

RISK FACTORS

RISKS RELATING TO THE ISSUER AND ITS OPERATIONS

Financial information as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021 is extracted from the unaudited financial statement of the BNP Paribas Group as of and for the year ended December 31, 2021 as published on February 8, 2022.

Unless otherwise mentioned, the financial information and items contained in this announcement include the activity related to BancWest reflecting an operational view. Such financial information and items therefore do not reflect the effects produced by applying IFRS 5, which pertains to non-current assets and liabilities held for sale. The press release includes in appendix a reconciliation between the operational view presented without applying IFRS 5 and the consolidated financial statements based on an application of IFRS 5.

The main categories of risk inherent in the BNP Paribas Group's business are presented below. They may be measured through risk-weighted assets or other quantitative or qualitative indicators, to the extent risk-weighted assets are not relevant (for example, for liquidity and funding risk).

	RWA	
	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020
<i>In billions of euros</i>		
Credit risk	554	527
Counterparty credit risk	40	41
Securitization risk in the banking book	14	14
Operational risk	63	71
Market risk	25	25
Amounts below the thresholds for deduction (subject to 250% risk weight)	18	17
TOTAL	714	696

More generally, the risks to which the BNP Paribas Group is exposed may arise from a number of factors related, among others, to changes in its macroeconomic or regulatory environment or factors related to the implementation of its strategy and its business.

The material risks specific to the BNP Paribas Group's business, determined based on the circumstances known to the management as of the date of this document, are thus presented below under 7 main categories, in accordance with Article 16 of Regulation (EU) No. 2017/1129, known as "Prospectus 3" of June 14, 2017, the provisions of which relating to risk factors came into force on July 21, 2019: credit risk, counterparty risk and securitization risk in the banking book; operational risk; market risk; liquidity and funding risk; risks related to the macroeconomic and market environment; regulatory risks; and risks related to the BNP Paribas Group's growth in its current environment.

The Group's risk management policies have been taken into account in assessing the materiality of these risks; in particular, risk-weighted assets factor in risk mitigation elements to the extent eligible in accordance with applicable banking regulations.

1. Credit risk, counterparty risk and securitization risk in the banking book

BNP Paribas Group's credit risk is defined as the probability of a borrower or counterparty defaulting on its obligations to the BNP Paribas Group. Probability of default along with the recovery rate of the loan or debt in the event of default are essential elements in assessing credit quality. In accordance with the European Banking Authority recommendations, this category of risk also includes risks on equity investments, as well as those related to insurance activities. At December 31, 2020, the BNP Paribas Group's credit risk exposure broke down as follows: corporates (41%), central governments and central banks (26%), retail customers (25%), credit institutions (5%), other items (2%) and equities (1%). At December 31, 2020, 34% of the BNP Paribas Group's credit exposure was comprised of exposures in France, 15% in Belgium and Luxembourg, 10% in Italy, 19% in other European countries, 12% in North America, 5% in Asia and 5% in the rest of the world. The BNP Paribas Group's risk-weighted assets subject to this type of risk amounted to EUR 554 billion at December 31, 2021, or 78% of the total risk-weighted assets of the BNP Paribas Group, compared to EUR 527 billion at December 31, 2020.

BNP Paribas Group's counterparty risk arises from its credit risk in the specific context of market transactions, investments, and/or settlements. BNP Paribas Group's exposure to counterparty risk, excluding CVA (Credit Valuation Adjustment) risk at December 31, 2020, is comprised of: 42% to the corporate sector, 27% to governments and central banks, 12% to credit institutions and investment firms, and 19% to clearing houses. By product, BNP Paribas Group's exposure, excluding CVA risk, at December 31, 2020 is comprised of: 53% in OTC derivatives, 34% in repurchase transactions and securities lending/borrowing, 11% in listed derivatives and 2% in contributions to the clearing houses' default funds. The amount of this risk varies over time, depending on fluctuations in market parameters affecting the potential future value of the covered transactions. In addition, CVA risk measures the risk of losses related to CVA volatility resulting from fluctuations in credit spreads associated with the counterparties to which the BNP Paribas Group is subject to risk. The risk-weighted assets subject to counterparty credit risk amounted to EUR 40 billion at December 31, 2021, representing 6% of the BNP Paribas Group's total risk-weighted assets, compared to EUR 41 billion at December 31, 2020.

Securitization risk in the banking book: securitization is a transaction or arrangement by which the credit risk associated with a liability or set of liabilities is subdivided into tranches. Any commitment made by the BNP Paribas Group under a securitization structure (including derivatives and liquidity lines) is considered to be a securitization. The bulk of the BNP Paribas Group's commitments are in the prudential banking portfolio. Securitized exposures are essentially those generated by the BNP Paribas Group. The securitization positions held or acquired by the BNP Paribas Group may also be categorized by its role: of the positions as at December 31, 2020, BNP Paribas was originator of 52%, was sponsor of 34% and was investor of 14%. The risk-weighted assets subject to this type of risk amounted to EUR 14 billion at December 31, 2021, representing 23% of the BNP Paribas Group's total risk-weighted assets, compared to EUR 14 billion at December 31, 2020.

1.1 **A substantial increase in new provisions or a shortfall in the level of previously recorded provisions exposed to credit risk and counterparty risk could adversely affect the BNP Paribas Group's results of operations and financial condition.**

Credit risk and counterparty risk impact the BNP Paribas Group's consolidated financial statements when a customer or counterparty is unable to honor its obligations and when the book value of these obligations in the BNP Paribas Group's records is positive. The customer or counterparty may be a bank, a financial institution, an industrial or commercial enterprise, a government or a government entity, an investment fund, or a natural person. If the default rate of customers or counterparties increases, the BNP Paribas Group may have to record increased charges or provisions in respect of irrecoverable or doubtful loans (Stage 3) or of performing loans (Stages 1 and 2), in response to a deterioration in economic conditions or other factors, which may affect its profitability.

As a result, in connection with its lending activities, the BNP Paribas Group regularly establishes provisions, which are recorded on its income statement in the line item Cost of Risk. These provisions amounted to EUR 2,925 billion at December 31, 2021, representing 34 basis points of outstanding customer loans (compared with 66 basis points at December 31, 2020 and 39 basis points at December 31, 2019). The significant increase in these provisions in 2020 reflects the economic consequences of the health crisis and is an example of the materialization of this risk, while their decrease in 2021 is

explained by a high base in 2020, a limited number of defaults and limited write-backs of provisions on performing loans.

The BNP Paribas Group's overall level of provisions is based on its assessment of prior loss experience, the volume and type of lending being conducted, industry standards, past due loans, economic conditions and other factors related to the recoverability of various loans or statistical analysis based on scenarios applicable to asset classes.

Although the BNP Paribas Group seeks to establish an appropriate level of provisions, its lending businesses may have to increase their provisions for loan losses or sound receivables substantially in the future as a result of deteriorating economic conditions or other causes. Any significant increase in provisions for loan losses or a significant change in the BNP Paribas Group's estimate of the risk of loss inherent in its portfolio of non-impaired loans, as well as the occurrence of loan losses in excess of the related provisions, could have a material adverse effect on the BNP Paribas Group's results of operations and financial condition.

For reference, at December 31, 2021, the ratio of doubtful loans to total loans outstanding was 2.0% and the coverage ratio of these loans (net of guarantees received) by provisions was 73.6%, compared to 2.1% and 71.5%, respectively, as at December 31, 2020. These two ratios are defined in 5.1 *Key figures*.

While the BNP Paribas Group seeks to reduce its exposure to credit risk and counterparty risk by using risk mitigation techniques such as collateralization, obtaining guarantees, entering into credit derivatives and entering into netting agreements, it cannot be certain that these techniques will be effective to offset losses resulting from counterparty defaults that are covered by these techniques. Moreover, the BNP Paribas Group is also exposed to the risk of default by the party providing the credit risk coverage (such as a counterparty in a derivative or a loan insurance contract) or to the risk of loss of value of any collateral. In addition, only a portion of the BNP Paribas Group's overall credit risk and counterparty risk is covered by these techniques. Accordingly, the BNP Paribas Group has very significant exposure to these risks.

1.2 The soundness and conduct of other financial institutions and market participants could adversely affect the BNP Paribas Group.

