

SEC public hearing on proposed regulations that allow SMEs and startups to offer sustainability-themed bonds via crowdfunding and private placement channels and proposed amendment of the existing factsheet of debt securities

SEC is seeking public comments on the proposed amendments related to issuance and offer for sale of sustainability-themed bonds that enable SMEs and startups in Thailand to issue and offer such securities through crowdfunding and private placement channels. This is to enhance their participation in driving sustainable development agenda and further develop the capital market's key role in contributing to solving social and environmental issues and promoting sustainable development of businesses of all types and sizes. In addition, SEC is seeking public comments on the proposed amendment of the existing factsheet of debt securities to require the disclosure of only key sector-specific financial ratios.

The amended regulations support the issuance and offering of Green Bond, Social Bond, Sustainability Bond and Sustainability-linked Bond through crowdfunding and private placement channels, including the offering of convertible debentures by private limited companies. This will open up funding opportunities for SMEs and startups allowing them to participate in sustainable development. The changes include revisions to information disclosure rules pertaining to sustainability-themed bonds as well as sustainability issues before and after the offering, for example, the utilisation of the proceeds of the bond for eligible sustainable projects, the process for project evaluation and selection, project progress reporting and the selection of sustainability KPIs. This is to ensure investors have accurate and complete information for decision-making, and to increase the credibility of sustainability-themed bonds.

For further details of this public hearing, please visit https://www.sec.or.th/TH/Pages/PB_LISTVIEW.aspx. Also, stakeholders and interested parties are welcome to submit comments through the website, or contact Bond Department via email: debt@sec.or.th. The public hearing ends on 17 April 2023.