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Hindustan Unilever Limited

Registered office: Unilever House, B. D. Sawant Marg, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 099 CIN: L15140MH1933PLC002030, Web: <u>www.hul.co.in</u>, Email: <u>levercare.shareholder@unilever.com</u>, Tel: +91 22 39832285 / 39832452

NOTICE of the Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 81st Annual General Meeting of Hindustan Unilever Limited will be held on Monday, 30th June, 2014 at 2.00 p.m. at the Registered Office of the Company at Unilever House, B. D. Sawant Marg, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 099, to transact the following businesses:

ORDINARY BUSINESS

- To receive, consider and adopt the Audited Statement of Profit and Loss for the financial year ended 31st March, 2014, the Balance Sheet as at that date and the Reports of the Directors and Auditors thereon.
- 2. To confirm the payment of Interim Dividend and to declare a Final Dividend on equity shares for the financial year ended 31st March, 2014.
- 3. To elect and appoint Directors in place of those retiring by rotation.
- 4. To appoint M/s. BSR & Co. LLP, Chartered Accountants, as Statutory Auditors of the Company in place of M/s. Lovelock & Lewes, the retiring Statutory Auditors, to hold office from the conclusion of this Annual General Meeting, until the conclusion of sixth Annual General Meeting to be held after this meeting, subject to ratification at every Annual General Meeting and to fix their remuneration for the financial year ending 31st March, 2015.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

 To consider and if thought fit, to pass with or without modification(s), the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:

"RESOLVED THAT pursuant to the provisions of Sections 149, 150 and 152 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder, read with Schedule IV to the said Act, Mr. Aditya Narayan (DIN : 00012084), Director of the Company who retires by rotation at the Annual General Meeting, be and is hereby appointed as an Independent Director of the Company to hold office for a term upto five consecutive years commencing from 30th June, 2014." To consider and if thought fit, to pass with or without modification(s), the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:

"RESOLVED THAT pursuant to the provisions of Sections 149, 150 and 152 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder, read with Schedule IV to the said Act, Mr. S. Ramadorai (DIN : 00000002), Director of the Company who retires by rotation at the Annual General Meeting, be and is hereby appointed as an Independent Director of the Company to hold office for a term upto five consecutive years commencing from 30th June, 2014."

 To consider and if thought fit, to pass with or without modification(s), the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:

"RESOLVED THAT pursuant to the provisions of Sections 149, 150 and 152 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder, read with Schedule IV to the said Act, Mr. O. P. Bhatt (DIN : 00548091), Director of the Company who retires by rotation at the Annual General Meeting, be and is hereby appointed as an Independent Director of the Company to hold office for a term upto five consecutive years commencing from 30th June, 2014."

 To consider and if thought fit, to pass with or without modification(s), the following resolution as an Ordinary Resolution:

"RESOLVED THAT pursuant to the provisions of Sections 149, 150 and 152 and other applicable provisions, if any, of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder, read with Schedule IV to the said Act, Dr. Sanjiv Misra (DIN : 03075797), Director of the Company who retires by rotation at the Annual General Meeting, be and is hereby appointed as an Independent Director of the Company to hold office for a term upto five consecutive years commencing from 30th June, 2014."

Notes:

- An Explanatory Statement pursuant to Section 102 of the Companies Act, 2013 relating to the Special Businesses to be transacted at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) is annexed hereto.
- A MEMBER ENTITLED TO ATTEND AND VOTE IS ENTITLED 2. TO APPOINT A PROXY TO ATTEND AND VOTE ON HIS / HER BEHALF AND THE PROXY NEED NOT BE A MEMBER OF THE COMPANY. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 105 of the Companies Act, 2013, a person can act as a proxy on behalf of not more than fifty members and holding in aggregate not more than ten percent of the total Share Capital of the Company. Members holding more than ten percent of the total Share Capital of the Company may appoint a single person as proxy, who shall not act as a proxy for any other Member. The instrument of Proxy, in order to be effective, should be deposited at the Registered Office of the Company, duly completed and signed, not later than 48 hours before the commencement of the meeting. A Proxy Form is annexed to this Report. Proxies submitted on behalf of limited companies, societies, etc., must be supported by an appropriate resolution / authority, as applicable.
- 3. The Register of Members and Share Transfer Books of the Company will remain closed from Friday, 13th June, 2014 to Monday, 30th June, 2014 (both days inclusive). The book closure dates have been fixed in consultation with the Stock Exchanges.
- 4. The Final Dividend for the financial year ended 31st March, 2014, as recommended by the Board, if approved by the Members, will be paid on or after Friday, 4th July, 2014 to those Members whose names appear in the Register of Members of the Company as on the book closure dates.
- In accordance with the Articles of Association of the 5. Company, all Directors (except Mr. Sanjiv Mehta, who has been appointed as the Managing Director for a term of five years effective 10th October, 2013) retire every year and, if eligible, offer themselves for re-appointment at the AGM. Consequent to the elevation of Mr. Sridhar Ramamurthy as the Senior Vice President, Finance for Global Markets, Unilever, he will cease to be a Director of the Company with effect from 30th June. 2014 and will not offer himself for re-appointment. The Company had issued a Postal Ballot Notice dated 24th March, 2014 proposing appointment of Mr. P. B. Balaji as Executive Director, Finance & IT and Chief Financial Officer with effect from 1st July, 2014 to succeed Mr. Sridhar Ramamurthy. The results of the Postal Ballot were declared on 5th May, 2014 and the Special Resolution as set out in the said Postal Ballot Notice has been passed by the Members with an overwhelming majority of 99.76% of votes in favour of the Resolution. The appointment of

