

April 2022

Reinsurance Trade Barriers and Market Access Issues Worldwide

Global Reinsurance Forum (GRF) – April 2022

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I. Executive summary of the types of restrictive reinsurance measures applied by jurisdictions

Global Reinsurance Forum (GRF) members account for more than 65% of global net reinsurance premiums. The GRF believes that positive and significant economic benefits will result from the free global flow of risk through open and competitive reinsurance markets.

During the latest review, the GRF has identified 53 major territories, including regional groupings, which have implemented, are in the process of implementing or are considering implementing, barriers to the transfer of risks through global reinsurance markets. Whilst some jurisdictions have been pursuing liberalisation of their reinsurance markets, it remains concerning to see that significant existing barriers still remain in place and new restrictions to the free flow of reinsurance are being established. Such barriers reduce competition leading to reduced customer choice, higher reinsurance costs and less capacity over the long-term horizon. These reinsurance trade barriers and market access issues include but are not limited to:

- Restrictions on the ability of reinsurers to freely conduct business on a cross-border basis, thus limiting the capacity of global reinsurers to spread risk globally and to prevent domestic concentrations of risk. Varying levels of restriction are witnessed or developing in Australia, Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Brazil, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, European Union, Germany, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, the Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, South Korea, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Vietnam, Zimbabwe as well as the groupings of other member countries of the African Union and the grouping of the *Conférence Interafricaine des Marchés d'Assurances*.
- Requirements for reinsurers operating on a cross-border basis to collateralise or localise assets, preventing the global reinsurance market from transferring and spreading risk on the basis of a competitive, level playing field across borders. Such requirements exist or are evolving in jurisdictions including Argentina, Brazil, Canada, China, India, Israel, Portugal, Singapore and the United States.
- Restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries and other barriers to the establishment of branches, subsidiaries and operations. This restricts the ability of reinsurers to deliver their full economic benefit by providing local underwriting expertise and direct services to transfer risk out of domestic markets on an open and competitive basis. Such barriers are present or developing to varying extents in a number of jurisdictions including, but not limited to: Algeria, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Moldova, Myanmar, Nigeria, Russia, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Uganda, the United Kingdom, the United States and Zimbabwe.
- The use of discriminatory and anti-competitive mechanisms such as compulsory cessions to domestic entities, systems of 'right of first refusal', and compulsory, subsidized or monopolistic governmental mechanisms limiting the competitive capacity of global reinsurers to operate on a level playing field. Such practices concentrate risk domestically, whilst limiting customer choice, and can be witnessed or are developing to varying degrees in the African Union, Algeria, Argentina, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam and elsewhere.

II. Significant developments since the last edition of this document was published

Australia: following the consultation conducted in 2021, reinsurance arrangements concluded with an unregistered life company or appropriate retrocessionaire will be subject to an aggregate limit, equal to the greater of (i) 12.5% of VAF and (ii) 62.5% of capital base. The relevant Prudential Standard (LPS 117) will apply from 1 July 2023.

Canada: the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) has released the final versions of the Sound Reinsurance Practices and Procedures (Guideline B-3) and Property and Casualty Large Insurance Exposures and Investment Concentration (Guideline B-2) which will both become effective on 1 January 2025.

China: with the implementation of C-ROSS Phase II effective from 1 January 2022, credit risk charge can be lowered from 49.9% (previously 58.8%) to 7.7% (previously 8.7%) if foreign offshore reinsurers collateralise their reinsurance assets.

India: following the increase in the FDI limit in respect of insurance companies to 74%, the entry now includes updated information on the associated requirements for senior management and other corporate governance requirements.

Moldova: the entry has been updated to reflect the legal provisions which require local insurers that place reinsurance with foreign reinsurers to retain at least 20% of the risk.

Nepal: a circular issued by the Insurance Regulatory Authority of Nepal in November 2021 introduced a requirement that 100% of reinsurance is placed with domestic reinsurers.

Netherlands: the entry has been updated to reflect that non-EU (non-)life insurers are required to be approved by DNB to write cross-border reinsurance business from Netherlands.

Saudi Arabia: SAMA's circular issued in 2021 directed that certain percentage of treaty reinsurance premiums must be placed within the local reinsurance market, with the requirement rising from 15% in 2022 to 30% in 2025 (it is understood that the existing provision on placing 30% of all gross premiums within the local market was not previously enforced).

Uganda: starting from October 2021, reinsurance can only be arranged with licensed or accredited reinsurers and reinsurance brokers, or with foreign reinsurers in which the government of Uganda has a stake. In addition, the entry has been updated with the information on mandatory reinsurance cessions.

United States: forty-eight US states (previously twenty-five) have enacted the latest revisions implementing the EU-US and UK-US covered agreements which provide a process for reinsurers domiciled in jurisdictions with robust regulatory regimes to qualify for zero collateral.

AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

1. AFRICAN UNION

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

It depends on individual jurisdictions' rules.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

It depends on individual jurisdictions' rules.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

It depends on individual jurisdictions' rules.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. However, compulsory cession is only applicable to African Union members who are shareholders of Africa Re (41 member states) – they are required to offer 5% of each risk to Africa Re. For example, South Africa does not have the compulsory cession of 5%.

2. CONFÉRENCE INTERAFRICAINNE DES MARCHÉS D'ASSURANCES (CIMA)

➤ Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?

Yes. Foreign reinsurers are excluded from writing accident, health, life and death, motor liability, land vehicles except for railway stock, goods in transit, capitalisation, tontines and unit-linked insurance and there are restrictions for cessions abroad above 50% for all other classes of business.

➤ Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?

No.

➤ Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?

No.

➤ Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?

Please see African Union restrictions above. Additionally, 15% of all treaties go to CICA-Re. Furthermore, CIMA Code only permits up to 50% of any reinsurance risk to be placed internationally. To reinsure more than 50% of a risk with unlicensed overseas reinsurers, local regulatory approval must be secured. If it is not granted the remaining 50% must be reinsured locally or with a reinsurer established in another CIMA member state.

3. **ALGERIA**

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, but cross-border reinsurers must be registered locally as 'admitted' reinsurers.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes, there is a 49% limit on foreign equity ownership.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. At least 50% of all local reinsurance cessions must be placed with the state reinsurer, CCR, under the mandatory cession arrangements currently in force. However, CCR is free to decline the compulsory cession as it sees fit, but this does not occur currently and has rarely happened in the past.

