



## 1.0 OBJECTIVE

The Caribbean Utilities Company, Ltd. (CUC) Audit Committee focuses on ensuring integrity of financial information, the clarity in reporting and greater transparency in disclosure. In doing so, it is the responsibility of the Audit Committee to maintain free and open means of communication with the Directors, External Auditor, Internal Auditors and the senior Management of the Company.

The Committee shall provide assistance to the Directors in fulfilling their duties related to the following oversight responsibilities:

- 1.1 Integrity of the Company's financial statements.
- 1.2 Company's compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, including assistance to the Board in compliance with the continuous disclosure obligations as required by the Canadian Securities Administrators (CSA) rules and policies.
- 1.3 External Auditor's qualifications and independence.
- 1.4 Performance of the Company's Internal Auditor and External Auditors.

## 2.0 DEFINITIONS

In this mandate:

- 2.1 **"Board"** means the board of directors of the Company;
- 2.2 **"CICA"** means the Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants or any successor body;
- 2.3 **"Committee"** means the Audit Committee of the Board;
- 2.4 **"Company"** means Caribbean Utilities Company, Ltd. (CUC);
- 2.5 **"Director"** means a member of the Board;
- 2.6 **"External Auditor"** means the firm of chartered accountants appointed by the shareholders to act as External Auditor of the Company;
- 2.7 **"Financially literate"** means having the ability to read and understand a set of financial statements that present a breadth and level of complexity of accounting issues that are generally comparable to the breadth and complexity of the issues that can reasonably be expected in the Company's financial statement;
- 2.8 **"Independent"** means free from any direct or indirect material relationship with the Company which, in the view of the Board, could reasonably be expected to interfere with the exercise of a Member's independent judgment as more particularly described in National Instrument 52-110;
- 2.9 **"Internal Auditor"** means the person employed or engaged by the Company to perform the internal audit function of the Company;
- 2.10 **"Management"** means the senior officers of the Company;
- 2.11 **"MD&A"** means the Company's management discussion and analysis prepared in accordance with National Instrument 51-102F1 in respect of the Company's annual and interim financial statements; and
- 2.12 **"Member"** means a member of the Committee.

## 3.0 AUTHORITY

The Audit Committee has authority to conduct or authorize investigations into any matters within its scope of responsibility. It is empowered to:



- 3.1 Pre-approve all auditing and permitted non-audit services performed by the Company's external audit firm.
- 3.2 Retain independent counsel, accountants, or others to advise the Committee or assist in the conduct of an investigation.
- 3.3 Meet with Management, Internal Auditor, External Auditors, or outside counsel, as necessary.
- 3.4 The Committee may delegate authority to subcommittees, including the authority to preapprove all auditing and permitted non-audit services, providing that such decisions are presented to the full Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

#### **4.0 ORGANISATION AND COMPOSITION**

- 4.1 The Committee shall be appointed annually by the Board and shall be comprised of three (3) or more Directors:-
  - (1) none of whom is a member of Management or an employee of the Company;
  - (2) all of whom are Independent;
  - (3) the Chair of the Board shall be a member of the Committee;
  - (4) every Audit Committee member must be financially literate; and
  - (5) a member shall be appointed Chair of the Committee by the Board.

#### **5.0 MEETINGS**

- 5.1 The Committee will meet at least four times a year, with authority to convene additional meetings, as circumstances require.
- 5.2 Meetings of the Committee shall be held at the call (i) of the Chair of the Committee, or (ii) of any two (2) members, or (iii) of the External Auditor.
- 5.3 The President & Chief Executive Officer, the Vice President Finance, Corporate Services & Chief Financial Officer, External Auditor and Internal Auditor shall receive notice of, and (unless otherwise determined by the Chair of the Committee) shall attend all meetings of the Committee.
- 5.4 A quorum at any meeting shall be a majority of the Members of the Committee.
- 5.5 The Committee will meet without Management present for a portion of each meeting.
- 5.6 The Committee shall meet separately with Management, with Internal Auditors and with External Auditors at least once in each year.
- 5.7 The Chair of the Committee shall act as chair of all meetings of the Committee at which the Chair is present. In the absence of the Chair from any meeting of the Committee, the Members present at the meeting shall appoint one of their members to act as chair of the meeting.
- 5.8 The Secretary of the Company shall act as secretary of all meetings of the Committee unless otherwise determined by the Chair of the Committee.
- 5.9 Meeting agendas will be prepared and provided in advance to members, along with appropriate briefing materials. Minutes will be prepared.

