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# Nigeria National Scale NOHC Ratings Affirmed After Criteria Review; Removed From Under Criteria Observation

JOHANNESBURG (S&P Global Ratings) June 15, 2023--S&P Global Ratings today affirmed its national scale ratings on FBN Holdings PLC (FBNH) and Guaranty Trust Holding Co. PLC (GTH) and removed the ratings from under criteria observation (UCO). We placed the ratings on the two non-operating holding companies, FBNH and GTH, on UCO on June 8, 2023, pending our review following the revision of our criteria on national scale ratings (see "Certain National Scale Ratings Placed Under Criteria Observation Following Criteria Update."

The rating action follows the publication of our revised criteria for determining national and regional scale mapping specifications and assigning credit ratings mapped from global to national scale (see "[National And Regional Scale Credit Ratings Methodology](#)," published June 8, 2023 on RatingsDirect).

As a result of our review, we have affirmed our long-term 'ngBBB-' and short-term 'ngA-3' national scale ratings on the non-operating companies and their respective banks.

The rating actions are as follows:

- First Bank of Nigeria Ltd.: we affirmed our 'ngBBB-/ngA-3' long- and short-term national scale ratings.
- FBN Holdings PLC: we affirmed our 'ngBBB-/ngA-3' long- and short-term national scale ratings.
- Guaranty Trust Bank Ltd.: we affirmed our 'ngBBB-/ngA-3' long- and short-term national scale ratings.
- Guaranty Trust Holding Co. PLC: we affirmed our 'ngBBB-/ngA-3' long- and short-term national scale ratings.

Our Nigeria scale ratings do not carry outlooks.

Although we consider non-operating holding companies (NOHCs) to be structurally subordinated to operating companies because of the risk of potential regulatory intervention, we equalize our ratings on FBNH and GTH with those on their respective operating companies, FirstBank of Nigeria Ltd. and Guaranty Trust Bank PLC, because there is no debt at the NOHC level and we consider the risk of default to be in line with their operating company's creditworthiness. We do not rate banks in Nigeria above the sovereign credit ratings due to the direct and indirect effect of sovereign stress on the banks' creditworthiness.

Our global scale issuer and issue credit ratings on the entities are not affected by today's rating actions. Our national scale ratings express our opinion of the creditworthiness of an issuer or a debt instrument relative to other issuers and issues in each country.

## Ratings List

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\*\*\*\*\* FBN HOLDINGS PLC \*\*\*\*\*

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**RATINGS AFFIRMED**

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**FBN HOLDINGS PLC**

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**FIRST BANK OF NIGERIA LTD.**

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Issuer Credit Rating

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Nigeria National Scale

ngBBB-/--/ngA-3

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**\*\*\*\*\* GUARANTY TRUST HOLDING CO. PLC \*\*\*\*\***

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**RATINGS AFFIRMED**

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**GUARANTY TRUST HOLDING CO. PLC**

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**GUARANTY TRUST BANK LTD.**

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Issuer Credit Rating

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Nigeria National Scale

ngBBB-/--/ngA-3

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## Regulatory Disclosures

FBN Holdings PLC

- Primary Credit Analyst: Charlotte Masvongo, Associate
- Rating Committee Chairperson: Natalia Yalovskaya
- Date initial rating assigned: Jun. 11, 2013
- Date of previous review: Feb. 08, 2023

First Bank of Nigeria Ltd.

- Primary Credit Analyst: Charlotte Masvongo, Associate
- Rating Committee Chairperson: Natalia Yalovskaya
- Date initial rating assigned: Jun. 11, 2013
- Date of previous review: Feb. 08, 2023

## **Disclaimers**

This rating has been determined by a rating committee based solely on the committee's independent evaluation of the credit risks and merits of the issuer or issue being rated in accordance with S&P Global Ratings published criteria and no part of this rating was influenced by any other business activities of S&P Global Ratings.

This credit rating is solicited. The rated entity did participate in the credit rating process. S&P Global Ratings did have access to the accounts, financial records and other relevant internal, non-public documents of the rated entity or a related third party. S&P Global Ratings has used information from sources believed to be reliable but does not guarantee the accuracy, adequacy, or completeness of any information used.

Materials Used In The Credit Rating Process: Sufficient information in general consists of both (i) financial statements that describe the Issuer's financial condition, results of operations and cash-flows, and (ii) a description of the activities and obligations of the entity including of its governance and legal structure.

This credit rating was disclosed to the rated entity or related third party before being issued.

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are not otherwise associated with a Credit Rating Action. Note that there may be instances where the PCR reflects an updated Ratings Model version in business use as of the date of the last Credit Rating Action although use of the updated Ratings Model was deemed unnecessary to produce that Credit Rating Action. For example, this may occur in the case of event driven reviews where the event being assessed is considered to be not relevant to running the updated Ratings Model version. Note also that, in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements, S&P Global Ratings evaluates the impact of material changes to Ratings Models and, where appropriate, issues revised Credit Ratings where necessitated by the updated Ratings Model.

