BlackRock.

23 FEBRUARY 2024

# Prospectus*

## BlackRock Global Funds

* This Prospectus is only valid if read in conjunction with the Addendum dated March 2024.

NM0324U-3453640-1/808

This page is intentionally left blank

Contents


| | Page |
|---|---|
| Introduction to BlackRock Global Funds | 2 |
| Important Notice | 5 |
| Distribution | 5 |
| Management and Administration | 6 |
| Enquiries | 6 |
| Board of Directors | 7 |
| Glossary | 8 |
| Investment Management of the Funds | 12 |
| Risk Considerations | 14 |
| Specific Risk Considerations | 21 |
| Excessive Trading Policy | 43 |
| Investment Objectives and Policies | 44 |
| Classes and Form of Shares | 141 |
| Dealing in Fund Shares | 143 |
| Prices of Shares | 144 |
| Application for Shares | 144 |
| Redemption of Shares | 146 |
| Conversion of Shares | 146 |
| Calculation of Dividends | 149 |
| Fees, Charges and Expenses | 152 |
| Taxation | 153 |
| Meetings and Reports | 156 |
| Appendix A - Investment and Borrowing Powers and Restrictions | 157 |
| Appendix B - Summary of Certain Provisions of the Articles and of Company Practice | 168 |
| Appendix C - Additional Information | 175 |
| Appendix D - Authorised Status | 181 |
| Appendix E - Summary of Charges and Expenses | 188 |
| Appendix F - List of Depositary Delegates | 208 |
| Appendix G - Securities Financing Transaction Disclosures | 210 |
| Summary of Subscription Procedure and Payment Instructions | 216 |
| Appendix H - SFDR Pre-Contractual Disclosure | 217 |
| Addendum - Dated March 2024 to Prospectus dated 23 February 2024 | 798 |

## Introduction to BlackRock Global Funds

**Structure**

BlackRock Global Funds (the "Company") is a public limited company (société anonyme) established under the laws of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg as an open-ended variable capital investment company (société d'investissement à capital variable). The Company has been established on 14 June 1962 and its registration number in the Registry of the Luxembourg Trade and Companies Register is B 6317. The Company has been authorised by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (the "CSSF") as an undertaking for collective investments in transferable securities pursuant to the provisions of Part I of the law of 17 December 2010, as amended from time to time and, for some of its Funds pursuant to the provisions of the MMF Regulations and is regulated pursuant to such law and regulations, respectively. Authorisation by the CSSF is not an endorsement or guarantee of the Company by the CSSF nor is the CSSF responsible for the contents of this Prospectus. The authorisation of the Company shall not constitute a warranty as to performance of the Company and the CSSF shall not be liable for the performance or default of the Company.

The articles of association governing the Company (the "Articles") have been deposited with the Luxembourg Trade and Companies Register. The Articles have been amended and restated several times, most recently on 4 February 2019 and published in the Recueil Electronique des Sociétés et Associations ("RESA"), on 25 February 2019.

The Company is an umbrella structure comprising separate compartments with segregated liability. Each compartment shall have segregated liability from the other compartments and the Company shall not be liable as a whole to third parties for the liabilities of each compartment. Each compartment shall be made up of a separate portfolio of investments maintained and invested in accordance with the investment objectives applicable to such compartment, as specified herein. The Directors are offering separate classes of Shares, each representing interests in a compartment, on the basis of the information contained in this Prospectus and in the documents referred to herein which are deemed to be an integral part of this Prospectus.

**Management**

The Company is managed by BlackRock (Luxembourg) S.A., a public limited company (société anonyme) established in 1988 under registration number B 27689. The Management Company has been authorised by the CSSF to manage the business and affairs of the Company pursuant to chapter 15 of the 2010 Law.

**Choice of Funds**

As of the date of this Prospectus, investors are able to choose from the following Funds of the Company:

| Fund | Base Currency | Bond/Equity or Mixed Fund | Short Term VNAV Money Market Fund |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Asian Dragon Fund | USD | E | |
| 2. Asian Growth Leaders Fund | USD | E | |
| 3. Asian High Yield Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 4. Asian Multi-Asset Income Fund | USD | M | |
| 5. Asian Sustainable Equity Fund | USD | E | |
| 6. Asian Tiger Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 7. Brown to Green Materials Fund | USD | E | |
| 8. China Bond Fund | RMB | B | |
| 9. China Fund | USD | E | |
| 10. China Impact Fund | USD | E | |
| 11. China Innovation Fund | USD | E | |
| 12. China Multi-Asset Fund | USD | M | |
| 13. China Onshore Bond Fund | RMB | B | |
| 14. Circular Economy Fund | USD | E | |
| 15. Climate Action Equity Fund | USD | E | |
| 16. Climate Action Multi-Asset Fund | EUR | M | |
| 17. Climate Global Corporate Bond Fund* | USD | B | |
| 18. Continental European Flexible Fund | EUR | E | |
| 19. Developed Markets Sustainable Equity Fund | USD | E | |
| 20. Dynamic High Income Fund | USD | M | |
| 21. Emerging Europe Fund | EUR | E | |
| 22. Emerging Markets Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 23. Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 24. Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund | USD | E | |
| 25. Emerging Markets Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | USD | B | |
| 26. Emerging Markets Fund | USD | E | |
| 27. Emerging Markets Impact Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 28. Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund | USD | B | |



NM0324U-3453640-4/808

| Fund | Base Currency | Bond/Equity or Mixed Fund | Short Term VNAV Money Market Fund |
|---|---|---|---|
| 29. Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund | USD | E | |
| 30. ESG Flex Choice Cautious Fund | USD | F | |
| 31. ESG Flex Choice Growth Fund | USD | F | |
| 32. ESG Flex Choice Moderate Fund | USD | F | |
| 33. ESG Global Conservative Income Fund | EUR | M | |
| 34. ESG Global Multi-Asset Income Fund | USD | M | |
| 35. ESG Multi-Asset Fund | EUR | M | |
| 36. Euro Bond Fund | EUR | B | |
| 37. Euro Corporate Bond Fund | EUR | B | |
| 38. Euro High Yield Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | EUR | B | |
| 39. Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (1) | EUR | B | |
| 40. Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (2) | EUR | B | |
| 41. Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2029 | EUR | B | |
| 42. Euro Reserve Fund | EUR | | MMF |
| 43. Euro Short Duration Bond Fund | EUR | B | |
| 44. Euro-Markets Fund | EUR | E | |
| 45. European Equity Income Fund | EUR | E | |
| 46. European Focus Fund | EUR | E | |
| 47. European Fund | EUR | E | |
| 48. European High Yield Bond Fund | EUR | B | |
| 49. European Special Situations Fund | EUR | E | |
| 50. European Sustainable Equity Fund | EUR | E | |
| 51. European Value Fund | EUR | E | |
| 52. FinTech Fund | USD | E | |
| 53. Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund | USD | B | |
| 54. Future Consumer Fund | USD | E | |
| 55. Future Of Transport Fund | USD | E | |
| 56. Global Allocation Fund | USD | M | |
| 57. Global Corporate Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 58. Global Equity Income Fund | USD | E | |
| 59. Global Government Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 60. Global High Yield Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 61. Global Inflation Linked Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 62. Global Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | USD | B | |
| 63. Global Listed Infrastructure Fund | USD | E | |
| 64. Global Long-Horizon Equity Fund | USD | E | |
| 65. Global Multi-Asset Income Fund | USD | M | |
| 66. Global Unconstrained Equity Fund | USD | E | |
| 67. Impact Bond Fund | EUR | B | |
| 68. India Fund | USD | E | |
| 69. Japan Flexible Equity Fund | Yen | E | |
| 70. Japan Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund | Yen | E | |
| 71. Latin American Fund | USD | E | |
| 72. Multi -Theme Equity Fund | USD | F | |
| 73. Natural Resources Fund | USD | E | |
| 74. Next Generation Health Care Fund | USD | E | |
| 75. Next Generation Technology Fund | USD | E | |
| 76. Nutrition Fund | USD | E | |
| 77. Social Action Equity Fund* | USD | E | |

| Fund | Base Currency | Bond/Equity or Mixed Fund | Short Term VNAV Money Market Fund |
|---|---|---|---|
| 78. Sustainable Asian Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 79. Sustainable Emerging Markets Blended Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 80. Sustainable Emerging Markets Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 81. Sustainable Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 82. Sustainable Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 83. Sustainable Energy Fund | USD | E | |
| 84. Sustainable Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund | EUR | B | |
| 85. Sustainable Global Allocation Fund | USD | M | |
| 86. Sustainable Global Bond Income Fund | USD | B | |
| 87. Sustainable Global Dynamic Equity Fund | USD | E | |
| 88. Sustainable Global Infrastructure Fund | USD | E | |
| 89. Sustainable World Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 90. Swiss Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund | CHF | E | |
| 91. Systematic China A-Share Opportunities Fund | USD | E | |
| 92. Systematic China Environmental Tech Fund | USD | E | |
| 93. Systematic ESG Multi Allocation Credit Fund | USD | B | |
| 94. Systematic Global Equity High Income Fund | USD | E | |
| 95. Systematic Global Sustainable Income & Growth Fund | USD | M | |
| 96. Systematic Sustainable Global SmallCap Fund | USD | E | |
| 97. United Kingdom Fund | GBP | E | |
| 98. US Basic Value Fund | USD | E | |
| 99. US Dollar Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 100. US Dollar High Yield Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 101. US Dollar Reserve Fund | USD | | MMF |
| 102. US Dollar Short Duration Bond Fund | USD | B | |
| 103. US Flexible Equity Fund | USD | E | |
| 104. US Government Mortgage Impact Fund | USD | B | |
| 105. US Growth Fund | USD | E | |
| 106. US Investment Grade Fixed maturity Bond Fund 2027 | USD | B | |
| 107. US Mid-Cap Value Fund | USD | E | |
| 108. US Sustainable Equity Fund | USD | E | |
| 109. World Energy Fund | USD | E | |
| 110. World Financials Fund | USD | E | |
| 111. World Gold Fund | USD | E | |
| 112. World Healthscience Fund | USD | E | |
| 113. World Mining Fund | USD | E | |
| 114. World Real Estate Securities Fund | USD | E | |
| 115. World Technology Fund | USD | E | |

B Bond Fund
E Equity Fund
F Fund of Funds
M Mixed Fund
MMF Short Term VNAV Money Market Fund

**A list of Dealing Currencies, Hedged Share Classes, Distributing and Non-Distributing Share Classes and UK Reporting Fund status Classes is available from the Company's registered office and the local Investor Servicing team.**

* Fund not available for subscription at the date of this Prospectus. Such Funds may be launched at the Directors' discretion. Confirmation of the launch date of these Funds will then be made available from the local Investor Servicing team. Any provisions in this Prospectus relating to any one of these Funds shall only take effect from the launch date of the relevant Fund.



NM0324U-3453640-6/808

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**If you are in any doubt about the contents of this Prospectus or whether an investment in the Company is suitable for you, you should consult your stockbroker, solicitor, accountant, relationship manager or other professional adviser.**

The Directors of the Company, whose names appear in the section "Board of Directors", and the directors of the Management Company are the persons responsible for the information contained in this Prospectus . To the best knowledge and belief of the Directors and the directors of the Management Company (who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case), the information contained herein is accurate in all material respects and does not omit anything likely to affect the accuracy of such information. The Directors and the directors of the Management Company accept responsibility accordingly.

This Prospectus has been prepared solely for, and is being furnished to investors for the purpose of evaluating an investment in Shares in the Funds. Investment in the Funds is only suitable for investors seeking long-term capital appreciation (save for the Reserve Funds which may not be appropriate for investors who seek long-term capital appreciation) who understand the risks involved in investing in the Company, including the risk of loss of all capital invested.

**In considering an investment in the Company, investors should also take account of the following:**

- **certain information contained in this Prospectus, the documents referred to herein and any brochures issued by the Company as substitute offering documents constitutes forward-looking statements, which can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as "seek", "may", "should", "expect", "anticipate", "estimate", "intend", "continue", "target" or "believe" or the negatives thereof or other variations thereof or comparable terminology and includes projected or targeted returns on investments to be made by the Company. Such forward-looking statements are inherently subject to significant economic, market and other risks and uncertainties and accordingly actual events or results or the actual performance of the Company may differ materially from those reflected or contemplated in such forward-looking statements; and**

- **nothing in this Prospectus should be taken as legal, tax, regulatory, financial, accounting or investment advice.**

**An application / decision to subscribe for Shares should be made on the basis of the information contained in this Prospectus which is issued by the Company and in the most recent annual and (if later) interim report and accounts of the Company which are available at the registered office of the Company. Information updating this Prospectus may, if appropriate, appear in the report and accounts.**

This Prospectus, and the KIID for the relevant Share Class, should each be read in their entirety before making an application for Shares. KIIDs for each available Share Class can be found at: http://kiid.blackrock.com

Statements made in this Prospectus are based on laws and practices in force at the date hereof and are subject to changes therein. Neither the delivery of this Prospectus nor the issue of Shares will, in any circumstances, imply that there has been no change in the circumstances affecting any of the matters contained in this Prospectus since the date hereof.

