

# Acting Chairman’s Report



**The Rt Hon Lord Paul Boateng CVO**  
Acting Chairman

**I am pleased to present the 26th Annual Report and Financial Statements of Ghana International Bank plc (“GHIB” / the “Bank”) for the year ended 31 December 2024.**

**The Bank has continued to improve its profitability this year and the outlook for the Bank and its core market, Ghana is positive. It continues to make important investments in its technology modernisation program to improve operational resilience, efficiency, and enhancing client experience. We remain focused on making an effective regulatory and controls framework the bedrock of how we do business.**

## Corporate Governance

Following the outcome of the December 2024 general elections in Ghana and the leadership changes in our shareholder organisations, we look forward to welcoming new shareholder Non-Executive Directors of the Board.

After many years of dedicated and distinguished service to the Bank, I wish to give special thanks to Dr Addison as the Chairman of the Board, as well as to Dr Maxwell Opoku-Afari, Mr John Adomakoh, Dr John Ofori Tenkorang and Mr Alhassan Yakubu Tali, all of whom have retired since our last report. The Board recognises their significant contributions to the Bank over the years and wishes them all the best in their future endeavours.

## Financial Performance

The Bank reported Profits before tax of £5.8m, a significant improvement compared to £4.3m in 2023. This was largely attributable to growth in Operating income of 19% to £47.4m, delivered through balance sheet growth and strong performance in our trade finance business. The balance sheet grew 37% to £1.1bn driven by the Bank’s increased strategic focus and enhanced relationship management service with existing and new clients. This is the first year in the Bank’s history the balance sheet has grown beyond £1.0bn as at year-end. The Bank continues to remain highly liquid and strongly capitalised, with a Common Equity Tier 1 ratio of 22.4% and a Liquidity Coverage Ratio of 256% at the end of the year. As at 31 December 2024 High Quality Liquid Assets accounted for 39% of total assets. The Board commends the Senior Leadership Team and all colleagues across GHIB in delivering these results and looks forward to further improvement in profitability in coming years.

## State of the global economy

According to the IMF, the global economy is projected to grow at 3.3%, compared to the historical average of 3.7%. Inflation is expected to continue its downward trend, however, this is not universal for all regions. Developed economies are expected to converge to trend but less so for the developing and emerging economies where inflation remains in the double digits.

Newly elected governments around the world including the US would need to balance the pressures of expansionary monetary policies to support growth against prudent fiscal and financial stability to control inflation in the near term. Upside risk remains in the US where the economy remains robust supported by relatively strong fundamentals. This contrasts with other countries facing elevated economic policy uncertainty risk amidst the heightened introduction of trade tariffs and geopolitical tensions. China's economic growth in the last year was 4.7%, which was less than market expectations. The weak demand from China and increased oil supply from non-OPEC countries contributed to a reduction in the price of oil and imported inflation for many economies. Real estate risk remains in China which has weighed on growth in that economy.

Trade volumes are expected to reduce in 2025. Trade tensions and tariffs could increase some commodity prices already impacted by adverse weather conditions due to climate change, resulting in weaker production and stalling economic activity across the globe. The upside is new trade deals to stimulate economic activities as new governments can forge new trade agreements and renegotiate high debt levels to stem capital outflows by easing pressure on local currency depreciation against the USD. The UK interest rates remain benign and uncertain; the Bank of England is expected to further reduce rates as inflation falls to the long term average. However, this must be viewed against a backdrop of US dollar strengthening buoyed by expectation of deregulation in the US economy and looser monetary policy, which may be supportive of higher inflationary pressures. In addition, escalating geopolitical tensions, including heightened trade tensions by the US against Canada, Mexico and China threaten to introduce new risks for the world economy.

**‘Ghana’s economic outlook for 2025 is promising as the new government seeks to continue the stabilisation of the economy for long term growth.’**

## Macro outlook in Ghana

Ghana’s economic outlook for 2025 is promising as the new government seeks to continue the stabilisation of the economy for long term growth. In the fourth quarter of 2024, Bank of Ghana’s Composite Index of Economic Activity (CIEA) suggested that growth will remain strong, driven in large part by international trade activities, increased credit to the private sector by banks, construction activities, and tourist-related spending. The Bank of Ghana’s support in reserve build-up for the gold purchase programme, mining inflows and the success in alternative COCOBOD financing will ease the pressure on the Cedi in the near term. These conditions are subject to potential further strengthening of the US dollar, and lingering debt restructuring negotiations, which pose risks to cedi stability.

Cocoa prices increased from \$4,235.6 per tonne in December 2023 to \$10,869.1 per tonne in December 2024 due to reduced supplies from adverse weather conditions that affected top producers such as Cote d’Ivoire. Gold prices rose from \$2,035.4 to \$2,641.5 per fine ounce in December 2024, a 29.4 percent increase from a year earlier. Crude oil prices at an average of US\$73.2 per barrel in December 2024, has fallen by 5.3 percent year-on-year by contrast, following concerns of over supply and the prospects of increased supply in 2025.

The external sector trade position improved following the successful completion of the IMF debt restructuring and IMF Extended Credit Facility programme to allow an improved balance of payment surplus of \$3.1bn compared to previous year balance of \$518m. Gross International Reserves increased to \$8.98bn to cover 4 months of imports, exceeding IMF programme targets. This compares to 2.7 months coverage in the previous year to \$5.92bn.

