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# CHINA MOBILE LIMITED 中國移動有限公司

(Incorporated in Hong Kong with limited liability under the Companies Ordinance)

(Stock Code: 941)

Executive Directors:
Shang Bing (Chairman)
Li Yue (Chief Executive Officer)
Sha Yuejia
Dong Xin

Registered Office:
60th Floor
The Center
99 Queen's Road Central
Hong Kong

Independent Non-executive Directors:
Frank Wong Kwong Shing
Moses Cheng Mo Chi
Paul Chow Man Yiu
Stephen Yiu Kin Wah

13 April 2018

To the shareholders

Dear Sir or Madam,

# 1. BUY-BACK MANDATE

This is the explanatory statement required to be sent to shareholders under the Rules Governing the Listing of Securities (the "Listing Rules") on The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited (the "Stock Exchange") in connection with the proposed ordinary resolution set out in item 5 of the notice of the annual general meeting dated 13 April 2018 (the "AGM Notice") for the approval of the renewal of the general mandate for buy-back of shares. This document also constitutes the memorandum required under section 239 of the Companies Ordinance (Chapter 622 of the Laws of Hong Kong). Reference in this document to "Shares" means share(s) of all classes in the capital of China Mobile Limited (the "Company").

## **Exercise of the Buy-back Mandate**

Whilst the directors of the Company (the "**Directors**") do not presently intend to buy back any Shares immediately, they believe that the flexibility afforded by the mandate granted to them if the ordinary resolution set out in item 5 of the AGM Notice (the "**Buy-back Mandate**") is passed would be beneficial to the Company and its shareholders as a whole.

It is proposed that up to 10 per cent. of the number of issued Shares on the date of the passing of the resolution to approve the Buy-back Mandate may be bought back. As at 28 March 2018, the latest practicable date for determining such figures, 20,475,482,897 Shares were issued. On the basis of such figures, the Directors would be authorised to buy back up to 2,047,548,289 Shares during the period up to the date of the next annual general meeting in 2019, or the expiration of the period within which the next annual general meeting of the Company is required by law to be held, or the revocation or variation of the Buy-back Mandate by an ordinary resolution of the shareholders at a general meeting of the Company, whichever of these three events occurs first.

# Reasons for Buy-backs

Buy-backs of Shares will only be made when the Directors believe that such a buy-back will benefit the Company and its shareholders. Such buy-backs may, depending on the market conditions and funding arrangements at the time, lead to an enhancement of the net value of the Company and its assets and/or its earnings per Share.

# **Funding of Buy-backs**

Buy-backs pursuant to the Buy-back Mandate would be financed entirely from the Company's available cash flow or working capital facilities. Any buy-backs will be made out of funds of the Company legally permitted to be utilised in this connection in accordance with its articles of association and the laws of Hong Kong, including distributable profits. Under the Companies Ordinance, a company's distributable profits, in relation to the making of a payment by the company, are those profits out of which the company could lawfully make a distribution equal in value to the payment.

There might be a material adverse impact on the working capital or gearing position of the Company (as compared with the position disclosed in its most recent published audited accounts for the year ended 31 December 2017 dated 22 March 2018) in the event that the Buy-back Mandate is exercised in full. However, the Directors do not propose to exercise the Buy-back Mandate to such an extent as would, in the circumstances, have a material adverse effect on the working capital requirements of the Company or the gearing levels which in the opinion of the Directors are from time to time appropriate for the Company.

# **Disclosure of Interests**

None of the Directors, and to the best of their knowledge, having made all reasonable enquiries, none of their associates, have any present intention, if the Buy-back Mandate is approved by the shareholders of the Company, to sell any Shares to the Company or its subsidiaries.

No core connected persons (as defined in the Listing Rules) have notified the Company that they have a present intention to sell Shares to the Company, nor have they undertaken not to do so, if the Buy-back Mandate is approved by the shareholders of the Company.

# **Directors' Undertaking**

The Directors have undertaken to the Stock Exchange that, so far as the same may be applicable, they will exercise the Buy-back Mandate in accordance with the Listing Rules and the applicable laws of Hong Kong.