**This Prospectus may be translated into other languages provided that any such translation shall be a direct translation of the English text. In the event of any inconsistency or ambiguity in relation to the meaning of any word or phrase in any translation, the English text shall prevail, except to the extent (and only to the extent) that the laws of a jurisdiction require that the legal relationship between the Company and investors in such jurisdiction shall be governed by the local language version of this Prospectus.**

**Any Shareholder in the Company will only be able to fully exercise its Shareholder rights directly against the Company, and in particular the right to participate in general meetings of Shareholders, where such Shareholder is registered in its own name in the register of Shareholders for the Company. In cases where a Shareholder invests into the Company through an intermediary investing in its own name but on behalf of the Shareholder, it may not always be possible for such Shareholder to exercise certain of its Shareholder rights in the Company. Investors are therefore advised to take legal advice in respect of the exercise of their Shareholder rights in the Company.**

### Distribution

This Prospectus does not constitute an offer or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such offer or solicitation is not lawful or in which the person making such offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so or to anyone to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or solicitation. Details of certain countries in which the Company is currently authorised to offer Shares are contained in Appendix D. Prospective investors for Shares should inform themselves as to the legal requirements of applying for Shares and of applicable exchange control regulations and taxes in the countries of their respective citizenship, residence or domicile. US Persons are not permitted to subscribe for Shares. The Funds are not registered for distribution in India. In some countries investors may be able to subscribe for Shares through regular savings plans. Under Luxembourg law, the fees and commissions relating to regular savings plans during the first year must not exceed one third of the amount contributed by the investor. These fees and commissions do not include premiums to be paid by the investor where the regular savings plan is offered as part of a life insurance or whole life insurance product. Please contact the local Investor Servicing team for more details.

# DIRECTORY

## Management and Administration

**Management Company**
BlackRock (Luxembourg) S.A.
35 A, avenue J.F. Kennedy,
L-1855 Luxembourg,
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

**Investment Advisers**
BlackRock Financial Management, Inc.
100 Bellevue Parkway,
Wilmington,
Delaware 19809,
USA

BlackRock Investment Management, LLC
100 Bellevue Parkway,
Wilmington,
Delaware 19809,
USA

BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited
12 Throgmorton Avenue,
London EC2N 2DL,
UK

BlackRock (Singapore) Limited
#18-01 Twenty Anson,
20 Anson Road,
Singapore, 079912

**Principal Distributor**
BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited
12 Throgmorton Avenue,
London EC2N 2DL,
UK

**Depositary**
The Bank of New York Mellon SA / NV, Luxembourg Branch
2-4, rue Eugène Ruppert,
L-2453 Luxembourg,
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

**QFI Custodian**
HSBC Bank (China) Company Limited
33rd Floor, HSBC Building,
Shanghai ifc, 8 Century Avenue,
Pudong, Shanghai,
China 200120

**Fund Accountant**
The Bank of New York Mellon SA / NV, Luxembourg Branch
2-4, rue Eugène Ruppert,
L-2453 Luxembourg,
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

**Transfer Agent and Registrar**
J.P. Morgan SE, Luxembourg Branch
6C, route de Trèves,
L-2633 Senningerberg,
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

**Auditor**
Ernst & Young S.A.
35E, avenue John F. Kennedy,
L-1855 Luxembourg,
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

**Legal Advisers**
Arendt & Medernach S.A.
41A, avenue John F. Kennedy,
L-2082 Luxembourg,
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

**Listing Agent**
J.P. Morgan SE, Luxembourg Branch
6C, route de Trèves,
L-2633 Senningerberg,
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

**Paying Agents**
A list of Paying Agents is to be found in paragraph 15. of Appendix C.

**Registered Office**
2-4, rue Eugène Ruppert,
L-2453 Luxembourg,
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

## Enquiries

In the absence of other arrangements, enquiries regarding the Company should be addressed as follows:
Original enquiries:
BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited
c/o BlackRock (Luxembourg) S.A.
P.O. Box 1058
L-1010 Luxembourg
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

All other enquiries:
Fax: +352 462 685 894
Email: investor.services@blackrock.com (EMEA)
clientservice.asiapac@blackrock.com (APAC)
latamcsmad@blackrock.com (Americas)



NM0324U-3453640-8/808

## Board of Directors

Paul Freeman
Bettina Mazzocchi
Geoffrey Radcliffe
Davina Saint
Keith Saldanha
Denise Voss
Vasiliki Pachatouridi

Geoffrey Radcliffe, Bettina Mazzocchi, Keith Saldanha, and Vasiliki Pachatouridi are employees of the BlackRock Group (of which the Management Company, Investment Advisers and Principal Distributor are part), and Paul Freeman is a former employee of the BlackRock Group.

All Directors of the Company are non-executive Directors.



NM0324U-3453640-9/808

**2010 Law**
means the Luxembourg law of 17 December 2010 on undertakings for collective investment, as amended, modified or supplemented from time to time.

**Base Currency**
means in relation to Shares of any Fund, the currency indicated in the section "Choice of Funds".

**BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens Policy**
means the limits and/or exclusions applied by the Investment Advisers on relevant Funds (where referenced in their investment objectives and policies) available at https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**BlackRock Group**
means the BlackRock group of companies, the ultimate holding company of which is BlackRock, Inc.

**Bond Connect**
means the initiative launched in July 2017 for mutual bond market access between Hong Kong and Mainland China as described in the section entitled "China Interbank Bond Market" in the "Investment Objectives and Policies" section of this Prospectus.

**BRL**
means Brazilian Real, the lawful currency of Brazil.

**Business Day**
means any day normally treated by the banks in Luxembourg as a business day (except for Christmas Eve) and such other days as the Directors may decide. The Management Company may also take into account whether relevant local exchanges are open for Funds that invest a substantial amount in assets outside the Eurozone, and/or whether relevant currency exchange vendors are open for Funds that have substantial exposure to a currency other than their respective Base Currency, and may elect to treat such closures as non-business days. Information regarding closures of local exchanges or currency exchange vendors treated by the Management Company as non-business days will be available before such a non-business day and can be obtained from the registered office of the Company and from the local Investor Servicing team.

**CDSC**
means a contingent deferred sales charge as set out in the section "Contingent Deferred Sales Charge".

**China A-Shares**
means securities of companies that are incorporated in the PRC and denominated and traded in Renminbi on the SSE and SZSE.

**China Interbank Bond Market**
means the Mainland China interbank bond markets of the PRC.

**ChinaClear**
means China Securities Depositary and Clearing Corporation Limited which is the PRC's central securities depository in respect of China A-Shares.

**CIBM Funds**
Asian High Yield Bond Fund, Asian Multi-Asset Income Fund, Asian Tiger Bond Fund, China Bond Fund, China Multi-Asset Fund, China Onshore Bond Fund, Climate Global Corporate Bond Fund, Dynamic High Income Fund, Emerging Markets Bond Fund, Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund, Emerging Markets Impact Bond Fund, Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund, ESG Global Multi-Asset Income Fund, ESG Multi-Asset Fund, Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund, Global Allocation Fund, Global Conservative Income Fund, Global Corporate Bond Fund, Global Government Bond Fund, Global Multi-Asset Income Fund, Impact Bond Fund, Sustainable Asian Bond Fund, Sustainable Emerging Markets Blended Bond Fund, Sustainable Emerging Markets Bond Fund, Sustainable Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund, Sustainable Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund, Sustainable Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund, Sustainable Global Allocation Fund, Sustainable Global Bond Income Fund, Sustainable World Bond Fund, Systematic China Environmental Tech Fund, Systematic Global Sustainable Income & Growth Fund, US Dollar Bond Fund, and US Dollar Short Duration Bond Fund.

**CIS**
means Collective Investment Scheme.

**CSRC**
means the China Securities Regulatory Commission of the PRC or its successors which is the regulator of the securities and futures market of the PRC.

**Dealing Currency**
means the currency or currencies in which applicants may currently subscribe for the Shares of any Fund. Dealing Currencies may be introduced at the Directors' discretion. Confirmation of the Dealing Currencies and the date of their availability can be obtained from the registered office of the Company and from the local Investor Servicing team.

**Dealing Day**
means any Business Day other than any day declared as a non-dealing day by the Directors as further described in the section "Non-Dealing Days" and any day falling within a period of suspension of subscriptions, redemptions and conversions and/or such other day determined by the Directors to be a day when a Fund is open for dealing.

**Directors**
means the members of the board of directors of the Company for the time being and any successors to such members as may be appointed from time to time.

**Distributing Funds and Distributing Shares**
means a Fund or a Share Class for which dividends may be declared, at the Directors' discretion. Distributing Shares may also be treated as UK Reporting Fund status Shares. Confirmation of the Funds, Share Classes and Currencies on which dividends may be declared and Share Classes which are UK Reporting Fund status Shares (please see below for more details) is available from the registered office of the Company and from the local Investor Servicing team.

**Dividend Threshold Amount**
means such minimum dividend yield set on an annual basis for the period 1 January each year to 31 December each year and which



NM0324U-3453640-10/808

will be paid to investors as determined by the Directors in respect of the Distributing (Y) Shares. The Dividend Threshold Amount is available from the local Investor Servicing Team. In certain circumstances, as determined by the Directors', the Dividend Threshold Amount may need to be reduced during the year. Shareholders will be notified of this, where possible, in advance.

**Equity Income Funds**
means the Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund, European Equity Income Fund and Global Equity Income Fund.

**ESG**
Refers to "environmental, social and governance" criteria, which are three central factors used in measuring the sustainability and ethical impact of an investment in securities of an issuer. By way of example, "environmental" may cover themes such as climate risks and natural resources scarcity, "social" may include labour issues and product liability risks such as data security and "governance" may encompass items such as business ethics and executive pay. These are only examples and do not necessarily determine the policy of any specific ESG Fund. Investors should refer to the investment policy of an ESG Fund, including any website referred to in such investment policy, for more detailed information.

**ESG Fund**
means a Fund which uses ESG criteria as part of its investment strategy.

**ESG Provider**
means a provider of ESG research, reports, screening, ratings and/or analysis including, without limitation, third party index providers, ESG consultancies or members of the BlackRock Group.

**Euro**
means the single European currency unit (referred to in Council Regulation (EC) No. 974/98 of 3 May 1998 on the introduction of the Euro) and, at the Investment Adviser's discretion, the currencies of any countries that have previously formed part of the Eurozone. As at the date of this Prospectus the countries that make up the Eurozone are: Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia and Spain.

**Europe or European**
means all European countries including the UK, Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union countries.

**Foreign Access Regime**
means the regime for foreign institutional investors to invest in the China Interbank Bond Market as described in the section entitled "China Interbank Bond Market" in the "Investment Objectives and Policies" section of this Prospectus.

**Fund**
means a segregated compartment established and maintained by the Company in respect of one or more Share Classes to which assets, liabilities, income and expenditure attributable to each such Class or Share Classes will be applied or charged, as further described in this Prospectus.

**Global Industry Classification Standard**
means an industry taxonomy developed by MSCI and Standard & Poor's for use by the global financial community.

**Hedged Share Classes**
means those Share Classes to which a currency hedging strategy is applied. Hedged Share Classes may be made available in Funds and currencies at the Directors' discretion. Confirmation of the Funds and currencies in which the Hedged Share Classes are available can be obtained from the registered office of the Company and from the local Investor Servicing team.

**HKEX**
means Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited.

**HKSCC**
means Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company Limited which operates a securities market and a derivatives market in Hong Kong and the clearing houses for those markets.

**Institutional Investor**
means an institutional investor within the meaning of the 2010 Law which satisfies the eligibility and suitability requirements of institutional investors. Please see the section headed "Restrictions on Holding of Shares".

**Internal Credit Quality Assessment Procedure**
Means, in relation to the Reserve Funds, the procedure required by the MMF Regulations and followed by the Investment Adviser when assessing the credit quality of investments.

**International Capital Markets Association Green Bond principles**
are voluntary process guidelines issued by the International Capital Markets Association, which seek to support issuers in financing environmentally sound and sustainable projects that foster a net-zero emissions economy and protect the environment.

**Interest Rate Differential**
means the difference in interest rates between two similar interest-bearing assets.

**Investment Adviser(s)**
means the investment adviser(s) appointed by the Management Company from time to time in respect of the management of the assets of the Funds as described under "Investment Management of the Funds".

**Investor Servicing**
means the dealing provisions and other investor servicing functions by local BlackRock Group companies or branches or their administrators.

**KIID / KID**
means the key investor information document or key information document, as applicable, issued in respect of each Share Class pursuant to the 2010 Law.

**Management Company**
means BlackRock (Luxembourg) S.A., a Luxembourg société anonyme authorised as a management company under the 2010 Law.

**MMF**
means a money market fund as defined in the MMF Regulations. A "VNAV MMF" means a variable net asset value money market fund as defined in the MMF Regulations.

**MMF Regulations**
means Regulation (EU) 2017/1131 of the European Parliament and Council of 14 June 2017 on money market funds ("MMF") and any delegated regulation published pursuant to it.

**Net Asset Value**
means in relation to a Fund or a Share Class, the amount determined in accordance with the provisions described in paragraphs 12. to 17. of Appendix B. The Net Asset Value (or "NAV") of a Fund may be adjusted in accordance with paragraph 17.3 of Appendix B.

**Non-Distributing Shares**
means Non-Distributing Shares / Non-Distributing Share Classes are Share Classes that do not pay dividends.

