

2 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

Significant accounting judgments and estimates (continued)

Estimation uncertainty (Continued)

- *Units of production depreciation:* estimated proven plus probable reserves are used in determining the depreciation of oil and gas assets such that the depreciation charge is proportional to the depletion of the remaining reserves over the shorter of: life of the field or the end of the respective licence/concession period. These calculations require the use of estimates including the amount of economically recoverable reserves and future oil and gas capital expenditure.
- *Decommissioning costs:* the recognition and measurement of decommissioning provisions involves the use of estimates and assumptions which include the existence of an obligation to dismantle and remove a facility or restore the site on which it is located, the appropriate discount and inflation rates to use in determining the net present value of the liability, the estimated costs of decommissioning based on internal and external estimates and the payment dates for expected decommissioning costs. As a result, actual costs could differ from estimated cost estimates used to provide for decommissioning obligations. The provision for decommissioning at 31 December 2016 of US\$ 50,156 thousand (2015: US\$ 163,906 thousand) represents management's best estimate of the present value of the future decommissioning costs required.

**Investment in associates and joint ventures**

An associate is an entity over which the Group has significant influence. Significant influence is the power to participate in the financial and operating policy decisions of the investee, but is not control or joint control over those policies.

A joint venture is a type of joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the net assets of the joint venture. A joint operation is a type of joint arrangement whereby the parties that have joint control of the arrangement have rights to the assets and obligations for the liabilities relating to the arrangement. Joint control is the contractually agreed sharing of control of an arrangement, which exists only when decisions about the relevant activities require unanimous consent of the parties sharing control.

The considerations made in determining significant influence or joint control are similar to those necessary to determine control over subsidiaries.

The Group's investments in its associates and joint ventures are accounted for using the equity method. Under the equity method, the investment in an associate or a joint venture is initially recognised at cost. The carrying amount of the investment is adjusted to recognise changes in the Group's share of net assets of the associate or joint venture since the acquisition date. Goodwill relating to the associate or joint venture is included in the carrying amount of the investment and is not tested for impairment separately.

The consolidated income statement reflects the Group's share of the results of operations of the associate or joint venture. Any change in OCI of those investees is presented as part of the Group's OCI. In addition, when there has been a change recognised directly in the equity of the associate or joint venture, the Group recognises its share of any changes, when applicable, in the consolidated statement of changes in equity.

The aggregate of the Group's share of profit or loss of an associate and a joint venture is shown on the face of the consolidated income statement and represents profit or loss after tax and non-controlling interests in the subsidiaries of the associate or joint venture.

Any unrealised gains and losses resulting from transactions between the Group and the associate and joint venture are eliminated to the extent of the interest in its associates and joint ventures.

The financial statements of the associate or joint venture are prepared for the same reporting period as the Group. When necessary, adjustments are made to bring the accounting policies in line with those of the Group.