

Risk Management

CITIC Limited has established a risk management and internal control system covering all business segments to identify, assess and manage various risks in the Group's business activities. The business, operating results, financial position and profitability of CITIC Limited may be subject to a number of risk factors and uncertainties, directly or indirectly, relating to the Group. The risk factors set out below are not exhaustive and CITIC Limited, in addition to these risk factors, may also be exposed to other unknown risks or risks that may not be material at present but may become material in future.

Financial Risk

As a sub-committee of the Executive Committee, the Asset and Liability Management Committee ("ALCO") has been established to monitor financial risks of the Group in accordance with the relevant treasury and financial risk management policies.

Asset and liability management

CITIC Limited's sources of funds for different businesses include long-term and short-term debt and equity, of which ordinary shares, preferred shares and perpetual securities are the alternative forms of equity financing instruments. CITIC Limited manages its capital structure to finance its overall operations and growth by using different sources of funds. The type of funding is targeted to match the characteristics of our underlying business.

1. Debt

ALCO centrally manages and regularly monitors the existing and projected debt levels of CITIC Limited and its major non-financial subsidiaries to ensure that the Group's debt size, structure and cost are at reasonable levels.

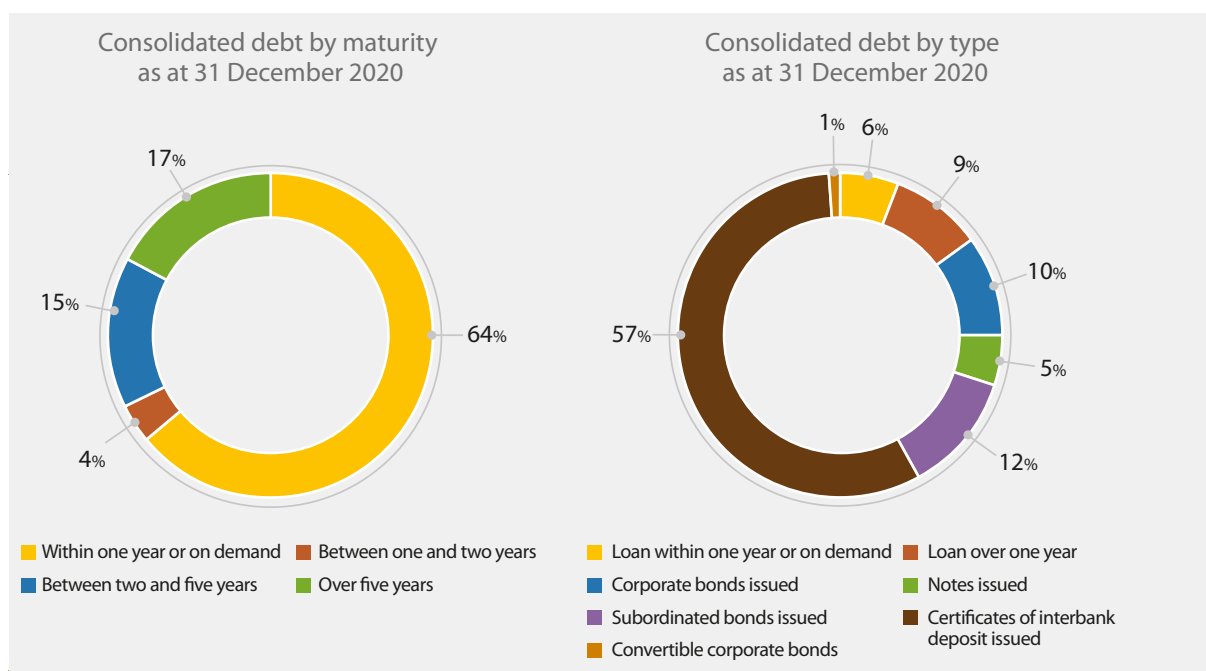
As at 31 December 2020, consolidated debt of CITIC Limited⁽¹⁾ was HK\$1,131,702 million, including loans of HK\$163,171 million and debt instruments issued⁽²⁾ of HK\$968,531 million. Debt of CITIC Bank⁽³⁾ accounted for HK\$837,209 million. CITIC Limited attaches importance to cash flow management, the head office of CITIC Limited had cash and deposits of HK\$12,890 million and available committed facilities of HK\$37,790 million.

