



Gulf Insurance Group announces KD 11.9 million (US\$ 39.2 million) in net profit for 2018 with 18.2% year-on-year growth

EPS at 66.49 fils

Gross written premiums up 10.2% to KD 335.7 million

BOD recommends 36% cash dividend

Kuwait City, 20 Feb, 2019: Mr. Farqad Abdullah Al-Sane, Chairman of Gulf Insurance Group (GIG), announced today that the Group achieved a net profit of KD 11.9 million (US\$ 39.2 million), or 66.49 fils per share for the financial year ended December 31, 2018. This represents an increase of 18.2 per cent over the KD 10.1 million (US\$ 33.1 million) made in 2017. Net Underwriting Income came to KD 11.98 million (US\$ 39.4 million), an increase of 45.1 per cent or KD 3.7 (US\$ 12.3 million) compared to the same period last year. This increase is due to the improvement of Group's underwriting results and Group's share of results from its subsidiaries.

The Board of Directors has recommended the distribution of 36% cash dividend (36 fils per share) for the financial year ended December 31, 2018, subject to the approval of GIG's General Assembly and other concerned regulatory authorities.

GIG's book value per share reached 498 fils as at December 31, 2018, compared to 456 fils at the end of 2017, with an increase of 9.2 per cent.

GIG's shareholder equity increased in 2018 by KD 7.5 million (US\$ 24.8 million) to reach KD 89.1 million (US\$ 293.5 million), representing a 9.2 per cent increase from the KD 81.6 million (US\$ 268.7 million) at 2017-end.

The Group's gross written premiums grew 10.2 per cent compared to 2017, with an increase of KD 31 million (US\$ 102 million) to reach KD 335.7 million (US\$ 1.1 billion).

Net investment and other income for GIG reached KD 13.3 million (US\$ 43.8 million) at the closing of 2018, with an increase of KD 2.8 (US\$ 9.3 million), or 27.1 per cent, compared to 2017.

GIG's net technical reserves came to KD 131.8 million (US\$ 433.83 million) as at December 31, 2018, with an increase of KD 2.9 million (US\$ 9.5 million), or 2.2 per cent, compared to the KD 128.9 million (US\$ 424.3 million) registered on December 31, 2017.

Total assets increased by KD 36.4 million (US\$ 120 million) to reach KD 529.3 million (US\$ 1.74 billion) at year-end, a growth of 7.4 percent compared to the same period in 2017.

Commenting on the results, Mr. Al-Sane said:

"Our results for the year 2018 reflect the strength of GIG as a group, its ability to take risks through diversifying revenue sources and our ability to preserve stakeholders' benefits and protect their rights. This is also in line with our constant endeavor to provide the best insurance services to our valued customers in all markets we operate in, supported by our proven strategy which aims at expanding our distribution networks, and our regional expansion plan to acquire greater market share locally and regionally."

He added:

"We thank our clients for these achievements, as well as the unlimited support from our shareholders, especially KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company (Holding) – and Fairfax Middle East Ltd. I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to our dedicated employees for their efforts and all the concerned regulatory authorities in Kuwait."

- Ends -

Notes to Editors:

Gulf Insurance Group is the largest insurance Group in Kuwait in terms of written and retained premiums, with operations in life and non-life as well as Takaful insurance. Gulf Insurance has become one of the largest insurance networks in the Middle East and North Africa with companies in Kuwait, Bahrain, Jordan, Egypt, Turkey, Algeria, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Emirates. Its reported consolidated assets stand at US\$ 1.74 billion as at 31 December 2018.

KIPCO – Kuwait Projects Company – is Gulf Insurance Group’s largest shareholder, followed by the Canadian-based Fairfax Financial Holding Ltd.

Gulf Insurance Group enjoys the privilege of being the first triple-rated insurance group in Kuwait. The group holds a Financial Strength Rating of 'A' (Excellent) and issuer credit rating of 'a' with stable outlook from A.M. Best Europe – Rating Services Limited, a Financial Strength Rating of A- with negative outlook from Standard & Poor's and an Insurance Financial Strength Rating (IFSR) of 'A3' from Moody's Investors Service carrying a stable outlook.

The conversion rate applied is KD 0.3037 per US\$1

For Further information:

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