The BNP Paribas Group's ability to engage in financing, investment and derivative transactions could be adversely affected by the soundness of other financial institutions or market participants. Financial institutions are interrelated as a result of trading, clearing, counterparty, funding or other relationships. As a result, defaults by one or more States or financial institutions, or even rumors or questions about one or more financial institutions, or the financial services industry generally, may lead to market-wide liquidity problems and could lead to further losses or defaults. The BNP Paribas Group has exposure to many counterparties in the financial industry, directly and indirectly, including clearing houses, brokers and dealers, commercial banks, investment banks, mutual and alternative investment funds, and other institutional clients with which it regularly executes transactions. The BNP Paribas Group may also be exposed to risks related to the increasing involvement in the financial sector of players and the introduction of new types of transactions subject to little or no regulation (e.g. unregulated funds, trading venues or crowdfunding platforms). Credit and counterparty risks could be exacerbated if the collateral held by the BNP Paribas Group cannot be realized upon, its decreases in value, or it is liquidated at prices not sufficient to recover the full amount of the loan or derivative exposure due to the BNP Paribas Group or in case of a failure of a significant financial market participant such as a central counterparty.

For reference, counterparty risk exposure related to financial institutions was EUR 25 billion at December 31, 2020, or 12% of the BNP Paribas Group's total counterparty risk exposure, and counterparty risk exposure related to clearing houses was EUR 42 billion, or 19% of the BNP Paribas Group's total counterparty risk exposure.

In addition, fraud or misconduct by financial market participants can have a material adverse effect on financial institutions due in particular to the interrelated nature of the financial markets. An example is the fraud perpetrated by Bernard Madoff that came to light in 2008, as a result of which numerous financial institutions globally, including the BNP Paribas Group, announced losses or exposure to losses in substantial amounts. The BNP Paribas Group remains the subject of various claims in connection

with the Madoff matter; see note 7.b *Legal proceedings and arbitration* to its consolidated financial statements for the period ended December 31, 2021.

Losses resulting from the risks summarized above could materially and adversely affect the BNP Paribas Group's results of operations.

2. Operational Risk

BNP Paribas Group's operational risk is the risk of loss resulting from failed or inadequate internal processes (particularly those involving personnel and information systems) or external events, whether deliberate, accidental or natural (floods, fires, earthquakes, terrorist attacks, etc.). BNP Paribas Group's operational risks cover fraud, human resources risks, legal and reputational risks, non-compliance risks, tax risks, information systems risks, risk of providing inadequate financial services (conduct risk), risk of failure of operational processes including credit processes, or from the use of a model (model risk), as well as potential financial consequences related to reputation risk management. From 2012-2020, BNP Paribas Group's main type of incidents involving operational risk were in "Clients, products and business practices", which represents 62% of the total financial impact, largely as a result of the BNP Paribas Group's agreement with US authorities regarding its review of certain dollar transactions concluded in June 2014. The next largest category of incident for the BNP Paribas Group in operational risk was in "Execution, delivery and process management", accounting for 17% of the financial impact. Between 2012 and 2020, other types of risk in operational risk consisted of external fraud (14%), business disruption and systems failure (3%), employment practices and workplace safety (2%), internal fraud (1%) and damage to physical assets (1%).

The risk-weighted assets subject to this type of risk amounted to EUR 63 billion at December 31, 2021, representing 9% of the BNP Paribas Group's total risk-weighted assets, compared to EUR 71 billion at December 31, 2020.

2.1 The BNP Paribas Group's risk management policies, procedures and methods may leave it exposed to unidentified or unanticipated risks, which could lead to material losses.

The BNP Paribas Group has devoted significant resources to developing its risk management policies, procedures and assessment methods and intends to continue to do so in the future. Nonetheless, the BNP Paribas Group's risk management techniques and strategies may not be fully effective in mitigating its risk exposure in all economic and market environments or against all types of risk, particularly risks that the BNP Paribas Group may have failed to identify or anticipate. The BNP Paribas Group's ability to assess the creditworthiness of its customers or to estimate the values of its assets may be impaired if, as a result of market turmoil such as that experienced in recent years, the models and approaches it uses become less predictive of future behavior, valuations, assumptions or estimates. Some of the BNP Paribas Group's qualitative tools and metrics for managing risk are based on its use of observed historical market behavior. The BNP Paribas Group applies statistical and other tools to these observations to arrive at quantifications of its risk exposures. The process the BNP Paribas Group uses to estimate losses inherent in its credit exposure or estimate the value of certain assets requires difficult, subjective, and complex judgments, including forecasts of economic conditions and how these economic predictions might impair the ability of its borrowers to repay their loans or impact the value of assets, which may, during periods of market disruption or substantial uncertainty, be incapable of accurate estimation and, in turn, impact the reliability of the process. These tools and metrics may fail to predict future risk exposures, e.g. if the BNP Paribas Group does not anticipate or correctly evaluate certain factors in its statistical models, or upon the occurrence of an event deemed extremely unlikely by the tools and metrics. This would limit the BNP Paribas Group's ability to manage its risks. The BNP Paribas Group's losses could therefore be significantly greater than the historical measures indicate. In addition, the BNP Paribas Group's quantified modelling does not take all risks into account. Its more qualitative approach to managing certain risks could prove insufficient, exposing it to material unanticipated losses.

2.2 An interruption in or a breach of the BNP Paribas Group's information systems may cause substantial losses of client or customer information, damage to the BNP Paribas Group's reputation and result in financial losses.

As with most other banks, the BNP Paribas Group relies heavily on communications and information systems to conduct its business. This dependency has increased with the spread of mobile and online banking services, the development of cloud computing, and more generally the use of new technologies. Any failure or interruption or breach in security of these systems could result in failures or interruptions in the BNP Paribas Group's customer relationship management, general ledger, deposit, servicing and/or loan organization systems or could cause the BNP Paribas Group to incur significant costs in recovering and verifying lost data. The BNP Paribas Group cannot provide assurances that such failures or interruptions will not occur or, if they do occur, that they will be adequately addressed.

In addition, the BNP Paribas Group is subject to cybersecurity risk, or risk caused by a malicious and/or fraudulent act, committed virtually, with the intention of manipulating information (confidential data, bank/insurance, technical or strategic), processes and users, in order to cause material losses to the BNP Paribas Group's subsidiaries, employees, partners and clients and/or for the purpose of extortion (ransomware). An increasing number of companies (including financial institutions) have in recent years experienced intrusion attempts or even breaches of their information technology security, some of which have involved sophisticated and highly targeted attacks on their computer networks. Because the techniques used to obtain unauthorized access, disable or degrade service, steal confidential data or sabotage information systems have become more sophisticated, change frequently and often are not recognized until launched against a target, the BNP Paribas Group and its third-party service providers may be unable to anticipate these techniques or to implement in a timely manner effective and efficient countermeasures.

Any failures of or interruptions in the BNP Paribas Group's information systems or those of its providers and any subsequent disclosure of confidential information related to any client, counterpart or employee of the BNP Paribas Group (or any other person) or any intrusion or attack against its communication system could cause significant losses and have an adverse effect on the BNP Paribas Group's reputation, financial condition and results of operations.

Regulatory authorities now consider cybersecurity as a growing systemic risk for the financial sector. They have stressed the need for financial institutions to improve their resilience to cyber-attacks by strengthening internal IT monitoring and control procedures. A successful cyber-attack could therefore expose the Group to a regulatory fine, especially should any personal data from customers be lost.

Moreover, the BNP Paribas Group is exposed to the risk of operational failure or interruption of a clearing agent, foreign markets, clearing houses, custodian banks or any other financial intermediary or external service provider used by the BNP Paribas Group to execute or facilitate financial transactions. Due to its increased interaction with clients, the BNP Paribas Group is also exposed to the risk of operational malfunction of the latter's information systems. The BNP Paribas Group's communications and data systems and those of its clients, service providers and counterparties may also be subject to malfunctions or interruptions by as a result of cyber-crime or cyber-terrorism. The BNP Paribas Group cannot guarantee that these malfunctions or interruptions in its own systems or those of other parties will not occur or that in the event of a cyber-attack, these malfunctions or interruptions will be adequately resolved. These operational malfunctions or interruptions accounted for an average of 3% of operational risk losses over the 2012-2020 period.

2.3 Reputational risk could weigh on the BNP Paribas Group's financial strength and diminish the confidence of clients and counterparties in it.

Considering the highly competitive environment in the financial services industry, a reputation for financial strength and integrity is critical to the BNP Paribas Group's ability to attract and retain customers. The BNP Paribas Group's reputation could be harmed if the means it uses to market and promote its products and services were to be deemed inconsistent with client interests. The

BNP Paribas Group's reputation could also be damaged if, as it increases its client base and the scale of its businesses, its overall procedures and controls dealing with conflicts of interest fail, or appear to fail, to address them properly. Moreover, the BNP Paribas Group's reputation could be damaged by employee misconduct, fraud or misconduct by financial industry participants to which the BNP Paribas Group is exposed, a decline in, a restatement of, or corrections to its financial results, as well as any adverse legal or regulatory action, such as the settlement the BNP Paribas Group entered into with the US authorities in 2014 for violations of US laws and regulations regarding economic sanctions. The loss of business that could result from damage to the BNP Paribas Group's reputation could have an adverse effect on its results of operations and financial position.

