Group Management Report Goals and Strategies

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With the Group strategy "NEW AUTO – Mobility for generations to come", we are preparing ourselves for the global changes in mobility and thus playing a substantial role in driving Volkswagen's transformation into a provider of sustainable mobility.

In the context of the fast-changing environment and the challenges resulting from it, the Group Board of Management adopted the Group strategy "NEW AUTO – Mobility for generations to come" in May 2021 with the approval of the Supervisory Board. The strategy's focus is the world of mobility in 2030.

As technology advances, the automotive industry is rapidly forging ahead with its transformation toward e-mobility and digitalization. We therefore expect the market for electric vehicles to continue to grow in the next few years, meaning that the cost-efficient and sustainable production of battery systems and the expansion of the charging infrastructure will be crucial to success.

The shift to connected, intelligent and eventually self-driving vehicles will, however, bring more wide-reaching changes for the automotive industry. Autonomous driving will change the customer's mobility experience forever and lay the ground for new business models. Sources of revenue will gradually shift and will expand beyond the core product of the automobile. Increasing software development capabilities in order to excite customers with constantly improving digital functionality is the prerequisite for this.

In equal measure to technological trends, the global economic and geopolitical environment is also posing increased challenges for the automotive industry. These include, for example, the economic influence of the largest mobility market, China, the USA and Europe, and their diverging development.

Sustainability will continue to be a recurring theme in the business world and will gain further pertinence, driven by the increasingly noticeable consequences of climate change, a greater consciousness of sustainable lifestyles on the part of the customer and, not least, underlying factors such as the Paris Climate Agreement. As we transition from automotive manufacturer to mobility group, we have reset our priorities with NEW AUTO and are positioning ourselves for the future. We are keeping our aim of being a world-leading provider of sustainable mobility firmly in our sights and making the Group more focused, efficient, innovative, customer-oriented and sustainable, as well as systematically gearing it toward profitable growth.

To this end, we have established clearly defined Group initiatives across the brand groups, with a focus on our central technology platforms: "Architecture", "Software", "Battery, Charging & Energy", and "Volkswagen Group Mobility". Furthermore, base initiatives form the foundation for the Volkswagen Group's strategic realignment. These are "ESG, Decarbonization & Integrity", "Business Model 2.0", "North America (NAR) Region", "China Region", "Group Steering Model", "People & Transformation" and "Financing the Transformation", which are described below.