

28. Financial Risk Management Objectives and Policies (continued)

Capital Management

Capital includes equity attributable to the equity holders of the parent entity. Revaluation surplus which is included in capital is not subject to capital management because of its nature.

The primary objective of the Group's capital management is to ensure that it maintains a strong credit rating and healthy capital ratios in order to support its business and maximise the return to shareholders. The Board of Directors reviews the Group's performance and establishes key performance indicators. There were no changes in the objectives, policies and processes during 2017.

The Group manages its capital structure and makes adjustments to it by the issue of new shares, dividend payments to shareholders, and the purchase of treasury shares. In addition, the Group monitors distributable profits on a regular basis and determines the amounts and timing of dividend payments taking into account cashflow and other constraints.

29. Non-cash Transactions

Transactions that did not require the use of cash or cash equivalents, not disclosed in the notes above, were as follows in the years ended 31 December:

<i>US\$ million</i>	2017	2016	2015
Liabilities for purchases of property, plant and equipment	\$ 80	\$ 71	\$ 63
Loans provided in the form of payments by banks for property, plant and equipment	8	46	-

30. Commitments and Contingencies

Operating Environment of the Group

The Group is one of the largest vertically integrated steel producers globally and the largest steel producer in Russia. The Group's major subsidiaries are located in Russia, Ukraine, the USA and Canada. Russia and Ukraine are considered to be developing markets with higher economic and political risks. Steel consumption is affected by the cyclical nature of demand for steel products and the sensitivity of that demand to worldwide general economic conditions.

The political crisis over Ukraine led to uncertainty in the global economy. The unrest in the Southeastern region of Ukraine and the economic sanctions imposed on Russia caused the depreciation of national currencies in 2014-2015, economic slowdown, deterioration of liquidity in the banking sector, and tighter credit conditions within Russia and Ukraine. In addition, a significant drop in crude oil prices in 2015 continues to have a negative impact on the Russian economy. The combination of the above resulted in reduced access to capital, a higher cost of capital, increased inflation and uncertainty regarding economic growth. If the Ukrainian crisis broadens and further sanctions are imposed on Russia, this could have an adverse impact on the Group's business.

Management believes it is taking appropriate measures to support the sustainability of the Group's business in the current circumstances.

The global economic climate continues to be unstable and this may negatively affect the Group's results and financial position in a manner not currently determinable.