3. Market risk

The BNP Paribas Group's market risk is the risk of loss of value caused by an unfavorable trend in prices or market parameters. The parameters affecting the BNP Paribas Group's market risk include, but are not limited to, exchange rates, prices of securities and commodities (whether the price is directly quoted or obtained by reference to a comparable asset), the price of derivatives on an established market and all benchmarks that can be derived from market quotations such as interest rates, credit spreads, volatility or implicit correlations or other similar parameters.

BNP Paribas Group is exposed to market risk mainly through trading activities carried out by the business lines of its Corporate & Institutional Banking (CIB) operating division, primarily in Global Markets, which represented 14.8% of the BNP Paribas Group's revenue in 2021. BNP Paribas Group's trading activities are directly linked to economic relations with clients of these business lines, or indirectly as part of its market making activity.

In addition, the market risk relating to the BNP Paribas Group's banking activities covers its interest rate and foreign exchange rate risk in connection with its activities as a banking intermediary. The "operating" foreign exchange risk exposure relates to net earnings generated by activities conducted in currencies other than the functional currency of the entity concerned. The "structural" foreign exchange risk position of an entity relates to investments in currencies other than the functional currency. In measuring interest rate risk, the BNP Paribas Group defines the concepts of standard rate risk and structural rate risk as the following: the standard rate risk corresponds to the general case, namely when it is possible to define the most appropriate hedging strategy for a given transaction, and the structural rate risk is the interest rate risk for equity and non-interest-bearing current accounts.

BNP Paribas' market risk based on its activities is measured by Value at Risk (VaR), or the maximum potential loss over one year, at a 99.9% confidence level to calculate regulatory capital requirements, and various other market indicators (stressed VaR, Incremental Risk Charge, Comprehensive Risk Measure for credit correlation portfolio) as well as by stress tests and sensitivity analysis compared with market limits.

The risk-weighted assets subject to this type of risk amounted to EUR 25 billion at December 31, 2021, representing 3% of the BNP Paribas Group's total risk-weighted assets, compared to EUR 25 billion at December 31, 2020.

3.1 The BNP Paribas Group may incur significant losses on its trading and investment activities due to market fluctuations and volatility.

The BNP Paribas Group maintains trading and investment positions in the debt, currency, commodity and equity markets, and in unlisted securities, real estate and other asset classes, including through derivative contracts. These positions could be adversely affected by extreme volatility in these markets, i.e. the degree to which prices fluctuate over a particular period in a particular market, regardless of market levels. Moreover, volatility trends that prove substantially different from the BNP Paribas Group's expectations may lead to losses relating to a broad range of other products that the BNP Paribas Group uses, including swaps, forward and future contracts, options and structured products.

To the extent that the BNP Paribas Group owns assets, or has net long positions, in any of those markets, a market downturn could result in losses from a decline in the value of its positions. Conversely, to the extent that the BNP Paribas Group has sold assets that it does not own, or has net short positions in any of those markets, a market upturn could, in spite of the existing limitation of risks and control systems, expose the BNP Paribas Group to potentially substantial losses as it attempts to cover its net short positions by acquiring assets in a rising market. The BNP Paribas Group may from time to time hold a long position in one asset and a short position in another, in order to hedge transactions with clients and/or in view of benefitting from changes in the relative value of the two assets. If, however, the relative value of the two assets changes in a direction or manner that the BNP Paribas Group did not anticipate or against which its positions are not hedged, it might realize a loss on those paired positions. Such losses, if significant, could adversely affect the BNP Paribas Group's results and financial condition. In addition, the BNP Paribas Group's hedging strategies may not be suitable for certain market conditions.

If any of the variety of instruments and strategies that the BNP Paribas Group uses to hedge its exposure to various types of risk in its businesses is not effective, the Group may incur losses. Many of its strategies are based on historical trading patterns and correlations. For example, if the BNP Paribas Group holds a long position in an asset, it may hedge that position by taking a short position in another asset where the short position has historically moved in a direction that would offset a change in the value of the long position. However, the hedge may only be partial, or the strategies used may not protect against all future risks or may not be fully effective in mitigating the BNP Paribas Group's risk exposure in all market environments or against all types of risk in the future. Unexpected market developments may also reduce the effectiveness of the BNP Paribas Group's hedging strategies, as shown by the losses incurred by the Group's equity derivatives activities in the first quarter of 2020, due in particular to the market environment. In addition, the manner in which gains and losses resulting from certain ineffective hedges are recorded may result in additional volatility in the BNP Paribas Group's reported earnings.

The BNP Paribas Group uses a "Value at Risk" (VaR) model to quantify its exposure to potential losses from market risks, and also performs stress testing with a view to quantifying its potential exposure in extreme scenarios (see *Market Risk Stress Testing Framework* in section 5.7 *Market risk*). However, these techniques rely on statistical methodologies based on historical observations, which may turn out to be unreliable predictors of future market conditions. Accordingly, the BNP Paribas Group's exposure to market risk in extreme scenarios could be greater than the exposures predicted by its quantification techniques.

3.2 The BNP Paribas Group may generate lower revenues from commission and fee-based businesses during market downturns and declines in activity.

Commissions represented 23% of the BNP Paribas Group's total revenues in 2021. Financial and economic conditions affect the number and size of transactions for which the BNP Paribas Group provides securities underwriting, financial advisory and other Investment Banking services. These revenues, which include fees from these services, are directly related to the number and size of the transactions in which the BNP Paribas Group participates and can thus be significantly affected by economic or financial changes that are unfavorable to its Investment Banking business and clients. In addition, because the fees that the BNP Paribas Group charges for managing its clients' portfolios are in many cases based on the value or performance of those portfolios, a market downturn that reduces the value of its clients' portfolios or increases the amount of withdrawals would reduce the revenues it receives from its asset management, equity derivatives and Private Banking businesses. Independently of market changes, the development of index portfolios or the below-market performance by the BNP Paribas Group's mutual funds may lead to reduced revenues from the BNP Paribas Group's asset management business, and increased withdrawals and reduced inflows for these vehicles. A reduced level of revenues from the abovementioned commission and fee-based businesses may have a material adverse impact on the BNP Paribas Group's financial results.

3.3 Adjustments to the carrying value of the BNP Paribas Group's securities and derivatives portfolios and the BNP Paribas Group's own debt could have an adverse effect on its net income and shareholders' equity.

The carrying value of the BNP Paribas Group's securities and derivatives portfolios and certain other assets, as well as its own debt, in its balance sheet is adjusted as of each financial statement date. As at December 31, 2021, on the assets side of the BNP Paribas Group's balance sheet, financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss, derivative financial instruments used for hedging purposes and financial assets at fair value through shareholders' equity amounted to EUR 683 billion, EUR 9 billion and EUR 46 billion respectively. In the liabilities column, financial instruments at fair value through profit or loss and derivative financial instruments used for hedging purposes amounted to EUR 714 billion and EUR 10 billion, respectively, at December 31, 2021. Most of the adjustments are made on the basis of changes in fair value of the BNP Paribas Group's assets or debt during an accounting period, with the changes recorded either in the income statement or directly in shareholders' equity. Changes that are recorded in the income statement, to the extent not offset by opposite changes in the value of other assets, affect the BNP Paribas Group's consolidated revenues and, as a result, its net income. A downward adjustment of the fair value of the BNP Paribas Group's securities and derivatives portfolios may lead to reduced shareholders' equity, and to the extent not offset by opposite changes in the value of the BNP Paribas Group's liabilities, the BNP Paribas Group's capital adequacy ratios may also be lowered. The fact that fair value adjustments are recorded in one accounting period does not mean that further adjustments will not be needed in subsequent periods.

4. Liquidity and funding risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the BNP Paribas Group will not be able to honor its commitments or unwind or offset a position due to market conditions or specific factors within a specified period of time and at a reasonable cost. It reflects the risk of not being able to cope with net cash outflows, including collateral requirements, over short- to long-term horizons. The BNP Paribas Group's specific risk can be assessed through its short-term liquidity ratio (Liquidity Coverage Ratio – LCR), which analyses the hedging of net cash outflows during a thirty-day stress period. The monthly average in 2021 of the BNP Paribas Group's LCR was 143%. The liquidity reserve was EUR 452 billion at the end of 2021.

4.1 The BNP Paribas Group's access to and cost of funding could be adversely affected by a resurgence of financial crises, worsening economic conditions, rating downgrades, increases in sovereign credit spreads or other factors.

