

# CION INVESTMENT CORPORATION

## AUDIT COMMITTEE CHARTER

The Board of Directors (“*Board*”) of CION Investment Corporation (the “*Company*”) has determined that the Audit Committee of the Board (the “*Committee*”) shall assist the Board in fulfilling certain of the Board’s oversight responsibilities. The Board hereby adopts this charter (“*Charter*”) to establish the governing principles of the Committee.

### **I. Purpose**

The primary function of the Committee is to serve as an independent and objective party to assist the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibilities for the Company’s accounting and reporting processes and the audits of its financial statements by overseeing and monitoring:

- a.* The quality and integrity of financial reports and other financial information provided by the Company to governmental bodies or the public and the independent audit thereof.
- b.* The Company’s system of internal controls regarding finance, accounting and regulatory compliance.
- c.* The material aspects of the Company’s accounting and financial reporting process generally.
- d.* The independence, qualifications and performance of the Company’s independent registered public accounting firm (independent accountants), including the lead audit partner.
- e.* The compliance by the Company with legal and regulatory requirements, including the Company’s disclosures and procedures.
- f.* The performance of the Company’s internal audit function, if applicable.
- g.* The disclosure by the Audit Committee of the report required by the SEC to be included in the Company’s annual proxy statement.
- h.* The review, or participation in, an annual evaluation of the performance of the Audit Committee, the results of which shall be presented to the Board.

The Committee will primarily fulfill these responsibilities by carrying out the activities enumerated in Section V of this Charter.

### **II. Scope**

While the Committee has the responsibilities and powers set forth in this Charter, it is not the duty of the Committee to plan or conduct audits or to determine that the Company’s financial statements are complete and accurate or are in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (“*GAAP*”). The responsibility to plan and conduct audits is that of the Company’s independent accountants. In fulfilling this responsibility, the independent accountants are ultimately accountable to the Board of the Company and this Committee. The Company’s management has the responsibility to determine that the Company’s financial statements are complete and accurate and in accordance with GAAP. It is also not the duty of the Committee to assure the Company’s compliance with laws and regulations or compliance with the Company’s Code of Ethics or Code of Business Conduct. The primary responsibility for these matters also rests with the Company’s management.

In order to fulfill its oversight responsibility, the Committee must be capable of conducting free and open discussions with the Board, any other committees, management, independent accountants, internal auditors or other personnel responsible for the internal audit function (if applicable), outside valuation experts, employees and others regarding the quality of the financial statements, the system of internal controls and legal compliance.

### **III. Membership Requirements**

The Committee shall be comprised of three (3) or more directors as determined by the Board, each of whom:

- a.* Shall be independent directors who are not “interested persons” of the Company or of the Adviser as defined by Section 2(a)(19) of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, and free from any material relationship that, in the opinion of the Board, would interfere with the exercise of his or her independent judgment as a member of the Committee.
- b.* Shall be or shall become (within a reasonable period of time after his or her appointment) “financially literate,” as such qualification is interpreted by the Board.
- c.* Shall have a basic understanding of finance and accounting practices and shall be able to read and understand financial statements. Committee members may enhance their familiarity with finance and accounting by participating in educational programs conducted by the Company or an outside consultant.

The members of the Committee shall meet the requirements of all applicable laws, rules or regulations, in each case, when, as and to the extent applicable to the Company. If and when the Company does list its shares on a national securities exchange, the members of the Committee shall meet the requirements of such exchange. In addition, at least one member of the Committee must be, in the judgment of the Board, an “audit committee financial expert” within the meaning of Item 407 of Regulation S-K and determined by the Board.

The members of the Committee shall be nominated by the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee annually and as vacancies or newly created positions occur. The members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors.

The members of the Committee shall be elected by the Board annually or until their successors shall be duly elected and qualified. The Board shall designate the Chairman of the Committee. The Board shall have the power at any time to remove a member of the Committee with or without cause, to fill all vacancies, and to designate alternate members, upon the recommendation of the Committee, to replace any absent or disqualified members.

### **IV. Meetings**

The Committee shall meet at least four times each year, or more frequently as circumstances require. The Chairman of the Committee, in consultation with the other Committee members, may call a Committee meeting whenever deemed necessary and shall be responsible for meeting with the independent accountants at their request to discuss the interim financial results. The Committee may request any officer or employee of the Company or the Company’s outside counsel or independent accountants to attend a meeting of the Committee or to meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Committee.