The details of debt are as follows:

As at 31 December 2020	<i>HK\$ million</i>
Consolidated debt of CITIC Limited	1,131,702
Among which: Debt of CITIC Bank	837,209

Note:

- (1) Consolidated debt of CITIC Limited is the sum of "bank and other loans" and "debt instruments issued" in the Consolidated Balance Sheet of CITIC Limited excluding interest accrued;
- (2) Debt instruments issued include corporate bonds, notes, subordinated bonds, certificates of interbank deposit issued and convertible corporate bonds excluding interest accrued;
- (3) Debt of CITIC Bank refers to CITIC Bank's consolidated debt securities issued, including long-term debt securities, subordinated bonds, certificates of interbank deposit issued and convertible corporate bonds excluding interest accrued and convertible corporate bonds that have been subscribed by another subsidiary of the group.



The debt to equity ratio of CITIC Limited as at 31 December 2020 is as follows:

<i>HK\$ million</i>	Consolidated
Debt	1,131,702
Total equity ⁽⁴⁾	1,008,642
Debt to equity ratio	112%

Note:

(4) Total consolidated equity is based on the "total equity" in the Consolidated Balance Sheet.

2. Liquidity risk management

The objective of liquidity risk management is to ensure that CITIC Limited always has sufficient cash to repay its maturing debt, perform other payment obligations and meet other funding requirements for normal business development.

CITIC Limited's liquidity management involves the regular cash flow forecast for the next three years and the consideration of its liquid assets level and new financings necessary to meet future cash flow requirements.

CITIC Limited centrally manages its own liquidity and that of its major non-financial subsidiaries and improves the efficiency of fund utilisation. With flexible access to domestic and overseas markets, CITIC Limited seeks to diversify sources of funding through different financing instruments, in order to raise low-cost funding of medium and long terms, maintain a mix of staggered maturities and minimise refinancing risk.

Details of liquidity risk management are set out in Note 48(b) to the consolidated financial statements.

3. Contingent liabilities and commitments

Details of contingent liabilities and commitments of CITIC Limited as at 31 December 2020 are set out in Note 47 to the consolidated financial statements.

4. Pledged loan

Details of cash and deposits, inventories, trade and other receivables, fixed assets, intangible assets, ROU assets and the equity of subsidiary pledged as security for CITIC Limited's loan as at 31 December 2020 are set out in Note 42(d) to the consolidated financial statements.

5. Credit ratings

	Standard & Poor's	Moody's
31 December 2020	BBB+/Stable	A3/Stable

Treasury risk management

Treasury risk management essentially covers the following financial risks inherent in CITIC Limited's businesses:

- Interest rate risk
- Currency risk
- Counterparty risk for financial products
- Commodity risk
- Market price risk

CITIC Limited manages the above risks by using appropriate financial derivatives or other means, and priority will be given to simple, cost-efficient and effective hedge instruments which meet the HKFRS 9 in performing treasury risk management responsibilities. To the extent possible, gains and losses of the derivatives offset the losses and gains of the assets, liabilities or transactions being hedged.

CITIC Limited is committed to establishing a comprehensive and uniform treasury risk management system. Within the group-wide treasury risk management framework, member companies are required to, according to their respective business characteristics and regulatory requirements, implement suitable treasury risk management strategies and procedures and submit reports on a regular and ad hoc basis.