The financial crisis, the eurozone sovereign debt crisis as well as the general macroeconomic environment have at times adversely affected the availability and cost of funding for European banks in recent years. This was due to several factors, including a sharp increase in the perception of bank credit risk due to exposure to sovereign debt in particular, credit rating downgrades of sovereigns and of banks, and debt market speculation. Many European banks, including the BNP Paribas Group, at various points during these periods experienced restricted access to wholesale debt markets and to the interbank market, as well as a general increase in their cost of funding. In the context of the health crisis, the European Central Bank ("ECB") set up refinancing facilities designed to foster the banks' financing of the economy (*targeted longer-term refinancing options* or "TLTRO"), on which the BNP Paribas Group has drawn. If such adverse credit market conditions were to reappear in the event of prolonged stagnation of growth, deflation, resurgence of the financial crisis, another sovereign debt crisis or new forms of financial crises, factors relating to the financial industry or the economy in general (including the economic consequences of the health crisis) or to the BNP Paribas Group in particular, the effect on the liquidity of the European financial sector in general and the BNP Paribas Group in particular could be materially adverse and have a negative impact on the BNP Paribas Group's results of operations and financial condition.

4.2 Protracted market declines can reduce the BNP Paribas Group's liquidity, making it harder to sell assets and possibly leading to material losses. Accordingly, the BNP Paribas Group must ensure that its assets and liabilities properly match in order to avoid exposure to losses.

In some of the BNP Paribas Group's businesses, particularly Global Markets (which represented 14.8% of the BNP Paribas Group's revenue in 2021) and Asset/Liability Management, protracted market movements, particularly asset price declines, can reduce the level of activity in the market or reduce market liquidity. These developments can lead to material losses if the BNP Paribas Group cannot close out deteriorating positions in a timely way. This is particularly true for assets that are intrinsically illiquid. Assets that are not traded on stock exchanges or other public trading markets, such as certain derivative contracts between financial institutions, may have values that the BNP Paribas Group calculates using models rather than publicly-quoted prices. Monitoring the deterioration of prices of assets like these is difficult and could lead to significant unanticipated losses (see section 5.8, paragraph *Stress tests and liquidity reserve* of the 2020 Universal Registration Document).

The BNP Paribas Group is exposed to the risk that the maturity, interest rate or currencies of its assets might not match those of its liabilities. The timing of payments on certain of the BNP Paribas Group's assets is uncertain, and if the BNP Paribas Group receives lower revenues than expected at a given time, it might require additional market funding in order to meet its obligations on its liabilities. While the BNP Paribas Group imposes strict limits on the gaps between its assets and its liabilities as part of its risk management procedures, it cannot be certain that these limits will be fully effective to eliminate potential losses arising from asset and liability mismatches.

4.3 Any downgrade of the Group's credit ratings could weigh heavily on the profitability of the Group.

Credit ratings have a significant impact on the BNP Paribas Group's liquidity. On June 24, 2021, Standard & Poor's confirmed the long-term rating of BNP Paribas SA's deposits and senior preferred debt rating as A+, confirmed its short-term rating as A-1 and revised the outlook from negative to stable. On September 23, 2021, Fitch maintained its long-term deposits and senior preferred debt rating for BNP Paribas SA at AA- and F1+ and revised its outlook to stable. On December 4, 2020, Moody's confirmed its long-term deposits and senior preferred debt rating as Aa3, and confirmed its short-term rating as P-1, with a stable outlook. On July 19, 2021, DBRS confirmed BNP Paribas SA's senior preferred debt rating as AA(low), as well as its short-term rating as R-1(middle) with a stable outlook. A downgrade in the BNP Paribas Group's credit rating could affect the liquidity and competitive position of the Group. It could also increase the BNP Paribas Group's borrowing costs, limit access to the capital markets or trigger additional obligations under its covered bonds or under certain bilateral provisions in some trading, derivative or collateralized financing contacts.

In addition, the BNP Paribas Group's cost of obtaining long-term unsecured funding from market investors is also directly related to its credit spreads, which in turn depend to a certain extent on its credit ratings. Increases in credit spreads can significantly increase the BNP Paribas Group's cost of funding. Changes in credit spreads are continuous, market-driven, and subject at times to unpredictable and highly volatile movements. Credit spreads are also influenced by market perceptions of the BNP Paribas Group's creditworthiness. Furthermore, credit spreads may be influenced by movements in the cost to purchasers of credit default swaps referenced to the BNP Paribas Group's debt obligations, which are influenced both by the credit quality of those obligations, and by a number of market factors that are beyond the control of the BNP Paribas Group.

5. Risks related to the macroeconomic and market environment

5.1 Adverse economic and financial conditions have in the past had and may in the future have an impact on the BNP Paribas Group and the markets in which it operates.

The BNP Paribas Group's business is sensitive to changes in the financial markets and more generally to economic conditions in France (28% of the Group's revenues at December 31, 2020), other countries in Europe (47% of the Group's revenues at December 31, 2020) and the rest of the world (25% of the Group's revenues at December 31, 2020, including 6% of generated by Bank of the West in the United States). A deterioration in economic conditions in the markets where the BNP Paribas Group operates and in the economic environment could in the future have some or all of the following impacts:

- adverse economic conditions affect the business and operations of the BNP Paribas Group's customers, reducing credit demand and trading volume and resulting in an increased rate of default on loans and other receivables, in part as a result of the deterioration of the financial capacity of companies and households;
- a decline in market prices of bonds, equities and commodities affect the businesses of the BNP Paribas Group, including in particular trading, Investment Banking and asset management revenues;
- macroeconomic policies adopted in response to actual or anticipated economic conditions can have unintended effects, and are likely to impact market parameters such as interest rates and foreign exchange rates, which in turn can affect the BNP Paribas Group's businesses that are most exposed to market risk;
- perceived favorable economic conditions generally or in specific business sectors can result in asset price bubbles, which could in turn exacerbate the impact of corrections when conditions become less favorable;
- a significant economic disruption (such as the global financial crisis of 2008, the European sovereign debt crisis of 2011 or the Covid-19 pandemic since 2020) can have a substantial impact on all of the BNP Paribas Group's activities, particularly if the disruption is characterized by an absence of market liquidity that makes it difficult to sell certain categories of assets at their estimated market value or at all. These disruptions could also lead to a decline in transaction commissions and consumer loans;
- a significant deterioration of market and economic conditions resulting from, among other things, from adverse political and geopolitical events such as natural disasters, geopolitical tensions, health risks such as the Covid-19 health crisis and its aftermath, the fear or recurrence of new epidemics or pandemics, acts of terrorism, societal unrest, cyber-attacks, military conflicts or threats thereof and related risks can affect the operating environment for the BNP Paribas Group episodically or for extended periods.

Since 2020, economies and financial markets have been, and should continue into 2022 to be, particularly sensitive to a number of factors, including the evolution of the Covid-19 pandemic and its economic consequences, in particular the increase in sovereign and corporate debt that pre-dated the health crisis and has been aggravated by it, as well as the strength and staying power of the economic recovery following the crisis' peak, which is itself dependent on a number of factors (see section 7.1, *Epidemics and pandemics, including the ongoing coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and their economic consequences may adversely affect the Group's business, operations, results and financial condition*).

In addition, numerous factors may impact the economy and the financial markets in the coming months or years, in particular geopolitical tensions, notably in Eastern Europe, political risks directly affecting Europe, general trends in consumer and commodity prices (themselves affected by the above-mentioned factors) characterized by high inflation, corresponding trends in wages, supply chain pressures, the changing economic situation in certain countries or regions that contribute to overall global economic growth, tensions around international trade and, as discussed below, the evolution of monetary policy and interest rates.

More generally, the volatility of financial markets could adversely affect the BNP Paribas Group's trading and investment positions in the debt, currency, commodity and equity markets, as well as its positions in other investments. For reference, Global Markets accounted for 14,8% of the BNP Paribas Group's revenues in 2021. Severe market disruptions and extreme market volatility have occurred often in recent years and may occur again in the future, which could result in significant losses for the BNP Paribas Group. Such losses may extend to a broad range of trading and hedging products, including swaps, forward and future contracts, options and structured products. The volatility of financial markets makes it difficult to predict trends and implement effective trading strategies.

It is difficult to predict when economic or market declines or other market disruptions will occur, and which markets will be most significantly impacted. If economic or market conditions in France or elsewhere in Europe, or Global Markets more generally, were to deteriorate or become more volatile, the BNP Paribas Group's operations could be disrupted, and its business, results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected.

5.2 Significant interest rate changes could adversely affect the BNP Paribas Group's revenues or profitability. The prolonged low interest rate environment carries inherent systemic risks, which could impact the BNP Paribas Group's income or profitability, and any exit from such environment would also carry risks.

The net interest income recorded by the BNP Paribas Group during any given period significantly affects its overall revenues and profitability for that period. Interest rates are highly sensitive to many factors beyond the BNP Paribas Group's control, such as the rate of inflation, country-specific monetary policies and certain decisions concerning regulatory capital. Changes in market interest rates could affect the interest rates charged on interest-earning assets differently than the interest rates paid on interest-bearing liabilities. Any adverse change in the yield curve could cause a decline in net interest income generated by the BNP Paribas Group's lending activities. In addition, increases in the interest rates at which the BNP Paribas Group's short-term funding is available and maturity mismatches may adversely affect its profitability.