Action may be taken by the Committee upon the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present at the meeting if a quorum of committee members, as defined in the Company's bylaws, is present (or where only two (2) members are present, by unanimous vote).

An agenda, together with materials relating to the subject matter of each meeting, shall be sent to members of the Committee prior to each meeting. Minutes for all meetings of the Committee shall be prepared to document the Committee's discharge of its responsibilities. The minutes shall be circulated in draft form to all Committee members to ensure an accurate final record, shall be approved at a subsequent meeting of the Committee and shall be distributed periodically to the full Board of Directors.

## **V. Responsibility and Duties**

### ***a. General Responsibilities***

To carry out its purposes, the responsibilities of the Committee shall be as follows:

- i. Maintain open communications with the independent accountants, internal auditors, outside valuation experts, executive management, and the Board.
- ii. Meet separately, from time to time, with management, internal auditors or other personnel responsible for the internal audit function, and the independent accountants to discuss matters warranting attention by the Committee.
- iii. Regularly report Committee actions to the Board and make recommendations as the Committee deems appropriate.
- iv. Review the financial results presented in all reports filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission ("**SEC**").
- v. Review reports issued by regulatory examinations and consider the results of those reviews to determine if any findings could have a material effect on the Company's financial statements or its internal controls and procedures.
- vi. Discuss the Company's disclosure, oversight of and conformity with the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Code of Ethics, and matters that may have a material effect on the Company's financial statements, operations, compliance policies and programs.
- vii. Review and reassess the adequacy of the Committee's Charter at least annually and recommend any changes to the full Board of Directors.
- viii. Take other actions required of the Committee by law, applicable regulations, or as requested by the Board.

In discharging its duties hereunder, the Committee shall have the authority, to the extent it deems necessary or appropriate, to conduct investigations into any matters within its scope of responsibility and to retain, at the expense of the Company, independent legal, accounting or other advisors, and to request any officer or employee of the Company, the Company's outside counsel, internal audit service providers (if applicable), outside valuation service providers or independent auditors attend any meeting of the Committee or meet with any members of, or consultants to, the Committee. The Company shall provide for appropriate funding, as determined by the Committee, for payment of compensation to the independent accountants for the purpose of rendering or issuing an audit report and to any advisers employed by the

Committee, and for ordinary administrative expenses of the Committee that are necessary or appropriate in carrying out its duties.

***b. Responsibilities Regarding the Engagement of the Independent Accountants***

- i. The Committee shall have the sole authority to appoint or replace the independent auditor (subject, if applicable, to shareholder ratification). The Committee shall be directly responsible for the compensation and oversight of the independent accountants (including resolution of disagreements between management and the independent accountants regarding financial reporting) for the purpose of preparing or issuing an audit report or related work. The independent accountant shall report directly to the Committee.
- ii. Ensure the independence of the independent accountants by:
  1. Having the independent accountant deliver to the Committee at least annually a formal written statement delineating all relationships between the independent accountants and the Company required to be disclosed by applicable requirements of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board's Rule No. 3526; actively engaging in dialogue with the independent accountants about any relationships or services disclosed in such statement that may impact the objectivity and independence of the Company's independent accountants.
  2. Pre-approving all auditing services and permitted non-audit services (including fees and terms thereof) to be performed for the Company by its independent accountants. See the Policy on Pre-Approval of Audit and Non-Audit Services set forth in Annex A. The Committee may form and delegate authority to subcommittees consisting of one or more members when appropriate, including the authority to grant pre-approvals of audit and permitted non-audit services, provided that, decisions of such subcommittee to grant pre-approvals shall be presented to the full Committee at its next scheduled meeting.
  3. Ensuring the rotation of the lead (or coordinating) audit partner (or, if required by the rules and regulations of the SEC, other employees of the independent accountants) having primary responsibility for the audit and the audit partner responsible for reviewing the audit as required by law.
  4. Overseeing compliance with the guidelines set forth in Annex B relating to the Company's hiring of employees or former employees of the independent accountants who participated in any capacity in the audit of the Company and ensuring that such guidelines comply with applicable laws, rules, and regulations.
- iii. At least annually, obtain and review a report by the independent accountants describing: the firm's internal control procedures; any material issues raised by the most recent internal quality control review or peer review of the firm, or by any inquiry or investigation by governmental or professional authorities, within the preceding five years with respect to one or more independent audits carried out by the firm, and any steps taken to deal with any such issues; and all relationships between the independent accountants and the Company to assess the auditor's independence.