**OTC derivatives**
means over-the-counter derivative instruments.

**Paris Climate Agreement**
means the agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change on 12 December 2015 and approved by the European Union on 5 October 2016 with the aim of holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

**Principal Adverse Impacts (PAIs)**
are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

**PBOC**
means the People's Bank of China in the PRC.

**PRC or Mainland China**
means the People's Republic of China.

**Principal Distributor**
means BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited acting in its capacity as Principal Distributor. References to distributors may include BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited in its capacity as Principal Distributor.

**Prospectus**
means this offering memorandum, as amended, modified or supplemented from time to time.

**QFI**
means qualified foreign investors (including, if applicable, Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors ("QFII") and Renminbi Qualified Foreign Institutional Investors ("RQFII")) approved pursuant to the relevant PRC regulations (as amended from time to time).

**QFI Access Funds**
Asia High Yield Bond Fund, Asian Dragon Fund, Asian Growth Leaders Fund, Asian Multi-Asset Income Fund, Asian Tiger Bond Fund, China Bond Fund, China Fund, China Impact Fund, China Onshore Bond Fund, Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund, Multi-Theme Equity Fund, Sustainable Asian Bond Fund, and Systematic China A-Share Opportunities Fund.

**QFI Custodian**
means HSBC Bank (China) Company Limited or such other person appointed as a sub-custodian of the relevant Fund for China A-Shares and/or China onshore bonds acquired through the QFI regime.

**QFI Licence**
means the licence awarded by the CSRC to entities based in certain jurisdictions outside of the PRC, enabling such entities to invest in eligible PRC securities via the QFI regime.

**QFI Licence Holder**
means the holder of a QFI Licence.

**Remuneration Policy**
means the policy as described in the section entitled "Management" including, but not limited to, a description as to how remuneration and benefits are calculated and identification of those individuals responsible for awarding remuneration and benefits.

**Reserve Funds**
means the Euro Reserve Fund and the US Dollar Reserve Fund. The Euro Reserve Fund and the US Dollar Reserve Fund are "Short-Term Variable Net Asset Value Money Market Funds" (Short-term MMFs) in accordance with the MMF Regulations. The investment objectives of the Euro Reserve Fund and the US Dollar Reserve Fund are intended to comply with this classification.

**RMB or Renminbi**
means Renminbi, the lawful currency of the PRC.

**SAFE**
means the State Administration of Foreign Exchange of the PRC.

**SEHK**
means the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong.

**Share**
means a share of any Class representing a participation in the capital of the Company, and carrying rights attributable to a relevant Share Class, as further described in this Prospectus.

**Share Class**
means any class of Shares attributable to a particular Fund, and carrying rights to participate in the assets and liabilities of such Fund as further described in section "Classes and Form of Shares".

**Shareholder**
means an owner of Shares.

**SFC**
means the Securities and Futures Commission in Hong Kong.

**SFDR**
means Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on sustainability related disclosures in the financial services sector, as may be amended, modified or supplemented from time to time.



NM0324U-3453640-12/808

**SICAV**
means an investment company with variable capital (*société d'investissement à capital variable*).

**Stock Connect**
means each of the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect, and collectively the "**Stock Connects**".

**Stock Connect Funds**
Asian Dragon Fund, Asian Growth Leaders Fund, Asian Multi-Asset Income Fund, Asian Sustainable Equity Fund, Brown To Green Materials Fund, China Impact Fund, China Fund, China Innovation Fund, China Multi-Asset Fund, Circular Economy Fund, Climate Action Equity Fund, Climate Global Corporate Bond Fund, Climate Action Multi-Asset Fund, Dynamic High Income Fund, Emerging Markets Fund, Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund, Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund, FinTech Fund, ESG Global Multi-Asset Income Fund, ESG Multi-Asset Fund, Future Consumer Fund, Future Of Transport Fund, Global Allocation Fund, ESG Global Conservative Income Fund, Global Equity Income Fund, Global Multi-Asset Income Fund, Global Long-Horizon Equity Fund, Multi-Theme Equity Fund, Natural Resources Fund, Next Generation Health Care Fund, Next Generation Technology Fund, Nutrition Fund, Sustainable Energy Fund, Sustainable Global Allocation Fund, Sustainable Global Dynamic Equity Fund, Sustainable Global Infrastructure Fund, Systematic China A-Share Opportunities Fund, Systematic Global Equity High Income Fund, Systematic Global SmallCap Fund, Systematic China Environmental Tech Fund, Systematic Global Sustainable Income & Growth Fund, World Energy Fund, World Financials Fund, World Gold Fund, World Healthscience Fund, World Mining Fund, World Real Estate Securities Fund, and World Technology Fund.

**SSE**
means the Shanghai Stock Exchange.

**Sustainable Investment**
means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.

**SZSE**
means the Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

**Taxonomy Regulation**
means Regulation (EU) 2020/852 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 June 2020 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088.

**UCITS**
means an undertaking for collective investment in transferable securities.

**UCITS Directive**
means Directive 2009/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS), as amended.

**UK Reporting Funds**
means the Statutory Instrument 2009 / 3001 that the UK Government enacted in November 2009 (The Offshore Funds (Tax) Regulations 2009) which provides for a framework for the taxation of investments in offshore funds which operates by reference to whether a Fund opts into a reporting regime ("UK Reporting Funds") or not ("Non-UK Reporting Funds"). Under the UK Reporting Funds regime, investors in UK Reporting Funds are subject to tax on the share of the UK Reporting Fund's income attributable to their holding in the Fund, whether or not distributed, but any gains on disposal of their holding are subject to capital gains tax. The UK Reporting Funds regime has applied to the Company since 1 September 2010.

A list of the Funds which currently have UK Reporting Fund status is available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/offshore-funds-list-of-reporting-fund.

**UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDG)**
The UN SDGs are a series of goals published by the United Nations which recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with improvements in health, education and economic growth, and a reduction in inequalities, all whilst tackling climate change and working to preserve the planet's oceans and forests. For further details see the UN website: https://sdgs.un.org/goals).

## Investment Management of the Funds

**Management**

The Directors are responsible for the overall investment policy of the Company.

The Management Company has been appointed by the Company to act as its management company. The Management Company is authorised to act as a fund management company in accordance with Chapter 15 of the 2010 Law.

The Company has signed a management company agreement with the Management Company. Under this agreement, the Management Company is entrusted with the day-to-day management of the Company, with responsibility for performing directly or by way of delegation all operational functions relating to the Company's investment management, administration and the marketing of the Funds.

In agreement with the Company, the Management Company has decided to delegate several of its functions as is further described in this Prospectus.

The directors of the Management Company are:

**Chairman**
Jonathan Griffin

**Directors**
Svetlana Butvina
Joanne Fitzgerald
Richard Gardner
Michael Renner
Tarek Mahmoud
Geoffrey Radcliffe
Leon Schwab

Svetlana Butvina, Joanne Fitzgerald, Richard Gardner, Tarek Mahmoud, Geoffrey Radcliffe, and Leon Schwab are employees of the BlackRock Group (of which the Management Company, Investment Advisers and Principal Distributor are part).

The Management Company is a wholly owned subsidiary within the BlackRock Group. It is regulated by the CSSF.

The remuneration policy of the Management Company sets out the policies and practices that are consistent with and promote sound and effective risk management. It does not encourage risk-taking which is inconsistent with the risk profiles, rules or instruments of incorporation of the Company and does not impair compliance with the Management Company's duty to act in the best interest of shareholders. The Remuneration Policy is in line with the business strategy, objectives, values and interests of the Management Company and the UCITS funds that it manages and of the investors in such UCITS funds, and includes measures to avoid conflicts of interest. It includes a description as to how remuneration and benefits are calculated and identifies those individuals responsible for awarding remuneration and benefits. With regard to the internal organisation of the Management Company, the assessment of performance is set in a multi-year framework appropriate to the holding period recommended to the investors of the UCITS funds managed by the Management Company in order to ensure that the assessment process is based on longer-term performance of the Company and its investment risks and that the actual payment of performance-based components of remuneration is spread over the same period. The Remuneration Policy includes fixed and variable components of salaries and discretionary pension benefits that are appropriately balanced and the fixed component represents a sufficiently high proportion of the total remuneration to allow the operation of a fully flexible policy on variable remuneration components, including the possibility to pay no variable remuneration component. The Remuneration Policy applies to those categories of staff, including senior management, risk takers, control functions and any employee receiving total remuneration that falls within the remuneration bracket of senior management and risk takers whose professional activities have a material impact on the risk profile of the Management Company. The details of the up-to-date Remuneration Policy, including but not limited to, a description of how remuneration and benefits are calculated, the identity of persons responsible for awarding the remuneration and benefits, including the composition of the remuneration committee where such a committee exists, are available on the individual Fund pages at www.blackrock.com (select the relevant Fund in the "Product" section and then select "All Documents") and www.blackrock.com/Remunerationpolicy and a paper copy will be made available free of charge upon request from the registered office of the Management Company.

**Investment Advisers and Sub-Investment Advisers**

The Management Company has delegated its investment management functions to the Investment Advisers. The Investment Advisers provide advice and management in the areas of stock and sector selection and strategic allocation. Notwithstanding the appointment of the Investment Advisers, the Management Company accepts full responsibility to the Company for all investment transactions. References to an Investment Adviser in this Prospectus may refer to one or more of the below Investment Advisers.

BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited is a principal operating subsidiary of the BlackRock Group outside the US. It is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority ("FCA") but the Company will not be a customer of BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited for the purposes of the FCA rules and will accordingly not directly benefit from the protection of those rules.

BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited also acts as the Investment Adviser to the Subsidiary.

BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited has sub-delegated some of its functions to BlackRock Japan Co., Ltd., BlackRock Investment Management (Australia) Limited and BlackRock Asset Management North Asia Limited ("BAMNA").

BlackRock (Singapore) Limited is regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

BlackRock Financial Management, Inc. and BlackRock Investment Management, LLC are regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The investment sub-advisers are also licensed and/or regulated (as applicable). BlackRock Japan Co., Ltd is regulated by the Japanese Financial Services Agency. BlackRock Investment Management (Australia) Limited is licensed by the Australian Securities and Investments Commission as an Australian Financial Services Licence holder. BAMNA is regulated by the SFC.



NM0324U-3453640-14/808

The Investment Advisers and their sub-investment advisers are indirect operating subsidiaries of BlackRock, Inc., the ultimate holding company of the BlackRock Group. The Investment Advisers and their sub-investment advisers form part of the BlackRock Group.

## Risk Considerations

**All investments risk the loss of capital. An investment in the Shares involves considerations and risk factors which investors should consider before subscribing. In addition, there will be occasions when the BlackRock Group may encounter potential conflicts of interest in connection with the Company. See section "Conflicts of interest from relationships within the BlackRock Group".**

**Investors should review this Prospectus carefully and in its entirety and are invited to consult with their professional advisers before making an application for Shares. An investment in the Shares should form only a part of a complete investment programme and an investor must be able to bear the loss of its entire investment. Investors should carefully consider whether an investment in the Shares is suitable for them in light of their circumstances and financial resources. In addition, investors should consult their own tax advisers regarding the potential tax consequences of the activities and investments of the Company and/or each Fund. Below is a summary of risk factors that apply to all Funds which in particular, in addition to the matters set out elsewhere in this Prospectus, should be carefully evaluated before making an investment in the Shares. Not all risks apply to all Funds. The risks that, in the opinion of the Directors and the Management Company, could have significant impact on the overall risk of the relevant Fund are detailed in the table in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Only those risks which are believed to be material and are currently known to the Directors have been disclosed. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known to the Directors, or that the Directors deem to be immaterial, may also have an adverse effect on the business of the Company and/or the Funds.**

**General Risks**

The performance of each Fund will depend on the performance of the underlying investments. No guarantee or representation is made that any Fund or any investment will achieve its respective investment objectives. Past results are not necessarily indicative of future results. The value of the Shares may fall due to any of the risk factors below as well as rise and an investor may not recoup its investment. Income from the Shares may fluctuate in money terms. Changes in exchange rates may, among other factors, cause the value of Shares to increase or decrease. The levels and bases of, and reliefs from, taxation may change. There can be no assurance that the collective performance of a Fund's underlying investments will be profitable. Also, there is no guarantee of the repayment of principal. On establishment, a Fund will normally have no operating history upon which investors may base an evaluation of performance.

**Financial Markets, Counterparties and Service Providers**

The Funds may be exposed to finance sector companies that act as a service provider or as a counterparty for financial contracts. In times of extreme market volatility, such companies may be adversely affected, with a consequent adverse effect on the return of the Funds.

Regulators and self-regulatory organisations and exchanges are authorised to take extraordinary actions in the event of market emergencies. The effect of any future regulatory action on the Company could be substantial and adverse.

**Tax Considerations**

The Company may be subject to withholding or other taxes on income and/or gains arising from its investment portfolio. Where the Company invests in securities that are not subject to withholding or other taxes at the time of acquisition, there can be no assurance that tax may not be imposed in the future as a result of any change in applicable laws, treaties, rules or regulations or the interpretation thereof. The Company may not be able to recover such tax and so any such change could have an adverse effect on the Net Asset Value of the Shares.