4. EGYPT

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, but all reinsurance must be placed with reinsurers approved by the regulator. These are largely companies with rating of at least BBB+ and/or a minimum capital of USD 50mn.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes. Foreign branches are not allowed. No limit on the foreign ownership of Egyptian insurers, but no individual company or person can own more than 10% of an Egyptian insurer without the regulator's approval.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. Local insurance companies are required to cede a minimum of 5% of each reinsurance treaty to Africa Re.

According to the Vice Chairman of the Financial Regulatory Authority (FRA) and the Insurance Federation of Egypt (IFE) are studying minimum retention rates in the local market, with a view to introducing them. The aim of minimum retention rates is to limit the outflow of premiums abroad through reinsurance. The FRA is also considering the establishment of a state reinsurance company.

5. ETHIOPIA

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes. No foreign ownership of insurance or reinsurance companies, even minority holdings, is permitted in Ethiopia.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. The Manner and Criteria of Transacting Reinsurance Directive No SIB/44/2016 that came into force on 1 August 2016 imposes mandatory cession requirements for each reinsurance policy in Ethiopia. Minimum 25% of all treaty cessions and 5% of each reinsurance policy must be ceded to a local reinsurer. Additionally, the local reinsurer has the right of first refusal for all facultative placements. Reinsurance policies that were concluded prior to 1 August 2016 will be subject to the new requirements at renewal.

6. GABON

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. Local insurers are required to cede 15% of non-life premium and 5% of all treaty and facultative reinsurances to the state-owned reinsurer Société Commerciale Gabonaise de Réassurance (SCG - Re).

7. **KENYA**

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes. A minimum of one-third of the equity of an insurance company is required to be held by Kenyans or citizens of East African Community countries.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. Local insurers are legally bound to offer compulsory cessions of at least 35%, legislated within insurance law. These are split between three reinsurance groups; state-owned Kenya Re 20%, followed by the regional reinsurance groups ZEP Reinsurance Co Ltd (ZEP-RE) 10% and Africa Re 5% of all their outward reinsurance treaties, both life and non-life. The compulsory cession of 20% is in force until 2020.

8. NAMIBIA

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Mandatory cessions to NamibRe came into effect on 1 July 2018, which comprise the following elements:

- a 12.5% cession on all life and non -life insurance policies written or renewed in Namibia greater than NAD 100,000 (USD 6,830),
- 20% of the value of each reinsurance contract placed by locally registered (re)insurers with domestic or international reinsurers, and
- the first right of refusal to provide additional facultative cover on any reinsurance contract entered into by an insurer in Namibia.

The majority of the largest Namibian insurers have instituted court proceedings to challenge the validity of the expanded mandatory cession rules that came into effect on 1 July 2018. The ongoing legal stalemate raises challenges NamibRe to effectively fulfil its mandate.

9. **NIGERIA**

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

No. There is no requirement for foreign reinsurers to register before they start operations in Nigeria. However, they must come through a local insurance broker. Permission to reinsure abroad can be sought from regulator. Specific guidelines state that no (re)insurance risk in the Nigerian oil and gas sector may be placed overseas without written approval of the regulator. Local capacity, which is the aggregate capacity (incl. treaty reinsurance) of all locally registered reinsurers must be fully exhausted.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No, while in the past foreign ownership levels had been unregulated for the insurance industry, there have been reports in the context of the industry's current recapitalisation that foreign ownership above 30% of share capital would not be allowed. However, there are currently no restrictions on foreign investment in insurance companies which may be up to 100%.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. 5% of treaty programmes to Africa Re. Additional 5% of treaty programmes, excl. life and aviation, of member companies of the West African Insurance Companies Association must be placed with WAICA Re.

10. SAUDI ARABIA

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes. Locally incorporated (re)insurance companies are required to be listed on the Saudi Stock Exchange (Tadawul). Foreign ownership of such entities is limited as a matter of policy by the Saudi Central Bank (SAMA) and it is rare for approval to be granted for a foreign investor to own more than a 40% shareholding.

On 17 December 2018, SAMA issued licensing and supervision rules for foreign insurers and reinsurers wishing to establish and operate a branch in the Kingdom, including capital adequacy and financial suitability for obtaining a licence.

Any locally incorporated company or branch of a foreign company, prior to commencing insurance or reinsurance operations in Saudi Arabia is required to maintain a minimum capital of SAR100m for insurance and SAR200m for reinsurance in the Kingdom. It is worth noting that a percentage of this amount must be deposited with a licensed Saudi bank and is determined by the security rating which ranges from 0% for an "AAA"-rated company to a minimum of 40% for those less than "A"-rated.

SAMA requires that directors and senior management roles of (re)insurance companies be Saudi nationals and exemptions to this requirement are subject to SAMA approval.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. Local ceding companies are required to retain at least 30% of their total insurance premium. Further to this, 30% of their total premium must be reinsured within Saudi Arabia. Such percentages are calculated based on the ceding insurers portfolio of business (as opposed to a per risk basis).

Whilst the latter restriction has not been enforced in practice, the circular issued by SAMA in 2021 suggested that the requirement to offer a certain percentage of treaty reinsurance premiums within the local reinsurance market will be applied going forward, with the percentage rising from 15% in 2022 to 30% in 2025.

11. SENEGAL

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. Local insurers face a compulsory cession of 10% of all facultative business, 6.5% of premiums plus 15% of treaties to the state -owned reinsurer, SEN -Re. From 1 January 2020, CICA -RE also receives a compulsory share of 10% and a 5% share of each and every risk. Africa Re also receives a compulsory treaty cession of 5%.

12. SOUTH AFRICA

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, but with significant restrictions. Foreign reinsurers may not actively seek business in South Africa, except through a local subsidiary or branch. South African cedants are permitted to purchase reinsurance from offshore reinsurers.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

No.

13. SUDAN

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. Local insurers are required to cede 50% of their treaty business to state -owned National Re. Local cedants must also offer all non -life facultative reinsurance to National Re, which has the option of accepting or declining on a case by case basis. Africa Re benefits from a compulsory cession of 5% of all Sudanese reinsurance treaties. ZEP-RE currently benefits from a compulsory cession of 10% of all Sudanese reinsurance treaties.

14. TANZANIA

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes. However overseas reinsurers and reinsurance brokers must be accredited by the Tanzanian regulator (TIRA) and pay annual accreditation levies (USD 10,000 for reinsurers and USD 5,000 for brokers). An insurer must approach the local market players and demonstrate to TIRA that it has done so using the necessary forms, before seeking to reinsure a risk overseas.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. A policy cession of 10% of each policy written (life or non-life) and a treaty cession of 20% must be given to Tan-Re including on the underlying policies, Africa Re (5%) and ZEP-RE (10%).

