Risks Disclosure Statement for Trading Callable Bull/Bear Contracts

Mandatory Call
Callable bull/bear contracts (“CBBCs”) are not suitable for all types of investors and investors should consider their risk appetite prior to trading. In any case, one should not trade in CBBC unless he/she understands the nature of the product and is prepared to lose the total amount invested since a CBBC will be called by the issuer when the price of the underlying asset hits the Call Price and trading in that CBBC will expire early. Payoff for Category N CBBC will be zero when they expire early. When Category R CBBC expire early the holder may receive a small amount of Residual Value payment, but there may be no Residual Value payment in adverse situations. Brokers may charge their clients a service fee for the collection of the Residual Value payment from the respective issuers.

In general, the larger the buffer between the Call Price and the Spot Price of the underlying asset, the lower the probability of the CBBC being called since the underlying asset of that CBBC would have to experience a larger movement in the price before the CBBC will be called. However at the same time, the larger the buffer, the lower the leverage effect will be. Once the CBBC is called, even though the underlying asset may bounce back in the right direction, the CBBC which has been called will not be revived and investors will not be able to profit from the bounce-back.

Besides, the Mandatory Call Event (“MCE”) of a CBBC with overseas assets as underlying may be triggered outside the Hong Kong Stock Exchange’s (“the Exchange”) trading hours.

Gearing effects
Since a CBBC is a leveraged product, the percentage change in the price of a CBBC is greater compared with that of the underlying asset. Investors may suffer higher losses in percentage terms if they expect the price of the underlying asset to move one way but it moves in the opposite direction.

Limited life
A CBBC has a limited life, as denoted by the fixed expiry date, with a lifespan of 3 months to 5 years. The life of a CBBC may be shorter if called before the fixed expiry date. The price of a CBBC fluctuates with the changes in the price of the underlying asset from time to time and may become worthless after expiry and in certain cases, even before the normal expiry if the CBBC has been called early.

Movement with underlying asset
Although the price of a CBBC tends to follow closely the price of its underlying asset, but in some situations it may not (i.e. delta “1” may not always be close to one). Prices of CBBC are
affected by a number of factors, including its own demand and supply, funding costs and time to expiry. Moreover, the delta for a particular CBBC may not always be close to one, in particular when the price of the underlying asset is close to the Call Price.

**Liquidity**
Although CBBC have liquidity providers, there is no guarantee that investors will be able to buy/sell CBBC at their target prices any time they wish.

**Funding costs**
The issue price of a CBBC includes funding costs and issuers will specify the formula for calculating the funding costs of their CBBC at launch in the listing documents. Since the funding costs for each CBBC issue may be different as it includes the issuer’s financing /stock borrowing costs after adjustment for expected ordinary dividend of the stock (if the underlying is a Hong Kong stock since the CBBC will not be adjusted for ordinary dividend) plus the issuer’s profit margin, investors are advised to compare the funding costs of different issuers for CBBC with similar underlying assets and terms. The funding costs will gradually be reduced over time along with the CBBC in the secondary market as the CBBC moves towards expiry.

In general, the longer the duration of the CBBC, the higher the total funding costs will be since it is similar to investors borrowing for a longer tenure to trade in the underlying asset.

When a CBBC is called, the CBBC holders (investors) will lose the funding cost for the full period since the funding cost is built into the CBBC price upfront at launch even though with the MCE, the actual period of funding for the CBBC turns out to be shorter.

In any case, investors should note that the funding costs of a CBBC after launch may vary during its life and the Liquidity Provider is not obliged to provide a quote for the CBBC based on the theoretical calculation of the funding costs for that CBBC at launch.¹

**Trading of CBBC close to Call Price**
When the underlying asset is trading close to the Call Price, the price of a CBBC may be more volatile with wider spreads and uncertain liquidity. CBBC may be called at any time and trading will terminate as a result.

