## ANNEX III NON-CONFORMING MEASURES OF BAHRAIN WITH RESPECT TO FINANCIAL SERVICES

## **Headnotes**

- 1. Commitments in these subsectors under the Agreement are undertaken subject to the limitations and conditions set forth in these headnotes and in the Schedule below.
- 2. To clarify Bahrain's commitment with respect to Article 11.4 of the Agreement (Market Access for Financial Institutions), juridical persons supplying financial services and constituted under the laws of Bahrain are subject to non-discriminatory limitations on juridical form.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> For example, partnerships and sole proprietorships are generally not acceptable juridical forms for deposit taking institutions in Bahrain. This headnote is not itself intended to affect, or otherwise limit, a choice by a financial institution of the other Party between branches or subsidiaries.

## Schedule of Bahrain with Respect to Financial Services

**Financial Services** 

**Sub-Sector:** Banking and other Financial Services (Excluding

Insurance)

**Obligations Concerned:** National Treatment (Article 11.2)

**Level of Government:** Central

**Sector:** 

Measures: Legislative Decree No. 19 of 1991 (Bahrain Development

Bank); and Legislative Decree No. 4 of 1979 (Bahrain

Housing Bank).

**Description:** Bahrain may grant advantages and exemptions to the

Bahrain Housing Bank and the Bahrain Development Bank including, but not limited to, funding and guarantees and exemptions from capital and reserves requirements.

**Sector:** Financial Services

**Sub-Sector:** Insurance

**Obligations Concerned** Market Access for Financial Institutions (Article 11.4)

**Level of Government** Central

Measures Legislative Decree No. 17 of 1987

**Description:** Bahrain reserves the right to limit the number of new

licenses granted to supply General (Non-Life) insurance, except medical products, for a period of six months from

the date of entry into force of this Agreement.

**Sector:** Financial Services

**Sub-Sector:** Leasing

**Obligations Concerned:** Market Access for Financial Institutions (Article 11.4)

**Level of Government:** Central

Measures: Regulation on Conditions and Licensing Criteria for

Leasing Companies; and Legislative Decree No. 23 of1973

with respect to the Bahrain Monetary Agency Law.

**Description:** Beginning no later than 12 months after the date of entry

into force of this Agreement, Bahrain will grant new licenses to qualifying leasing companies authorizing them to supply leasing services to individuals in Bahrain.

Note: Stand-alone leasing companies are currently eligible to receive licenses to supply leasing services to companies

in Bahrain.

**Sector:** Financial Services

**Sub-Sector:** Money Changers

**Obligations Concerned:** Market Access for Financial Institutions (Article 11.4)

**Level of Government:** Central

Measures: Regulation on Standards, Conditions & Licensing Criteria

for Money Changers License; and *Legislative Decree No.* 23 of 1973 with respect to the *Bahrain Monetary Agency* 

Law.

**Description:** Money changers must be incorporated in Bahrain.