1. Interest rate risk

CITIC Limited regularly monitors current and projected interest rate changes, with each of the operating entities of the Group implementing its own interest rate risk management system covering identification, measurement, monitoring and control of market risks. Interest rate risk is managed by taking into account market conditions and controlled at a reasonable level.

For our financial subsidiaries, repricing risk and benchmark risk are the main sources of interest rate risk. Observing the principle of prudent risk appetite, they closely track changes in the macroeconomic situation and internal business structure, continue to optimise the maturity structure of deposits, make timely adjustments to the loan repricing lifecycle, and take the initiative to manage sensitive gaps in interest rates for the overall objective of achieving steady growth both in net interest income and economic value within a tolerable level of interest rate risk.

For our head office and non-financial subsidiaries, the interest rate risk arises primarily from debt. Borrowings at floating rates expose CITIC Limited to cash flow interest rate risk, while borrowings at fixed rates expose CITIC Limited to fair value interest rate risk. Based on its balance sheet and market conditions, CITIC Limited and its non-financial subsidiaries will conduct analysis and sensitivity testing on interest rate risk, adopt a flexible approach in choosing financing instruments at floating and fixed rates, or choose to employ, at the suitable time, the interest rate swaps and other derivative instruments approved for use by the ALCO to manage interest rate risk.

Details of interest rate risk management are set out in Note 48(c) to the consolidated financial statements.

2. Currency risk

CITIC Limited has major operations in mainland China, Hong Kong and Australia, with Renminbi (“RMB”), Hong Kong dollar (“HKD”) and United States dollar (“USD”) as functional currencies respectively. The Group’s member companies are exposed to currency risk from gaps between financial assets and liabilities, future commercial transactions and net investments in foreign operations that are denominated in a currency that is not the member company’s functional currency. The reporting currency of the consolidated financial statements of CITIC Limited is HKD. Translation exposures from the consolidation of subsidiaries, whose functional currency is not HKD, are not hedged by using derivative instruments as no cash exposures are involved.

CITIC Limited measures its currency risk mainly by currency gap analysis. Where it is appropriate, the Group seeks to lower its currency risk by matching its foreign currency denominated assets with corresponding liabilities in the same currency or using forward contracts and cross currency swaps, provided that hedging is only considered for firm commitments and highly probable forecast transactions.

Details of currency risk management are set out in Note 48(d) to the consolidated financial statements.

3. Counterparty risk for financial products

CITIC Limited has business with various financial institutions, including deposits, interbank lending, financial investment products and derivative financial instruments. To mitigate the risk of non-recovery of deposited funds or financial instrument gains, member companies of CITIC Limited approve and adjust the list of counterparties and credit limits of approved financial institutions through internal credit extension processes. A regular report is required.

4. Commodity risk

Some businesses of CITIC Limited involve the production, procurement, and trading of commodities, and they face exposure to price risks of commodities such as iron ore, crude oil, gas and coal.

To manage some of its raw material exposures such as supply shortages and price volatility, CITIC Limited has entered into long-term supply contracts for certain inputs or used plain vanilla futures or forward contracts for hedging. While CITIC Limited views that natural offsetting is being achieved to a certain extent across its different business sectors, it performs a continual risk management review to ensure commodity risks are well understood and controlled within its business strategies.

5. Market price risk

CITIC Limited holds investments in financial assets classified as Derivative financial instruments or Investments in financial assets in the consolidated balance sheet. To control price risks arising from such investments, the Group actively monitors the price changes and diversifies the relevant investment risks through appropriate asset allocation.

Economic Environment

CITIC Limited operates diversified businesses globally in various countries and regions. As a result, its financial condition, operational results and business prospects are, to a significant degree, subject to the development of both international and domestic economies, as well as the political and legislative environment.