Since the 2008-2009 financial crisis, global markets have been characterized by an extended period of low interest rates. This low interest rate environment has weighed significantly on banks' profitability, including that of the BNP Paribas Group, for a number of years. The relative impact on banks depends, in particular, on the proportion of their revenues represented by net interest income; this proportion was 46% for the BNP Paribas Group in 2021 (see balance sheet as at 31 December 2021, and the reconciliation table IFRS5, in the Press release). The situation has worsened since 2019 with the introduction of negative rates, particularly on placements by European banks with the ECB. If the low or even negative interest rate environment continues, despite higher inflation and the central banks' reactions to it, the BNP Paribas Group's profitability could be affected or even decline. In this respect, central banks have—in 2020 and again in 2021—increased their monetary support in the face of the recession caused by the health crisis of 2020 and 2021. A reduction in these accommodative policies by central banks, particularly in response to increasing inflation, has begun to be implemented by the US Federal Reserve, the Bank of England and the ECB. For example, the ECB has indicated that it will cease the emergency pandemic purchase program (EPPP) in March 2022 and its targeted longer-term refinancing operations (TLTRO 3) in June 2022.

During periods of low interest rates, interest rate spreads tend to tighten, and the BNP Paribas Group may be unable to lower interest rates on deposits sufficiently to offset reduced income from lending at lower interest rates. Net interest income amounted to EUR 21,312 million in 2020 and EUR 21,209 million in 2021 respectively. On an indicative basis, over one-, two- and three-year timeframes, the sensitivity of revenues at December 31, 2020 to a parallel, instantaneous and definitive increase in market rates of +50 basis points (+0.5%) across all currencies has an impact of +EUR 125 million, +EUR 309 million and +EUR 600 million, respectively, or +0.3%, +0.7% and +1.4% of the Group's net banking income. The negative interest rate environment in which banks are charged for cash deposited with central banks, whereas banks typically do not charge clients for deposits, weighs significantly on banks' margins. In addition, the BNP Paribas Group has been facing and may continue to face an increase in early repayment and refinancing of mortgages and other fixed-rate consumer and corporate

loans as clients take advantage of lower borrowing costs. This, along with the issuance of new loans at the low prevailing market interest rates, has resulted and may continue to result in a decrease in the average interest rate of the BNP Paribas Group's portfolio of loans thereby causing a decline in its net interest income from lending activities. Moreover, an environment of persistently low interest rates can also have the effect of flattening the yield curve in the market more generally, which could reduce the premium generated by the BNP Paribas Group from its funding activities. A flattening yield curve can also influence financial institutions to engage in riskier activities in an effort to earn the desired level of returns, which can increase overall market risk and volatility. Low interest rates may also affect the profitability and even the solvency of the insurance activities of French banks, including the BNP Paribas Group, particularly due to the prevalence in the market of life insurance contracts backed by euro-denominated funds, which may not be able to generate sufficient returns to be competitive with other investment products. Low interest rates may also adversely affect commissions charged by the BNP Paribas Group's asset management subsidiaries on money market and other fixed income products. A reduction in credit spreads and decline in Retail Banking income resulting from lower portfolio interest rates may adversely affect the profitability of the BNP Paribas Group's Retail Banking operations.

On the other hand, the end of a period of prolonged low interest rates, in particular due to the normalization and tightening of monetary policy (as already initiated by some central banks and expected by the market) following the economy's recovery, or inflation at a level higher or lasting longer than expected by central banks, would also carry risks. If market interest rates were to rise generally, a portfolio featuring significant amounts of lower interest loans and fixed income assets would be expected to decline in value. If the BNP Paribas Group's hedging strategies are ineffective or provide only a partial hedge against such a change in value, the BNP Paribas Group could incur losses. Any sharper or more rapid than expected tightening could have a negative impact on the economic recovery. On the lending side, it could in particular cause stress in loan and bond portfolios, possibly leading to an increase in non-performing exposures and defaults. More generally, the reduction of accommodative monetary policies already initiated by some central banks after a period of substantial liquidity infusions from asset purchases by central banks may, even if implemented progressively, lead to severe corrections in certain markets or asset classes (e.g. non-Investment Grade corporate and sovereign borrowers, certain sectors of equities and real estate) that particularly benefited (including from very low risk premiums as compared to historical averages) from the prolonged low interest rate and high liquidity environment, and such corrections could potentially be contagious to financial markets generally, including through substantially increased volatility.

5.3 Given the global scope of its activities, the BNP Paribas Group may be vulnerable to risk in certain countries where it operates and may be vulnerable to political, macroeconomic or financial changes in the countries and regions where it operates.

The BNP Paribas Group is subject to country risk, meaning the risk that economic, financial, political or social conditions in a given foreign country in which it operates could adversely affect the BNP Paribas Group's operations, or its results, or its financial condition, or its business. The BNP Paribas Group monitors country risk and takes it into account in the fair value adjustments and cost of risk recorded in its financial statements. However, a significant change in political or macroeconomic environments may require it to record additional charges or to incur losses beyond the amounts previously written down in its financial statements. In addition, factors specific to a country or region in which the BNP Paribas Group operates could make it difficult for it to carry out its business and lead to losses or impairment of assets.

At December 31, 2020, the BNP Paribas Group's loan portfolio consisted of receivables from borrowers located in France (34%), Belgium and Luxembourg (15%), Italy (10%), other European countries (19%), North America, including Bank of the West, (12%), Asia (5%) and the rest of the world (5%). Adverse conditions that particularly affect these countries and regions would have a significant impact on the BNP Paribas Group. In addition, the BNP Paribas Group has significant exposures in countries outside the OECD, which are subject to risks that include political instability, unpredictable regulation and taxation, expropriation and other risks that are less present in more developed economies.

6. Regulatory Risks

6.1 **Laws and regulations adopted in recent years, as well as current and future legislative and regulatory developments, may significantly impact the BNP Paribas Group and the financial and economic environment in which it operates.**

Laws and regulations have been enacted in the past few years, in particular in France, Europe and the United States, with a view to introducing a number of changes, some permanent, in the financial environment. The impact of the measures has changed substantially the environment in which the BNP Paribas Group and other financial institutions operate.

The measures that have been adopted include:

- more stringent capital and liquidity requirements (particularly for global systemically important banks such as the BNP Paribas Group), as well as changes to the risk-weighting methodologies and the methods of using internal models that have led, could have led, or could lead to increased capital requirements;
- restrictions on certain types of activities considered as speculative undertaken by commercial banks that are prohibited or need to be ring-fenced in subsidiaries (particularly proprietary trading) and are subject to prudential requirements and autonomous funding;
- prohibitions or restrictions on fees for certain types of financial products or activities;
- enhanced recovery and resolution regimes, in particular the Bank Recovery and Resolution Directive of May 15, 2014 (the “BRRD”), as amended from time to time, which strengthens powers to prevent and resolve banking crises in order to ensure that losses are borne largely by the creditors and shareholders of the banks and in order to keep the costs incurred by taxpayers to a minimum;
- the establishment of the national resolution funds by the BRRD and the creation of the Single Resolution Board (the SRB) by the European Parliament and Council of the European Union in a resolution dated July 15, 2014 (the SRM Regulation), as amended from time to time, which can initiate resolution proceedings for banking institutions such as the BNP Paribas Group, and the Single Resolution Fund (the SRF), the financing of which by the BNP Paribas Group (up to its annual contribution) can be significant;
- the establishment of national deposit guarantee schemes and a proposed European deposit guarantee scheme or deposit insurance which will gradually cover all or part of the guarantee schemes of participating countries;
- increased internal control and reporting requirements with respect to certain activities;
- the implementation of regulatory stress tests (including in relation to climate change risk) which could lead to additional regulatory capital requirements (see *Market Risk Stress Testing Framework* in section 5.7 *Market risk* of the 2020 Universal Registration Document)
- greater powers granted to the relevant authorities to combat money laundering and terrorism financing;
- more stringent governance and conduct of business rules and restrictions and increased taxes on employee compensation over specified levels;
- measures to improve the transparency, efficiency and integrity of financial markets and in particular the regulation of high frequency trading, more extensive market abuse regulations, increased regulation of certain types of financial products including mandatory reporting of derivative and securities financing transactions, requirements either to mandatorily clear, or otherwise mitigate risks in relation to, over-the-counter derivative transactions (including through posting of collateral in respect of non-centrally cleared derivatives);
- the taxation of financial transactions;
- enhanced protection of personal data and cybersecurity requirements;
- enhanced disclosure requirements, including through the introduction of new disclosure requirements on (i) how banking groups providing asset management services such as the BNP Paribas Group integrate sustainability risks or negative impacts, sustainable investment objectives

- or the promotion of environmental or social attributes when making investment decisions, and (ii) how and to what extent banking groups themselves finance or develop economic activities that can be considered environmentally sustainable as defined in the European Taxonomy; and
- the introduction of new requirements for the integration of climate risk into the risk measurement and management systems of banking groups, including through the publication of proposals for banks to manage and disclose climate risk; and
- strengthening the powers of supervisory bodies, such as the French Prudential Supervision and Resolution Authority (the “ACPR”) and the creation of new authorities, including the adoption of the Single Resolution Mechanism (the SRM) in October 2013, pursuant to which the BNP Paribas Group is under the direct supervision of the ECB.