Mr. P. B. Balaji as Executive Director, Finance & IT and Chief Financial Officer is subject to requisite approval from the Central Government.

As per the provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, Independent Directors are required to be appointed for a term of upto five consecutive years and are not liable to retire by rotation. Accordingly, resolutions proposing appointment of Independent Directors are given at item nos. 5 to 8. The relevant details of Directors seeking appointment / re-appointment under item no. 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of this Notice are provided at page nos. 26 - 29 of the Annual Report.

- 6. The Company had received Special Notice dated 22nd April, 2014 under Section 140(4) read with Section 115 of the Companies Act, 2013 from Unilever PLC, in its capacity as a Member of the Company recommending appointment of M/s. BSR & Co. LLP, Chartered Accountants, as Statutory Auditors in place of M/s. Lovelock & Lewes, Chartered Accountants, the retiring Statutory Auditors. The change in the Statutory Auditor is proposed in order to remain at the forefront of good governance and in recognition of regulatory changes under the Companies Act, 2013. The Company has sent a copy of the said Special Notice to the retiring Statutory Auditors.
- 7 Pursuant to Section 101 and Section 136 of the Companies Act, 2013 read with relevant Rules made thereunder, Companies can serve Annual Reports and other communications through electronic mode to those Members who have registered their e-mail address either with the Company or with the Depository. Members who have not registered their e-mail address with the Company can now register the same by submitting a duly filled in 'E-Communication Registration Form', available on the website of the Company www.hul.co.in, to M/s. Karvy Computershare Private Limited / Investor Service Department of the Company. Members holding shares in demat form are requested to register their e-mail address with their Depository Participant(s) only. Members of the Company, who have registered their e-mail address, are entitled to receive such communication in physical form upon request.
- 8. The Notice of AGM, Annual Report and Attendance Slip are being sent in electronic mode to Members whose e-mail IDs are registered with the Company or the Depository Participant(s) unless the Members have registered their request for a hard copy of the same. Physical copy of the Notice of AGM, Annual Report and Attendance Slip are being sent to those Members who have not registered their e-mail IDs with the Company or Depository Participant(s). Members who have received the Notice of AGM, Annual Report and Attendance Slip in electronic mode are requested to print the Attendance Slip and submit a duly

filled in Attendance Slip at the registration counter to attend the AGM.

Pursuant to Section 108 of the Companies Act, 2013, 9 read with the relevant Rules of the Act, the Company is pleased to provide the facility to Members to exercise their right to vote by electronic means. The Members, whose names appear in the Register of Members / list of Beneficial Owners as on Thursday, 12th June, 2014, i.e. the date prior to the commencement of book closure date are entitled to vote on the Resolutions set forth in this Notice. Members who have acquired shares after the despatch of the Annual Report and before the book closure may approach the Company for issuance of the User ID and Password for exercising their right to vote by electronic means. The e-voting period will commence at 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 24th June, 2014 and will end at 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, 26th June, 2014. The Company has appointed Mr. S. N. Ananthasubramanian, Practising Company Secretary, to act as the Scrutinizer, for conducting the scrutiny of the votes cast. The Members desiring to vote through electronic mode may refer to the detailed procedure on e-voting given hereinafter.

