

News release

Swiss Re Capital Markets structures and places the first catastrophe bond under Singapore's new ILS framework for Security First Insurance Company

New York, 28 May 2019 — Swiss Re Capital Markets successfully closed the USD 100 million Series 2019-1 Principal At-Risk Variable Rate Notes transaction issued by First Coast Re II Pte. Ltd on behalf of Security First Insurance Company ("Security First"). This transaction is the first catastrophe bond issued under Rule 144A that utilizes the new insurance-linked security ("ILS") regulatory regime in Singapore and represents Security First's third catastrophe bond transaction. Swiss Re Capital Markets acted as the sole structuring agent and bookrunner.

Swiss Reinsurance America Corporation ("SRAC") acted as a transformer of risk between Security First and capital market investors to facilitate the issuance process. The pioneering transaction had a single class of principal at-risk variable rate notes issued by First Coast Re II Pte. Ltd., a special purpose reinsurance vehicle incorporated in Singapore (the "Issuer").

As part of the transaction structure, Security First has entered into a reinsurance agreement with SRAC, which provides protection on an indemnity per occurrence basis with a cascading feature. SRAC subsequently ceded the risk via a retrocession agreement to the Issuer. The USD 100 million Class A notes have a four-year risk period starting June 1, 2019 and provide protection against named storms and severe thunderstorms in Florida.

"Swiss Re is excited to actively contribute to the development of Singapore as a global financial hub and promote a vibrant insurance-linked securities market in the region. This cat bond also underscores Singapore's capabilities in facilitating such a transaction," says Jayne Plunkett, CEO Reinsurance Asia, Swiss Re.

Jean-Louis Monnier, Global Co-Head of ILS at Swiss Re Capital Markets says: "Swiss Re is pleased to support the ILS framework in Singapore and contribute to the knowledge transfer around ILS transactions in the region. We were delighted to work with the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and Security First to make the first Rule 144A issuance in Singapore a success. The transaction was very well received by investors, which was reflected in the final terms and upsize to USD 100 million. The protection provided by SRAC seamlessly integrates with Security First's reinsurance programme and incorporates a cascading feature mirroring traditional terms."

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The First Coast Re II Pte. Ltd. notes were sold pursuant to Rule 144A of the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “Securities Act”) and have not been registered under the Securities Act or any state securities laws; they may not be offered or sold in the United States except pursuant to an exemption from, or in a transaction not subject, to the registration requirements of the Securities Act and applicable state securities laws.

Notes to editors

Swiss Re Capital Markets

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Swiss Re

The Swiss Re Group is one of the world’s leading providers of reinsurance, insurance and other forms of insurance-based risk transfer, working to make the world more resilient. It anticipates and manages risk – from natural catastrophes to climate change, from ageing populations to cyber crime. The aim of the Swiss Re Group is to enable society to thrive and progress, creating new opportunities and solutions for its clients. Headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, where it was founded in 1863, the Swiss Re Group operates through a network of around 80 offices globally. It is organised into three Business Units, each with a distinct strategy and set of objectives contributing to the Group’s overall mission.

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Forward-looking statements typically are identified by words or phrases such as “anticipate”, “assume”, “believe”, “continue”, “estimate”, “expect”, “foresee”, “intend”, “may increase”, “may fluctuate” and similar expressions, or by future or conditional verbs such as “will”, “should”, “would” and “could”. These forward-looking statements involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, which may cause the Group’s actual results of operations, financial condition, solvency ratios, capital or liquidity positions or prospects to be materially different from any future results of operations, financial condition, solvency ratios, capital or liquidity positions or prospects expressed or implied by such statements or cause Swiss Re to not achieve its published targets. Such factors include, among others:

- the frequency, severity and development of insured claim events, particularly natural catastrophes, man-made disasters, pandemics, acts of terrorism and acts of war;
- mortality, morbidity and longevity experience;
- the cyclical nature of the insurance and reinsurance sectors;
- instability affecting the global financial system;
- deterioration in global economic conditions;
- the effect of market conditions, including the global equity and credit markets, and the level and volatility of equity prices, interest rates, credit spreads, currency values and other market indices, on the Group’s investment assets;
- changes in the Group’s investment result as a result of changes in the Group’s investment policy or the changed composition of the Group’s investment assets, and the impact of the timing of any such changes relative to changes in market conditions;
- the Group’s ability to maintain sufficient liquidity and access to capital markets, including sufficient liquidity to cover potential recapture of reinsurance agreements, early calls of debt or debt-like arrangements and collateral calls due to actual or perceived deterioration of the Group’s financial strength or otherwise;
- any inability to realise amounts on sales of securities on the Group’s balance sheet equivalent to their values recorded for accounting purposes;
- changes in legislation and regulation, and the interpretations thereof by regulators and courts, affecting us or the Group’s ceding companies, including as a result of shifts away from multilateral approaches to regulation of global operations;
- the outcome of tax audits, the ability to realise tax loss carryforwards, the ability to realise deferred tax assets (including by reason of the mix of earnings in a jurisdiction or deemed change of control), which could negatively impact future earnings, and the overall impact of changes in tax regimes on business models;
- failure of the Group’s hedging arrangements to be effective;
- the lowering or loss of one of the financial strength or other ratings of one or more Swiss Re companies, and developments adversely affecting the Group’s ability to achieve improved ratings;
- uncertainties in estimating reserves;
- policy renewal and lapse rates;
- uncertainties in estimating future claims for purposes of financial reporting, particularly with respect to large natural catastrophes and certain large man-made losses, as significant uncertainties may be involved in estimating losses from such events and preliminary estimates may be subject to change as new information becomes available;

- extraordinary events affecting the Group's clients and other counterparties, such as bankruptcies, liquidations and other credit-related events;
- legal actions or regulatory investigations or actions, including those in respect of industry requirements or business conduct rules of general applicability;
- changes in accounting standards;
- significant investments, acquisitions or dispositions, and any delays, unexpected costs, lower-than expected benefits, or other issues experienced in connection with any such transactions;
- changing levels of competition, including from new entrants into the market; and
- operational factors, including the efficacy of risk management and other internal procedures in managing the foregoing risks and the ability to manage cybersecurity risks.

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