The tax information provided in the "Taxation" section is based, to the best knowledge of the Directors, upon tax law and practice as at the date of this Prospectus. Tax legislation, the tax status of the Company, the taxation of Shareholders and any tax reliefs, and the consequences of such tax status and tax reliefs, may change from time to time. Any change in the taxation legislation in any jurisdiction where a Fund is registered, marketed or invested could affect the tax status of the Fund, affect the value of the Fund's investments in the affected jurisdiction and affect the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective and/or alter the post-tax returns to Shareholders. Where a Fund invests in derivatives, the preceding sentence may also extend to the jurisdiction of the governing law of the derivative contract and/or the derivative counterparty and/or to the market(s) comprising the underlying exposure(s) of the derivative.

The availability and value of any tax reliefs available to Shareholders depend on the individual circumstances of Shareholders. The information in the "Taxation" section is not exhaustive and does not constitute legal or tax advice. Investors are urged to consult their tax advisors with respect to their particular tax situations and the tax effects of an investment in the Company.

Where a Fund invests in a jurisdiction where the tax regime is not fully developed or is not sufficiently certain, for example India and jurisdictions in the Middle East, the relevant Fund, the Management Company, the Investment Advisers and the Depositary shall not be liable to account to any Shareholder for any payment made or suffered by the Company in good faith to a fiscal authority for taxes or other charges of the Company or the relevant Fund notwithstanding that it is later found that such payments need not or ought not have been made or suffered. Conversely, where through fundamental uncertainty as to the tax liability, adherence to best or common market practice (to the extent that there is no established best practice) that is subsequently challenged or the lack of a developed mechanism for practical and timely payment of taxes, the relevant Fund pays taxes relating to previous years, any related interest or late filing penalties will likewise be chargeable to the Fund. Such late paid taxes will normally be debited to the Fund at the point the decision to accrue the liability in the Fund accounts is made.

Investors should note that certain Share Classes may pay dividends gross of expenses. This may result in Shareholders receiving a higher dividend that they would have otherwise received and therefore Shareholders may suffer a higher income tax liability as a result. In addition, in some circumstances, paying dividends gross of expenses may mean that the Fund pays dividends from capital property as opposed to income property. This is also the case where dividends may include Interest Rate Differentials arising from Share Class currency hedging. Such dividends may still be considered income distributions in the hands



NM0324U-3453640-16/808

of Shareholders, depending on the local tax legislation in place, and therefore Shareholders may be subject to tax on the dividend at their marginal income tax rate. Shareholders should seek their own professional tax advice in this regard.

The tax laws and regulations in the PRC may be expected to change and develop as the PRC's economy changes and develops. Consequently, there may be less authoritative guidance to assist in planning and less uniform application of the tax laws and regulations in comparison to more developed markets. In addition, any new tax laws and regulations and any new interpretations may be applied retroactively. The application and enforcement of PRC tax rules could have a significant adverse effect on the Company and its Shareholders, particularly in relation to capital gains withholding tax imposed upon non-residents. The Company does not currently intend to make any accounting provisions for these tax uncertainties.

**Investors should also read the information set out in the section headed "FATCA and other cross-border reporting systems", particularly in relation to the consequences of the Company being unable to comply with the terms of such reporting systems.**

**Share Class Contagion**
It is the Directors' intention that all gains/losses or expenses arising in respect of a particular Share Class are borne separately by that Share Class. Given that there is no segregation of liabilities between Share Classes, there is a risk that, under certain circumstances, transactions in relation to one Share Class could result in liabilities which might affect the Net Asset Value of the other Share Classes of the same Fund.

**Currency Risk – Base Currency**
The Funds may invest in assets denominated in a currency other than the Base Currency of the Funds. Changes in exchange rates between the Base Currency and the currency in which the assets are denominated and changes in exchange rate controls will cause the value of the asset expressed in the Base Currency to fall or rise. The Funds may utilise techniques and instruments including derivatives for hedging purposes to control currency risk. However, it may not be possible or practical to completely mitigate currency risk in respect of a Fund's portfolio or specific assets within the portfolio. Furthermore, unless otherwise stated in the investment policies of the relevant fund, the Investment Adviser is not obliged to seek to reduce currency risk within the Funds.

**Currency Risk – Share Class Currency**
Certain Share Classes of certain Funds may be denominated in a currency other than the Base Currency of the relevant Fund. In addition, the Funds may invest in assets denominated in currencies other than the Base Currency. Therefore changes in exchange rates and changes in foreign exchange rate controls may affect the value of an investment in the Funds.

**Currency Risk – Investor's Own Currency**
An investor may choose to invest in a Share Class which is denominated in a currency that is different from the currency in which the majority of the investor's assets and liabilities are denominated (the "Investor's Currency"). In this scenario, the investor is subject to currency risk in the form of potential capital losses resulting from movements of the exchange rate between the Investor's Currency and the currency of the Share Class in which such investor invests, in addition to the other currency risks described herein and the other risks associated with an investment in the relevant Fund.

**Hedged Share Classes**
While a Fund or its authorised agent may attempt to hedge currency risks, there can be no guarantee that it will be successful in doing so and it may result in mismatches between the currency position of that Fund and the Hedged Share Class.

The hedging strategies may be entered into whether the Base Currency is declining or increasing in value relative to the relevant currency of the Hedged Share Class and so, where such hedging is undertaken it may substantially protect Shareholders in the relevant Class against a decrease in the value of the Base Currency relative to the Hedged Share Class currency, but it may also preclude Shareholders from benefiting from an increase in the value of the Base Currency.

Hedged Share Classes in non-major currencies may be affected by the fact that capacity of the relevant currency market may be limited, which could further affect the volatility of the Hedged Share Class.

The Funds may also use hedging strategies which seek to provide exposure to certain currencies (i.e. where a currency is subject to currency trading restrictions). These hedging strategies involve converting the Net Asset Value of the relevant Share Class into the relevant currency using financial derivative instruments (including currency forwards).

All gains/losses or expenses arising from hedging transactions are borne separately by the Shareholders of the respective Hedged Share Classes. Given that there is no segregation of liabilities between Share Classes, there is a risk that, under certain circumstances, currency hedging transactions in relation to one Share Class could result in liabilities which might affect the Net Asset Value of the other Share Classes of the same Fund.

**Global Financial Market Crisis and Governmental Intervention**
Since 2007, global financial markets have undergone pervasive and fundamental disruption and suffered significant instability which has led to governmental intervention. Regulators in many jurisdictions have implemented or proposed a number of emergency regulatory measures. Government and regulatory interventions have sometimes been unclear in scope and application, resulting in confusion and uncertainty which in itself has been detrimental to the efficient functioning of financial markets. It is impossible to predict what additional interim or permanent governmental restrictions may be imposed on the markets and/or the effect of such restrictions on the Investment Adviser's ability to implement a Fund's investment objective.

Whether current undertakings by governing bodies of various jurisdictions or any future undertakings will help stabilise the financial markets is unknown. The Investment Advisers cannot predict how long the financial markets will continue to be affected by these events and cannot predict the effects of these – or similar events in the future – on a Fund, the European or global economy and the global securities markets. The Investment Advisers are monitoring the situation. Instability in the global financial markets or government intervention may increase the volatility of the Funds and hence the risk of loss to the value of your investment.

**Impact of Natural or Man-Made Disasters and Disease Epidemics**

Certain regions are at risk of being affected by natural disasters or catastrophic natural events. Considering that the development of infrastructure, disaster management planning agencies, disaster response and relief sources, organized public funding for natural emergencies, and natural disaster early warning technology may be immature and unbalanced in certain countries, the natural disaster toll on an individual portfolio company or the broader local economic market may be significant. Prolonged periods may pass before essential communications, electricity and other power sources are restored and operations of the portfolio company can be resumed. The Fund's investments could also be at risk in the event of such a disaster. The magnitude of future economic repercussions of natural disasters may also be unknown, may delay the Fund's ability to invest in certain companies, and may ultimately prevent any such investment entirely.

Investments may also be negatively affected by man-made disasters. Publicity of man-made disasters may have a significant negative impact on overall consumer confidence, which in turn may materially and adversely affect the performance of the Fund's investments, whether or not such investments are involved in such man-made disaster.

Outbreaks of infectious diseases may also have a negative impact on the performance of the Funds. For example, an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus was first detected in December 2019 and then spread globally. This coronavirus has resulted in borders closing, restrictions on movement of people, quarantines, cancellations of transportation and other services, disruptions to supply chains, businesses and customer activity, as well as general concern and uncertainty. It is possible that there may be similar outbreaks of other infectious diseases in the future. The impact of this coronavirus, and other epidemics and pandemics that may arise in the future, could affect the economies of many nations, individual companies and the market in general in ways that cannot necessarily be foreseen at the present time. In addition, the impact of infectious diseases in emerging developing or emerging market countries may be greater due to less established health care systems. Health crises caused by the recent coronavirus outbreak may exacerbate other pre-existing political, social and economic risks in certain countries. The impact of the outbreak may be short term or may last for an extended period of time. Such events could increase volatility and the risk of loss to the value of your investments.

**Recent Market Events**

Periods of market volatility may occur in response to various local and/or global political, social and economic events. These conditions have resulted in, and in many cases continue to result in, greater price volatility, less liquidity, widening credit spreads and a lack of price transparency, with many securities remaining illiquid and of uncertain value. Such market conditions may adversely affect the Funds, including by making valuation of some of a Fund's securities uncertain and/or result in sudden and significant valuation increases or declines in the Fund's holdings. If there is a significant decline in the value of a Fund's portfolio, this may impact the asset coverage levels for any outstanding leverage the Fund may have.

Risks resulting from any future debt or other economic crisis could also have a detrimental impact on the global economic recovery, the financial condition of financial institutions and a Fund's business, financial condition and results of operation. Market and economic disruptions have affected, and may in the future affect, consumer confidence levels and spending, personal bankruptcy rates, levels of incurrence and default on consumer debt and home prices, among other factors. To the extent uncertainty regarding the U.S. or global economy negatively impacts consumer confidence and consumer credit factors, a Fund's business, financial condition and results of operations could be significantly and adversely affected. Downgrades to the credit ratings of major banks could result in increased borrowing costs for such banks and negatively affect the broader economy. Moreover, Federal Reserve policy, including with respect to certain interest rates, may also adversely affect the value, volatility and liquidity of dividend- and interest-paying securities. Market volatility, rising interest rates and/or unfavourable economic conditions could impair a Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective(s).

**Derivatives**

(a) General

In accordance with the investment limits and restrictions set out in Appendix A and in the section headed "Investment Objectives and Policies", each of the Funds may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management and to hedge market, interest rate and currency risk.

The use of derivatives may expose Funds to a higher degree of risk. These risks may include credit risk with regard to counterparties with whom the Funds trade, the risk of settlement default, volatility risk, over-the-counter transaction risk, lack of liquidity of the derivatives, imperfect tracking between the change in value of the derivative, and the change in value of the underlying asset that the relevant Fund is seeking to track and greater transaction costs than investing in the underlying assets directly. Some derivatives are leveraged and therefore may magnify or otherwise increase investment losses to the Funds.

In accordance with standard industry practice when purchasing derivatives, a Fund may be required to secure its obligations to its counterparty. For non-fully funded derivatives, this may involve the placing of initial and/or variation margin assets with the counterparty. For derivatives which require a Fund to place initial margin assets with a counterparty, such assets may not be segregated from the counterparty's own assets and, being freely exchangeable and replaceable, the Fund may have a right to the return of equivalent assets rather than the original margin assets deposited with the counterparty. These deposits or assets may exceed the value of the relevant Fund's obligations to the counterparty in the event that the counterparty requires excess margin or collateral. In addition, as the terms of a derivative may provide for one counterparty to provide collateral to the other counterparty to cover the variation margin exposure arising under the derivative only if a minimum transfer amount is triggered, the Fund may have an uncollateralised risk exposure to a counterparty under a derivative up to such minimum transfer amount.

Derivative contracts can be highly volatile, and the amount of initial margin is generally small relative to the size of the contract so that transactions may be leveraged in terms of market exposure. A relatively small market movement may have a potentially larger impact on derivatives than on standard bonds or equities. Leveraged derivative positions can therefore increase Fund volatility. Whilst the Funds will not borrow money to leverage they may for example take synthetic short positions through derivatives



NM0324U-3453640-18/808

to adjust their exposure, always within the restrictions provided for in Appendix A of this Prospectus. Certain Funds may enter into long positions executed using derivatives (synthetic long positions) such as futures positions including currency forwards.

Additional risks associated with investing in derivatives may include a counterparty breaching its obligations to provide collateral, or due to operational issues (such as time gaps between the calculation of risk exposure to a counterparty's provision of additional collateral or substitutions of collateral or the sale of collateral in the event of a default by a counterparty), there may be instances where a Fund's credit exposure to its counterparty under a derivative contract is not fully collateralised but each Fund will continue to observe the limits set out in Appendix A. The use of derivatives may also expose a Fund to legal risk, which is the risk of loss resulting from changing laws or from the unexpected application of a law or regulation, or because a court declares a contract not legally enforceable. Where derivative instruments are used in this manner the overall risk profile of the Fund may be increased. Accordingly the Company will employ a risk-management process which enables the Management Company to monitor and measure at any time the risk of the positions and their contribution to the overall risk profile of the Fund. The Management Company uses one of two methodologies to calculate each Fund's global exposure, the "Commitment Approach" or the "Value at Risk" or "VaR" approach, in both cases ensuring each Fund complies with the investment restrictions set out in Appendix A. The methodology used for each Fund will be determined by the Management Company based on the investment strategy of the relevant Fund. Details about the methodologies used for each Fund are set out in the section entitled "Investment Objectives and Policies".

