between classes, it likewise permits such differentiation between different designations and classes of shares.
- 2.3 Subject to **Article 2.6** below, every general meeting at which a dividend is declared shall, by ordinary resolution passed by a majority of each class of shareholders, direct that such dividend be paid in respect of all classes of Shares, or in respect of one or more classes of Shares to the exclusion of the other classes.
- 2.4 Subject to **Article 2.6** below, where a dividend is declared in respect of more than one class of Shares the Company may, by ordinary resolution passed by a majority of each class of shareholders, differentiate between such classes as to the amount or percentage of dividend payable, but in default of such a resolution the Shares in each such class shall be deemed to rank *pari passu* in all respects as if they constituted one class of Shares.
- 2.5 A dividend must not be declared unless the directors have made a recommendation as to its amount. Such a dividend must not exceed the amount recommended by the directors.
- 2.6 No dividend shall be declared in respect of any class of Shares in circumstances where the Directors recommend that no dividend should be declared nor shall any dividend be declared in respect of any class which exceeds the amount recommended by the Directors in respect of that class.
- 2.7 No dividend may be declared or paid unless it is in accordance with members' respective rights.
- 2.8 Unless the members' resolution to declare or directors' decision to pay a dividend, or the terms on which shares are issued, specify otherwise, it must be paid by reference to each member's holding of shares on the date of the resolution or decision to declare or pay it.
- 2.9 If the Company's share capital is divided into different classes, no interim dividend may be paid on shares carrying deferred or non-preferred rights if, at the time of payment, any preferential dividend is in arrear.
- 2.10 The directors may pay at intervals any dividend payable at a fixed rate if it appears to them that the profits available for distribution justify the payment.
- 2.11 If the directors act in good faith, they do not incur any liability to the holders of shares conferring preferred rights for any loss they may suffer by the lawful payment of an interim dividend on shares with deferred or non-preferred rights.

- 2.12 When paying interim dividends the Directors may make payments in respect of one or more classes of Shares to the exclusion of the other classes or to all classes of Shares. When making such payments the Directors may differentiate between the classes in respect of which payments are being made as to the amount or percentage of dividend payable.
- 2.13 Each individual holding at least 5% of the Company's ordinary share capital shall be beneficially entitled to at least 5% of the profits available for distribution to the equity shareholders of the Company; and therefore, notwithstanding any other provisions of this article, where the Company has more than one class of shares, and where any dividend (whether final or interim) is declared, the amount of dividend paid in respect of each such class must be such as to ensure that each individual holding 5% or more of the Company's ordinary share capital shall be allocated no less than 5% of the total dividend declared to be paid to all equity shareholders.