COVID-19 continues spreading around the world, causing tremendous impacts on both economic and social development. In the meanwhile, as China’s economy is undergoing structural changes, the formation of new growth drivers involves further reforms in a variety of areas, including politics, economy, technology, culture and society. The global economy is still on the way of recovery, but the performances in main economic entities and regions are divergent, and challenges from trade friction and other aspects are increasing. The growth prospect is with uncertainty. If negative economic factors appear in countries and regions in which CITIC Limited operates, there might be an adverse impact on its operational results, financial condition and profitability.

Operational Risk

The financial services segment of the Group covers various sectors, including banking, securities, trust, insurance and asset management. As information technology is widely applied in the modern financial services industry, the reliability of computer systems, computer networks and information management software is essential to both traditional financial and innovative businesses. Unreliable information technology systems or underdeveloped network technologies may result in inefficient trading systems, business interruption, or loss of important information, thus affecting the reputation and service quality of financial institutions and even incurring economic losses and legal disputes.

CITIC Limited carries out resources and energy, manufacturing, engineering contracting, real estate, and other businesses in countries and regions across the world, and these businesses might continue to encounter a diversity of operational difficulties. Certain difficulties, if beyond the control of CITIC Limited, might result in production delays or increases in production costs. These operational risks include delay of government payments, deterioration of tax policies, labour disputes, unforeseen technical failures, various disasters and emergencies, unexpected changes in mineral, geological or mining conditions, pollution and other environmental damage, as well as potential disputes with foreign partners, customers, subcontractors, suppliers or local residents or communities. Such risks would cause damage or loss to the relevant businesses of CITIC Limited, which in turn could adversely affect its operations, financial condition and profitability.

Credit Risk

With the proliferation of new market entities, innovative business models, new products, businesses and counterparties, credit risks could increase in both width and complexity. In this unpredictable economic climate, with extensive business operations and counterparties, the Group pays close attention to market developments and credit risks arising from business partners. If the Group fails to investigate and prevent such risks, they may have an adverse impact on its operations, financial condition and profitability.

Competitive Markets

CITIC Limited operates in highly competitive markets. Failure to compete in terms of product specifications, service quality, reliability or price may have an adverse impact on the Group.

- The financial services business faces fierce competition from domestic and international commercial banks and other financial institutions.
- The engineering contracting business is challenged by global peers as well as China's large state-owned enterprises and private companies.
- Resources and energy, manufacturing, real estate operations, and other businesses in different sectors also face severe competition over resources, technologies, prices and services.

Intensification of competition might result in lower product prices, narrower profit margins as well as loss of market share for CITIC Limited.

Other External Risks and Uncertainties

Impact of local, national and international laws and regulations

CITIC Limited faces local business risks in different countries and regions. Such risks might have a significant impact on the financial condition, operations and business prospects of CITIC Limited in the relevant markets. The investments of CITIC Limited in countries and regions across the world might at present or in future be affected by changes in local, national or international political, social, legal, tax, regulatory and environmental requirements from time to time. In addition, new government policies or measures, if introducing changes in fiscal, tax, regulatory, environmental or other aspects that may affect competitiveness, could result in an additional or unforeseen increase in operating expenses and capital expenditures, produce risks to the overall return on investment of CITIC Limited, and delay or impede its business operations and hence adversely affect revenue and profit.

Impact of new accounting standards

The Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (“HKICPA”) issues new and revised Hong Kong Financial Reporting Standards (“HKFRSs”) from time to time. As the accounting standards continue to evolve, HKICPA might further issue new and revised HKFRSs in the future. The new accounting policies, if required to be adopted by CITIC Limited, could have a significant impact on its financial condition and operations.

Natural disasters or events, terrorism and diseases

The business of CITIC Limited could be affected by events such as earthquakes, typhoons, tropical cyclones, inclement weather, acts or threats of terrorism, or outbreaks of highly contagious diseases, which would directly or indirectly reduce the supply of essential goods or services or reduce economic activities on a local, regional or global scale. Any of these disasters might damage the businesses of CITIC Limited, which would have a material adverse impact on the financial condition and operations of CITIC Limited.