PROCEDURE FOR E-VOTING

 The Company has entered into an arrangement with National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) for facilitating e-voting for AGM. The instructions for e-voting are as under:

(a) In case of Members receiving an e-mail from NSDL:

- (i) Open the PDF file 'HUL e-Voting.pdf' attached to the e-mail, using your Client ID / Folio No. as password. The PDF file contains your User ID and Password for e-voting. Please note that the Password provided in PDF is an 'Initial Password'.
- Launch an internet browser and open <u>https://www.evoting.nsdl.com/</u>
- (iii) Click on Shareholder Login.
- (iv) Insert 'User ID' and 'Initial Password' as noted in step (i) above and click 'Login'.
- (v) Password change menu will appear. Change the Password with a new Password of your choice. Please keep a note of the new Password. It is strongly recommended not to share your Password with any person and take utmost care to keep it confidential.
- (vi) Home page of e-voting will open. Click on e-Voting - Active Voting Cycles.
- (vii) Select 'EVEN' of Hindustan Unilever Limited.

- (viii) Now you are ready for e-voting as 'Cast Vote' page opens.
- (ix) Cast your vote by selecting appropriate option and click on 'Submit'. Click on 'Confirm' when prompted.
- (x) Upon confirmation, the message 'Vote cast successfully' will be displayed.
- (xi) Once you have voted on the resolution, you will not be allowed to modify your vote.
- (xii) Institutional shareholders (i.e. other than individuals, HUF, NRI, etc.) are required to send scanned copy (PDF/JPG Format) of the relevant Board Resolution/ Authority Letter, along with attested specimen signature of the duly authorised signatory(ies) who are authorised to vote, to the Scrutinizer by an e-mail at <u>scrutinizer@snaco.net</u> with a copy marked to <u>evoting@nsdl.co.in</u>.

(b) In case of Shareholders receiving physical copy of the Notice of AGM and Attendance Slip

(i) Initial Password is provided, as follows, at the bottom of the Attendance Slip.

EVEN (E-Voting Event Number)	USER ID	PASSWORD

- (ii) Please follow all steps from Sr. No. (ii) to Sr. No.(xii) above, to cast vote.
- II. In case of any queries, you may refer to the 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQs) and 'e-voting user manual' available in the downloads section of NSDL's e-voting website www.evoting.nsdl.com.
- III. If you are already registered with NSDL for e-voting then you can use your existing User ID and Password for casting vote.
- IV. The voting rights shall be as per the number of equity share held by the Member(s) as on Thursday, 12th June, 2014. Members are eligible to cast vote electronically only if they are holding shares as on that date.
- V. The Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 provides that the electronic voting period shall be completed three days prior to the date of AGM. Accordingly, the voting period shall commence at 9.00 a.m. on Tuesday, 24th June, 2014 and will end at 5.00 p.m. on Thursday, 26th June, 2014. The e-voting module shall be disabled by NSDL at 5.00 p.m. on the same day.

- VI. The results shall be declared on or after the AGM. The results along with the Scrutinizer's Report, shall also be placed on the website of the Company.
- 10. The Register of Directors' and Key Managerial Personnel and their shareholding maintained under Section 170 of the Companies Act, 2013, the Register of contracts or arrangements in which the Directors are interested under Section 189 of the Companies Act, 2013 and the Certificate from the Auditors of the Company certifying that the '2001 HLL Stock Option Plan', '2006 HLL Performance Share Scheme' and '2012 HUL Performance Share Scheme' are being implemented in accordance with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Employee Stock Option Scheme and Employee Stock Purchase Scheme) Guidelines, 1999, will be available for inspection at the AGM.
- 11. Members holding shares in demat form are hereby informed that bank particulars registered with their respective Depository Participant(s), with whom they maintain their demat accounts, will be used by the Company for payment of dividend. The Company or its Registrar cannot act on any request received directly from the Members holding shares in demat form for any change in bank particulars. Members holding shares in demat form are requested to intimate any change in their address and / or bank mandate to their Depository Participants immediately.
- Members holding shares in physical form are requested to intimate any change of address and / or bank mandate to M/s. Karvy Computershare Private Limited / Investor Service Department of the Company immediately.
- 13. Members are requested to share their valuable feedback by filling 'Shareholders' Satisfaction Survey' given at the end of this Report. Members can also provide their feedback online, using the 'Shareholders' Satisfaction Survey' form available on the 'Investor Centre' page on the website of the Company <u>www.hul.co.in.</u> This feedback will help the Company improve Shareholder Service Standards.
- 14. Members are requested to note that as per Section 205A of the Companies Act, 1956, dividends not encashed / claimed

within seven years from the date of declaration will be transferred to the Investor Education and Protection Fund (IEPF). After transfer of the said amount to IEPF, no claims in this respect shall lie against IEPF or the Company.