Insurers should have a minimum retention of 5% of its shareholders fund for every risk it reinsures overseas. For each overseas facultative risk approved by TIRA, the insurer must pay a levy of 3% of the applicable gross premium (subject to a minimum of USD 200). Additionally, a payment of 20% of any fronting fee or reinsurance commission in excess of 12%.

Circular Letter No. 055/2017, which came into effect on 1 January 2018, requires local capacity to be exhausted before a risk can be reinsured overseas and mandates a minimum retention for every risk that is placed overseas. On 1 Dec 2018, TIRA issued revised guidance with the main changes being: the amendment of the levy payable on foreign facultative placements plus the TIRA levy and a new requirement for local insurers to submit quarterly treaty reinsurance statements to TIRA.

15. UGANDA

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes. However, from 1 October 2021, reinsurance can only be arranged with licensed or accredited reinsurers and reinsurance brokers, or with foreign reinsurers in which the government of Uganda has a stake. Foreign insurers' accreditation must be renewed annually (this doesn't apply to foreign reinsurers in which the government of Uganda has a stake). Reinsurance contracts with unaccredited foreign reinsurers and reinsurance brokers shall be void from 1 January 2022.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes. Branch offices of foreign externally based (re)insurance companies must be incorporated in Uganda. There are no restrictions on foreign ownership.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. Companies are required to offer a minimum of 15% of all reinsurance cessions (treaty and facultative, life and non-life) to Uganda Re. Additionally, there are mandatory cessions of 5% to Africa Re and 10% to PTA Re. Whilst there is no requirement for such cessions to be accepted by the reinsurers, the regulator requires signed slips to evidence that the reinsurers declined to participate before the reinsurance can be placed elsewhere.

16. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes. However, business may only be ceded to reinsurers with minimum credit ratings (Standard and Poor's "BBB", or an equivalent rating from an internationally recognised rating agency) Reinsurance for takaful business may only be obtained from retakaful providers or from conventional reinsurers provided reinsurance is funded from their retakaful operations.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Under Insurance Authority's Board of Directors Decision No.(23) of 2019 Concerning Instructions Organizing Reinsurance Operations (published in May 2019), a branch of a foreign reinsurer is required to maintain a minimum capital of AED250m for reinsurance. Furthermore, 51% of the capital of the locally incorporated reinsurance companies must be owned by natural persons who are UAE or Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) nationals or by legal entities which are wholly owned by UAE or GCC nationals.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

No.

17. ZIMBABWE

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, but reinsurance business can only be placed with locally registered reinsurance companies.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes, Section 8 (b) (i) of the Insurance Act states that a body corporate with share capital must have a controlling interest held directly or indirectly by Zimbabwe citizens and permanent residents.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

No.

ASIA-PACIFIC

18. AUSTRALIA

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes. Following the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority's consultation in 2021, reinsurance arrangements concluded with an unregistered life company or appropriate retrocessionaire will be subject to an aggregate limit, equal to the greater of (i) 12.5% of VAF and (ii) 62.5% of capital base. The relevant Prudential Standard (LPS 117) will apply from 1 July 2023. Offshore reinsurers that enter the domestic market and become an APRA-registered entity will not be subject to the aggregate limit.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

No.

19. AZERBAIJAN

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, but cross-border reinsurers must be registered locally as 'admitted' reinsurers.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes. Foreign insurers may open representative offices, joint ventures and fully owned subsidiary insurance companies in Azerbaijan, but branch office establishments are not permitted.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

No.

20. BANGLADESH

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes. The maximum shareholding allowed by a foreign person or entity is 60%.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. There is a compulsory cession of 50% of a direct insurer's business to be reinsured with the state-owned Sadharan Bima Corporation (SBC). The remaining 50% may be reinsured with either SBC or with any other insurer within or outside Bangladesh – subject to the approval of SBC.

21. BHUTAN

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. The reinsurance regulation mandates that 20% of every business underwritten by two insurance companies in Bhutan must be ceded to GIC-Bhutan Re Ltd.

22. CAMBODIA

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes. Branches of foreign reinsurers are not allowed.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. Reinsurance business must be offered to local reinsurers before reinsurance is arranged overseas.

A compulsory cession of 20% on all non-life insurance contracts must be ceded to the partially state-owned Cambodia Re.

The Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) has the right to veto any company's reinsurance arrangements.

23. CHINA

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes. However, Chinese insurers face credit risk charges on all cessions, based upon solvency ratios and collateralised assets of the reinsurer. The charges applied in respect of offshore reinsurers are greater than those applied to onshore reinsurers.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

Yes. Under C-ROSS Phase II (effective from 1 January 2022), in order to avoid a credit risk charge of 49.9% (Phase I previously 58.8%) for all cessions, offshore reinsurers will need to collateralise their reinsurance assets upon requirement from the ceding company (it is not mandatory). Doing so will lower the credit risk charge they face to 7.7% (Phase I previously 8.7%), assuming they meet the additional solvency requirement.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes. In order to be considered for a branch, joint venture or subsidiary licence, foreign insurers must have total assets of at least USD 5bn; and meet other conditions which China Banking and Insurance Regulatory Commission (CBIRC) deems prudently necessary.

There is a minimum number of mandatory positions that a foreign insurance/reinsurance entity in China must fulfil, which is considered high compared with other international jurisdictions. CBIRC has removed the requirement for the persons in these positions to take the qualification exam as of 1 February 2021. Qualification applications are now assessed through a review of the application and interviews with the candidate.

The main issue affecting the applications for establishing foreign owned insurance/reinsurance operations in China is the discretionary timeframe by the regulator for admitting and processing the applications. This leads to a complete uncertainty regarding the time it would take for an application to be processed and approved from the moment the application materials are handed in. A process that in theory should not take more than a few months, according to the existing regulations, may in reality take several years.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. With the exception of aviation, aerospace, nuclear, oil and credit reinsurance contracts, the amount of proportional business ceded to any one reinsurer in respect of any one risk should not exceed 80% of the sum insured or liability limit of the direct insurance policy.

24. INDIA

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes. However, the cross-border reinsurers need to be registered with the regulator and have a Unique Identification Number (UIN) which is issued each year. The application for UIN is to be made by any one local insurer and through upload of rating and financial documents of the cross-border reinsurer.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No. However, Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has kept a provision to introduce collaterals at a later stage but currently they haven't issued any collateral requirements.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes. However, the Insurance (Amendment) Act 2021, effective from 1 April 2021, and the Indian Insurance Companies (Foreign Investment) Amendment Rules 2021, effective from 19 May 2021, increased the maximum investment allowed in an Indian insurance company by foreign interests from 49% to 74% and set out the conditions for such investments. Additional requirements include:

- a company with foreign investors must have resident Indian citizens as a majority of its directors and senior managers;
- at least one of the persons acting as chairman, CEO or managing director must be a resident Indian citizen;
- at least 50% of directors must be independent, unless the chairman is an independent director, when it will be permissible for that limit to be reduced to one-third.