## Glossary

- Date initial rating assigned: The date Standard & Poor's assigned the long-term foreign currency issuer credit rating on the entity
- Date of previous review: The date Standard & Poor's last reviewed the credit rating on the entity
- ESG credit factors: Those environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors that can materially influence the creditworthiness of a rated entity or issue and for which we have sufficient visibility and certainty to include in our credit rating analysis. These credit factors can have a negative or positive impact on creditworthiness, depending on whether they represent a risk or an opportunity.
- ESG credit indicator: An ESG credit indicator is an alphanumeric representation of the qualitative assessment of ESG factors' impact on creditworthiness produced as part of the ratings process. Our ESG credit indicators provide additional disclosure by reflecting our opinion of how material the influence of ESG factors is on the various analytical components in our rating analysis through an alphanumeric 1-5 scale. ESG credit indicators are applied after the ratings have been determined.
- National scale rating: An opinion of an obligor's creditworthiness or overall capacity to meet specific financial obligations, relative to other issuers and issues in a given country or region.

## Related Criteria

- [General Criteria: National And Regional Scale Credit Ratings Methodology](#), June 8, 2023
- [General Criteria: Hybrid Capital: Methodology And Assumptions](#), March 2, 2022
- [Criteria | Financial Institutions | Banks: Banking Industry Country Risk Assessment Methodology And Assumptions](#), Dec. 9, 2021
- [Criteria | Financial Institutions | General: Financial Institutions Rating Methodology](#), Dec. 9, 2021
- [General Criteria: Environmental, Social, And Governance Principles In Credit Ratings](#), Oct. 10, 2021
- [General Criteria: Group Rating Methodology](#), July 1, 2019
- [Criteria | Financial Institutions | General: Risk-Adjusted Capital Framework Methodology](#), July 20, 2017
- [General Criteria: Methodology For Linking Long-Term And Short-Term Ratings](#), April 7, 2017
- [General Criteria: Ratings Above The Sovereign--Corporate And Government Ratings: Methodology And Assumptions](#), Nov. 19, 2013
- [General Criteria: Criteria For Assigning 'CCC+', 'CCC', 'CCC-', And 'CC' Ratings](#), Oct. 1, 2012
- [General Criteria: Principles Of Credit Ratings](#), Feb. 16, 2011

## Related Research

- [Sector And Industry Variables: National And Regional Scale Credit Ratings Methodology](#), June 8, 2023
- [Certain National Scale Ratings Placed Under Criteria Observation Following Criteria Update](#), June 8, 2023
- [Outlook On 12 Nigerian Financial Institutions To Negative On Same Action To Sovereign; 7 National Scale Ratings Lowered](#), Feb. 8, 2023
- [Nigeria Outlook Revised To Negative From Stable On Weakening Fiscal And External Metrics; 'B-/B' Ratings Affirmed](#), Feb. 3, 2023

Certain terms used in this report, particularly certain adjectives used to express our view on rating relevant factors, have specific meanings ascribed to them in our criteria, and should therefore be read in conjunction with such criteria. Please see Ratings Criteria at [www.standardandpoors.com](http://www.standardandpoors.com) for further information. A description of each of S&P Global Ratings' rating categories is contained in "S&P Global Ratings Definitions" at [https://www.standardandpoors.com/en\\_US/web/guest/article/-/view/sourceId/504352](https://www.standardandpoors.com/en_US/web/guest/article/-/view/sourceId/504352). Complete ratings information is available to subscribers of RatingsDirect at [www.capitaliq.com](http://www.capitaliq.com). All ratings affected by this rating action can be found on S&P Global Ratings' public website at [www.standardandpoors.com](http://www.standardandpoors.com). Use the Ratings search box located in the left column. Alternatively, call one of the following S&P Global Ratings numbers: Client Support Europe (44) 20-7176-7176; London Press Office (44) 20-7176-3605; Paris (33) 1-4420-6708; Frankfurt (49) 69-33-999-225; or Stockholm (46) 8-440-5914.

### [Regulatory Disclosures For Each Credit Rating Including Ratings List Table](#)

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- Key Elements Underlying The Credit Rating
- ESG Credit Factors
- Solicited Or Unsolicited Status
- Analysts Primarily Responsible For The Credit Rating
- Office Responsible For The Credit Rating
- Materials Used In The Credit Rating Process
- Criteria Applied
- Models Applied, Loss, And Cash Flow Analysis Performed
- Scenario Analysis
- Sensitivity Analysis
- Risk Warning, Understanding Credit Rating Categorizations, And Criteria
- Rated Entity Notification
- Ancillary And Additional Services
- Attributes And Limitations Of The Credit Rating
- Information Specific To Structured Finance And Securitization Instruments

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