Mr. Wainwright Iton General Manager/C.E.O. Trinidad and Tobago Stock Exchange 10th Floor, Nicholas Tower 63-65 Independence Square PORT OF SPAIN

Ms. Marlene Street - Forrest The Jamaican Stock Exchange 40 Harbour Street Kingston
JAMAICA

VIA FAX \& HAND

## Dear Sir and Madam

We refer to the provisions of our Listing Agreement/Rules and advise that at our Board Meeting held on $25^{\text {th }}$ March, 2009, after consideration of the audited results for the financial year ended $31^{\text {st }}$ December 2008, the following decisions were taken: -
(1) For the year ending $31^{\text {st }}$ December 2008, the Directors have decided to pay a Final Dividend of Thirty Seven (37) cents per share. This final dividend will be payable to shareholders on the Register of Members as at April 9, 2009 which is the Record Date set for this purpose.
(2) The Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday $13^{\text {th }}$ May, 2009 at our Registered Office at 1 Guardian Drive, Westmoorings at 4.30 p.m.
(3) A Record Date of $09^{\text {th }}$ April, 2009 has been set for the purpose of determining those persons entitled to Notice of the Annual Meeting.
(4) The Transfer Books and the Register of Members will therefore be closed on the respective Record Dates of 09 ${ }^{\text {th }}$ April, 2009.
(5) It is proposed that the dividend cheques will be mailed out on the $16^{\text {th }}$ April, 2009.

We enclose herewith a copy of the Financial Highlights of the Group Consolidated Accounts and copy of the Notice to Shareholders advising of the Record Date for Notice of Meeting and Payment of Dividend which will be published in the Trinidad Guardian, Express and Newsday today.

We expect that the audited accounts will be available shortly thereafter whereupon a copy will be forwarded to you.

Please be guided accordingly.


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## Chairman's Statement

I am very pleased to be able to report a $73 \%$ increase in the Group's profit attributable to equity holders for the full year 2008 as compared to 2007s full year results. Profits attributable to equity holders for the year amounted to $\$ 201.3$ million. This satisfying result was achieved despite the onset of the worst global financial crisis since the Great Depression of 1929-1930, and after recording an exceptional goodwill impairment charge of $\$ 256$ million. This attests to the strength and robustness of GHL.
The operating profits of our businesses amounted to $\$ 608.7$ million, or $121 \%$ above last year's figure. The gain on the sale of Grupo Mundial contributed $\$ 308$ million to this figure, without which the Group's operating profit performance still showed an impressive $9 \%$ increase as compared to 2007.
The global financial crisis saw collapses in the US bond and equity markets, as well as the other major markets around the world. The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell $34 \%$ during 2008. Our markets closer to home also experienced significant decreases in value. The Trinidad \& Tobago Stock Exchange and the Jamaican Stock Exchange Composite fell $14 \%$ and $25 \%$ respectively. Given the disruptions in the markets, the Group took strategic measures to re-balance our investment portfolio. At year-end, out of $\$ 10.97$ billion in Financial Assets, $50 \%$ were invested in Government Securties, $39 \%$ in either fixed income securities or short term deposits, and only $11 \%$ invested in equities. Despite these measures, fair value losses on our financial assets amounted to $\$ 428$ million. These fair value losses are non-cash items, and we fully expect that these losses will reverse themselves as markets return to normal.
Another significant non-cash item to report on is the impairment charge we took on the goodwill associated with our UK motor business. While we have taken significant steps to turnaround this business, the impairment charge of $\$ 256$ million brings the amount of Goodwill associated with Zenith Insurance, more in line with our future expectations for the performance of this company.
On a much more positive note regarding the Group's operating activities, during 2008 GHL disposed of its interest in RBTT, and subsequently its shares in RBC. These transactions resulted in significant gains for our Group. The proceeds from this and the Mundial sale were primarily used to pay down the Group's debt obligations, which were reduced by $\$ 390$ million. Our core businesses, excluding the effects of fair value losses, demonstrated strong results for the year.
The ability of the Group to deliver quality earnings and improve its EPS from 0.56 in 2007 to 0.96 in 2008 , despite operating in a very difficult financial environment, is a testament to the resiliency of GHL. There is no doubt that 2009 will continue to bring its challenges, but I am confident in our business and our people to continue along a successful path.
Your Directors are pleased to announce a final dividend of 37 cents per share, bringing the total dividend for 2008 to 77 cents per share (which includes the 25 cent special dividend). This represents the Group's highest dividend payout on record. Your Directors have fixed April 9th, 2009 as the Record Date for determination of shareholders entitted to payment of this dividend. The register of members will be closed from April 9th. Dividend cheques will be mailed out on April 16, 2009. The Annual Meeting of the company will take place on May 13, 2009.