However, the trade inputted by the investor may still be executed and confirmed by the investors after the MCE since there may be some time lapse between the MCE time and

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¹ Delta: Measures the expected change in the theoretical warrant price with respect to a change in underlying asset price. Call warrants have positive delta, while put warrants have negative delta.

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\text{Delta} = \frac{\text{Change in (Warrant price} \times \text{Conversion ratio)}}{\text{Change in Underlying price}}
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suspension of the CBBC trading. Any trades executed after the MCE (i.e. Post MCE Trades) will not be recognized and will be cancelled. Therefore, investors should be aware of the risk and ought to apply special caution when the CBBC is trading close to the Call Price.

Issuers will announce the exact call time within 1 hour after the trigger of MCE, and HKEx will also send the list of Post MCE Trades to the relevant Exchange Participants (brokers) who in turn will inform their clients accordingly. For avoidance of doubt on whether their trades have been cancelled (i.e. whether they are Post MCE Trades), the investors may check with their brokers.

**CBBC with overseas underlying assets**

Investors trading CBBC with overseas underlying assets are exposed to an exchange rate risk as the price and cash settlement amount of the CBBC are converted from a foreign currency into Hong Kong dollars. Exchange rates between currencies are determined by forces of supply and demand in the foreign exchange markets which are affected by various factors.

Besides, CBBC issued on overseas underlying assets may be called outside the Exchange’s trading hours. In such case, the CBBC will be terminated from trading on the Exchange in the next trading session or soon after the issuer has notified the Exchange about the occurrence of the MCE. There will be no automatic suspension of the CBBC by AMS/3. For Category R CBBC, valuation of the residual value will be determined on the valuation day according to the terms in the listing documents.

**Risks Disclosure Statement for Trading Derivative Warrants**

Derivative warrant trading involves high risks and is not suitable for every investor. Investors should understand and consider the following risks before trading in derivative warrants:

**Issuer risk**

Derivative warrant holders are unsecured creditors of the issuer and they have no preferential claim to any assets an issuer may hold.

**Gearing risk**

Although derivative warrants often cost less than the price of the underlying assets, a derivative warrant may change in value to a much greater extent than the underlying assets. Although potential return on derivative warrants may be higher than that on the underlying assets, it should be noted that in the worst case the value of derivative warrants may fall to zero and holders may lose their entire investment amount.
**Limited life**
Unlike stocks, derivative warrants have an expiry date and therefore a limited life. Unless the derivative warrants are in-the-money2, they become worthless at expiration.

**Time decay**
So long as other factors remain unchanged, the value of derivative warrants will decrease over time. Therefore, derivative warrants should never be viewed as products that are bought and held as long term investments.

**Volatility**
Other factors being equal an increase in the volatility of the underlying asset should lead to a higher warrant price and a decrease in volatility lead to a lower derivative warrant price.

**Market forces**
In addition to the basic factors that determine the theoretical price of a derivative warrant, derivative warrant prices are also affected by the demand for and supply of the derivative warrants. This is particularly the case when a derivative warrant issue is almost sold out and when there are further issues of an existing derivative warrant.

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**Turnover**
High turnover should not be regarded as an indication that a derivative warrant’s price will go up. The price of a derivative warrant is affected by a number of factors in addition to market forces, such as the price of the underlying assets and its volatility, the time remaining to expiry, interest rates and the expected dividend on the underlying assets.

**Risks Disclosure Statement for Trading Exchange Traded Funds**

**Market risk**
Exchange Traded Funds (“ETFs”) are typically designed to track the performance of certain indices, market sectors, or groups of assets such as stocks, bonds, or commodities. ETF managers may use different strategies to achieve this goal, but in general they do not have the discretion to take defensive positions in declining markets. Investors must be prepared to bear the risk of loss and volatility associated with the underlying index/assets.