For more detail regarding the derivative strategies applied by individual Funds please refer to the individual Fund investment objectives in the section headed "Investment Objectives and Policies" below and the latest risk management programme which is available on request from the local Investor Servicing team.

(b) Specific

The Funds may use derivatives for investment purposes or for the purpose of efficient portfolio management in accordance with their respective investment objective and policies. In particular this may involve (on a non-exhaustive basis):

- using swap contracts to adjust interest rate risk;
- using currency derivatives to buy or sell currency risk;
- writing covered call options;
- using credit default swaps to buy or sell credit risk;
- using volatility derivatives to adjust volatility risk;
- buying and selling options;
- using swap contracts to gain exposure to one or more indices;
- using synthetic short positions to take advantage of any negative investment views; and
- using synthetic long positions to gain market exposure.

Investors should note the associated risks with the following types of derivative instruments and strategies as described below:

Credit Default Swaps, Interest Rate Swaps, Currency Swaps, Total Return Swaps, and Swaptions

The use of credit default swaps may carry a higher risk than investing in bonds directly. A credit default swap allows the transfer of default risk. This allows investors to effectively buy insurance on a bond they hold (hedging the investment) or buy protection on a bond they do not physically own where the investment view is that the stream of coupon payments required will be less than the payments received due to the decline in credit quality. Conversely, where the investment view is that the payments due to decline in credit quality will be less than the coupon payments, protection will be sold by means of entering into a credit default swap. Accordingly, one party, the protection buyer, makes a stream of payments to the seller of protection, and a payment is due to the buyer in the event that there is a "credit event" (a decline in credit quality, which will be pre-defined in the agreement). If the credit event does not occur the buyer pays all the required premiums and the swap terminates on maturity with no further payments. The risk of the buyer is therefore limited to the value of the premiums paid.

The market for credit default swaps may sometimes be more illiquid than bond markets. A Fund entering into credit default swaps must at all times be able to meet the redemption requests. Credit default swaps are valued on a regular basis according to verifiable and transparent valuation methods reviewed by the Company's auditor.

Interest rate swaps involve an exchange with another party of respective commitments to pay or receive interest, such as an exchange of fixed rate payments for floating rate payments. Currency swaps may involve the exchange of rights to make or receive payments in specified currencies. Total return swaps involve the exchange of the right to receive the total return, coupons plus capital gains or losses, of a specified reference asset, index or basket of assets against the right to make fixed or floating payments. The Funds may enter into swaps as either the payer or receiver of payments under such swaps.

Where a Fund enters into interest rate or total return swaps on a net basis, the two payment streams are netted out, with each party receiving or paying, as the case may be, only the net amount of the two payments. Interest rate or total return swaps entered into on a net basis do not involve the physical delivery of investments, other underlying assets or principal. Accordingly, it is intended that the risk of loss with respect to interest rate swaps is limited to the net amount of interest payments that a Fund is contractually obliged to make (or in the case of total return swaps, the net amount of the difference between the total rate of return of a reference investment, index or basket of investments and the fixed or floating payments). If the other party to an interest rate or total return swap defaults, in normal circumstances each Fund's risk of loss consists of the net amount of interest or total return payments that each party is contractually entitled to receive. In contrast, currency swaps usually involve the delivery of the entire principal value of one designated currency in exchange for the other designated currency. Therefore, the entire principal value of a currency swap is subject to the risk that the other party to the swap will default on its contractual delivery obligations.

Certain Funds may also buy or sell interest rate swaption contracts. These give the purchaser the right, but not the obligation to enter into an interest rate swap at a pre-set interest rate within a specified period of time. The interest rate swaption buyer pays a premium to the seller for this right. A receiver interest rate swaption gives the purchaser the right to receive fixed payments in return for paying a floating rate of interest. A payer interest rate swaption would give the purchaser the right to pay a fixed rate of interest in return for receiving a floating rate payment stream.

**The use of credit default swaps, interest rate swaps, currency swaps, total return swaps, and interest rate swaptions is a specialised activity which involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions. If the Investment Adviser is incorrect in its forecasts of market values, interest rates and currency exchange rates, the investment performance of the Fund would be less favourable than it would have been if these investment techniques were not used.**

Volatility Derivatives

"Historic Volatility" of a security is a statistical measure of the speed and magnitude of changes in the price of that security over defined periods of time. "Implied Volatility" is the market's expectation of future realised volatility. Volatility derivatives are derivatives whose price depends on Historic Volatility or Implied Volatility or both. Volatility derivatives are based on an underlying security, and Funds may use volatility derivatives to increase or reduce volatility risk, in order to express an investment view on the change in volatility, based on an assessment of expected developments in underlying securities markets. For example, if a significant change in the market background is expected, it is likely that the volatility of the price of a security will increase as prices adapt to the new circumstances.

The Funds may only buy or sell volatility derivatives which are based on an index where:

- the composition of the index is sufficiently diversified;
- the index represents an adequate benchmark for the market to which it refers; and
- it is published in an appropriate manner.

The price of volatility derivatives may be highly volatile, and may move in a different way to the other assets of the Fund, which could have a significant effect on the Net Asset Value of a Fund's Shares.

Currency Overlay Strategies

In addition to the use of techniques and instruments to control currency risk (see 'Currency Risk'), certain Funds may invest in currencies or utilise techniques and instruments in relation to currencies other than the Base Currency with the aim of generating positive returns. The Investment Adviser utilises specialist currency overlay strategies which involves the creation of long positions and synthetic pair trades in currencies to implement tactical views through the use of currency derivatives, including forward foreign exchange contracts, currency futures, options, swaps and other instruments providing exposure to changes in exchange rates. The movement in currency exchange rates can be volatile and where funds engage substantially in such strategies, there will be a significant impact on the overall performance of the funds. These Funds have the flexibility to invest in any currency in the world including emerging market currencies which may be less liquid and currencies that may be affected by the actions of governments and central banks including intervention, capital controls, currency peg mechanisms or other measures.

Option Strategies

An option is the right (but not the obligation) to buy or sell a particular asset or index at a stated price at some date in the future. In exchange for the rights conferred by the option, the option buyer has to pay the option seller a premium for carrying on the risk that comes with the obligation. The option premium depends on the strike price, volatility of the underlying asset, as well as the time remaining to expiration. Options may be listed or dealt in OTC.

A Fund may enter into option transactions as either the buyer or seller of this right and may combine them to form a particular trading strategy as well as use options for reducing an existing risk.

If the Investment Adviser or its delegate is incorrect in its expectation of changes in the market prices or determination of the correlation between the particular assets or indices on which the options are written or purchased and the assets in a Fund's investment portfolio, that Fund may incur losses that it would not otherwise incur.

Transfer of Collateral

In order to use derivatives, the Funds will enter into arrangements with counterparties which may require the payment of collateral or margin out of a Fund's assets to act as cover to any exposure by the counterparty to the Fund. If the title of any such collateral or margin is transferred to the counterparty, it becomes an asset of such counterparty and may be used by the counterparty as part of its business. Collateral so transferred will not be held in custody by the Depositary for safekeeping, but collateral positions will be overseen and reconciled by the Depositary. Where the collateral is pledged by the Fund to the benefit of the relevant counterparty, then such counterparty may not rehypothecate the assets pledged to it as collateral without the Fund's consent.

**Securities Lending**

The Funds may engage in securities lending. The Funds engaging in securities lending will have a credit risk exposure to the counterparties to any securities lending contract. Fund investments can be lent to counterparties over a period of time. A default by the counterparty combined with a fall in the value of the collateral



NM0324U-3453640-20/808

below that of the value of the securities lent may result in a reduction in the value of the Fund. The Company intends to ensure that all securities lending is fully collateralised but, to the extent that any securities lending is not fully collateralised (for example due to timing issues arising from payment lags), the Funds will have a credit risk exposure to the counterparties to the securities lending contracts.

**Risks Relating to Repurchase Agreements**
In the event of the failure of the counterparty with which collateral has been placed, the Funds may suffer loss as there may be delays in recovering collateral placed out or the cash originally received may be less than the collateral placed with the counterparty due to inaccurate pricing of the collateral or market movements.

**Risks Relating to Reverse Repurchase Agreements**
In the event of the failure of the counterparty with which cash has been placed, the Funds may suffer loss as there may be delay in recovering cash placed out or difficulty in realising collateral or proceeds from the sale of the collateral may be less than the cash placed with the counterparty due to inaccurate pricing of the collateral or market movements.

**Counterparty Risk**
A Fund will be exposed to the credit risk of the parties with which it transacts and may also bear the risk of settlement default. Credit risk is the risk that the counterparty to a financial instrument will fail to discharge an obligation or commitment that it has entered into with the relevant Fund. This would include the counterparties to any derivatives, repurchase / reverse repurchase agreement or securities lending agreement that it enters into. Trading in derivatives which have not been collateralised gives rise to direct counterparty exposure. The relevant Fund mitigates much of its credit risk to its derivative counterparties by receiving collateral with a value at least equal to the exposure to each counterparty but, to the extent that any derivative is not fully collateralised, a default by the counterparty may result in a reduction in the value of the Fund. A formal review of each new counterparty is completed and all approved counterparties are monitored and reviewed on an ongoing basis. The Fund maintains an active oversight of counterparty exposure and the collateral management process.

**Counterparty Risk to the Depositary**
The assets of the Company are entrusted to the Depositary for safekeeping, as set out in further detail in paragraph 11. of Appendix C. In accordance with the UCITS Directive, in safekeeping the assets of the Company, the Depositary shall: (a) hold in custody all financial instruments that may be registered in a financial instruments account opened in the Depositary's books and all financial instruments that can be physically delivered to the Depositary; and (b) for other assets, verify the ownership of such assets and maintain a record accordingly. The assets of the Company should be identified in the Depositary's books as belonging to the Company.

Securities held by the Depositary should be segregated from other securities / assets of the Depositary in accordance with applicable law and regulation which mitigates but does not exclude the risk of non-restitution in the case of bankruptcy of the Depositary. Shareholders are therefore exposed to the risk of the Depositary not being able to fully meet its obligation to restitute all of the assets of the Company in the case of bankruptcy of the Depositary. In addition, a Fund's cash held with the Depositary may not be segregated from the Depositary's own cash / cash under custody for other clients of the Depositary, and a Fund may therefore rank as an unsecured creditor in relation thereto in the case of bankruptcy of the Depositary.

The Depositary may not keep all the assets of the Company itself but may use a network of sub-custodians which are not always part of the same group of companies as the Depositary. Shareholders may be exposed to the risk of bankruptcy of the sub-custodians in circumstances where the Depositary may have no liability.

A Fund may invest in markets where custodial and/or settlement systems are not fully developed. The assets of the Fund that are traded in such markets and which have been entrusted to such sub-custodians may be exposed to risk in circumstances where the Depositary may have no liability.

**Fund Liability Risk**
The Company is structured as an umbrella fund with segregated liability between its Funds. As a matter of Luxembourg law, the assets of one Fund will not be available to meet the liabilities of another. However, the Company is a single legal entity that may operate or have assets held on its behalf or be subject to claims in other jurisdictions that may not necessarily recognise such segregation of liability. As at the date of this Prospectus, the Directors are not aware of any such existing or contingent liability.

**Market Leverage**
The Funds will not use borrowing to purchase additional investments but may be expected, via derivative positions, to obtain market leverage (gross market exposure, aggregating both long and synthetic short positions, in excess of net asset value). The Investment Adviser will seek to make absolute returns from relative value decisions between markets ("this market will do better than that market"), as well as from directional views on the absolute return of markets ("this market is going to go up or down"). The extent of market leverage is likely to depend on the degree of correlation between positions. The higher the degree of correlation, the greater is the likelihood and probable extent of market leverage.

**Repurchase and Reverse Repurchase Agreements**
Under a repurchase agreement a Fund sells a security to a counterparty and simultaneously agrees to repurchase the security back from the counterparty at an agreed price and date. The difference between the sale price and the repurchase price establishes the cost of the transaction. The resale price generally exceeds the purchase price by an amount which reflects an agreed-upon market interest rate for the term of the agreement. In a reverse repurchase agreement a Fund purchases an investment from a counterparty which undertakes to repurchase the security at an agreed resale price on an agreed future date. The Fund therefore bears the risk that if the seller defaults the Fund might suffer a loss to the extent that proceeds from the sale of the underlying securities together with any other collateral held by the Fund in connection with the relevant agreement may be less than the repurchase price because of market movements. A Fund cannot sell the securities which are the subject of a reverse repurchase agreement until the term of the agreement has expired or the counterparty has exercised its right to repurchase the securities.

**MiFID II**
Laws and regulations introduced by Member States of the EU to implement the EU's second Markets in Financial Instruments Directive ("MiFID II") and the EU's Markets in Financial Instruments Regulation ("MiFIR"), which came into force on 3 January 2018 and imposed new regulatory obligations and costs on the Management Company and the Investment Advisers.

The impact of MiFID II on the EU financial markets and on EU investment firms which offer financial services to clients is significant.