These measures may have a significant adverse impact. For example, the introduction of a required contribution to the Single Resolution Fund resulted in a substantial additional expense for the BNP Paribas Group (the Group made a EUR 967 billion contribution to the Single Resolution Fund in 2021).

Measures relating to the banking sector could be further amended, expanded or strengthened. Moreover, additional measures could be adopted in other areas. It is impossible to predict what additional measures will be adopted or what their exact content will be, and, given the complexity of the issues and the uncertainty surrounding them, to determine their impact on the BNP Paribas Group. The effect of these measures, whether already adopted or that may be adopted in the future, has been and could continue to be a decrease in the BNP Paribas Group’s ability to allocate its capital and capital resources to financing, limit its ability to diversify risks, reduce the availability of certain financing and liquidity resources, increase the cost of financing, increase the cost of compliance, increase the cost or reduce the demand for the products and services offered by the BNP Paribas Group, require the BNP Paribas Group to proceed with internal reorganizations, structural changes or reallocations, affect the ability of the BNP Paribas Group to carry on certain activities or to attract and/or retain talent and, more generally, affect its competitiveness and profitability, which could have an impact on its profitability, financial condition and operating results. As a recent example, the European Commission presented on October 27, 2021 a legislative package to finalize the implementation within the European Union of the Basel III agreement adopted by the Group of Central Governors and Heads of Supervision (GHOS) on December 7, 2017. This legislative package will in the next stage be discussed by the European Parliament and Council with a view to agreeing on a final text. In the impact assessment accompanying the legislative package, the European Commission estimated, on the basis of an EBA impact study dated December 2020 and of additional European Commission’s estimates for some EU specific adjustments, that the implementation of the final Basel III standards may result in an average increase in total minimum capital requirements ranging between 6.4% and 8.4% after a full implementation of the reform. On the basis of the EBA’s updated impact analysis taking into account the combined effect of the reform and the potential consequences of the Covid-19 crisis, the European Commission opted to apply the new capital requirements to EU banks as from January 1, 2025, with a phase-in period during which the requirements will be gradually increased through 2030 (and 2032 for certain requirements). On this basis, the Group has indicated a potential increase of 8% in its risk-weighted assets in 2025, which implies a potential 8% increase in total minimum capital requirements resulting from the finalization of Basel 3 (full). This estimate is subject to change depending on potential changes in the draft text, in the Group and the macroeconomic context.

The BNP Paribas Group is subject to extensive and evolving regulatory regimes in the jurisdictions in which it operates. The BNP Paribas Group faces the risk of changes in legislation or regulation in all of the countries in which it operates, including, but not limited to, the following: monetary, liquidity, interest rate and other policies of central banks and regulatory authorities; changes in government or regulatory policy that may significantly influence investor decisions, in particular in the markets in which the BNP Paribas Group operates; changes in regulatory requirements applicable to the financial industry, such as rules relating to applicable governance, remunerations, capital adequacy and liquidity frameworks, restrictions on activities considered as speculative and recovery and resolution frameworks; changes in securities regulations as well as in financial reporting, disclosure and market abuse regulations; changes in the regulation of certain types of transactions and investments, such as derivatives and securities financing transactions and money market funds; changes in the regulation of market infrastructures, such as trading venues, central counterparties, central securities depositories, and payment and settlement systems; changes in the regulation of payment services, crowdfunding and fintech; changes in the regulation of protection of personal data and cybersecurity; changes in tax

legislation or the application thereof; changes in accounting norms; changes in rules and procedures relating to internal controls, risk management and compliance; and expropriation, nationalization, price controls, exchange controls, confiscation of assets and changes in legislation relating to foreign ownership.

These changes, the scope and implications of which are highly unpredictable, could substantially affect the BNP Paribas Group and have an adverse effect on its business, financial condition and results of operations. Certain reforms not directed specifically at financial institutions, such as measures relating to the funds industry or promoting technological innovation (such as open data projects), could facilitate the entry of new players in the financial services sector or otherwise affect the BNP Paribas Group's business model, competitiveness and profitability, which could in turn affect its financial condition and results of operations.

Finally, the regulatory accommodations implemented temporarily by national and European regulatory authorities in the context of the health crisis have either lapsed or are expected to lapse gradually, although their remaining course is not currently certain (see section 7.1, *Epidemics and pandemics, including the ongoing coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and their economic consequences may adversely affect the Group's business, operations, results and financial condition*).

6.2 The BNP Paribas Group may incur substantial fines and other administrative and criminal penalties for non-compliance with applicable laws and regulations, and may also incur losses in related (or unrelated) litigation with private parties.

The BNP Paribas Group is exposed to regulatory compliance risk, i.e. the failure to comply fully with the laws, regulations, codes of conduct, professional norms or recommendations applicable to the financial services industry. This risk is exacerbated by the adoption by different countries of multiple and occasionally diverging and even conflicting legal or regulatory requirements. Besides damage to the BNP Paribas Group's reputation and private rights of action (including class actions), non-compliance could lead to material legal proceedings, fines and expenses (including fines and expenses in excess of recorded provisions), public reprimand, enforced suspension of operations or, in extreme cases, withdrawal by the authorities of operating licenses. This risk is further exacerbated by continuously increasing regulatory scrutiny of financial institutions as well as substantial increases in the quantum of applicable fines and penalties. Moreover, litigation by private parties against financial institutions has substantially increased in recent years. Accordingly, the BNP Paribas Group faces significant legal risk in its operations, and the volume and amount of damages claimed in litigation, regulatory proceedings and other adversarial proceedings against financial services firms have substantially increased in recent years and may increase further. The BNP Paribas Group may record provisions in this respect as indicated in note 4.m to the consolidated financial statements (*Provisions for contingencies and charges*).

In this respect, on June 30, 2014 the BNP Paribas Group entered into a series of agreements with, and was the subject of several orders issued by, US federal and New York state government agencies and regulatory authorities in settlement of investigations into violations of US laws and regulations regarding economic sanctions. The fines and penalties imposed on the BNP Paribas Group as part of this settlement included, among other things, the payment of monetary penalties amounting in the aggregate to USD 8.97 billion (EUR 6.6 billion) and guilty pleas by BNP Paribas SA, the parent company of the BNP Paribas Group, to charges of having violated US federal criminal law and New York State criminal law. Following this settlement, the BNP Paribas Group remains subject to increased scrutiny by regulatory authorities (including via the presence of an independent consultant within the BNP Paribas Group) who are monitoring its compliance with a remediation plan agreed with them.

The BNP Paribas Group is currently involved in various litigations and investigations as summarized in note 7.b Contingent liabilities: legal proceedings and arbitration to its consolidated financial statements for the period ended December 31, 2020. It may become involved in further such matters at any point. No assurance can be given that an adverse outcome in one or more of such matters would not have a material adverse effect on the BNP Paribas Group's operating results for any particular period.

6.3 The BNP Paribas Group could experience an unfavorable change in circumstances, causing it to become subject to a resolution proceeding: BNP Paribas Group security holders could suffer losses as a result.

The BRRD, SRM Regulation and the Ordinance of August 20, 2015, as amended from time to time, confer upon the ACPR or the SRB the power to commence resolution proceedings for a banking institution, such as the BNP Paribas Group, with a view to ensure the continuity of critical functions, to avoid the risks of contagion and to recapitalize or restore the viability of the institution. These powers are to be implemented so that, subject to certain exceptions, losses are borne first by shareholders, then by holders of additional capital instruments qualifying as Tier 1 and Tier 2 (such as subordinated bonds), then by the holders of non-preferred senior debt and finally by the holders of senior preferred debt, all in accordance with the order of their claims in normal insolvency proceedings. For reference, the BNP Paribas Group's medium- to long-term wholesale financing at December 31, 2021 consisted of the following: EUR 9 billion in hybrid Tier 1 debt, EUR 23 billion in Tier 2 subordinated debt, EUR 70 billion in senior unsecured non-preferred debt, EUR 67 billion in senior unsecured preferred debt and EUR 17 billion in senior secured debt.