# Share Buy-backs Made by the Company

No buy-backs of Shares have been made by the Company during the last six months (whether on the Stock Exchange or otherwise).

# **Takeovers Code Consequences**

If as a result of a buy-back of Shares by the Company, a shareholder's proportionate interest in the voting rights of the Company increases, such increase will be treated as an acquisition for the purpose of the Hong Kong Code on Takeovers and Mergers (the "Takeovers Code"). As a result, a shareholder, or group of shareholders acting in concert, depending on the level of increase of its or their shareholding, could obtain or consolidate control of the Company and become obliged to make a mandatory offer in accordance with Rule 26 of the Takeovers Code. The Directors are aware of the consequences arising under the Takeovers Code of any buy-back.

As at 28 March 2018 (being the latest practicable date prior to the printing of this document), the immediate controlling shareholder of the Company, China Mobile Hong Kong (BVI) Limited ("CMHKBVI"), was recorded in the registers required to be kept by the Company under section 336 of the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong) (the "SFO") as having an interest in 14,890,116,842 Shares, representing approximately 72.72 per cent. of the number of issued shares of the Company as at that date. In the event that the Buy-back Mandate is exercised in full and assuming that there is no change in the number of Shares held by CMHKBVI, the shareholding of CMHKBVI in the Company will be increased to approximately 80.80 per cent. of the reduced number of issued shares of the Company immediately after the exercise in full of the Buy-back Mandate. The Directors are not aware of any consequences in relation to CMHKBVI which would arise under the Takeovers Code as a result of such share buy-back by the Company. In addition, in exercising the Buy-back Mandate (whether in full or otherwise), the Directors will ensure that the Company shall comply with the requirements of the Listing Rules, including the minimum percentage of Shares being held in public hands.

#### **Market Prices**

The highest and lowest prices at which the Shares have traded on the Stock Exchange during each of the previous 12 months before the latest practicable date prior to the printing of this document were:

	<b>Traded Market Price</b>	
	Highest	Lowest
	HK\$	HK\$
2017		
	01.20	92.20
March	91.30	83.30
April	86.90	92.35
May	87.15	82.60
June	87.20	82.50
July	84.75	80.00
August	89.60	82.80
September	83.35	78.60
October	79.85	77.80
November	81.10	77.80
December	79.70	75.80
2018		
January	84.05	77.00
February	82.85	72.85
March (up to and including 28 March 2018)	73.25	69.65

# **Extension of Share Issue Mandate**

A resolution as set out in item 7 of the AGM Notice will also be proposed at the annual general meeting authorising the Directors to increase the maximum number of new Shares which may be issued under the general mandate for the issuance and allotment of Shares by adding to it the number of any Shares bought back pursuant to the Buy-back Mandate.

# 2. RE-ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

In accordance with Article 95 of the Company's Articles of Association, Mr. SHANG Bing, Mr. LI Yue and Mr. SHA Yuejia will retire by rotation at the forthcoming annual general meeting of the Company and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

The biographies of the directors proposed for re-election at the forthcoming annual general meeting ("Directors for Re-election") are set out in the Appendix I to this circular. Except as disclosed in such biographies, the Directors for Re-election have not held any other directorships in any listed public companies in the last three years. Further, except as noted in the biographies, none of the Directors for Re-election is connected with any directors, senior management or substantial or controlling shareholders of the Company and, except as disclosed in the paragraph headed "Directors' and Chief Executive's Interest and Short Positions in Shares, Underlying Shares and Debentures" in the 2017 Annual Report of the Company, none of them has any interests in the shares of the Company within the meaning of Part XV of the SFO.

The service contracts of all the Directors for Re-election do not provide for a specified length of service and each of such directors will be subject to retirement by rotation and re-election at annual general meetings of the Company every three years. Each of the Directors for Re-election is entitled to an annual director's fee of HK\$180,000 as proposed by the Board and approved by the shareholders of the Company. Director's fees are payable on a time pro-rata basis for any non-full year's service. All of the Directors for Re-election have voluntarily waived their directors' fees for the year ended 31 December 2018. The remuneration of the Directors for Re-election has been determined with reference to the individual's duties, responsibilities and experience, and to prevailing market conditions.