IRDAI regulations require foreign reinsurance branches (FRBs) to hold a certain amount of capital locally at the time of registration and thereafter to maintain adequate solvency. In addition, FRBs are required to provide a letter of comfort from their parent entities that the parent would always meet all the liabilities of the branch. Even though this framework effectively guarantees that reinsurers have sufficient capital to meet their obligations at all times, there are currently no rules on how additional local capital can be repatriated freely. There is also no clear procedure for repatriating surplus/profits.

Indian regulations currently prevent foreign reinsurers doing business in India through license branches from reorganising their corporate structure. Specifically, it is currently not possible to transfer the portfolio of an existing entity to a new branch of another wholly-owned affiliate in the same group. This is not in line with international best practices and imposes additional challenges for FRBs.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Compulsory cession

Yes, 5% of each non-life policy must be ceded to the "Indian reinsurer", the General Insurance Corporation (except for terrorism and nuclear risk). For the period between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023, the obligatory cession will decrease to 4%. No more than 10% of an Indian insurer's off-shore reinsurance premium (as a percentage of total off-shore reinsurance premium) can be placed with any single reinsurer that has a rating of BBB or

BBB+, 15% with a foreign reinsurer with a rating higher than BBB+ and up to and including A+, and 20% with one that has a rating higher than A+. If an insurer wants to cede a larger proportion of the risk with a foreign reinsurer, it requires the regulator's specific approval. Indian life insurers must reinsure a percentage of the sum assured on each policy with domestic reinsurers. Compulsory cessions are included as provisions in the Insurance Act. However, there is currently no fixed % to be ceded.

Taxation

For tax purposes, foreign reinsurance branches are treated as "non-residents", requiring them to pay a corporate tax of 40% plus surcharge/education cess, whereas local players enjoy an effective tax rate of only 22% plus surcharge/education cess.

Order of Preference

The Order of Preference Regulations (applicable to non-life business only) create a tiered system whereby Indian insurers are required to cede business to reinsurers according to a prescribed order of preference. With effect from 1 January 2019, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Reinsurance) Regulations 2018 (IRDAI Reinsurance Regulations) confirms the enforcement of the Order of Preference Regulations and now refers to the order of preference itself as the "offer for participation". The two steps involved are as follows:

Step 1: Obtaining best terms for cessions

Cedants shall seek terms from all Indian reinsurers who have been transacting reinsurance business in the past three years and at least from four Foreign Reinsurer Branches. No cedant shall seek terms from International Financial Service Centre Insurance Offices having a credit rating below A- or Cross Border Reinsurers having a credit rating below A-. No cedant shall seek terms from any Indian insurer not registered with IRDAI to transact reinsurance business.

Step 2: Offer for Participation

Every cedant shall offer the best terms in the following order of preference: (a) Indian reinsurers (GIC Re); (b) to other Indian reinsurers and FRBs; (c) Insurance Offices which provide the best terms if not less than 10%; (d) CBRs that provide the best terms if not less than 10%; (e) other Insurance Offices; (f) other Indian insurers (facultative) and CBRs.

Compulsory retention

With effect from 1 January 2019, every Indian reinsurer shall maintain a minimum retention of 50% of its Indian business.

Confirmation of participation on risk and receipt of premium

The IRDAI requires all Indian cedants to obtain confirmation from reinsurers of their participation on risk and receipt of premium. This requirement applies to reinsurers both onshore and offshore.

Many reinsurers, particularly those offshore, are concerned that this requirement is burdensome, particularly as premium declaration can be difficult to ascertain.

This requirement is now impacting the annual cross-border registration process, as reinsurers who have written Indian business for some time, may not be able to register as they have been unable to provide the required confirmations in all situations.

25. INDONESIA

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, however it is prohibited to place certain reinsurance business offshore (see compulsory cession section for further information). Foreign reinsurers must also have a minimum BBB or equivalent rating.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes, branches of foreign insurers are not permitted and can only enter the Indonesian market if they enter a joint venture. Foreign insurers will still be capped to a maximum of 80% ownership within the joint venture. Only an incorporated company in Indonesia can apply for a licence to carry on business as an insurer. On 17 April 2018, the Indonesian Government issued the regulation GR14/2018 on Foreign Ownership of Insurance Companies. This confirms that there are no changes with caps on foreign ownership of 80%, including for reinsurance companies. For entities which have already exceeded the 80% foreign ownership cap at the time the Regulation came into force, they will not be required to meet the 80% cap.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. From 1 January 2016 Indonesian insurers are required to place all “simple risks” with domestic reinsurers, namely Indonesia Re which was established by the Indonesian Government in 2015 to increase domestic reinsurance capacity. This includes all reinsurance of life, health, personal accident, motor, credit and suretyship business. The definition of “simple risk” lacks clarity on the scope and, especially with a view to new (re)insurance products, requires further clarification from the regulator.

However, subject to approval by the Indonesia Financial Services Authority (OJK), there are three exceptions to the 100% local cession requirement for “simple risks”:

- products specifically designed for multinational companies;
- medical reimbursement products with global coverage;
- new products developed by a foreign reinsurer. A new product designed by a foreign reinsurer can be reinsured with the foreign reinsurer for a maximum of four years, after which the new policies will be subject to the local cession rules.

If the OJK grants an exemption, a maximum offshore cession of 75% may be permitted, with a minimum cession to domestic reinsurers of 25% (similar to “non-simple risks”).

Regulation 39/POJK.05/2020 (dated June 2020) also removed restrictions on “simple risks” reinsurance for placements with reinsurers located in a country which has a bilateral trade agreement with Indonesia.

For other insurance business (“non-simple risks”), a minimum of 25% of reinsurance of that business must be placed with domestic reinsurers and up to 75% may be placed with offshore reinsurers. A reform, similar to the one for “simple risks”, is expected for "non-simple risks" after 2022.

Offshore data centres

The extent to which allocation of (personal) data of policyholders can be stored in offshore data centres requires further clarification from the regulator. POJK No.38/2020 is currently silent on whether such data regulated under Clause 50 of POJK No.69/2016 (eg, citizenship information) can be stored in the offshore data centre and disaster data centre.