#### **6.0 RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Committee will carry out the following responsibilities:



## **6.1 Financial Statements**

- (A) Review Management's and the External Auditor's reports of significant accounting and reporting issues and understand their impact on the financial statements. These issues include:
  - i. Complex or unusual transactions and highly judgmental areas.
  - ii. Major issues regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentations, including any significant changes in the Company's selection or application of accounting principles.
  - iii. The effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives, as well as off-balance sheet structures, on the financial statements of the Company.
- (B) Review analyses prepared by Management and/or the External Auditor setting forth significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the financial statements, including analyses of the effects of alternative GAAP methods on the financial statements.
- (C) Review with Management and the External Auditors the results of the audit, including any difficulties encountered. This review will include any restrictions on the scope of the External Auditor's activities or on access to requested information, and any significant disagreements with Management.
- (D) To use reasonable efforts to satisfy itself, at least annually, as to the adequacy of the Company's accounting personnel and senior financial Management responsible for financial reporting;
- (E) Review with Management and the External Auditor any correspondence with regulators and any employee complaints or published reports which raise material issues regarding the Company's financial statements or accounting policies;
- (F) To meet periodically with Management to review and understand the Company's structure, industry risks and major financial exposures of the Company. Use reasonable efforts to satisfy itself as to the adequacy and implementation of the Company's policies for the Management of the risk related to foreign currency transactions, interest rate fluctuations and the use of derivative financial instruments.
- (G) Review and recommend for Board approval the annual audited financial statements and to review the quarterly financial statements, including the Company's disclosures under MD&A, interim and annual earnings press releases relating to the disclosure of the statements before the issuer publicly discloses this information.
- (H) The audit committee must be satisfied that adequate procedures are in place for the review of the Company's public disclosure of financial information extracted or derived from the Company's financial statement, other than the public disclosure referred to in 1.7 and must periodically assess the adequacy of those procedures.
- (I) Review disclosures made by CEO and CFO during the quarterly and annual disclosure certification process about significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls or any fraud or untoward conduct that involves Management or other employees



who may or may not have a significant role in the Company's internal controls. (Canadian NI 52-109).

## **6.2 Internal Control**

- (A) Consider the effectiveness of the Company's internal control system, including information technology security and control.
- (B) Understand the scope of Internal and External Auditors' review of internal control over financial reporting, and obtain reports on significant findings and recommendations, together with Management's responses.
- (C) Review and evaluate that management is setting the appropriate tone at the top by communicating the importance of internal controls and ensuring that all individuals understand their roles and responsibilities.

## **6.3 Internal Audit**

- (A) Review with Management and the Internal Auditor the charter, plans, activities, staffing, internal audit reports and organizational structure of the internal audit function.
- (B) Ensure there are no unjustified restrictions or limitations on, and review and concur in the appointment, replacement, or dismissal of the Internal Auditor.
- (C) Review the assessment of the effectiveness of the internal audit function.
- (D) On a regular basis, meet separately with the Internal Auditor to discuss any matters that the committee or internal audit believes should be discussed privately.

## **6.4 External Audit**

- (A) Review the External Auditors' proposed audit scope and approach, including coordination of audit effort with internal audit.
- (B) Review the performance of the External Auditors, and recommend approval of appointment or discharge of Auditors and External Auditor compensation. In performing this review, the Committee will:
  - (I) At least annually, obtain and review a report by the External Auditor describing (in connection with the External Auditor's determination of its independence) all relationships between the External Auditor and the Company.
  - (II) Take into account the opinions of Management and Internal Auditor.
  - (III) Review and evaluate the lead partner of the External Auditor.
  - (IV) Present its recommendations with respect to the External Auditor to the Board.



- (V) Ensure the rotation of the lead audit partner every five years and other audit partners every seven years, and consider whether there should be regular rotation of the audit firm itself.
- (VI) Present its conclusions with respect to the External Auditor to the full board.
- (VII) Approve the Company hiring policies related to employees or former employees of the External Auditors.
- (VIII) On a regular basis, meet separately with the External Auditors to discuss any matters that the committee or Auditors believe should be discussed privately.
- (C) The External Auditor should communicate the following with the Committee prior to the completion of the audit:
- (I) the audit and non-audit services that the External Auditor is providing to the Company;
- (II) the level of responsibility assumed by the External Auditor under generally accepted auditing standards; and
- (III) a summary of the planned audit approach:
- i. the general approach to the audit;
  - ii. areas of the financial statements identified by the Auditor, Management or the Committee as having a high risk of material misstatement and the Auditor's response thereto;
  - iii. the materiality and audit risk levels;
  - iv. the preliminary assessment of internal control, the planned extent of audit work related to internal control and the effect of any control reliance on year-end procedures;
  - v. how matters communicated with the Committee during the planning process affect the planned nature and scope of the audit;
  - vi. the effects of any new developments in accounting standards or regulatory requirements on the entity's financial reporting;
  - vii. planned reliance on other Auditors, how the expectations will be communicated to the other Auditors and how their findings will be communicated to the Committee;
  - viii. use of specialists, if any;
  - ix. the timing of the audit;
  - x. the experience and qualifications of the senior members of the External Auditor team and the quality control procedures of the External Auditor;
  - xi. the External Auditor's engagement letter; and,
  - xii. the estimated External Auditor's fees.
- (D) The Committee shall discuss with the External Auditor matters arising out of the audit upon completion of the audit. The Committee shall be advised on at least the following:
- (I) identification and discussion of audit assurance standards concerning:
- i. knowledge of any fraud and misstatements arising from error;
  - ii. any illegal or possibly illegal acts;