None of the Directors for Re-election has an unexpired service contract which is not determinable by the Company or any of its subsidiaries within one year without payment of compensation, other than under normal statutory obligations.

Save as disclosed above, there are no other matters relating to the re-election of the Directors for Re-election that need to be brought to the attention of the shareholders of the Company nor is there any information to be disclosed pursuant to any of the requirements of Rule 13.51(2) of the Listing Rules.

Yours faithfully
Wong Wai Lan, Grace
Company Secretary

# APPENDIX I

# BIOGRAPHIES OF THE DIRECTORS PROPOSED FOR RE-ELECTION AT THE FORTHCOMING ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

# **EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS**

# MR. SHANG BING

Age 62, Executive Director and Chairman of the Company, in charge of the overall management of the Company, joined the Board of Directors of the Company in September 2015. He is currently the Chairman of CMCC and a director and the Chairman of CMC. Mr. Shang formerly served as a Director of Industrial Technology Development Centre in Liaoning Province, a General Manager of Economic and Technological Development Company in Liaoning Province, a General Manager of China United Telecommunications Corporation Liaoning Branch, a Director and President of China United Telecommunications Corporation, an Executive Director and President of China United Telecommunications Corporation Limited and China Unicom Limited, a Vice President of China Telecommunications Corporation, an Executive Director, President and Chief Operating Officer of China Telecom Corporation Limited and the Vice Minister of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of China (the "MIIT"). Mr. Shang graduated from Shenyang Chemical Industry Institution with a Bachelor's degree in 1982. He received a Master's degree in business administration from the State University of New York in 2002 and a Doctor's degree in business administration from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2005. Mr. Shang is a senior economist and has spent many years working in basic telecommunications enterprises, with extensive experience in enterprise management and telecommunications industry.

# MR. LI YUE

Age 58, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer of the Company, in charge of the operation, strategic development as well as planning and construction of the Company, joined the Board of Directors of the Company in March 2003. He is also the President and Director of CMCC and CMC. Mr. Li started his career in 1976 and previously served as Deputy Director General and Chief Engineer of Tianjin Long-Distance Telecommunications Bureau, Deputy Director General of Tianjin Posts and Telecommunications Administration, President of Tianjin Mobile Communications Company, Deputy Head of the preparatory team and Vice President of CMCC, Chairman of Aspire, non-executive director of Phoenix Satellite Television Holdings Limited and Chairman of Union Mobile Pay Limited. Mr. Li holds a Bachelor's degree in telephone exchange from the Correspondence College of Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, a Master's degree in business administration from Tianjin University and a doctoral degree in business administration from Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He is a professor-level senior engineer and had won many national, provincial and ministerial level scientific and technological progress awards. Mr. Li has been engaging in telecommunications network operations and maintenance, planning and construction, operational management, development strategies and has many years of experience in the telecommunications industry.

# APPENDIX I

# MR. SHA YUEJIA

Age 59, Executive Director and Vice President of the Company, principally in charge of marketing, corporate customer and international businesses of the Company, joined the Board of Directors of the Company in March 2006. He is also a Vice President of CMCC, a Director and Vice President of CMC, non-executive director of Phoenix Satellite Television Holdings Limited and Shanghai Pudong Development Bank Co., Ltd. He previously served as Director of the Engineering Construction Department IV Division of Beijing Telecommunications Administration, President of Beijing Telecommunications Planning Design Institute, Deputy Director General of Beijing Telecommunications Administration, Vice President of Beijing Mobile Communications Company, and Chairman and President of China Mobile Group Beijing Company Limited. Mr. Sha graduated from Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, and received a master's degree from the Academy of Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications and a Doctoral degree in business administration from Hong Kong Polytechnic University. He is a professor-level senior engineer with many years of experience in the telecommunications industry.