| Consolidated Froit and Loss Statement |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Audited <br> 12-Months Dec 2008 TT\$'000 | Audited 12-Months Dec 2007 TT\$'000 (Restated) | Audited <br> 3-Months <br> Dec 2008 <br> TT\$'000 | Audited <br> 3-Months <br> Dec 2007 <br> TT\$'000 <br> (Restated) |
| Insurance premium income | 5,682,087 | 5,450,721 | 1,725,006 | $1,742,691$ |
| Insurance premium ceded to reinsurers | $(867,453)$ | (879,660) | (257,547) | $(304,381)$ |
| Net insurance premium income | 4,814,634 | 4,571,061 | 1,467,459 | 1,438,310 |
| Investment income | 914,250 | 816,173 | 254,642 | 234,848 |
| Realised gains from Grupo Mundial Tenedora S.A. | 308,419 | - | - | - |
| Fee \& commission income | 157,837 | 198,262 | 42,326 | 105,305 |
| Other operating income | 590,520 | 321,816 | 115,589 | 121,046 |
| Total revenue | 6,785,660 | 5,907,312 | 1,880,016 | 1,899,509 |
| Net insurance benefits and claims | $(3,559,008)$ | $(3,474,550)$ | $(1,052,375)$ | (1,022,037) |
| Expenses | (2,189,820) | (2,026,706) | $(657,534)$ | $(731,340)$ |
| Operating profit before fair value (losses) / gains | 1,036,832 | 406,056 | 170,107 | 146,132 |
| Fair value (losses) / gains | $(428,154)$ | $(130,958)$ | $(284,489)$ | 52,012 |
| Operating profit | 608,678 | 275,098 | $(114,382)$ | 198,144 |
| Impairment of goodwill | $(256,568)$ | - | $(256,568)$ | - |
| Share of profit of associated companies | 26,086 | 84,407 | 13,193 | 63,711 |
| Finance charges | $(145,011)$ | $(165,997)$ | $(38,440)$ | $(53,860)$ |
| Profit / (loss) before taxation | 233,185 | 193,508 | $(396,197)$ | 207,995 |
| Taxation | $(24,846)$ | (71,851) | 23,738 | $(6,046)$ |
| Profit / (loss) after taxation | 208,339 | 121,657 | $(372,459)$ | 201,949 |
| Amount attributable to participating policyholders | $(4,019)$ | $(3,217)$ | 13,357 | $(14,332)$ |
| Profit / (loss) for the year | 204,320 | 118,440 | $(359,102)$ | 187,617 |
| Attributable to: |  |  |  |  |
| Equity holders of the company | 201,359 | 116,285 | $(359,632)$ | 187,171 |
| Minority interest | 2,961 | 2,155 | 530 | 446 |
|  | 204,320 | 118,440 | $(359,102)$ | 187,617 |
| Earnings Per Stock Unit - Basic | \$1.00 | \$0.58 |  |  |
| Earnings Per Stock Unit - Diluted | \$0.96 | \$0.56 |  |  |


|  | Audited Dec 2008 TT\$'000 | Audited <br> Dec 2007 <br> TT\$'000 <br> (Restated) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ASSETS |  |  |
| Property, plant and equipment | 941,602 | 867,124 |
| Investment properties | 614,258 | 650,125 |
| Intangible assets | 646,676 | 1,112,238 |
| Investment in associated companies | 145,159 | 359,958 |
| Financial assets | 10,971,010 | 11,278,682 |
| Loans and receivables | 1,114,292 | 1,161,976 |
| Pension plan assets | 80,573 | 121,347 |
| Value to shareholders of inforce |  |  |
| Deferred tax asset | 68,360 | 67,997 |
| Reinsurance assets | 1,047,447 | 980,402 |
| Segregated funds' assets | 386,585 | 449,616 |
| Deferred acquisition costs | 535,737 | 594,434 |
| Taxation recoverable | 128,117 | 130,031 |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 3,151,269 | 3,342,680 |
| Other assets | 1,388,017 | 1,041,871 |
| Total assets | $\underline{\mathbf{2 1 , 8 8 4 , 6 7 5}}$ | 22,783,330 |
| EQUITY |  |  |
| Capital and reserves |  |  |
| Share capital | 1,539,271 | 1,520,154 |
| Reserves | $(570,777)$ | $(62,440)$ |
| Retained earnings | 2,193,188 | 2,113,730 |
|  | 3,161,682 | 3,571,444 |
| Minority interest | 101,659 | 56,633 |
| Total equity | 3,263,341 | 3,628,077 |
| liabilities |  |  |
| Insurance contracts | 12,104,425 | 11,916,250 |
| Financial liabilities | 4,978,739 | 5,142,289 |
| Segregated funds' liabilities | 386,585 | 449,616 |
| Post retirement medical benefit obligations | 71,673 | 57,815 |
| Deferred consideration | - | 188,157 |
| Deferred tax liability | 216,842 | 243,160 |
| Provision for taxation | 76,436 | 130,355 |
| Other liabilities | 786,634 | 1,027,611 |
| Total liabilities | 18,621,334 | 19,155,253 |
| Total equity and llabilities | 21,884,675 | 22,783,330 |


