

Half Year Results Reporting 2005

Key Quotes by James J. Schiro

Chief Executive Officer

August 18, 2005

All core businesses contributed to the strong bottom line. We are earning money in the right places and for the right reasons – through strong underwriting, good claims management, and active sales promotion in both General and Life Insurance. At the same time, we maintained our conservative approach to reserving.

We have built a platform from which we will continue to generate attractive returns for our shareholders. The Zurich Way is our response to the challenges of competitive markets. It is our approach to improve the activities essential for the success of our business. As announced in November 2004, we expect operational improvements of more than USD 500 million arising both in the General and Life Insurance segments in 2005. After six months, we are well on track to deliver this.

Our performance demonstrates that we have the right organizational setup, the technical competence and the proactive market strategy to succeed in our business. But we cannot stand still. We must enhance our market presence and our ability to attract and retain new customers. The Zurich brand initiative, which we will roll out later in the fall, is designed to deliver precisely that.

The focus will be on reducing the more than 60 active brands in our portfolio to a handful of powerful brands. We will manage our brands to excellence and global recognition. I am convinced that these initiatives will support organic growth and deliver tangible shareholder value.

Looking at the dynamics of our industry today, there seems to be a trend toward national and cross-border consolidation. Although we positioned Zurich to be a consolidator, we are not prepared to rush into transactions. Acquisitions must meet the same hurdle rates as any other growth initiative requiring our capital.

Our goal is to deliver consistent operating performance while maintaining attractive returns for our shareholders. We are confident about the ability of our people to do so. We are well positioned in attractive markets. Our businesses continue to generate profitable growth, and we have demonstrated that we can deliver on our promises.