QUESTIONS FROM DWS INVESTMENT GMBH Dell Technologies Inc. ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS 27<sup>th</sup> June 2024 INTENDED FOR ONLINE PUBLICATION



Dell Technologies Inc.
ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS
27<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2024
QUESTIONS FROM DWS INVESTMENT GMBH

Dear Mr. Michael Dell, Dear Ms. Ellen Kullman, Dear Members of the Board,

DWS Investment GmbH, also acting on behalf of funds of DWS Investment S.A. (incl. SICAVs and PLCs) and certain institutional mandates of DWS International GmbH, all according to delegation agreements (hereafter DWS), is one of the largest asset managers in Europe. As a responsible investor in Dell Technologies Inc., it is part of our fiduciary duty to express our expectations in the best interest of our clients. Our commitment to environmental, social and governance practices (ESG) is a crucial element of our responsibilities and forms an integral part of our investment process.

Ahead of your 2024 annual general meeting of shareholders (AGM), we would like to share our questions with you. We would greatly appreciate your answers in written form. Please note that we will also share our questions on our website (www.dws.com) on the day of your AGM. Thank you for your consideration.

# **Overboarding**

Directors should not hold excessive number of mandates. Directors must ensure that they have sufficient time and capacity to fulfil their board commitments. DWS considers directors overboarded in case they hold more than five external non-executive mandates. For directors who hold executive positions on any board, our limit is two additional non-executive mandates. Further, due to their extended responsibilities, DWS attributes an additional mandate to members assuming the role of CEO, chair position of the board or the chair position of the audit committee.

In this regard, we note that Mr. Michael Dell is currently overboarded according to our DWS Corporate Governance and Proxy Voting Policy.

QUESTION 1: Are there any plans for Mr. Michael Dell to reduce his overall mandates by the next AGM?

## **Board Gender Diversity**

We expect our investee companies to incorporate gender diversity into their composition and refreshment processes and to adhere to national best practice stipulations on gender representation. We require boards to have at least 30% female directors at board level.

At present, the gender diversity at the board stands at 25%.

QUESTION 2: Would you consider increasing the gender diversity within the Board to 30%?



## **Rotation of External Auditors**

We place high value on the quality and independence of auditors. A strong degree of transparency regarding the audit fees, the proportionality and limitations on audit and non-audit fees, the tenure of the audit firm and the lead audit partner is key for DWS to assess whether ratifications for audit firms are deemed responsibly.

We regard regular rotation of both the audit firm (after ten years at the latest) and the lead audit partner (after five years at the latest) as a reasonable measure to ensure reliable, independent and critical evaluation of a firm's accounts.

We note that PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP have been associated with the company since 1986.

QUESTION 3: Can we expect a rotation of the audit firm before the next AGM?

#### **Executive Remuneration**

Executive pay is one of the most important aspects of good corporate governance as it is one of the signals for a well-operated and supervised business. Our expectation is that the board ensures full transparency, clear and plausible key performance indicators for investors, the structure of the incentives encourages the achievement of corporate financial, social and environmental objectives and the amount ultimately granted is in line with performance.

While the company has an existing recoupment/clawback policy for the incentive arrangements of executive directors, its applicability does not expand beyond cases of accounting restatements and is therefore not considered robust.

We regard relevant and adequate bonus-malus mechanisms (including clawbacks) and reasonable deferral periods for executives as key elements of a sustainable, long-term oriented compensation structure. A robust clawback mechanism sets out the scope of and defines the conditions under which parts of the remuneration are to be reclaimed by the board. This should include cash and equity-based elements and should cover restatements as well as compliance breaches, misconduct and performance-related restatements that extend to sustainability aspects.

QUESTION 4: Would you consider expanding the applicability of the company's clawback/ recoupment policy to events such as gross misconduct; fraud; malpractice and reputational damage to the business?

#### **Capital Structure**

As prerogative for us, we strongly support the "one-share, one-vote" principle, and regard the existence or creation of different share classes as a measure that denies the equal treatment of shareholders. The adequate treatment of (minority) shareholders' interests and proposals must be ensured.

While Dell Technologies Inc. maintains a multi-class capital structure, such capital structures with unequal voting rights create a misalignment between economic interest and voting rights, which can disenfranchise shareholders holding stock with inferior voting rights.

In addition, the company's multi-class structure is not subject to a reasonable time-based sunset provision, which goes against our support for the "one-share, one-vote" principle.



# QUESTION 5: Can we expect the company to introduce a reasonable time-based sunset provision to address its multi-class capital structure?

To conclude, we would like to thank all members of the Board and all the employees of Dell Technologies Inc. on their commitment and dedication.

Thank you in advance for your answers.