Inflation remains elevated in the country due to higher food prices in the last quarter of 2024. Dry weather spells in some of parts of the country especially in the food producing regions adversely affected its production. Bank of Ghana’s inflation forecast shows a steady decline to a path of disinflation to a target of 8-10%.



## Update on Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) growth dynamics

The region’s economic outlook is gradually improving but this is not universal as countries like Botswana and Senegal are supported by rising resource exports, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe are recovering from drought. GDP growth is projected at 4.4 percent in the medium term by the IMF. Nigeria, the largest economy in sub-Saharan Africa, grew by an estimated 3.3% in 2024 and is expected to grow by 3.5% in 2025.

The macroeconomic and fiscal reforms implemented by Nigeria’s government in 2024 is noted by the World Bank to have helped in improving business confidence, boosting consumption and supporting growth in the service sector which continues to be the main driver of growth. SSA median current account deficit is projected to decrease from 4.3 percent in 2024 to 3.7 percent in 2025; with more than 60 percent of countries with a deficit in 2024 expecting an improvement in their external position in 2025, according to IMF. In 2024, the SSA region grew by a sluggish 3.2% but is expected to grow by 4.1% in 2025. These projections are subject to some risk emanating from political instability and conflict in the region spreading to other countries.

## Corporate Social Responsibility

GHIB continues to support Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) through its support of Ghana International Foundation’s (GIF’s) worthy causes. The Ghana International Foundation is sponsored by Ghana International Bank plc with the objective of supporting initiatives and projects in Ghana as well as other countries in Africa. Some of the projects GIF has funded include health, sanitation, education and general poverty alleviation initiatives. In pursuance of these objectives, the Bank contributed £59k to the foundation in 2024 (2023: £50k) to support its charitable activities in these areas.

**GDP growth is projected at 4.4 percent in the medium term by the IMF.**

GHIB achieved financial growth and made strategic investments to enhance its operations and efficiency. GHIB continues to improve its profitability in 2024, with investments in technology modernization to enhance operational efficiency and client experience, while maintaining a strong focus on regulatory and controls framework.

## Global Economic Outlook

Global GDP Growth: 2.4% (down from 2.6%, World Bank)

IMF Growth Projection: 3.3% (below 3.7% historical average)

US Growth: 3.3% (Q4 2023), no Fed rate changes expected

China's Growth: 4.7% (below expectations)

Oil Price: \$73.2 per barrel (Dec 2024), down 5.3% Year on Year

Cocoa Price: \$4,235.6 (Dec 2023) \$10,869.1 (Dec 2024)

Gold Price: \$2,035.4 \$2,641.5 per ounce (+29.4% Year on Year)

## Ghana's Economic Outlook

Bank of Ghana's Composite Index of Economic Activity (CIEA) suggests strong growth in Q4 2024

**Balance of payments deficit improved:**

From  
**\$3,409m**  
 in 2022 to  
**\$617m**  
 in 2024.

**Gross International Reserves:**

Increased from  
**\$5.92bn**  
 (2023) to  
**\$8.98bn**  
 (2024)  
 (covering 4 months of imports).

**Inflation decline:**

From  
**54.1%**  
 (Dec 2022) to  
**23.2%**  
 (Dec 2023), projected to reach  
**8-10%**  
 in the medium term.

IMF Extended Credit Facility continues to support Ghana's economic stabilization.

## A Brighter Economic Outlook for SSA

Sub-Saharan Africa's economy is slowly bouncing back! Botswana and Senegal are growing thanks to strong resource exports, while Malawi, Zambia, and Zimbabwe recover from drought.

The IMF predicts a 4.4% growth rate for the region in the coming years.

Nigeria, the largest economy, grew by 3.3% in 2024 and is expected to hit 3.5% in 2025.

Thanks to smart government reforms, businesses are thriving, people are spending more, and the service sector is booming. Meanwhile, SSA's trade deficit is shrinking, with over 60% of affected countries expecting improvements.

However, political instability and conflict remain key risks, which could slow down progress.

## GHIB's Commitment to Giving Back

GHIB continues to make a difference through Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).

With steady economic growth, fresh leadership, and a commitment to helping communities, 2025 is shaping up to be an exciting year!

Trade Volumes: Expected decline in 2025 due to geopolitical tensions



## Outlook for 2025 and beyond

GHIB's business and economic outlook in 2025 remains positive. The Bank will continue to seek opportunities outside its main markets of Ghana and Nigeria to deepen the diversification of income growth. Trade Finance will play significant role in reaching new markets within the African space to support growth and alleviate poverty across those markets in which we operate.

The Directors recommend the payment of a dividend for the year ended 31 December 2024 of £847,741 (2023: £622,459). The total proposed final dividend is 1.33p per share (2023: 0.98p per share).

**Signed**

**The Rt Hon Lord Paul Boateng CVO**  
Acting Chairman

**18 March 2025**

The #GHIBWAY is to remain deeply engaged and immersed in our CORE MARKETS. Here members of Team GHIB visit the warehouses of Cocobod in Tema - circa October, 2024. Cocobod is a good example of the capacity GHIB brings to commodity traders in Africa.



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