26. ISRAEL

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

Yes. Foreign reinsurers are required to deposit collateral for proportional treaty reinsurance transactions. The level of the deposit is calculated according to various criteria, including the reinsurer's rating and the class of business. There is no such requirement for non-proportional treaties.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

No.

27. MALAYSIA

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes. However, there is a tiered system of reinsurance. Bank Negara requires all local direct insurers to cede business first to local reinsurers (first tier) and then to Labuan-based reinsurers (second tier). Only after these two options have been exhausted may business be offered to 'offshore' or third tier reinsurers.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes, there is a 70% limit on foreign equity ownership.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. The following requirements apply:

- (a) Mandatory "voluntary" cessions to Malaysia Re for treaty and facultative business are required on a quota share basis for direct insurers at 2.5% for all classes;
- (b) Malaysian Re must be offered up to 15% for both proportional and non-proportional treaty reinsurance (excluding aviation, energy and D&O);
- (c) for facultative and engineering reinsurance Malaysian Re must be offered up to 15% of MYR 5mn on a total sum insured basis, the PML monetary limit being MYR 1.5mn;
- (d) for retrocession, 20% must be offered by Malaysian Re to licensed direct insurers in Malaysia, for treaty and facultative business. Individual companies can choose to accept this or not.

28. MONGOLIA

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Amendments to the Law on Insurance of 30 April 2004 have been discussed and a draft law prepared for further consideration by parliament. The discussion has been postponed with no update currently available. Amongst other things, the new legislation may introduce a compulsory 10% cession to Mongolian Re, the state-owned reinsurer.

29. MYANMAR

➤ Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?

Yes. Effective from 1 October 2020, local insurers can now reinsure directly to the foreign market. Foreign reinsurers or cross-border reinsurers who do not have a license to conduct insurance business in Myanmar will now also be permitted, subject to the following conditions:

- a) They must have been licensed in their home country for at least the past three continuous years;
- b) They must have a credit rating of at least BBB from S&P or equivalent for at least the past three continuous years;
- c) They must have maintained a minimum solvency margin or capital adequacy as specified by their home country regulator for at least the past three continuous years;
- d) Their past claims settlement must be satisfactory to the local regulator; and
- e) They must comply with other requirements that may be stipulated by the local regulator.

Furthermore, placements with cross border reinsurers by the cedants conducting insurance activities (other than life insurance) shall be subject to the following overall cession limits during a financial year:

- a) Greater than A+ - 50% maximum cession
- b) Greater than BBB+ and up to and including A+ - 40% maximum cession
- c) BBB & BBB+ - 20% maximum cession.

No placement exceeding these limits shall be made without prior approval from the local regulator.

➤ Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?

No.

➤ Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?

Yes, currently foreign companies are allowed to do business only from a special economic zone.

Starting 2019, the local regulator granted insurance business licences to conduct life insurance business to five 100% foreign owned life insurance companies. Furthermore, three foreign based general insurance companies and three foreign based life insurance companies were also recently allowed to form joint venture insurance companies with local insurers. Foreign participation is allowed up to 35% in accordance with the "foreign company" thresholds pursuant to the Myanmar Companies Law 2017 (MCL 2017). Whether this existing number of 100% foreign owned and/or joint venture companies will be increased remains to be seen.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes, the cedant must cede a compulsory maximum of 10% of any insurance segment business to Myanmar Insurance (the state-owned insurance company). Myanmar Insurance is free to accept or reject the cession and will presumably be able to impose upon it such terms as it sees fit. Only if Myanmar Insurance fails to offer such reinsurance is the insurer free to obtain cross border reinsurance from a foreign reinsurer for that original 10%.

Likewise, other than for life insurance, insurers must offer the best terms obtained to reinsurers in the following order:

- i. Myanmar Insurance;
- ii. Myanmar reinsurers or foreign reinsurers with representative offices in Myanmar; and
- iii. Foreign reinsurers. Insurers are obliged to follow this order of priority only if the terms offered are equalled (or bettered).

30. NEPAL

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. In November 2021, Insurance Regulatory Authority of Nepal issued a circular effectively requiring that 100% of reinsurance is placed with domestic reinsurers. If the domestic market does not accept the business, it can then be written outside of Nepal on a cross-border basis (this doesn't include direct cession business). Any such policies will need evidence that the domestic market did not accept the business, and the cedent will need to present this to the Insurance Board in Nepal first.

Previously, the Ministry of Finance required local insurance companies to reinsure 20% of their business (excluding aviation, trekking and travel medical insurance) to Nepal Re.

31. NEW ZEALAND

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes. However, as part of the review of the Insurance (Prudential Supervision) Act 2010, the Reserve Bank of New Zealand is considering tightening rules on cross-border reinsurance in various ways (e.g. changing the definition of carrying on business in New Zealand). The RBNZ notes two overlapping issues regarding the definition of carrying on business in New Zealand: one about certainty of definition and another about appropriate limits to the scope of cross-border provision of insurance by foreign entities not licensed under IPSA. The RBNZ appreciates the issue around clarity of definition and is considering this further in light of stakeholder feedback.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No. However, public consultation held in 2021 included a discussion on introducing mandatory assets in New Zealand test for overseas branches.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No. The RBNZ is considering a range of options incorporation and the outcome of the consultation is still to be finalised.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

No. Proposal of managing reinsurance risk (under discussion) would be to place more explicit requirements on insurers to manage their risk. That could be done through greater supervision of insurers' own reinsurance risk management procedures, imposing restrictions on the kinds of reinsurance that can be purchased

32. PAKISTAN

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. There is a system of mandatory cessions and a right of first refusal by the state-owned Pakistan Reinsurance Company Limited (PRCL or Pak Re) and by the local market. On treaty contracts, insurers are obliged to offer Pak Re up to 35% of their non-life treaty business, which it can choose to accept or not. Facultative business must be offered to Pak Re, which may accept this or not without limit at its discretion. A certificate of no-objection must also be obtained from the regulator before a risk is offered to overseas reinsurers. In order to obtain this the ceding company must produce evidence of declinatures from the local market.

33. PHILIPPINES

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, however, section 223 of the Insurance Code prohibits an insurance company which is doing business in the Philippines from ceding any risks situated in the Philippines by way of reinsurance directly to a foreign insurer not authorised to do business in the Philippines, unless that foreign insurer is represented in the Philippines by a resident agent who is registered with the Insurance Commissioner

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. There is a mandatory cession of 10% of each and every outward reinsurance treaty and facultative placement to Philippine National Reinsurance Company, the state-owned reinsurer.

