

**ARAB NATIONAL BANK**  
**BASEL III – LIQUIDITY COVERAGE RATIO**  
**QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURE**  
**JUNE 2015**

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## Liquidity Coverage Ratio – Qualitative Disclosure

### Liquidity Risk Management

ANB's liquidity risk management philosophy is predicated upon a conservative business model. The primary objective of the Bank's Liquidity Risk management framework is to ensure that it has sufficient liquidity to meet its obligations in both normal and stressed conditions. The Bank should be able to satisfy its funding needs through normal sources without having to make unplanned sales of assets or borrow expensive funds under emergency conditions.

The Board of Directors (the Board) defines the Bank's liquidity risk strategy, and in particular its appetite for liquidity risk, based on recommendations made by the Asset and Liability Committee (ALCO). The Board reviews and approves the liquidity management policies and ensures that senior management manages liquidity risk effectively in the context of the Bank's business plan, long term funding plan and economic and financial position. The Bank uses liquidity ratios and stressed liquidity gaps as key metrics to establish its liquidity risk tolerance levels. These metrics measure the Bank's ability to fulfill all its payment obligations stemming from ongoing business operations under various stress scenarios. The tolerance levels are defined either in the form of limits or management action triggers (MAT) and are part of the Bank's overall liquidity management framework which is approved and reviewed by the Board on an annual basis.

At least once a year the Board reviews and approves the limits that are applied to measure and control liquidity risk on a bank-wide basis. ALCO/Market Risk Policy Committee (MRPC) sets the direction for the Bank's liquidity management subject to the liquidity risk limits and tolerance levels established by the Board. The Board delegates these limits to the Treasury Group through ALCO.

Treasury Group is responsible for managing day-to-day funding activities within the established liquidity risk management policies and limits. It is responsible for establishing appropriate procedures and effective communication channels with operational and business areas to alert the funding desks of imminent funding requirements including loan drawdowns, deposit withdrawals and off-balance sheet commitments. It monitors market developments, understand their implications for the Bank's liquidity risk exposure and recommends appropriate risk management measures to ALCO.

Market Risk Department (MRD), part of the Risk Management Group (RMG), periodically reviews liquidity risk policies and procedures, the adequacy of the risk measurement system, including key assumptions and scenarios used and reports their findings and recommendations to ALCO. It is also responsible for monitoring adherence to the various liquidity ratios and limits, both internal and regulatory.

## **Funding strategy**

The Bank's funding strategy is to develop a diversified funding base, while providing protection against unexpected fluctuations. It aims to align sources of funding with their use. As such, earning assets (Loans and Investments) are largely funded with customer deposits. The funding gap for these assets is met using secured funding and long term debt issuance.

The Bank maintains access to a variety of sources of wholesale funds in multiple currencies across a variety of distribution channels and geographies, including those available from money markets, repo markets and term investors. It is an active participant in money markets and has direct access to local and international liquidity providers. As a result, wholesale funding is well diversified by product, investor, maturity, and currency.

## **Liquidity risk mitigation techniques**

The Bank maintains excess liquidity in the form of cash and high-quality liquid unencumbered securities that together serve as the Bank's primary means of liquidity risk mitigation. It further limits the composition of high-quality, liquid, unencumbered securities to high quality sovereign bonds.

Diversification of funding is another important area to mitigate liquidity risk. The Bank remains focused on diversifying funding sources. Its most stable funding source is retail clients. Other customer deposits and borrowing from wholesale clients are additional sources of funding.

The Bank is an active participant in money markets and has direct access to local and international liquidity providers. It maintains strong relationships with a number of local and international banks through extensive trading and funding transactions over a number of years. Access to both local and international money markets allow the Bank to maintain liquidity in both local and foreign currencies.

## **Stress Testing**

The Bank uses stress testing and scenario analysis to evaluate the impact of sudden and severe stress events on its liquidity position. It uses multiple scenario types to cover the Bank specific and market related events. The purpose of liquidity stress testing is to ascertain the incremental funding that may be required under the defined scenarios and whether the Bank will be able to withstand the stress.

Stress testing is fully integrated in the Bank's liquidity risk management framework. It assesses the Bank's ability to generate sufficient liquidity under extreme conditions and is a key input when defining its target liquidity risk position.

## **Contingency Funding Plan**

The Bank's contingency funding plan sets out the action the Bank will take to fund business activity in crisis situations and periods of market stress. It outlines a list of potential risk factors, key reports and metrics that are reviewed on an ongoing basis to assist in assessing the severity of a liquidity crisis and/or market dislocation. It also describes in detail the Bank's potential responses if the assessments indicate it has entered a liquidity crisis, which include funding its potential cash and collateral needs as well as utilizing secondary sources of liquidity. Mitigants and action items to address specific risks are also described and assigned to individuals responsible for execution.

The contingency funding plan identifies key groups of individuals to ensure effective coordination, control and distribution of information that are critical in the management of a crisis or period of funding stress. It also details the responsibilities of these groups and/or individuals, which include making and disseminating key decisions, coordinating all contingency activities throughout the duration of the crisis or period of market stress, implementing liquidity maintenance activities and managing internal and external communication.

## **Other Qualitative Information**

The Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR), is a Basel III metric that measures the sufficiency of High Quality Liquid Assets (HQLA) available to meet net short-term financial obligations over a thirty day period in an acute stress scenario. The SAMA regulatory minimum coverage level for LCR is currently 60%, increasing each year to 100% by January 2019.

In August 2014, SAMA released the final guideline on "Liquidity Coverage Ratio Disclosure Standards", requiring Saudi banks to disclose LCR beginning Q1 2015. LCR is disclosed using the standard Basel disclosure template and is calculated using the average of month-end positions during the quarter. The Bank has reported quarterly average LCR of 215% as compared to 196% for the last quarter. The increase in LCR ratio is mainly contributed by shedding of bulk deposits and increased inflows from term loans.