In particular, MiFID II and MiFIR introduced new rules regarding the execution of certain standardised OTC derivatives on regulated trading venues.

In addition, MiFID II introduced wider transparency regimes in respect of trading on EU trading venues and with EU counterparties. Under MiFID II, pre- and post-trade transparency regimes are extended from equities traded on a regulated market to also cover equity-like instruments (such as Depositary Receipts, Exchange-Traded Funds and certificates that are traded on regulated trading venues) and non-equities such as bonds, structured finance products, emission allowances and derivatives. The increased transparency regime under MiFID II, together with the restrictions on the use of "dark pools" and other trading venues, may mean greater disclosure of information relating to price discovery becoming available and may have an adverse impact on trading costs.

**Cybersecurity Risk**
A Fund or any of the service providers, including the Management Company and the Investment Advisers, may be subject to risks resulting from cybersecurity incidents and/or technological malfunctions. A cybersecurity incident is an event that may cause a loss of proprietary information, data corruption or a loss of operational capacity. Cybersecurity incidents can result from deliberate cyber attacks or unintentional events. Cyber attacks include, but are not limited to, gaining unauthorised access to digital systems (e.g. through hacking or malicious software coding) for the purposes of misappropriating assets or sensitive information, corrupting data, releasing confidential information without authorisation or causing operational disruption. Cyber attacks may also be carried out in a manner that does not require gaining unauthorised access, such as causing denial-of-service attacks on websites, which may make network services unavailable to intended users. The issuers of securities and counterparties to other financial instruments in which a Fund invests may also be subject to cybersecurity incidents.

Cybersecurity incidents may cause a Fund to suffer financial losses, interfere with a Fund's ability to calculate its net asset value, impede trading, disrupt the ability of investors to subscribe for, exchange or redeem their units, violate privacy and other laws and incur regulatory fines, penalties, reputational damage, reimbursement or other compensation costs, or additional compliance costs. Cyber-attacks may render records of assets and transactions of a Fund, unitholder ownership of units, and other data integral to the functioning of a Fund inaccessible, inaccurate or incomplete. In addition, substantial costs may be incurred in order to prevent any cybersecurity incidents in the future which may adversely impact a Fund.

While the Management Company and the Investment Advisers have established business continuity plans and risk management strategies to seek to prevent cybersecurity incidents, there are inherent limitations in such plans and strategies, including the possibility that certain risks have not been identified given the evolving nature of the threat of cyber-attacks.

Furthermore, none of the Funds, the Management Company or the Investment Advisers can control the business continuity plans or cybersecurity strategies put in place by other service providers to a Fund or issuers of securities and counterparties to other financial instruments in which a Fund invests. The Investment Advisers rely on its third party service providers for many of their day-to-day operations and will be subject to the risk that the protections and policies implemented by those service providers will be ineffective to protect the Investment Advisers or a Fund from cyber-attack.

BlackRock is committed to an effective information security programme (focused on confidentiality, integrity and availability protections) and considers this of paramount importance to maintaining client trust and an essential cornerstone of its operations. BlackRock's Information Security group is focused on providing effective protection for BlackRock's information and technology systems. BlackRock's Information Security group has active partnerships with business lines, and technology and development groups. All BlackRock personnel are responsible for maintaining information security. BlackRock's Information Security program applies best practices from the ISO 27001/27002:2013 controls framework and the NIST Cybersecurity Framework ("NIST CSF") to prioritise technology defences.

**Tax Risk**
The Company (or its representative) may file claims on behalf of the Funds to recover withholding tax on dividend and interest income (if any) received from issuers in certain countries where such withholding tax reclaim is possible. Whether or when a Fund will receive a withholding tax refund in the future is within the control of the tax authorities in such countries. Where the Company expects to recover withholding tax for a Fund based on a continuous assessment of probability of recovery, the Net Asset Value of that Fund generally includes accruals for such tax refunds. The Company continues to evaluate tax developments for potential impact to the probability of recovery for such Funds. If the likelihood of receiving refunds materially decreases, for example due to a change in tax regulation or approach, accruals in the relevant Fund's net asset value for such refunds may need to be written down partially or in full, which will adversely affect that Fund's Net Asset Value. Shareholders in that Fund at the time an accrual is written down will bear the impact of any resulting reduction in Net Asset Value regardless of whether they were Shareholders during the accrual period. Conversely, if the Fund receives a tax refund that has not been previously accrued, Shareholders in the Fund at the time the claim is successful will benefit from any resulting increase in the Fund's Net Asset Value. Shareholders who sold their Shares prior to such time will not benefit from such net asset value increase.

**Sustainability Risk**
Sustainability risk is an inclusive term to designate investment risk (probability or uncertainty of occurrence of material losses relative to the expected return of an investment) that relates to environmental, social or governance issues.



NM0324U-3453640-22/808

Sustainability risk around environmental issues includes, but is not limited to, climate risk, both physical and transition risk. Physical risk arises from the physical effects of climate change, acute or chronic. For example, frequent and severe climate-related events can impact products and services and supply chains. Transition risk whether policy, technology, market or reputation risk arises from the adjustment to a low-carbon economy in order to mitigate climate change. Risks related to social issues can include but are not limited to labour rights and community relations. Governance related risks can include but are not limited to risks around board independence, ownership & control, or audit & tax management. These risks can impact an issuer's operational effectiveness and resilience as well as its public perception, and reputation affecting its profitability and in turn, its capital growth, and ultimately impacting the value of holdings in a Fund.

These are only examples of sustainability risk factors and sustainability risk factors do not solely determine the risk profile of the investment. The relevance, severity, materiality and time horizon of sustainability risk factors and other risks can differ significantly by Funds.

Sustainability risk can manifest itself through different existing risk types (including, but not limited to, market, liquidity, concentration, credit, asset-liability mismatches etc.). By way of example, a Fund may invest in the equity or debt of an issuer that could face potentially reduced revenues or increased expenditures from physical climate risk (e.g. decreased production capacity due to supply chain perturbations, lower sales due to demand shocks or higher operating or capital costs) or transition risk (e.g. decreased demand for carbon-intensive products and services or increased production costs due to changing input prices). As a result, sustainability risk factors may have a material impact on an investment, may increase the volatility, affect liquidity and may result in a loss to the value of Shares in a Fund.

The impact of those risks may be higher for Funds with particular sectoral or geographic concentrations e.g., Funds with geographical concentration in locations susceptible to adverse weather conditions where the value of the investments in the Funds may be more susceptible to adverse physical climate events or Funds with specific sectoral concentrations such as investing in industries or issuers with high carbon intensity or high switching costs associated with the transition to low carbon alternatives, may be more impacted by climate transition risks.

All or a combination of these factors may have an unpredictable impact on the relevant Fund's investments. Under normal market conditions such events could have a material impact on the value of Shares of the Fund.

Assessments of sustainability risk are specific to the asset class and to the Fund's objective. Different asset classes require different data and tools to apply heightened scrutiny, assess materiality, and make meaningful differentiation among issuers and assets. Risks are considered and risk managed concurrently, by prioritizing based on materiality and on the Fund's objective.

The impacts of sustainability risk are likely to develop over time and new sustainability risks may be identified as further data and information regarding sustainability factors and impacts becomes available and the regulatory environment regarding sustainable finance evolves. These emerging risks may have further impacts on the value of Shares in the Funds.

**ESG Labels**

Certain Funds may have been awarded an ESG label for their engagement with socially responsible investment. ESG labels are contractual frameworks and compliance with their governance and investment requirements may not always align with the regulatory obligations applicable to the Fund.

Auditors verify periodically that funds comply with the label criteria. Auditors may decide not to renew a label awarded previously. Label criteria may evolve over time, sometimes significantly, and a Fund may not be in a position to maintain the label without changing its investment policy. As a result, a Fund may withdraw from the label. Investors are invited to refer to the website of the ESG label for the most up to date list of Funds holding the label.

**Other Risks**

The Funds may be exposed to risks that are outside of their control – for example legal risks from investments in countries with unclear and changing laws or the lack of established or effective avenues for legal redress; the risk of terrorist actions; the risk that economic and diplomatic sanctions may be in place or imposed on certain states and military action may be commenced. The impact of such events is unclear, but could have a material effect on general economic conditions and market liquidity.

Regulators and self-regulatory organisations and exchanges are authorised to take extraordinary actions in the event of market emergencies. The effect of any future regulatory action on the Company could be substantial and adverse.

## Specific Risk Considerations

**In addition to the general risks, as set out above, that should be considered for all Funds, there are other risks that investors should also bear in mind when considering investment into specific Funds. The tables below show which specific risk warnings apply to each of the Funds.**

## Specific Risk Considerations

| No. | FUND | Risk of Capital Erosion | Fixed Income | Distressed Securities | Delayed Delivery Transactions | Small Cap | Equity risk | ABS/ MBS / ABCPs | Portfolio Concentration Risk | Contingent Convertible Bonds | ESG Investment Policy Risk | Model Risk |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Asian Dragon Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | | |
| 2. | Asian Growth Leaders Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | | |
| 3. | Asian High Yield Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | | X | | |
| 4. | Asian Multi-Asset Income Fund | | X | X | | X | X | X | | X | | |
| 5. | Asian Sustainable Equity Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 6. | Asian Tiger Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | | X | | |
| 7. | Brown to Green Materials Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 8. | China Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | X | X | | |
| 9. | China Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 10. | China Impact Fund | | | X | | X | X | | | X | X | |
| 11. | China Innovation Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| 12. | China Multi-Asset Fund | | X | X | X | | X | X | | X | X | |
| 13. | China Onshore Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | X | X | X | |
| 14. | Circular Economy Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 15. | Climate Action Equity Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 16. | Climate Action Multi-Asset Fund | | X | X | | | X | X | | X | X | |
| 17. | Climate Global Corporate Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | | X | X | |
| 18. | Continental European Flexible Fund | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | |
| 19. | Developed Markets Sustainable Equity Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 20. | Dynamic High Income Fund | X | X | X | | | X | X | | X | | |
| 21. | Emerging Europe Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | | |
| 22. | Emerging Markets Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | | | X | | |
| 23. | Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | | | X | | |
| 24. | Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund | X | | | | X | X | | | | | |
| 25. | Emerging Markets Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | | X | X | | | | | | | X | |
| 26. | Emerging Markets Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | | |
| 27. | Emerging Markets Impact Bond Fund | | X | | | | | | X | | X | |
| 28. | Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | | | X | | |
| 29. | Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 30. | ESG Flex Choice Cautious Fund | | X | | | | X | | | | X | |
| 31. | ESG Flex Choice Growth Fund | | X | | | | X | | | | X | |
| 32. | ESG Flex Choice Moderate Fund | | X | | | | X | | | | X | |
| 33. | ESG Global Conservative Income Fund | X | X | X | | | X | X | | X | X | |
| 34. | ESG Global Multi-Asset Income Fund | X | X | X | | | X | X | | X | X | |
| 35. | ESG Multi-Asset Fund | | X | | | | X | X | | X | X | |
| 36. | Euro Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | | X | X | |
| 37. | Euro Corporate Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | | X | X | |
| 38. | Euro High Yield Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | | X | X | | | | | | | X | |
| 39. | Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (1) | | X | X | | | | | | | X | |

| No. | FUND | Risk of Capital Erosion | Fixed Income | Distressed Securities | Delayed Delivery Transactions | Small Cap | Equity risk | ABS/ MBS / ABCPs | Portfolio Concentration Risk | Contingent Convertible Bonds | ESG Investment Policy Risk | Model Risk |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 40. | Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (2) | | X | X | | | | | | | X | |
| 41. | Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2029 | | X | X | | | | | | | X | |
| 42. | Euro Reserve Fund | | X | | | | | X | | | | |
| 43. | Euro Short Duration Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | | X | X | |
| 44. | Euro-Markets Fund | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | |
| 45. | European Equity Income Fund | X | | | | X | X | | | X | X | |
| 46. | European Focus Fund | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | |
| 47. | European Fund | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | |
| 48. | European High Yield Bond Fund | | X | X | X | | | X | | X | X | |
| 49. | European Special Situations Fund | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | |
| 50. | European Sustainable Equity Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 51. | European Value Fund | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | |
| 52. | FinTech Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 53. | Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund | | X | X | X | | | X | | X | | |
| 54. | Future Consumer Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 55. | Future Of Transport Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | X | X | |
| 56. | Global Allocation Fund | | X | X | | X | X | X | | X | | |
| 57. | Global Corporate Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | | X | | |
| 58. | Global Equity Income Fund | X | | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 59. | Global Government Bond Fund | | X | X | X | | | X | | X | X | |
| 60. | Global High Yield Bond Fund | | X | X | X | | | X | | X | X | |
| 61. | Global Inflation Linked Bond Fund | | X | | X | | | X | | | | |
| 62. | Global Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | | X | X | | | | | | | | |
| 63. | Global Listed Infrastructure Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 64. | Global Long-Horizon Equity Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 65. | Global Multi-Asset Income Fund | X | X | X | | | X | X | | X | | |
| 66. | Global Unconstrained Equity Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 67. | Impact Bond Fund | | X | X | X | | | X | | X | X | |
| 68. | India Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | | |
| 69. | Japan Flexible Equity Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 70. | Japan Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 71. | Latin American Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | | |
| 72. | Multi-Theme Equity Fund | | | | | | X | | | | X | |
| 73. | Natural Resources Fund | X | | | | X | X | | | X | | |
| 74. | Next Generation Health Care Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 75. | Next Generation Technology Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 76. | Nutrition Fund | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | |
| 77. | Social Action Equity Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 78. | Sustainable Asian Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | | X | X | |
| 79. | Sustainable Emerging Markets Blended Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | | | X | X | |

