INDEPENDENT AUDITORS’ REPORT

TO THE SHAREHOLDERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PJSC “MINING AND METALLURGICAL COMPANY “NORILSK NICKEL”

OPINION

We have audited the consolidated financial statements of PJSC “Mining and Metallurgical Company “Norilsk Nickel” (the “Company”) and its subsidiaries (the “Group”), which comprise the consolidated statements of financial position as at 31 December 2020, 2019 and 2018, the consolidated income statements, the consolidated statements of comprehensive income, changes in equity and cash flows for the years ended 31 December 2020, 2019 and 2018, and notes, comprising significant accounting policies and other explanatory information. In our opinion, the accompanying consolidated financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the consolidated financial position of the Group as at 31 December 2020, 2019 and 2018, and its consolidated financial performance and its consolidated cash flows for the years ended 31 December 2020, 2019 and 2018 in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS).

BASIS FOR OPINION

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors’ Responsibilities for the Audit of the Consolidated Financial Statements section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the independence requirements that are relevant to our audit of the consolidated financial statements in the Russian Federation and with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants International Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including International Independence Standards) (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the requirements in the Russian Federation and the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

KEY AUDIT MATTERS

Key audit matters are those matters that, in our professional judgment, were of most significance in our audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period. These matters were addressed in the context of our audit of the consolidated financial statements as a whole, and in forming our opinion thereon, and we do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

Audited entity: PJSC “Mining and Metallurgical Company “Norilsk Nickel”
Registration number. in the Unified State Register of Legal Entities: No. 1028400000298
Dudinka, Krasnoyarsk region, Russia

Independent auditor: JSC “KPMG”, a company incorporated under the Laws of the Russian Federation, a member firm of the KPMG global organization of independent member firms affiliated with KPMG International Limited, a private English company limited by guarantee. Registration number in the Unified State Register of Legal Entities: No. 1027700125628. Member of the Self-regulatory Organization of Auditors Association “Sodruzhestvo” (SRO AAS). Principal registration number of the entry in the Register of Auditors and Audit Organizations: No. 12006020351.
FUEL LEAKAGE IN NORILSK

Please refer to the Note 26 in the consolidated financial statements.

THE KEY AUDIT MATTER

In May 2020, an incident resulting in contamination of water bodies and land as well as damage to biological resources occurred at the heat and power plant of the Group in Norilsk. On 5 February 2021 the court ruled to partially satisfy the claim filed by Rosprirodnadzor in relation to compensation of damages to water bodies and soil. As at 31 December 2020 the Group recognized an environmental provision relating to reimbursement of environmental damage and forecast clean-up and rehabilitation expenses in the amount of USD 2,076 million.

Given the materiality of the provision, inherent uncertainty around the ultimate outcome of the litigation since the court decision has not yet come into force, this matter required significant judgement including interpretation of laws and regulations. Therefore, we consider the measurement and disclosure of the environmental provision to be a key audit matter.

HOW THE MATTER WAS ADDRESSED IN OUR AUDIT

Our audit procedures included the following:
- We reviewed the correspondence with Rosprirodnadzor and documentation considered by the court during the court hearings;
- We involved KPMG legal and environmental experts to gain an understanding of the disputed matter;
- We analysed decision issued by the court partially satisfying the claim filed by Rosprirodnadzor;
- We inquired management of the Group about further steps with regard to the court ruling;
- We obtained Group’s and its in-house legal counsel’s assessment of other existing and potential claims and analysed their interpretation of the relevant laws and regulation.
- We involved KPMG tax specialists to assess Group’s tax treatment in respect of recognized environmental provision.

We also considered the appropriateness and completeness of the disclosures in the consolidated financial statements.

OTHER INFORMATION

Management is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the Financial Overview (MD&A) (but does not include the consolidated financial statements and our auditors’ report thereon), which we obtained prior to the date of this auditors’ report, and the information included in other sections of Annual Report for 2020, which is expected to be made available to us after that date.

Our opinion on the consolidated financial statements does not cover the other information and we will not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the consolidated financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the consolidated financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed on the other information that we have obtained prior to the date of this auditors’ report, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.
RESPONSIBILITIES OF MANAGEMENT AND THOSE CHARGED WITH GOVERNANCE FOR THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with IFRS, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of consolidated financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the consolidated financial statements, management is responsible for assessing the Group’s ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Group or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Group’s financial reporting process.

AUDITORS’ RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THE AUDIT OF THE CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the consolidated financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors’ report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these consolidated financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the consolidated financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Group’s internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management’s use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Group’s ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors’ report to the related disclosures in the consolidated financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors’ report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Group to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the consolidated financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the consolidated financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the Group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.
We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit. We also provide those charged with governance with a statement that we have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and communicate with them all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on our independence, and where applicable, actions taken to eliminate threats or safeguards applied.

From the matters communicated with those charged with governance, we determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the consolidated financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. We describe these matters in our auditors’ report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, we determine that a matter should not be communicated in our report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditors' report is:

Natalia Velichko
JSC “KPMG”
Moscow, Russia
16 February 2021