- iii. identification of any significant weaknesses in internal control identified by the Auditor; and
  - iv. related party transactions identified by the Auditor which are not in the normal course of operations and which involve significant judgments made by Management concerning measurement or disclosure.
- (II) matters that have a significant and material effect on the accounting principles used in the Company's financial reporting;
- i. the selection of and changes in any significant accounting policies;
  - ii. the effect of significant accounting policies in controversial areas or those unique to the industry;
  - iii. the existence of acceptable alternative policies and methods, and the acceptability of the particular policy or method used by Management;
  - iv. the effect on the financial statements of significant unusual transactions;
  - v. the use of accruals, provisions or estimates that have a significant effect upon the financial statements, the reasonableness of significant adjustments and the clarity of the disclosures in the financial statements;
  - vi. the basis for the External Auditor's conclusions regarding the reasonableness of the estimates made by Management;
  - vii. factors affecting the asset and liability carry values and the Auditor's conclusion regarding reasonableness of assumptions made by Management.
- (III) summary of all unadjusted differences and the effect on the financial statements.
- (IV) Resolve any disagreements between Management and the External Auditor regarding financial reporting.
- (E) To use reasonable efforts to satisfy itself that any litigation, claim or other contingency, including tax assessments, that could have a material effect on the financial position or operating results of the Company have been appropriately disclosed in the Company's audited financial statements;
- (F) Approve the retention of the External Auditor for any non-audit service and the fee for such service;
- (G) Oversee the work of the External Auditor.

## **6.5 Compliance**

- (A) Review the effectiveness of the system for monitoring compliance with laws and regulations and the results of Management's investigation and follow-up (including disciplinary action) of any instances of noncompliance.
- (B) Establish procedures for:
  - (I) The receipt, retention, and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls, or auditing matters; and
  - (II) The confidential, anonymous submission by employees of the Company of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.



- (C) Review the findings of any examinations by regulatory agencies, and any Internal/External Auditor's observations.
- (D) Review the process for communicating the code of conduct to Company's personnel, and for monitoring compliance therewith.
- (E) Obtain regular updates from Management and corporate legal counsel regarding compliance matters.

#### **6.6 Reporting Responsibilities**

- (A) Regularly report to the Board of Directors about Committee activities and issues that arise with respect to the quality or integrity of the Company's financial statements, the Company's compliance with legal or regulatory requirements, the performance and independence of the Company's External Auditors, and the performance of the internal audit function.
- (B) Provide an open avenue of communication between Internal Auditor, the External Auditors, and the Board of Directors.
- (C) Review required disclosure to the shareholders, describing the Committee's composition, responsibilities and how they were discharged, and any other information required by rule, including fees for audit and non-audit services.
- (D) Review any other reports the Company issues that relate to Committee responsibilities.

#### **6.7 Policy on Reporting Allegations of Suspected Improper Conduct and Wrongdoing (Speak Up Policy)**

- (A) The Chair of the Audit Committee shall have direction to call a meeting of the Committee to review suspected violations of the Speak Up Policy of the Company, and shall have the authority to engage independent counsel before presenting such violations to the Committee.

#### **6.8 Other Responsibilities**

- (A) To review and report annually to the Board with respect to the expenses of the Chair of the Board and President of the Company; and
- (B) Discuss with Management the Company's major policies with respect to financial risk assessment and management.
- (C) To review the Company's policy on insurance management and the preservation of assets generally.
- (D) Perform other activities related to this mandate as requested by the Board of Directors.
- (E) Institute and oversee special investigations as needed.
- (F) Confirm annually that all responsibilities outlined in this mandate have been carried out.



(G) Evaluate the Committee's and individual members' performance at least annually.

## **7.0 EFFECTIVE DATE**

7.1 This mandate was initiated in December 1990 and is effective as revised and approved by the Board of Directors on August 9, 2022.

## **8.0 MANDATE REVIEW**

8.1 The Committee shall review and reassess the adequacy of the Audit Committee mandate biennially and recommend any proposed changes to the Governance & Sustainability Committee.

Mandate Review Administered by: Audit Committee, Governance & Sustainability Committee and Board of Directors.

## **9.0 MANDATE REVISION HISTORY:**

<b>Revision</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Description of changes</b>	<b>Approved by</b>
0	December 1990	Initial release and implementation	Board of Directors
1	August 2003		Board of Directors
2	March 2006		Board of Directors
3	September 2009		Board of Directors
4	March 2010		Board of Directors
5	November 2011		Board of Directors
6	September 2013	Update to Section 8: Other Responsibilities	Board of Directors
7	November 2014	Update to Section 2: Internal Controls	Board of Directors
8	July 2015		Board of Directors
9	August 2017	Reformatting and addition of definitions and an effective date.	Board of Directors
10	November 2020	Removal of outdated references, amendments to remove duties transferred to NCG Committee	Board of Directors
11	August 2022	Update of Policy names and Committee references	Board of Directors