| No. | FUND | Risk of Capital Erosion | Fixed Income | Distressed Securities | Delayed Delivery Transactions | Small Cap | Equity risk | ABS/ MBS / ABCPs | Portfolio Concentration Risk | Contingent Convertible Bonds | ESG Investment Policy Risk | Model Risk |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 80. | Sustainable Emerging Markets Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | | | X | X | |
| 81. | Sustainable Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | | | X | X | |
| 82. | Sustainable Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | | | X | X | |
| 83. | Sustainable Energy Fund | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | |
| 84. | Sustainable Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund | | X | X | X | | | X | | X | X | |
| 85. | Sustainable Global Allocation Fund | | X | X | | X | X | X | | X | X | |
| 86. | Sustainable Global Bond Income Fund | | X | X | | | | X | | X | X | |
| 87. | Sustainable Global Dynamic Equity Fund | | | X | | X | X | | | X | X | |
| 88. | Sustainable Global Infrastructure Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 89. | Sustainable World Bond Fund | | X | X | X | | | X | | X | X | |
| 90. | Swiss Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | |
| 91. | Systematic China A-Share Opportunities Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | | X |
| 92. | Systematic ESG Multi Allocation Credit Fund | | X | X | | | | | | X | X | |
| 93. | Systematic Global Equity High Income Fund | X | | | | X | X | | | | | X |
| 94. | Systematic China Environmental Tech Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 95. | Systematic Global Sustainable Income & Growth Fund | X | X | | | X | X | | | | X | X |
| 96. | Systematic Sustainable Global SmallCap Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | X | X |
| 97. | United Kingdom Fund | | | | | X | X | | | X | X | |
| 98. | US Basic Value Fund | | | | | | X | | | | | |
| 99. | US Dollar Bond Fund | | X | X | X | | | X | | X | | |
| 100. | US Dollar High Yield Bond Fund | | X | X | X | | | X | | X | X | |
| 101. | US Dollar Reserve Fund | | X | | | | | X | | | | |
| 102. | US Dollar Short Duration Bond Fund | | X | | X | | | X | | X | | |
| 103. | US Flexible Equity Fund | | | | | | X | | | | X | |
| 104. | US Government Mortgage Impact Fund | | X | | X | | | X | | | X | |
| 105. | US Growth Fund | | | | | | X | | | | X | |
| 106. | US Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | | X | X | | | | | | | X | |
| 107. | US Mid-Cap Value Fund | | | | | | X | | | | | |
| 108. | US Sustainable Equity Fund | | | | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 109. | World Energy Fund | | | | | X | X | | | X | | |
| 110. | World Financials Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 111. | World Gold Fund | | | | | X | X | | | X | | |
| 112. | World Healthscience Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 113. | World Mining Fund | | | | | X | X | | | X | | |
| 114. | World Real Estate Securities Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | | |
| 115. | World Technology Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | X | |

## Specific Risk Considerations

| No. | FUND | Specific Risks – Continued | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Emerging Markets/ Frontier Markets | Sove-reign Debt | Bond Down-grade Risk | Restric-tions on for-eign Invest-ments | Specific Sectors | Commo-dities accessed via ETFs | Bank Corpo-rate Bonds | Turn-over | Liquidity Risk | Fixed Maturity Funds |
| 1. | Asian Dragon Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 2. | Asian Growth Leaders Fund | X | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 3. | Asian High Yield Bond Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 4. | Asian Multi-Asset Income Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 5. | Asian Sustainable Equity Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 6. | Asian Tiger Bond Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 7. | Brown to Green Materials Fund | X | | | | X | | | | X | |
| 8. | China Bond Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 9. | China Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 10. | China Impact Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 11. | China Innovation Fund | X | | | | X | | | | X | |
| 12. | China Multi-Asset Fund | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 13. | China Onshore Bond Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 14. | Circular Economy Fund | X | | | | X | | | | X | |
| 15. | Climate Action Equity Fund | X | | | | X | | | | X | |
| 16. | Climate Action Multi-Asset Fund | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | |
| 17. | Climate Global Corporate Bond Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 18. | Continental European Flexible Fund | | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 19. | Developed Markets Sustainable Equity Fund | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20. | Dynamic High Income Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 21. | Emerging Europe Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 22. | Emerging Markets Bond Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 23. | Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund | X | | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 24. | Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 25. | Emerging Markets Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 26. | Emerging Markets Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 27. | Emerging Markets Impact Bond Fund | X | X | | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 28. | Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 29. | Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 30. | ESG Flex Choice Cautious Fund | X | | | | | | | X | X | |

| No. | FUND | Specific Risks – Continued | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Emerging Markets/ Frontier Markets | Sove-reign Debt | Bond Down-grade Risk | Restric-tions on for-eign Invest-ments | Specific Sectors | Commo-dities accessed via ETFs | Bank Corpo-rate Bonds | Turn-over | Liquidity Risk | Fixed Maturity Funds |
| 31. | ESG Flex Choice Growth Fund | X | | | | | | | X | X | |
| 32. | ESG Flex Choice Moderate Fund | X | | | | | | | X | X | |
| 33. | ESG Global Conservative Income Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 34. | ESG Global Multi-Asset Income Fund | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | |
| 35. | ESG Multi-Asset Fund | X | X | X | | | X | X | | X | |
| 36. | Euro Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | | | |
| 37. | Euro Corporate Bond Fund | | | X | X | | | X | | | |
| 38. | Euro High Yield Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 39. | Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (1) | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 40. | Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (2) | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 41. | Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2029 | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 42. | Euro Reserve Fund | | X | X | | | | | | | |
| 43. | Euro Short Duration Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | | | |
| 44. | Euro-Markets Fund | | | | | | | | | | |
| 45. | European Equity Income Fund | | | | X | | | | | | |
| 46. | European Focus Fund | | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 47. | European Fund | | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 48. | European High Yield Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | | X | |
| 49. | European Special Situations Fund | | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 50. | European Sustainable Equity Fund | X | | | | | | | | | |
| 51. | European Value Fund | | | | X | | | | | | |
| 52. | FinTech Fund | X | | | | X | | | | X | |
| 53. | Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | X | |
| 54. | Future Consumer Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 55. | Future Of Transport Fund | X | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 56. | Global Allocation Fund | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | X | |
| 57. | Global Corporate Bond Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 58. | Global Equity Income Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 59. | Global Government Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | | | | |
| 60. | Global High Yield Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | | | X | |

| No. | FUND | Specific Risks – Continued | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Emerging Markets/ Frontier Markets | Sove-reign Debt | Bond Down-grade Risk | Restric-tions on for-eign Invest-ments | Specific Sectors | Commo-dities accessed via ETFs | Bank Corpo-rate Bonds | Turn-over | Liquidity Risk | Fixed Maturity Funds |
| 61. | Global Inflation Linked Bond Fund | | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 62. | Global Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 63. | Global Listed Infrastructure Fund | X | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 64. | Global Long-Horizon Equity Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 65. | Global Multi-Asset Income Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 66. | Global Unconstrained Equity Fund | X | | | | | | | | X | |
| 67. | Impact Bond Fund | X | X | X | X | X | | X | | X | |
| 68. | India Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 69. | Japan Flexible Equity Fund | | | | | | | | | | |
| 70. | Japan Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund | | | | | | | | | X | |
| 71. | Latin American Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 72. | Multi-Theme Equity Fund | X | | | | | | | X | X | |
| 73. | Natural Resources Fund | X | | | X | X | X | | | X | |
| 74. | Next Generation Health Care Fund | X | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 75. | Next Generation Technology Fund | X | | | | X | | | | X | |
| 76. | Nutrition Fund | X | | | X | X | X | | | X | |
| 77. | Social Action Equity Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 78. | Sustainable Asian Bond Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 79. | Sustainable Emerging Markets Blended Bond Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 80. | Sustainable Emerging Markets Bond Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 81. | Sustainable Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 82. | Sustainable Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 83. | Sustainable Energy Fund | X | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 84. | Sustainable Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | X | |
| 85. | Sustainable Global Allocation Fund | X | X | X | X | | X | X | | X | |
| 86. | Sustainable Global Bond Income Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 87. | Sustainable Global Dynamic Equity Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 88. | Sustainable Global Infrastructure Fund | X | | | X | X | | | | | |

| No. | FUND | Specific Risks – Continued | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | Emerging Markets/ Frontier Markets | Sove-reign Debt | Bond Down-grade Risk | Restric-tions on for-eign Invest-ments | Specific Sectors | Commo-dities accessed via ETFs | Bank Corpo-rate Bonds | Turn-over | Liquidity Risk | Fixed Maturity Funds |
| 89. | Sustainable World Bond Fund | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | |
| 90. | Swiss Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund | | | | | | | | | X | |
| 91. | Systematic China A-Share Opportunities Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 92. | Systematic China Environmental Tech Fund | X | | | X | X | X | X | | X | |
| 93. | Systematic ESG Multi Allocation Credit Fund | X | X | X | X | | | X | | X | |
| 94. | Systematic Global Equity High Income Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 95. | Systematic Global Sustainable Income & Growth Fund | X | X | X | X | | X | | | X | |
| 96. | Systematic Sustainable Global SmallCap Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |
| 97. | United Kingdom Fund | | | | | | | | | | |
| 98. | US Basic Value Fund | | | | | | | | | | |
| 99. | US Dollar Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | X | | |
| 100. | US Dollar High Yield Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | | X | |
| 101. | US Dollar Reserve Fund | | X | X | | | | X | | | |
| 102. | US Dollar Short Duration Bond Fund | | X | X | | | | X | | X | |
| 103. | US Flexible Equity Fund | | | | | | | | | | |
| 104. | US Government Mortgage Impact Fund | | X | X | | | | | | | |
| 105. | US Growth Fund | | | | | | | | | | |
| 106. | US Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | X | X | X | | | | X | | X | X |
| 107. | US Mid-Cap Value Fund | | | | | | | | | X | |
| 108. | US Sustainable Equity Fund | | | | | | | | | | |
| 109. | World Energy Fund | X | | | X | X | X | | | X | |
| 110. | World Financials Fund | X | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 111. | World Gold Fund | X | | | X | X | X | | | X | |
| 112. | World Healthscience Fund | X | | | X | X | | | | X | |
| 113. | World Mining Fund | X | | | X | X | X | | | X | |
| 114. | World Real Estate Securities Fund | | | | | X | | | | | |
| 115. | World Technology Fund | X | | | X | X | | | | X | |

## Specific Risks

**Liquidity Risk**

Trading volumes in the underlying investments of the Funds may fluctuate significantly depending on market sentiment. There is a risk that investments made by the Funds may become less liquid in response to market developments, adverse investor perceptions or regulatory and government intervention (including the possibility of widespread trading suspensions implemented by domestic regulators). In extreme market conditions, there may be no willing buyer for an investment and so that investment cannot be readily sold at the desired time or price, and consequently the relevant Fund may have to accept a lower price to sell the relevant investment or may not be able to sell the investment at all. An inability to sell a particular investment or portion of a Fund's assets can have a negative impact of the value of the relevant Fund or prevent the relevant Fund from being able to take advantage of other investment opportunities.

The liquidity of fixed income securities issued by small and mid-capitalisation companies and emerging country issuers is particularly likely to be reduced during adverse economic, market or political events or adverse market sentiment. The credit rating downgrade of fixed income securities and changes in prevailing interest rate environments may also affect their liquidity. See also the Specific Risk Considerations section in relation to different sub-categories of fixed income securities.

Similarly, investment in equity securities issued by unlisted companies, small and mid-capitalisation companies and companies based in emerging countries are particularly subject to the risk that during certain market conditions, the liquidity of particular issuers or industries, or all securities within a particular investment category, will reduce or disappear suddenly and without warning as a result of adverse economic, market or political events, or adverse market sentiment.

Liquidity risk also includes the risk that relevant Funds may be forced to defer redemptions, issue in specie redemptions or suspend dealing because of stressed market conditions, an unusually high volume of redemption requests, or other factors beyond the control of the Investment Adviser. See paragraphs 25. and 30. to 33. of Appendix B for further detail. To meet redemption requests, the relevant Funds may be forced to sell investments at an unfavourable time and/or conditions, which may have a negative impact on the value of your investment.

**Model Risk**

Certain Funds seek to pursue their investment objective by using proprietary models that incorporate quantitative analysis. Investments selected using these models may perform differently than as forecasted due to the factors incorporated into the models and the weighting of each factor, changes from historical trends, and issues in the construction and implementation of the models (including, but not limited to, software issues and other technological issues). There is no guarantee that BlackRock's use of these models will result in effective investment decisions for the Funds. The information and data used in the models may be supplied by third parties. Inaccurate or incomplete data may limit the effectiveness of the models. In addition, some of the data that BlackRock uses may be historical data, which may not accurately predict future market movement. There is a risk that the models will not be successful in selecting investments or in determining the weighting of investment positions that will enable the Funds to achieve their investment objective.

**Risk of Capital Erosion**

Certain Funds and/or Share Classes may be exposed to the risk of capital erosion as a result of the dividend policies they adopt and/or the investment strategies they pursue. Where distributions are made from net realised and net unrealised capital gains and/or capital or, where expenses are deducted from net realised and net unrealised capital gains and/or capital rather than income, this will result in capital erosion and therefore will reduce the potential for future capital growth.

