

BLME announces Jabra Ghandour as new CEO

London, 9th March 2016 – BLME has today announced that it has appointed Jabra Ghandour as its new Chief Executive Officer and Board Member effective 25th March 2016.

Jabra has more than 30 years' experience in private, corporate and retail banking, having managed major institutions across the Gulf. He joined BLME in late 2015 and has been instrumental in refining the Bank's strategy and business plan. During the last 13 years Jabra held senior positions within the National Bank of Kuwait (NBK) Group, latterly as Managing Director and Board Member of the International Bank of Qatar representing NBK. As CEO, Jabra will be responsible for driving BLME's growing Wealth Management arm alongside its revitalised Corporate Banking offering.

Jabra succeeds Michael Williams, who was appointed as interim CEO in May 2015. BLME is delighted that Michael will be resuming his role as Non-Executive Director on the Board of BLME Holdings plc and the Bank plc where his insight will be invaluable.

Jabra Ghandour, CEO of BLME, commented,

"I'm thrilled to be taking this role at such an important time for BLME. 2015 was a year of positive change for the bank, as it more closely aligned its objectives to ensure that it is best placed to facilitate business and investment activity between the UK and the Gulf. We will be growing our wealth management products and services substantially in order to serve better our clients in the Gulf alongside our established and expert Corporate Banking offering to the UK mid-market.

"Underpinning everything we do is a desire to build strong relationships and be ready and able to provide innovative Sharia'a compliant solutions to a broad range of institutional, corporate and, of increasing importance, to individual high net worth clients. Our strong UK-Gulf links are a major competitive advantage and we plan to build on this further over the coming years. I look forward to continuing the good work started by Michael Williams."

Adel Al Majed, Chairman of BLME, said:

"Jabra Ghandour brings a wealth of experience building market-leading banks. Combined with the role he has played in developing our new strategic approach, he is ideally positioned to leverage BLME's UK expertise and existing business to create new product and investment opportunities for our Gulf investors.

"This is an exciting time for the bank, as we come to the end of our major strategic review, and I'm delighted to welcome Jabra as our new CEO. I would also like to thank Michael Williams for his excellent work overseeing our day-to-day activities, driving a period of transition and leaving us in a stronger position to deliver."

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About BLME

BLME is an independent wholesale Sharia'a compliant bank based in London and is a leading provider of finance to the UK mid-market. BLME received FSA authorisation in July 2007 and is the largest of its peers in Europe. BLME is led by a management team that brings together a combination of experienced international bankers and leading experts in Islamic finance, BLME has three key business areas; Wealth Management, Corporate Banking and Treasury providing a wide range of financing solutions and investment opportunities.

About Jabra Ghandour

Jabra Ghandour is Chief Executive Officer and an Executive Board Member of BLME. He has more than 30 years' of experience in Financial Services. Before joining BLME he was Managing Director and Board Member of International Bank of Qatar. Jabra began his career at Cairo Amman Bank where he was Head of Treasury before moving to Union Bank as Executive Manager responsible for Treasury and Financial Institutions. Jabra joined Jordan National Bank (Ahli Bank) in 1994 as Assistant General Manager followed by four years at Merrill Lynch (Jordan) as General Manager. From 2002 to 2012 he worked at National Bank of Kuwait holding several senior positions including General Manager, Jordan and Head of Private Banking. Jabra has played a key role in developing and growing market leading banks.