- iv. The Committee shall review and present its conclusions regarding the independent accountants' qualifications, performance and, if applicable, its conclusions regarding the rotation of the independent accountants to the Board at least annually.

***c. Responsibilities for Reviewing the Annual External Audit and the Financial Statements***

The Committee will:

- i. Request the independent accountants to confirm that they are accountable to the Committee and that they will provide the Committee with timely analyses of significant financial reporting and internal control issues.
- ii. Review with management significant risks and exposures identified by management and management's steps to minimize them.
- iii. Review the scope of the external audit with the independent accountants.
- iv. In accordance with the Company's practices with respect to investments for which market quotations are not readily available or for which market quotations are deemed not to represent fair value, review on at least a quarterly basis and provide comments (if any) to management and independent valuation firms regarding the preliminary valuation conclusions provided by such independent valuation firms. Where the Committee determines that it is appropriate, the Committee may appoint independent valuation firms to review and advise the Committee with respect to valuations.
- v. Provide a recommendation to the Board with regard to its approval of the quarterly valuation of the Company's assets.
- vi. Review with management and the independent accountants, as appropriate:
  - 1. The Company's internal controls, including computerized information system controls and security.
  - 2. The Company's significant accounting policies.
  - 3. The Company's annual audited financial statements and quarterly financial statements, including the Company's disclosures under "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," before they are made public.
  - 4. The alternative treatments of financial information within GAAP that have been discussed with management, if any, the ramifications of the use of such alternative disclosures and treatments, and the treatment preferred by the independent accountants.
  - 5. The material written communications between the independent accountants and management, such as any management letter or schedule of unadjusted differences.
  - 6. The Company's earnings press releases.
  - 7. The Company's valuation policies and procedures.
- vii. After the completion of the annual audit examination, or as needed throughout the year, discuss such audit examination with management and the independent accountants.

- viii. Review the Company's annual financial statements and related footnotes, including any adjustments to such statements recommended by the independent accountants.
  - ix. Review any significant findings and recommendations made by the independent accountants with respect to the Company's financial policies, procedures and internal accounting controls together with management's responses thereto.
  - x. Review the qualitative judgments about the appropriateness and acceptability of accounting principles, financial disclosures and underlying estimates.
  - xi. Discuss any significant difficulties or problems with management encountered during the course of the audit, and, if applicable, management's responses thereto.
  - xii. Review any other matters about the audit procedures or findings that generally accepted accounting standards require the auditors to discuss with the Committee.
  - xiii. The form of opinion the independent accountants propose to render to the Board and the Committee and shareholders.
- d.** Review disclosures made to the Committee by the Company's Co-Chief Executive Officers and Chief Financial Officer during their certification process for the Form 10-K and Form 10-Q about any significant deficiencies in the design or operation of internal controls over financial reporting or material weaknesses therein and any fraud involving management or other employees who have a significant role in the Company's internal controls over financial reporting.
- e.** Recommend to the Board whether to include the audited financial statements in the Company's Form 10-K.
- f.** Prepare and approve for public disclosure the Audit Committee report required by the SEC to be included in public filings, including the Company's annual proxy statement.
- g. *Compliance Oversight Responsibilities***
- i. Obtain from the independent accountants assurance that Section 10A(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 has not been implicated.
  - ii. Administer the procedures set forth in the Company's Internal Reporting and Whistleblower Policy relating to the receipt, retention and treatment of complaints received by the Company regarding accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, and the confidential, anonymous submission by employees of concerns regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.
  - iii. Review all potential material conflict-of-interest situations arising in respect to the Company's affairs and involving the Company's affiliates or employees, including all transactions with related persons.
- h. *Related Party Transactions***
- i. The Committee shall review the Company's policies and procedures for reviewing and approving or ratifying "related person transactions" (defined as transactions required to be disclosed pursuant to Item 404 of Regulation S-K) and recommend any changes to the Board.

- ii. The Committee shall review all related person transactions for potential conflict of interest situations on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Company's Code of Ethics, Code of Business Conduct and/or Section 57(h) Procedures, and all such transactions shall be approved or ratified by the Audit Committee.