For marine hull, aviation, money, securities, payroll and robbery risks on a facultative reinsurance placement, cedants/reinsurers must have unsuccessfully attempted to place the risk with two local direct companies, one foreign authorised company and one domestic professional reinsurer before the regulator will grant them permission to approach an unauthorised foreign company. For all other facultative placements, at least five local direct underwriting companies, three foreign authorised companies and one domestic professional reinsurer must have been approached.

34. SINGAPORE

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, but ceding companies using a reinsurer without a local, physical presence will be penalised by higher RBC charges.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

Yes. Under Singapore's Insurance (Authorised Reinsurers) Regulations 2003, authorised reinsurers are required to hold a minimum deposit of SGD2 million, 30% of gross premiums or 30% of gross liabilities in respect of cross - border reinsurance, whichever is greater.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

No.

35. SOUTH KOREA

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, but South Korean insurance companies are prohibited from engaging in face-to-face meetings, including all marketing activities, with unlicensed foreign reinsurers in South Korea unless a broker is present. Foreign reinsurers may only contact South Korean cedants by means of mail, telephone, fax, video conference or the internet. There is legal uncertainty, however, as to whether this prohibition has the status of law or only of supervisory guidance.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

With effect from 1 January 2019, insurers are required to hold a minimum retention of 10% of every short-term non-life insurance contract. The requirement does not apply to motor policies, retrocession business, or to larger or unusual risks which the insurer's risk committee agrees would not be possible to retain. The minimum retention is interpreted to mean 10% of the policy premium, not 10% of the policy limit or sum insured.

36. SRI LANKA

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. There is a mandatory 30% cession of non-life reinsurance to state owned insurance and reinsurance company, the National Insurance Trust Fund (NITF) - aviation and energy risks are exempt from this rule. A 10% cession was first introduced in 2008 and was increased in 2013.

With effect from 1 January 2017, for insurers wishing to place reinsurance with a related reinsurer, the reinsurer must have a security rating of at least A from any of the 4 main ratings agencies.

37. THAILAND

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes. However, the credit risk charges in RBC calculation do not apply to local reinsurers (e.g. Thai Re or other local insurers writing reinsurance inwards). This gives domestic insurance companies incentive to place business locally.

The Rules, Procedures and Conditions on Reinsurance of Life and Non -life Insurance Companies BE 2561 (effective from 1 September 2018) have introduced the following credit rating requirements:

- Overseas placements of reinsurance can only be made with a reinsurer with a credit rating of “BBB” from Standard & Poor's (or the equivalent from AM Best, Fitch or Moody's).
- An insurer may cede up to 100% of the total premium of any given risk with a reinsurer with a rating “A-“ or “or above.
- An insurer may cede a maximum of 50% with a reinsurer with a rating of “BBB” (or the equivalent).

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No. The Office of the Insurance Commission (OIC) can permit up to 49% foreign ownership and can permit foreign directors to comprise more than one out of four directors, but less than half of the total number of directors. However, a licensed insurance company may apply to the Finance Minister for permission to have 50% or more (and up to 100%) foreign shareholding, and for foreign directors to comprise more than half of the directors on its board.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

No. The compulsory cession to Thai Re is no longer applicable.

38. VIETNAM

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, although the Vietnamese regulator has introduced requirements regarding local retention limits.

Draft Insurance Business Law's definition of 'reinsurer' covers reinsurers established under the provisions of this law only (including branches), which might restrict the ability of offshore reinsurers to provide reinsurance coverage. Discussions are ongoing and implementation of the new legislation is anticipated in 2022 or 2023.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

In order to reduce reliance on foreign reinsurers, where an insured risk is ceded at the request of the insured, insurers are prohibited from reinsuring more than 90% of its total insurance liability. However, there is nothing in the law providing for application for special permission from the regulator for a local insurance buyer or intermediary to place an insurance directly in a foreign market where a product is not available from the local insurance market or where there is no capacity to accommodate a particular insurance in the local market.

EUROPE

39. BELARUS

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. Local insurers must make a compulsory cession to Belarus Re of any risk surplus to the ceding company's maximum net retention of 20% of capital. The compulsory cession has been 100% since 1 January 2015. Cross-border reinsurance is only allowed if Belarus Re declines the risk or only reinsures part of it.

40. EUROPEAN UNION

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, subject to rules existing in individual EU Member States, which may be modified by the EU's positive equivalence determination in respect of the relevant non-EU jurisdiction.

EIOPA Recommendation 9, which applies to both insurance and reinsurance business, confirms that intermediaries must be authorised under the Insurance Distribution Directive (IDD), if they intend to carry out distribution activities which target EU policyholders and EU risks.

When combined with Article 16 of the IDD, the practical implication of this is that any intermediated reinsurance placements (i.e., not a direct insurer-reinsurer or reinsurer-reinsurer relationship) on behalf of EU cedants must involve only EU-authorised intermediaries (with an appropriate level of corporate substance within the EU).

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

No.

41. FRANCE

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, however, this is subject to business being written on a reverse solicitation basis and underwriting taking place outside of the territory.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. Although it does not receive compulsory cessions, the state-owned reinsurer Caisse Centrale de Réassurance (CCR) is the exclusive beneficiary of a State guarantee. This allows CCR to offer Nat Cat reinsurance at highly competitive conditions leading to a dominating role in the French Nat Cat reinsurance market.

42. GERMANY

➤ Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?

Yes, but it is restricted. The German Insurance Supervision Act (VAG), requires – as foreseen in the Solvency II Directive – third country (re)insurers who want to conduct business in Germany to have a permission from the German supervisory authority (§ 67 VAG) and requires them to establish a branch in Germany (§ 68 VAG).

The authorisation and branch requirement does not apply to (re)insurers solely carrying on reinsurance business in Germany through provision of cross-border services, if they are domiciled in a jurisdiction for which the European Commission has decided on the basis of Article 172 (2) or (4) of the Solvency II Directive that the solvency regime applying to reinsurance activities of undertakings with their head office in that jurisdiction is (temporarily) equivalent to Solvency II. Cross-border reinsurance in the form of the so-called “insurance by correspondence” continues to be allowed and is not subject to authorisation.

According to Germany’s Federal Financial Supervisory Authority (BaFin), this applies to reinsurance business if, at the instigation of an undertaking domiciled in Germany, a reinsurance contract is concluded by correspondence with a primary insurer or reinsurer domiciled abroad without one of the parties being assisted by a professional intermediary in Germany or a professional intermediary domiciled abroad but acting as intermediary in Germany.

➤ Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?

No.

➤ Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?

No.

➤ Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?

No.

43. MOLDOVA

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, provided that the underwriting takes place outside the territory.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes. Foreign branches are not allowed.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. Local insurers that place reinsurance with foreign reinsurers must retain at least 20% of the risk.