Resolution authorities have broad powers to implement resolution measures with respect to institutions and groups subject to resolution proceedings, which may include (without limitation): the total or partial sale of the institution's business to a third party or a bridge institution, the separation of assets, the replacement or substitution of the institution as obligor in respect of debt instruments, the full or partial write-down of capital instruments, the dilution of capital instruments through the issuance of new equity, the full or partial write-down or conversion into equity of debt instruments, modifications to the terms of debt instruments (including altering the maturity and/or the amount of interest payable and/or imposing a temporary suspension on payments), discontinuing the listing and admission to trading of financial instruments, the dismissal of managers or the appointment of a special manager (*administrateur spécial*).

Certain powers, including the full or partial write-down of capital instruments, the dilution of capital instruments through the issuance of new equity, the full or partial write-down or conversion into equity of additional capital instruments qualifying as Tier 1 and Tier 2 (such as subordinated bonds), can also be exercised as a precautionary measure, outside of resolution proceedings and/or pursuant to the European Commission's State Aid framework if the institution requires exceptional public financial support.

The implementation of these tools and powers with respect to the BNP Paribas Group may result in significant structural changes to the BNP Paribas Group (including as a result of asset or business sales or the creation of bridge institutions) and in a partial or total write-down, modification or variation of claims of shareholders and creditors. Such powers may also result, after any transfer of all or part of the BNP Paribas Group's business or separation of any of its assets, in the holders of securities (even in the absence of any such write-down or conversion) being left as the creditors of the BNP Paribas Group whose remaining business or assets are insufficient to support the claims of all or any of the creditors of the Group.

7. Risks related to the BNP Paribas Group's growth in its current environment

7.1 Epidemics and pandemics, including the ongoing coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic, and their economic consequences may adversely affect the Group's business, operations, results and financial condition.

A global pandemic linked to a novel strain of coronavirus (Covid-19) has severely disrupted economies and financial markets worldwide since 2020. The introduction of lockdown measures and other restrictions initially caused economies in many regions to contract, trade to decline, production capacity

to decrease, growth forecasts to be cut and supply chains to be disrupted. In a second phase, the roll-out of vaccination campaigns and the adaptation of economic actors allowed the gradual adaptation of these measures and restrictions, leading to a recovery in economic activity. As a result, various growth forecasts converge on a strong economic recovery. For example, according to the IMF's January 2022 estimates and projections, world economic growth is expected to be 5.9% in 2021 and 4.4% in 2022.

Nevertheless, uncertainties remain as to the strength and sustainability of the recovery, both in terms of the public health situation (e.g., the appearance of new strains of the virus) and the economy (e.g., the extent and durability of the recovery). In this respect, the outlook for 2022 was lowered for both emerging and developing countries, as well as for advanced countries, compared to the IMF projections published in October 2021. Various complicating factors will affect the trajectory of economic recovery. International supply chains – which had been strained severely by the pandemic – related mobility restrictions – remain heavily disrupted, generating shortages of certain consumer goods (such as a dearth of semiconductors causing delays in the production of telephones and automobiles) and oil and gas supply and labor market constraints, having both specific (e.g. raw materials price increases) and general (i.e., inflation rate) effects on prices.

Further, while various governments and central banks implemented and supplemented measures to support the economy and its recovery – in order to mitigate the adverse economic and market consequences of the pandemic – there can be no assurance that such measures will suffice to redress the pandemic's negative impact on the regional or global economy over time, entirely compensate for or mitigate regional or global recessions (which occurred and could recur), or fully and over time prevent possible disruptions to the financial markets. The lifting of government support measures could also harm economic activity and the financial strength of economic actors. Overall, the crisis has impacted and may continue to impact the economies of the principal countries where the BNP Paribas Group operates, particularly its domestic markets (France, Italy, Belgium and Luxembourg), which collectively represented 57% of its total gross credit exposures as of December 31, 2021. The Group's results and financial condition have been and could continue to be adversely impacted by the effects of the crisis related to the pandemic and the resulting disruption of economic activity in the Group's principal markets. In particular, the crisis significantly affected the Group's cost of risk in 2020, reflecting macroeconomic projections based on various scenarios applying the framework in place prior to the crisis. Under this framework, macroeconomic projections – specifically GDP estimates and forecasts – are key to calculating the cost of risk, and the consequences of the health crisis included a decrease in GDP growth estimates for many of the Group's markets. The cost of risk calculation also takes into account the specific dynamics of the crisis in 2020, along with anticipated future impacts on credit and counterparty risk, including the consequences of lockdown measures on economic activity and the impact of government support measures and decisions. These factors contributed to the substantial increase in the Group's cost of risk in 2020 (66 basis points).

The 2021 fiscal year showed an improvement with an increase in revenues of 4.4% to EUR 46,235 billion and an increase in net income attributable to the Group, due to the increase in Domestic Markets revenues (+5.2% compared to 2020) with the rebound of the economy and the resilience of CIB revenues (+3.4% compared to 2020), but also by the decrease in the cost of risk (-48.8% compared to 2020), particularly in connection with improving economic forecasts. Nevertheless, revenues in the International Financial Services businesses remain impacted by the consequences of the health crisis (-1.2% compared 2020).

However, developments in the current health crisis and market conditions have characteristics that could increase the probability and magnitude of various existing risks faced by the Group such as: i) pressure on revenues due in particular to (a) prolongation of the low interest rate environment and (b) lower revenues from fees and commissions; ii) renewed heightened risk linked to a an economic slowdown due to inflationary pressures (energy prices, labor market tensions), supply chain disruption or withdrawal of government support measures; iii) risk of financial market disruption in the event of poorly anticipated changes in monetary policies and iv) higher risk-weighted assets due to the deterioration of risk parameters, hence affecting the Group's capital position.

The Group's results and financial condition could also be harmed by negative trends in the financial markets, to the extent that the pandemic initially caused extreme market conditions (volatility spikes, a sharp drop in equity markets, tensions on spreads, specific asset markets on hold, etc.). Uncertainties about the scope and durability of the economic recovery, the lightening or strengthening of government support measures, and the pressures linked to supply chains and raw material procurement have

generated and could generate unfavorable market conditions. Thus, unfavorable market conditions had and could have an adverse impact on the Group's market activities, which accounted for 14.8% of its consolidated revenues in 2021, resulting in trading or other market-related losses, as occurred in 2020, following restrictions implemented on short-selling and dividend distributions (notably EUR 184 million in the first quarter of 2020 related to the European authorities' restrictions on 2019 dividends). Further, certain of the Group's investment portfolios (for example, in its insurance subsidiaries) are accounted for on a mark- to-market basis and were impacted by adverse market conditions, particularly in the second quarter of 2020 and could continue to be impacted again in the future.

The extent to which the short, medium and long-term economic consequences of the pandemic will continue to affect the Group's results and financial condition will indeed depend largely on i) the intensity and duration of restrictive measures that have been put in place or their periodic reintroduction, depending on the evolution of the health situation, ii) the timing and extent of a return to pre-pandemic lifestyles, business operations and economic interactions, iii) the effects of the measures taken to date or future measures that may be taken by governments and central banks to attenuate the economic fallout of the pandemic or the terms and conditions for lifting these measures and iv) the duration and extent of the pandemic's remaining course, including the prospect of new waves or the appearance of new strains of the virus and, consequently, a reinstatement or strengthening of lockdown measures or other restrictions, such as in relation to travel, in the Group's various markets, as well as the pace and mechanisms of deployment of immunization programs. In addition, while the actions of European Union and member states' authorities (in particular, central banks and governments) in response to the pandemic have to date and may well continue to help attenuate its adverse economic and market consequences, the authorities have also issued and may continue to issue additional restrictions or recommendations in respect of banks' actions. In particular, they limited in 2020 and 2021 banks' flexibility in managing their business and taking action in relation to capital distribution, capital allocation and compensation policies.

Due to the unprecedented environment generated by the Covid-19 crisis, various pandemic-related uncertainties around public health, society and the economy, persist. The consequences for the Group will depend on the duration of the impact of the crisis, the measures taken by governments and central banks, and the ability of society to recover, and are therefore difficult to predict.

7.2 Should the BNP Paribas Group fail to implement its strategic objectives or to achieve its published financial objectives, or should its results not follow stated expected trends, the trading price of its securities could be adversely affected.

In connection with its annual results announced on February 8, 2022, the BNP Paribas Group announced a strategic plan for the 2022-2025 period. The plan includes financial and operational objectives, on a constant scope basis, as well as the expected impact of the redeployment of proceeds from the sale of Bank of the West, after adjusting for the effect of the distribution to shareholders of a portion of the proceeds. The BNP Paribas Group's actual results could vary significantly from these trends for a number of reasons, including the occurrence of one or more of the risk factors described elsewhere in this section, in particular as a result of the consequences of the Covid-19 health crisis which have had and could continue to have major repercussions on the economic outlook and cause financial market disruptions. If the BNP Paribas Group's results do not follow these trends, its financial condition and the value of its securities, as well as its financing costs, could be affected.