#### **VI. Additional Resources**

Subject to the approval of the Board, the Committee shall have the right to use reasonable amounts of time of the Company's independent registered public accounting firm, outside lawyers and other internal staff and also shall have the right to hire independent experts, lawyers and other consultants to assist and advise the Committee in connection with its responsibilities. The Committee shall keep the Company's Chief Executive Officer advised as to the general range of anticipated expenses for outside consultants, and shall obtain the concurrence of the Board in advance for any expenditures.

#### **VII. Disclosure of Charter**

The charter will be made available on the Company's website.

#### **VIII. Evaluation**

The Committee shall conduct an annual review of the Committee's performance and recommend changes to Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee as needed.

## Annex A

### **Policy on Pre-Approval of Audit and Non-Audit Services**

#### **I. Statement of Principles**

The Audit Committee is required to pre-approve the audit and non-audit services performed by the independent registered public accounting firm (“*independent auditor*”) in order to assure that the provision of such services to the Company does not impair the auditor’s independence. Unless a type of service to be provided by the independent auditor has received general pre-approval, it will require specific pre-approval by the Audit Committee. Any proposed services exceeding pre-approved cost levels will require specific pre-approval by the Audit Committee.

#### **II. Audit Services**

The annual audit services engagement terms and fees will be subject to the specific pre-approval of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee will approve, if necessary, any changes in terms, conditions and fees resulting from changes in audit scope, Company structure or other matters.

In addition to the annual audit services engagement approved by the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee may grant pre-approval for other audit services, which are those services that only the independent auditor reasonably can provide, such as limited quarterly reviews, comfort letters, statutory audits, attest services, reports on internal control over financial reporting required by section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, consents and assistance with and review of documents filed with the SEC.

#### **III. Audit-Related Services**

Audit-related services are assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of the Company’s financial statements and that are traditionally performed by the independent auditor. All audit-related services must be separately pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

#### **IV. Tax Services**

Tax services include tax compliance, tax planning and tax advice. All tax services must be separately pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

#### **V. All Other Services**

The Audit Committee may grant pre-approval to those permissible non-audit services classified as “All Other Services” that it believes are routine and recurring services, and would not impair the independence of the auditor. Permissible All Other Services must be separately pre-approved by the Audit Committee.

A list of the SEC’s prohibited non-audit services is attached to this policy as **Exhibit 1**. The SEC’s rules and relevant guidance should be consulted to determine the precise definitions of these services and the applicability of exceptions to certain of the prohibitions.

#### **VI. Pre-Approval Fee Levels**

Pre-approval fee levels for all services to be provided by the independent auditor will be established periodically by the Audit Committee. Any proposed services exceeding these levels will require specific pre-approval by the Audit Committee.

#### **VII. Supporting Documentation**

With respect to each proposed pre-approved service, the independent auditor will provide an engagement letter, which will be provided to the Audit Committee, regarding the specific services to be provided.

#### **VIII. Procedures**

Requests or applications to provide services that require separate approval by the Audit Committee will be submitted to the Audit Committee by the Chief Financial Officer, and must include a statement as to whether, in his view, the request or application is consistent with the SEC's rules on auditor independence.

#### **IX. Confirmation**

The independent auditor will provide a written confirmation of its independence with respect to the Company to the Audit Committee on an annual basis.

**Exhibit 1: Prohibited Non-Audit Services**

- Bookkeeping or other services related to the accounting records or financial statements
- Financial reporting systems design and implementation
- Appraisal or valuation services, fairness opinions or contributions-in-kind reports
- Actuarial services
- Internal audit outsourcing services
- Management functions
- Human resources
- Broker-dealer, investment adviser or investment banking services
- Legal services
- Expert services unrelated to the audit

## **Annex B**

### **Hiring Guidelines for Employees of the Independent Public Accounting Firm**

The Audit Committee has adopted the following practices regarding the hiring by the Company of any employee of its independent public accounting firm who participated in any capacity in the audit of the Company.

1. No member of the audit team that is auditing the Company can be hired by the Company in a financial reporting oversight role (as defined in the SEC's Regulation S-X) if such employee or former employee was the lead or concurring partner or any member of the audit engagement team who provided more than ten (10) hours of audit, review or attestation services for a period of one year following association with that audit.
2. The Company's Chief Financial Officer shall report annually to the Audit Committee the profile of the preceding year's hires from the independent accountants.