44. NETHERLANDS

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, however, restrictions apply. On 17 March 2021, new regulations regarding third country insurers entered into effect and article 2:45 FSA was amended. Under the new Article 2:45(1), non-EU (non-)life insurers are prohibited from offering insurance services in the Netherlands on a cross-border basis. Likewise, the amendment no longer permits third-country life and non-life insurers to carry on the business of direct insurer in the Netherlands by providing their services from a branch office in another EU Member State.

However, (new) article 2:45(2) FSA still allows non-EU (non-)life insurers to provide reinsurance services in the Netherlands on a cross-border basis. In order to do so, the non-EU (non-)life insurer must submit a notification to the Dutch Insurance Regulator DNB to be approved.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

In April 2022, DNB requested the Ministry of Finance to strengthen the supervisory framework for branches of third country life and non-life insurers in order to increase the certainty that assets of such branches are and remain available for use by third parties to increase the certainty that assets of such branches are and remain available to Dutch policyholders. According to DNB, the current regulatory framework does not provide sufficient guidance in this respect. DNB sees opportunities to strengthen the supervisory framework by imposing additional conditions on the granting of licences and on ongoing supervision.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

No.

45. PORTUGAL

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, but business should be written on a 'reverse solicitation' basis.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

Yes. In accordance with local legislation, and subject to regulations to be issued under this legislation, ceding insurers cannot take credit on their balance sheets for reinsurance purchased from non-EEA reinsurers from non-equivalent regimes unless such reinsurers guarantee their obligations by way of collateral. The regulations have not yet been issued.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

No.

46. RUSSIA

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes. Branches of foreign reinsurers are permitted from August 2021. Such insurers must be registered and accredited by the Bank of Russia and have aggregate assets of at least USD 5 billion. In addition, they should have eight years of experience in providing life insurance services and five years' experience in all other remaining sectors, and have more than five years' experience of running branches in other markets.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. All insurers/reinsurers must offer a 10% share in all outward reinsurance placements to the Russian National Reinsurance Company (RNRC). The RNRC must accept at least 10% of business subject to international sanctions, while in respect of all other business offered, it may accept the 10%, decline or reduce participation, or agree to take a higher share than 10% if offered by a cedant/retrocedent.

This originally applied to contracts incepted on 1 Jan 2017 and after, but from 1 Jan 2018, any treaty or facultative outward reinsurance signed prior to 1 Jan 2017 also became subject to the mandatory cession requirement.

In March 2022, the Russian State Duma amended relevant legal provisions to stop the flow of capital and money out of Russia and to protect Russian insurers from entering into contracts where claims may not be settled due to sanctions. The provisions prohibit Russian insurers from transacting with foreign reinsurers and intermediaries from countries designated as "unfriendly", as well as any other entities under their control. The list of designated "unfriendly countries" includes the United Kingdom, the European Union, the United States and others. In order to conduct business, a Russian insurer needs to request an exemption from the Central Bank of Russia.

47. UNITED KINGDOM

- **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

- **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes, some non-EU reinsurers have been encouraged to convert their branches into subsidiaries to ensure adequate local capital for the benefit of UK (re) insureds.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

No.

NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA

48. ARGENTINA

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes. Cross-border foreign reinsurers have to be registered as an Admitted Reinsurer with the regulator and have limited market access. Individual and catastrophe risks with insured sums from USD 35m may be reinsured by Admitted Reinsurers in its entirety.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

Branches of foreign reinsurers must keep funds in Argentina equivalent to the minimum capital requirements for local reinsurers. This can vary based on the amount of written premium. The minimum capital requirement for local reinsurers is ARS 350m and 16% of net retained premiums including surcharges, amount of which may not be less than 40% of issued premiums.

In addition, Admitted Reinsurers must evidence having: (1) a net worth in excess of USD 100m; (2) credit ratings of the last three years granted by the following international rating agencies:

- A.M. Best: minimum qualification B+;
- Standard & Poor's International Ratings Ltd.: capacity to pay claims, minimum qualification BBB;
- Moody's Investors Service: Financial Solvency, minimum qualification BBB;
- Fitch IBCA Ltd.: capacity to pay claims, minimum qualification BBB.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No. Not for Foreign Reinsurers registered as Admitted Reinsurers in Argentina. However, foreign reinsurers willing to register as local reinsurers and enjoy unrestricted market access must set up an Argentine branch with capital equalling the greater of ARS 350m or 16% of premium retained or 40% of gross written premium.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. The percentage of ceded premiums per contract that may be ceded by Argentinian insurers to Admitted Reinsurers has been gradually increased in recent years and currently stands at 75%.

The threshold for exceptions to the above limitation is USD 35m, allowing individual risks over USD 35m to be placed in their entirety with Admitted Reinsurers. Additionally, catastrophe reinsurance agreements exceeding the threshold also qualify for this exemption.

In addition, local reinsurers may not transfer more than 75% of aggregate premiums in a fiscal year to subsidiaries or companies belonging to the same financial conglomerate located abroad.

49. BRAZIL

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes. There is a requirement for foreign reinsurers to be registered as either an 'Admitted' or an 'Occasional' reinsurer.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

Yes. Admitted and Occasional reinsurers face minimum capital and rating requirement and must hold a minimum "BBB" S&P risk rating or "BBB-" Fitch or "Baa2" Moody's or "B++" AM Best and net assets of USD 150m. Admitted Reinsurers are required to hold a foreign currency bank account in Brazil tied to the regulator, with a minimum deposit of USD 5m (USD 1m for life reinsurers).

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes. There are no restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries. However, foreign reinsurers registered in the Admitted category are required to establish or contract in advance a representation office in Brazil. The local regulator must give approval for the legal representative of the Admitted reinsurer. A 2% withholding tax applies to overseas premium remittances. A financial operations tax of 0.38% applies to foreign exchange transactions.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. Local insurance companies can cede up to 95% of their total ceded RI premiums to Occasional reinsurers (previous limit 10%). Local reinsurers can now cede up to 95% of their total premiums (previously 50%) to Occasional reinsurers.

The local market holds a right of first refusal (preferential offer) over 40% of each reinsurance risk., according to the Complementary Law nº 126/2007.

A requirement for retention of 50% from the written premium is in place, except for surety bonds, agricultural (re)insurance, and export/domestic credit (re)insurance. Calculation is based on risks written in the calendar year.

Following the reforms introduced in 2019, insurance companies can also exclude from the retention basis property (named risks and operational risks), aviation (hull), facultative aviation liability, and energy insurance risks. The scope of this modification did not extend to local reinsurers.

