



CMP/JUL/2018/0007  
7<sup>th</sup> July 2018

**Sh. Khalifa Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Bahrain Bourse  
P.O Box 3203  
Manama - Kingdom of Bahrain

Dear Sh. Khalifa,

**Subject: Fitch affirms GFH Rating at 'B'; Outlook Stable**

GFH would like to advise its shareholders and the markets that that Fitch Ratings, the international credit rating agency, has affirmed its Long-term Issuer Default Rating (IDR) at 'B' with a Stable Outlook. The Short-term IDR has also been affirmed at 'B.'

The affirmation of the Group's IDR rating was cited by Fitch as a reflection principally of its management's continued efforts on reshaping the Group's business model towards a greater focus on fee generation and lower risk, lower return investments as well as the GFH's achievement of a second consecutive year of material net income. It also cited as positive GFH's reported US\$37 million of profit for the first quarter of 2018 and noted that the continuation of such levels of profitability could lead to a further rating strengthening.

According to Fitch, GFH's rating also underscores GFH's sound capitalization relative to the rating level, supported by regulatory oversight of the Central Bank of Bahrain (CBB). Also noted as a positive factor is the continued presence of Abu Dhabi Financial Group as a significant shareholder in the Group.

**Management opinion on the assigned Rating:**

GFH's management believes that the recent rating is a recognition of GFH's continued strengthening of its business, financial position and prospects. GFH now has a solid balance sheet and its assets and investments provide steady streams of recurring income and returns. GFH looks forward to further enhance its performance and results as it maintains to build upon these foundations and achieve successful exits.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nabeel Mirza', enclosed within a blue rectangular box.

**Nabeel Mirza**  
Senior Director Compliance & MLRO