Additionally, the Group is pursuing an ambitious corporate social responsibility (CSR) policy and is committed to making a positive impact on society with concrete achievements. In 2021, BNP Paribas strengthened its commitment to a sustainable economy and accelerated decarbonization strategies, with the signing of the Net Zero Banking Alliance, the Net Zero Asset Owner Alliance, and the Net Zero Asset Manager initiative. The Group is thus taking strong positions, as a founding member of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Banking, which commits it to align its strategy with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As part of the Group's 2022-2025 strategic plan, it aims to mobilize EUR 350 billion in ESG-related loans and bond issuances (loans to companies, institutionals and individuals covering environmental and social issues and annual sustainable bonds issuances) and to have EUR 300 billion in sustainable responsible investments under

management by 2025 (BNP Paribas Asset management European open funds classified open Articles 8 and 9 as defined by SFDR). If the Group fails to meet these targets, which depend in part on factors beyond its control, its reputation could be harmed.

7.3 The BNP Paribas Group may experience difficulties integrating businesses following acquisition transactions and may be unable to realize the benefits expected from such transactions.

The BNP Paribas Group engages in acquisition and combination transactions on a regular basis. The BNP Paribas Group's most recent major such transactions were the integration of the Group's Prime Services and Electronic Equities platform with Deutsche Bank in 2019, the acquisition of 100% of Exane, previously 50% owned by BNP Paribas, finalized on July 13, 2021, and the acquisition of 100% of Floa, a subsidiary of Casino and Crédit Mutuel Alliance Fédérale (via the Banque Fédérative du Crédit Mutuel - BFCM) and one of the French leaders in innovative payments, finalized on February 1, 2022. These operational integration activities resulted, in 2021, in restructuring costs of EUR 164 million. Successful integration and the realization of synergies require, among other things, proper coordination of business development and marketing efforts, retention of key members of management, policies for effective recruitment and training as well as the ability to adapt information and computer systems. Any difficulties encountered in combining operations could result in higher integration costs and lower savings or revenues than expected. There will accordingly be uncertainty as to the extent to which anticipated synergies will be achieved and the timing of their realization. Moreover, the integration of the BNP Paribas Group's existing operations with those of the acquired operations could interfere with its respective businesses and divert management's attention from other aspects of the BNP Paribas Group's business, which could have a negative impact on the BNP Paribas Group's business and results. In some cases, moreover, disputes relating to acquisitions may have an adverse impact on the integration process or have other adverse consequences, including financial ones.

Although the BNP Paribas Group undertakes an in-depth analysis of the companies it plans to acquire, such analyses often cannot be complete or exhaustive. In the event that the BNP Paribas Group is unable to conduct comprehensive due diligence prior to an acquisition, it may acquire doubtful or troubled assets or businesses that may be unprofitable or have certain potential risks that only materialize after the acquisition. The acquisition of an unprofitable business or a business with materialized risks may materially adversely affect the BNP Paribas Group's overall profitability and may increase its liabilities.

7.4 The BNP Paribas Group's current environment may be affected by the intense competition amongst banking and non-banking operators, which could adversely affect the BNP Paribas Group's revenues and profitability.

Competition is intense in all of the BNP Paribas Group's primary business areas in France and the other countries in which it conducts a substantial portion of its business, including other European countries and the United States. Competition in the banking industry could intensify as a result of consolidation in the financial services area, as a result of the presence of new players in the payment and the financing services area or the development of crowdfunding platforms, as well as the continuing evolution of consumer habits in the banking sector. While the BNP Paribas Group has launched initiatives in these areas, such as the debut of Hello bank! and its acquisition of Nickel or Floa, competitors subject to less extensive regulatory requirements or to less strict capital requirements (e.g. debt funds, shadow banks), or benefiting from economies of scale, data synergies, technological innovation (e.g. internet and mobile operators, digital platforms, fintechs), or free access to customer financial data could be more competitive by offering lower prices and more innovative services to address the new needs of consumers. New technologies that facilitate or transform transaction processes and payment systems, such as blockchain technologies and related services, or that could significantly impact the fundamental

mechanisms of the banking system, such as central bank digital currencies (cbdc), have been developed in recent years or could be developed in the near future. While it is difficult to predict the effects of these developments and the regulations that apply to them, the use of such technology could nevertheless reduce the market share of banks, including the BNP Paribas Group, secure investments that otherwise would have used technology used by more established financial institutions, such as the BNP Paribas Group or, more broadly, lead to the emergence of a different monetary system in which the attractiveness of using established financial institutions such as the BNP Paribas Group would be affected. If such developments continue to gain momentum, particularly with the support of governments and central banks, if the BNP Paribas Group is unable to respond to the competitive environment in France or in its other major markets by offering more attractive, innovative and profitable product and service solutions than those offered by current competitors or new entrants or if some of these activities were to be carried out by institutions other than banks, it may lose market share in key areas of its business or incur losses on some or all of its activities. In addition, downturns in the economies of its principal markets could add to the competitive pressure, through, for example, increased price pressure and lower business volumes for the BNP Paribas Group and its competitors. It is also possible that the imposition of more stringent requirements (particularly capital requirements and business restrictions) on large or systemically significant financial institutions that new players may not be subject to could lead to distortions in competition in a manner adverse to large private-sector institutions such as the BNP Paribas Group.

7.5 The BNP Paribas Group could experience business disruption and losses due to climate change risks such as transition risks, physical risks or liability risks.

The BNP Paribas Group is exposed to risks related to climate change, either directly through its own operations or indirectly through its financing and investment activities. There are two main types of risks related to climate change: (i) transition risks, which result from changes in the behavior of economic and financial actors in response to the implementation of energy policies or technological changes; (ii) physical risks, which result from the direct impact of climate change on people and property through extreme weather events or long-term risks such as rising water levels or increasing temperatures. In addition, liability risks may arise from both categories of risk. They correspond to the damages that a legal entity would have to pay if it were found to be responsible for global warming. BNP Paribas is progressively integrating the assessment of these risks into its risk management system. The Group monitors these risks in the conduct of its business, in the conduct of its counterparties' business, and in its investments on its own behalf and on behalf of third parties. In this respect, the specific credit policies and the General Credit Policy have been enhanced since 2012 and 2014, respectively, with the addition of relevant clauses in terms of social and environmental responsibility. In addition, sector-specific policies and policies excluding certain environmental, social and governance (ESG) sectors from financing have also been put in place. In 2019, as part of the fight against climate change, the BNP Paribas Group made new commitments to reduce its exposure to thermal coal to zero by 2030 in the OECD and by 2040 for the rest of the world. The Group is thus taking strong positions, as a founding member of the United Nations Principles for Responsible Banking, which commits it to align its strategy with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As part of the Group's 2022-2025 strategic plan, it aims to mobilize EUR 350 billion in ESG-related loans and bond issuances (loans to companies, institutionals and individuals covering environmental and social issues and annual sustainable bonds issuances) and to have EUR 300 billion in sustainable responsible investments under management by 2025 (BNP Paribas Asset management European open funds classified open Articles 8 and 9 as defined by SFDR). By the end of 2015, BNP Paribas had already significantly strengthened its criteria for financing and investing in the coal sector, and in 2017, it was the first bank to announce the cessation of its financing activities for companies that derive most of their revenues from non-conventional hydrocarbons, measures that remain to date among the most advanced in the sector. These decisions are also reflected in the energy mix that the BNP Paribas Group finances. The BNP Paribas Group also supports its clients, both individuals and businesses, in their transition to a low-carbon economy. The BNP Paribas Group also aims to reduce the environmental footprint of its own operations. Despite the actions taken by the BNP Paribas Group to monitor risks and combat climate change, physical, transition or liability risks related to climate change could disrupt business or lead to losses.

7.6 Changes in certain holdings in credit or financial institutions could have an impact on the BNP Paribas Group's financial position.

Certain classes of assets may carry a high risk-weight of 250%. These assets include: credit or financial institutions consolidated under the equity method within the prudential scope (excluding insurance); significant financial interest in credit or financial institutions in which the BNP Paribas Group holds a stake of more than 10%; and deferred tax assets that rely on future profitability and arise from temporary differences.

The risk-weighted assets carrying a risk-weight of 250% amounted to EUR 18 billion at December 31, 2021, or 2% of the total risk-weighted assets of the BNP Paribas Group. If the BNP Paribas Group increases the amount of heavy risk-weighted assets (either by increasing the proportion of such heavy risk-weighted assets in its overall asset portfolio or due to an increase of the regulatory risk-weighting applicable to these assets), its capital adequacy ratios may be lowered.