- 15. The status of dividends remaining unclaimed / unpaid with the respective due dates of transfer to IEPF is provided at page no. 66 of this Annual Report. Members are requested to contact M/s. Karvy Computershare Private Limited / Investor Service Department of the Company for encashing the unclaimed dividends standing to the credit of their account.
- 16. The Securities and Exchange Board of India has mandated submission of Permanent Account Number (PAN) by every participant in securities market. Members holding shares in demat form are, therefore, requested to submit PAN details to the Depository Participants with whom they have demat accounts. Members holding shares in physical form can submit their PAN details to M/s. Karvy Computershare Private Limited / Investor Service Department of the Company.
- 17. For convenience of the Members and proper conduct of the meeting, entry to the meeting venue will be regulated by Attendance Slip. Members are requested to sign at the place provided on the Attendance Slip and hand it over at the registration counter.
- Members desiring any information relating to the accounts are requested to write to the Company well in advance so as to enable the management to keep the information ready.

Registered Office: Unilever House, B. D. Sawant Marg, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 099

Mumbai : 16th May, 2014

By Order of the Board

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Dev Bajpai Executive Director (Legal & Corporate Affairs) and Company Secretary

Hindustan Unilever Limited

Overview

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Item No. 5 to 8

In accordance with the relevant provisions of the Articles of Association of the Company and the erstwhile provisions of the Companies Act, 1956, Mr. Aditya Narayan, Mr. S. Ramadorai, Mr. O. P. Bhatt and Dr. Sanjiv Misra, Independent Directors were appointed / re-appointed by the Members of the Company in the 80th AGM held on 26th July, 2013. The provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 with respect to appointment and tenure of the Independent Directors have come into effect. As per the said provisions, the Independent Directors shall be appointed for not more than two terms of five years each and shall not be liable to retire by rotation at every AGM.

The Board of Directors of the Company has decided to adopt the provisions with respect to appointment and tenure of Independent Directors which is consistent with the Companies Act, 2013 and the amended Listing Agreement. Accordingly, the Independent Directors will serve for not more than two terms of five years each on the Board of the Company. In the transition to the Companies Act, 2013, which is effective 1st April, 2014, those Independent Directors who have already served for ten or more years will serve for a maximum period of one term of five years. This is consistent with the provisions of Companies Act, 2013. In effect, the transition will be managed by re-appointing such Independent Directors for a period of one more term that does not exceed five years. With the above changes, the Company would not have any upper age limit of retirement of Independent Directors from the Board and their appointment and tenure will be governed by the provisions of Companies Act, 2013.

Mr. Aditya Narayan, Mr. S. Ramadorai, Mr. O. P. Bhatt and Dr. Sanjiv Misra, will retire by rotation at the ensuing AGM as per the erstwhile applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 1956. In terms of Section 149 and any other applicable provisions of the Companies Act, 2013, Mr. Aditya Narayan, Mr. S. Ramadorai, Mr. O. P. Bhatt and Dr. Sanjiv Misra, being eligible, offer themselves for appointment as Independent Directors on the Board of the Company. In line with the requirements of the Companies Act, 2013, it is therefore proposed to appoint Mr. Aditya Narayan, Mr. S. Ramadorai, Mr. O. P. Bhatt and Dr. Sanjiv Misra, as Independent Directors on the Board of the Company for a term upto five consecutive years, commencing from 30th June, 2014. A brief profile of proposed Independent Directors, including nature of their expertise, is provided at page no. 26 to 29 of this Annual Report.

Notices have been received from Members proposing candidature of the above Directors for the office of Independent Director of the Company. In the opinion of the Board, Mr. Aditya Narayan, Mr. S. Ramadorai, Mr. O. P. Bhatt and Dr. Sanjiv Misra fulfil the conditions specified in the Companies Act, 2013 and the Rules made thereunder for appointment as Independent Directors of the Company. A copy of the draft Letter of Appointment for Independent Directors, setting out terms and conditions of their appointment, is available for inspection at the Registered Office of the Company during business hours on any working day and is also available on the website of the Company <u>www.hul.co.in</u>.

None of the Directors or Key Managerial Personnel of the Company and their relatives, other than Independent Directors for their respective appointment, are concerned or interested, financially or otherwise, in these Resolutions. The Board commends the Ordinary Resolutions as set out at item no. 5 to 8 for approval of the Members.

Registered Office: Unilever House, B. D. Sawant Marg, Chakala, Andheri (East), Mumbai - 400 099

Dev Bajpai

Mumbai : 16th May, 2014

By Order of the Board

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Executive Director (Legal & Corporate Affairs) and Company Secretary