The merger of Admitted and Occasional reinsurer categories with entities becoming automatically licensed under the new category of Registered reinsurer is still in the government plans. This merger would significantly reduce the regulatory requirements for Admitted reinsurers. The Brazilian government is reviewing the possibility of also lifting the existing preferential offer system to Local Reinsurers. It is understood that this will be a gradual reduction with the intention to eliminate the requirement in stages. However, these changes are subject to a law reform which requires the vote of the two main houses in the Parliament and there is no foreseeability of when this would happen.

50. CANADA

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

Yes. Discriminatory requirements/conditions include:

- 1) The current requirement for 120% of collateral on reinsured balances due from unregistered reinsurers;
- 2) In order for a registered cedant in Canada to receive favourable capital treatment in connection with the use of unregistered reinsurance (similar to that of registered reinsurance), the unregistered reinsurer must post collateral in compliance with the applicable MCT/BAAT guideline and regulations; and
- 3) The adoption of OSFI Guideline B2 (please see below) imposes further capital requirements on registered cedants in Canada by mandating a test involving large limit exposures and unregistered reinsurance counterparty concentration risk.

On June 8, 2018, the Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) released a Discussion Paper on OSFI's Reinsurance Framework ("OSFI's 2018 RF"), outlining several proposed changes to the existing reinsurance regulatory framework. OSFI conducted a multi-year review of Canadian reinsurance practices and identified some concerns related to the "leveraged business model". OSFI's concerns related to risks associated with large exposures and concentration of reinsurance counterparties.

OSFI proposed two major changes in the new framework: (1) Introduce a prescriptive rule to establish a link between policy size, insurer financial resources and reinsurance structure and nature and (2) Adjust the capital framework to increase capital requirements related to various types of reinsurance arrangements. In addition to these two main changes, OSFI's new reinsurance framework proposes several other changes to be introduced as part of a revised B -2 Guideline for P&C, a revised B -3 Guideline, revised DA 21 Transaction Instructions, and possible additional changes to capital guidelines. Under the OSFI's proposed new rule, the maximum policy limit that a P&C federally regulated insurer (FRI) could issue would depend upon its level of available capital, the flow of reinsurance payments, the reinsurer's registered/unregistered status, excess collateral, as well as the diversity of its unregistered reinsurance counterparties.

OSFI published finalised B-3 & B-2 guidelines February 2022, with an effective date of 1 January 2025 for both guidelines. The final B-3 guideline is relatively unchanged from the draft released in 2019. The B-2 guideline has been revised to account for industry feedback from November 2020 draft guidelines. The final B-2 guideline will require P&C insurers to develop a comprehensive "Gross Underwriting Limit Policy" ("GUWP") that is consistent with the Risk Appetite framework and hold sufficient capital to cover the maximum loss on the largest Single Insurance Exposure.

Until the updated B-3 and B-2 guidelines take effect on 1 January 2025, insurers are to continue to follow the current OSFI guidelines.

- **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

- **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

No.

51. COLOMBIA

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes. Local regulation requires the registration of the foreign carrier.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Yes. Article 2.31.1.7.1 of Decree 2555/2010, applicable to facultative as well as treaty business, requires Colombian insurers and reinsurers to retain reserves on premiums ceded to foreign reinsurers under proportional reinsurance contracts in the following percentages:

- Mining and Petroleum - 10%
- Aviation and Marine Hull - 10%
- Bankers' Blanket Bond (BBB) - 10%
- All other classes - 20%.

52. ECUADOR

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes, but subject to restrictions. All foreign reinsurers should be registered and authorized by Superintendencia de Compañías, Valores y Seguros de Ecuador.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

No.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

No.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

Regulation 2020 Oficio Nro. JPRMF-2020-0507 removed cession restrictions (which previously limited cessions to 10%) for life, health and personal accident insurance and relaxed rules on motor insurance.

Foreign transaction tax of 5% applies to all payments sent from Ecuador abroad. Withholding tax on premiums paid overseas varies depending on the reinsurer's jurisdiction, starting from 6.25% on premiums ceded abroad.

For countries with which Ecuador has a double taxation agreement, the automatic application of the agreement is only allowed up to a limit after which tax is retained and needs to be reclaimed from the Ecuadorian tax authorities.

Any documentation of contracts concluded abroad needs to be apostilled.

53. UNITED STATES

➤ **Is reinsurance permitted on a cross-border basis?**

Yes.

➤ **Are there discriminatory requirements on cross-border foreign reinsurers for collateralisation or localisation of assets?**

Yes, unlicensed and non-US reinsurers must post 100% collateral for the ceding insurer to get credit for reinsurance on its balance sheet. However, all states have now adopted the 2011 NAIC framework providing reduced collateral (less than 100%) for approved reinsurers.

In 2011, the NAIC adopted revisions to its Credit for Reinsurance Models, providing reductions in collateral for well regulated, financially strong reinsurers. As of February 2020, all US States have adopted, and 48 have implemented reduced collateral regulations.

On 22 September 2017, the US-EU Bilateral Agreement was formally executed and implementation efforts have now begun. The Agreement directs States to adopt legislation eliminating discriminatory reinsurance collateral provisions within 5 years. Failure to do so could lead to the Federal Government pre-empting State laws that are inconsistent with the Agreement. In anticipation of the departure of the UK from the EU, a separate covered agreement between the US and the UK was signed in December 2018 and entered into force on 31 December 2020. This replicates the terms of the US-EU agreement.

On June 25, 2019, the NAIC adopted revisions to its Model Credit for Reinsurance Law & Regulation implementing the covered agreement and providing a process for reinsurers domiciled in jurisdictions with robust regulatory regimes to qualify for zero collateral known as "Reciprocal Reinsurer" status. The revisions will now need to be enacted at state level.

As at 17 March 2022, 48 US states have enacted legislation implementing the covered agreement (Hawaii has a bill pending and Wisconsin is implementing entirely via regulation thus does not need enacting legislation). There are 34 states that have fully implemented the Reciprocal Reinsurer approval process and the remaining states are in the process of doing so. The elimination of collateral requirements is prospective only and will apply to contracts written on or after 1 October 2022.

➤ **Are there (i) any restrictions on foreign ownership of subsidiaries or (ii) any other discriminatory barriers affecting the establishment of branches or subsidiaries (if permitted)?**

Yes. As part of the passage of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, a new tax is levied on all "deductible" cross-border payments between a reinsurer's US affiliates and non-US affiliates.

➤ **Are there compulsory cessions, right of first refusal rules, or other trade barriers affecting foreign reinsurers, including examples of Government interference in risk pricing?**

No.