**Tracking errors**
Tracking errors refer to the disparity in performance between an ETF and its underlying

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2 A call or put warrant is regarded as *in-the-money* in the following circumstances:
Call warrant : Underlying price > Exercise price
Put warrant : Underlying price < Exercise price
index/assets. Tracking errors can arise due to factors such as the impact of transaction fees and expenses incurred to the ETF, changes in composition of the underlying index/assets, and the ETF manager’s replication strategy. (The common replication strategies include full replication/representative sampling and synthetic replication which are discussed in more detail below.)

**Trading at discount or premium**
An ETF may be traded at a discount or premium to its Net Asset Value. This price discrepancy is caused by supply and demand factors, and may be particularly likely to emerge during periods of high market volatility and uncertainty. This phenomenon may also be observed for ETFs tracking specific markets or sectors that are subject to direct investment restrictions.

**Foreign exchange risk**
Investors trading ETFs with underlying assets not denominated in Hong Kong dollars are also exposed to exchange rate risk. Currency rate fluctuations can adversely affect the underlying asset value, also affecting the ETF price.

**Liquidity risk**
Securities Market Makers (“SMMs”) are Exchange Participants that provide liquidity to facilitate trading in ETFs. Although most ETFs are supported by one or more SMMs, there is no assurance that active trading will be maintained. In the event that the SMMs default or cease to fulfill their role, investors may not be able to buy or sell the product.

**Counterparty risk involved in ETFs with different replication strategies**
(a) Full replication and representative sampling strategies
An ETF using a full replication strategy generally aims to invest in all constituent stocks/assets in the same weightings as its benchmark. ETFs adopting a representative sampling strategy will invest in some, but not all of the relevant constituent stocks/assets. For ETFs that invest directly in the underlying assets rather than through synthetic instruments issued by third parties, counterparty risk tends to be less of concern.

(b) Synthetic replication strategies
ETFs utilizing a synthetic replication strategy use swaps or other derivative instruments to gain exposure to a benchmark. Currently, synthetic replication ETFs can be further categorized into two forms:
i. Swap-based ETFs
- Total return swaps allow ETF managers to replicate the benchmark performance of ETFs
without purchasing the underlying assets.

- Swap-based ETFs are exposed to counterparty risk of the swap dealers and may suffer losses if such dealers default or fail to honor their contractual commitments.

ii. Derivative embedded ETFs

- ETF managers may also use other derivative instruments to synthetically replicate the economic benefit of the relevant benchmark. The derivative instruments may be issued by one or multiple issuers.

- Derivative embedded ETFs are subject to counterparty risk of the derivative instruments’ issuers and may suffer losses if such issuers default or fail to honor their contractual commitments.

Even where collateral is obtained by an ETF, it is subject to the collateral provider fulfilling its obligations. There is a further risk that when the right against the collateral is exercised, the market value of the collateral could be substantially less than the amount secured resulting in significant loss to the ETF.

It is important that investors understand and critically assess the implications arising due to different ETF structures and characteristics.

**Risks Disclosure Statement for Trading Equity Linked Instruments**

**Exposure to equity market**
Investors are exposed to price movements in the underlying security and the stock market, the impact of dividends and corporate actions and counterparty risks. Investors must also be prepared to accept the risk of receiving the underlying shares or a payment less than their original investment.

**Possibilities of losing investment**
Investors may lose part or all of their investment if the price of the underlying security moves against their investment view.

**Price adjustment**
Investors should note that any dividend payment on the underlying security may affect its price and the payback of the ELI at expiry due to ex-dividend pricing. Investors should also note that issuers may make adjustments to the ELI due to corporate actions on the underlying security.

**Interest rates**
While most ELI offers a yield that is potentially higher than the interest on fixed deposits and traditional bonds, the return on investment is limited to the potential yield of the ELI.

**Potential yield**
Investors should consult their brokers on fees and charges related to the purchase and sale of ELI and payment / delivery at expiry. The potential yields disseminated by Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited have not taken fees and charges into consideration.