|  | Audited <br> Dec 2008 <br> TT\$'000 | Audited <br> Dec 2007 TT\$'000 (Restated) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Balance at the beginning of the year - restated | 3,628,077 | 3,463,824 |
| Surplus on revaluation of properties | 20,818 | 32,111 |
| Translation adjustments | $(515,007)$ | (24,972) |
| Other reserve movements | $(13,455)$ | $(6,974)$ |
| Net (expense) / income recognised directly in equity | (507,644) | 165 |
| Profit for the year | 204,320 | 118,440 |
| Total recognised (expense) / income | $(303,324)$ | 118,605 |
| Issue of shares - minority interest | 43,889 | 43,648 |
| Share option scheme - issue of shares | 12,413 | - |
| Share option scheme - value of services provided | 14,276 | 12,882 |
| Dividends | (131,990) | $(10,882)$ |
| Balance at the end of the period | 3,263,341 | 3,628,077 |
| Consoinatad Cash Flow Statamant |  |  |
|  | Audited <br> Dec 2008 <br> TT\$000 | Audited Dec 2007 TT\$'000 (Restated) |
| Profit before taxation | 233,185 | 193,508 |
| Adjustment for specific items included on the accruals basis: |  |  |
| - Interest expense | 145,011 | 165,997 |
| - Investment income | $(914,250)$ | $(816,173)$ |
| Adjustments for non-cash items | 162,135 | $(40,350)$ |
| Interest and dividends received | 740,130 | 786,906 |
| Operating profit before changes |  |  |
| Net increase in insurance liabilities | 188,175 | 1,136,573 |
| Net proceeds from sales / (purchases) of financial assets | $(549,832)$ | (1,908,762) |
| Net movement in other operating assets and liabilities | $(150,643)$ | 700,115 |
| Cash (used in) / provided by operating activities | $(146,089)$ | 217,814 |
| Interest paid | $(148,353)$ | $(155,352)$ |
| Net taxation paid | $(66,088)$ | $(55,254)$ |
| Net cash (used in) / provided by operating activities | $(360,530)$ | 7,208 |
| Net cash provided by / (used in) investing activities | 560,135 | $(148,430)$ |
| Net cash (used in) / provided by financing activities | $(26,242)$ | 941,871 |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | 173,363 | 800,649 |

## NOTIGE TO SHAREHOLDERS

## RECORD DATE FOR ISSUE OF NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The Directors have fixed Wednesday 13th May, 2009 as the date of the Annual Meeting for 2009 which will be held at 4.30 in the afternoon at the Guardian Corporate Centre, 1 Guardian Drive, Westmoorings. Formal notice of meeting will be sent to shareholders on the Register of Members as at 9th April, 2009 which as been fixed as the Record Date for the issue of this Notice of Meeting.

## RECORD DATE AND PAYMENT OF DIVIDEND

Based upon the Financial Results for the year ended 31st December, 2008 the Directors have decided to pay a Final Dividend of 37 cents per share to shareholders on the Register of Members as at 9th April, 2009 which has been fixed as the Record Date for this payment.

Cheques for this dividend will be mailed out on the 16th April, 2009.

## CLOSING OF REGISTER

The Register of Members will therefore be closed on the 9th April, 2009.

## By Order of the Board

 Corporate Secretary March 25, 2009


[^0]:    c.c. Mr. Charles de Silva

    Trinidad \& Tobago Securities \& Exchange Commission 57-59 Dundonald Street
    Port of Spain