Dividend Policies

Certain Funds and/or certain Share Classes (e.g. Distributing (G) Shares, Distributing (S) Shares, Distributing (R) Shares, Distributing (T) Shares, Distributing (C) and Distributing (Y) Shares) may make distributions from capital as well as from income and net realised and net unrealised capital gains. This may occur for example:

- if dividends are paid gross of fees and expenses this will mean fees and expenses are paid out of net realised and net unrealised capital gains or initially subscribed capital. As a result payment of dividends on this basis will reduce the capital of the Fund and/or relevant Share Class and will reduce the potential for future capital growth. See also "Tax Considerations" below; or

- if dividends include Interest Rate Differential arising from Share Class currency hedging, this will mean that the dividend may be higher but capital of the relevant Share Class will not benefit from the Interest Rate Differential. Where net Share Class currency hedging returns do not fully cover the Interest Rate Differential portion of a dividend, such shortfall will have the effect of reducing capital. This risk of capital erosion is particularly relevant for Distributing (R) Shares as, for this Share Class, a material portion of any dividend payment may be made out of capital since the dividend is calculated on the basis of expected gross income plus Interest Rate Differential. Therefore the capital that is returned via the dividend is not available for future capital growth. Interest rates are subject to change which means that the Interest Rate Differential may reduce dividend.

- if the securities markets in which the Fund invests had declined to such an extent that the Fund has incurred net capital losses. This risk to capital growth is particularly relevant for Distributing (T) and Distributing (C) Shares as, for these Share Classes, a material portion of any dividend payment may be made out of capital since the dividend is calculated on the basis of expected gross total return with respect to the Distributing (T) Shares, or may not be linked to income or capital gains with respect to the distributing (C) Shares, and dividend may continue to be paid and the value of investment may fall more rapidly;

- if dividends calculated on an annual basis in respect of Distributing (Y) Shares are lower than the Dividend Threshold Amount, this will mean that there may be a shortfall which may need to be paid out of capital and therefore would have the effect of reducing capital. For this Share Class, the risk of capital erosion is particularly relevant, since any dividend distributions on an annual basis must be at least equal to the Dividend Threshold Amount, and in the event of a shortfall, a material portion of any dividend payment may be made out of

capital. Therefore the capital that is returned via the dividend will not be available for future capital growth.

- In volatile or exceptional market conditions, the level of income of the fund may reduce. This may lead to the consistency of distributions being compromised and also an increase in distributions from capital, net realised and net unrealised gains, to reduce the fluctuations in the distribution rate per share, which may in turn increase the risk of capital erosion and reduce the potential for capital growth.

**Options Strategies**
In addition, certain Funds may pursue investment strategies, such as options strategies, in order to generate income. Whilst this might allow more income to be distributed, it may also have the effect of reducing capital and the potential for long-term capital growth as well as increasing any capital losses. Any such distributions may result in an immediate reduction of the Net Asset Value per Share. If a Fund adopts options strategies to generate income and as part of an options strategy, the Investment Adviser or its delegate is incorrect in its expectation of changes in the market prices or determination of the correlation between the instruments or indices on which the options are written or purchased and the instruments in a Fund's investment portfolio, that Fund may incur losses that it would not otherwise incur.

**Fixed Income Transferable Securities**
Debt securities are subject to both actual and perceived measures of creditworthiness. The "downgrading" of a rated debt security or its issuer or adverse publicity and investor perception, which may not be based on fundamental analysis, could decrease the value and liquidity of the security, particularly in a thinly traded market. In certain market environments this may lead to investments in such securities becoming less liquid, making it difficult to dispose of them.

A Fund may be affected by changes in prevailing interest rates and by credit quality considerations. Changes in market rates of interest will generally affect a Fund's asset values as the prices of fixed rate securities generally increase when interest rates decline and decrease when interest rates rise. Prices of shorter-term securities generally fluctuate less in response to interest rate changes than do longer-term securities.

An economic recession may adversely affect an issuer's financial condition and the market value of high yield debt securities issued by such entity. The issuer's ability to service its debt obligations may be adversely affected by specific issuer developments, or the issuer's inability to meet specific projected business forecasts, or the unavailability of additional financing. In the event of bankruptcy of an issuer, a Fund may experience losses and incur costs.

Issuers of non-investment grade or unrated debt may be highly leveraged and carry a greater risk of default. In addition, non-investment grade or unrated securities tend to be less liquid and more volatile than higher rated fixed-income securities, so that adverse economic events may have a greater impact on the prices of non-investment grade debt securities than on higher rated fixed-income securities. Such securities are also subject to greater risk of loss of principal and interest than higher rated fixed-income securities.

**Investment in High Yield Debt Securities**
Non-investment grade debt securities, also known as "high-yield" debt securities may carry a greater risk of default than higher rated debt securities. In addition, non-investment grade securities tend to be more volatile than higher rated debt securities, so that adverse economic events may have a greater impact on the prices of non-investment grade debt securities than on higher rated debt securities. Further, an issuer's ability to service its debt obligations may be adversely affected by specific issuer developments, for example, an economic recession may adversely affect an issuer's financial condition and the market value of high yield debt securities issued by such entity.

**Asset-Backed Securities ("ABS")**
An asset-backed security is a generic term for a debt security issued by corporations or other entities (including public or local authorities) backed or collateralised by the income stream from an underlying pool of assets. The underlying assets typically include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans). An asset-backed security is usually issued in a number of different classes with varying characteristics depending on the riskiness of the underlying assets assessed by reference to their credit quality and term and can be issued at a fixed or a floating rate. The higher the risk contained in the class, the more the asset-backed security pays by way of income.

The obligations associated with these securities may be subject to greater credit, liquidity and interest rate risk compared to other fixed income securities such as government issued bonds. ABS and MBS are often exposed to extension risk (where obligations on the underlying assets are not paid on time) and prepayment risks (where obligations on the underlying assets are paid earlier than expected), these risks may have a substantial impact on the timing and size of the cashflows paid by the securities and may negatively impact the returns of the securities. The average life of each individual security may be affected by a large number of factors such as the existence and frequency of exercise of any optional redemption and mandatory prepayment, the prevailing level of interest rates, the actual default rate of the underlying assets, the timing of recoveries and the level of rotation in the underlying assets.

Specific types of ABS in which the Funds may invest are set out below:

*Generic risks related to ABS*

With regard to Funds that invest in ABS, while the value of ABS typically increases when interest rates fall and decreases when interest rates rise, and are expected to move in the same direction of the underlying related asset, there may not be a perfect correlation between these events.

The ABS in which the Fund may invest may bear interest or pay preferred dividends at below market rates and, in some instances, may not bear interest or pay preferred dividends at all.

Certain ABS may be payable at maturity in cash at the stated principal amount or, at the option of the holder, directly in a stated amount of the asset to which it is related. In such instance, a Fund may sell the ABS in the secondary market prior to maturity if the value of the stated amount of the asset exceeds the stated principal amount and thereby realise the appreciation in the underlying asset.



NM0324U-3453640-32/808

ABS may also be subject to extension risk, which is, the risk that, in a period of rising interest rates, prepayments may occur at a slower rate than expected. As a result, the average duration of the Fund's portfolio may increase. The value of longer-term securities generally changes more in response to changes in interest rates than that of shorter-term securities.

As with other debt securities, ABS are subject to both actual and perceived measures of creditworthiness. Liquidity in ABS may be affected by the performance or perceived performance of the underlying assets. In some circumstances investments in ABS may become less liquid, making it difficult to dispose of them. Accordingly, the Fund's ability to respond to market events may be impaired and the Fund may experience adverse price movements upon liquidation of such investments. In addition, the market price for an ABS may be volatile and may not be readily ascertainable. As a result, the Fund may not be able to sell them when it desires to do so, or to realise what it perceives to be their fair value in the event of a sale. The sale of less liquid securities often requires more time and can result in higher brokerage charges or dealer discounts and other selling expenses.

ABS may be leveraged which may contribute to volatility in the value of the security.

*Considerations relating to specific types of ABS in which a Fund may invest*

*Asset-Backed Commercial Paper – ("ABCP")*

An ABCP is a short-term investment vehicle with a maturity that is typically between 90 and 180 days. The security itself is typically issued by a bank or other financial institution. The notes are backed by physical assets such as trade receivables, and are generally used for short-term financing needs.

A company or group of companies looking to enhance liquidity may sell receivables to a bank or other conduit, which, in turn, will issue them to the Fund as commercial paper. The commercial paper is backed by the expected cash inflows from the receivables. As the receivables are collected, the originators are expected to pass on the funds.

*Collateralised Debt Obligation ("CDO")*

A CDO is generally an investment grade security backed by a pool of non-mortgage bonds, loans and other assets. CDOs do not usually specialise in one type of debt but are often loans or bonds. CDOs are packaged in different classes representing different types of debt and credit risk. Each class has a different maturity and risk associated with it.

*Credit Linked Note – ("CLN")*

A CLN is a security with an embedded credit default swap allowing the issuer to transfer a specific credit risk to the Fund.

CLNs are created through a special purpose company or trust, which is collateralised with securities rated in the top tier as determined by an accredited credit rating agency. The Fund buys securities from a trust that pays a fixed or floating coupon during the life of the note. At maturity, the Fund will receive the par value unless the referenced entity credit defaults or declares bankruptcy, in which case it receives an amount equal to the recovery rate. The trust enters into a default swap with a deal arranger. In case of default, the trust pays the dealer par minus the recovery rate in exchange for an annual fee which is passed on to the Fund in the form of a higher yield on the notes.

Under this structure, the coupon or price of the note is linked to the performance of a reference asset. It offers borrowers a hedge against credit risk, and offers the Fund a higher yield on the note for accepting exposure to a specified credit event.

*Synthetic Collateralised Debt Obligation*

A synthetic CDO is a form of collateralised debt obligation (CDO) that invests in credit default swaps (CDSs – see below) or other non-cash assets to gain exposure to a portfolio of fixed income assets. Synthetic CDOs are typically divided into credit classes based on the level of credit risk assumed. Initial investments into the CDO are made by the lower classes, while the senior classes may not have to make an initial investment.

All classes will receive periodic payments based on the cash flows from the credit default swaps. If a credit event occurs in the fixed income portfolio, the synthetic CDO and its investors including the Fund become responsible for the losses, starting from the lowest rated classes and working its way up.

While synthetic CDOs can offer extremely high yields to investors such as the Fund, there is potential for a loss equal to that of the initial investments if several credit events occur in the reference portfolio.

A CDS is a swap designed to transfer the credit exposure of fixed income products between parties. The buyer of a CDS receives credit protection (buys protection), whereas the seller of the swap guarantees the credit worthiness of the product. By doing this, the risk of default is transferred from the holder of the fixed income security to the seller of the CDS. CDS are treated as a form of OTC derivative.

*Whole Business Securitisation ("WBS")*

A WBS is defined as a form of asset-backed financing in which operating assets (which are long-term assets acquired for use in the business rather than for resale and includes property, plant, and equipment and intangible assets) are financed through the issues of notes via a special purpose vehicle (a structure whose operations are limited to the acquisition and financing of specific assets, usually a subsidiary company with an asset/liability structure and legal status that makes its obligations secure even if the parent company goes bankrupt) in the bond market and in which the operating company keeps complete control over the assets securitised. In case of default, control is handed over to the security trustee for the benefit of the note holders for the remaining term of financing.

*Mortgage-Backed Securities ("MBS")*

A mortgage-backed security is a generic term for a debt security backed or collateralised by the income stream from an underlying pool of commercial and/or residential mortgages. This type of security is commonly used to redirect the interest and principal payments from the pool of mortgages to investors. A mortgage-backed security is normally issued in a number of different classes

with varying characteristics depending on the riskiness of the underlying mortgages assessed by reference to their credit quality and term and can be issued at a fixed or a floating rate of securities. The higher the risk contained in the class, the more the mortgage-backed security pays by way of income.

Specific types of MBS in which a Fund may invest are set out below.

*Generic risks related to MBS*

MBS may be subject to prepayment risk which is the risk that, in a period of falling interest rates, borrowers may refinance or otherwise repay principal on their mortgages earlier than scheduled. When this happens, certain types of MBS will be paid off more quickly than originally anticipated and the Fund will have to invest the proceeds in securities with lower yields. MBS may also be subject to extension risk, which is, the risk that, in a period of rising interest rates, certain types of MBS will be paid off more slowly than originally anticipated and the value of these securities will fall. As a result, the average duration of the Fund's portfolio may increase. The value of longer-term securities generally changes more in response to changes in interest rates than that of shorter-term securities.

Because of prepayment risk and extension risk, MBS react differently to changes in interest rates than other fixed income securities. Small movements in interest rates (both increases and decreases) may quickly and significantly reduce the value of certain MBS. Certain MBS in which the Fund may invest may also provide a degree of investment leverage, which could cause the Fund to lose all or a substantial amount of its investment.

In some circumstances investments in MBS may become less liquid, making it difficult to dispose of them. Accordingly, the Fund's ability to respond to market events may be impaired and the Fund may experience adverse price movements upon liquidation of such investments. In addition, the market price for MBS may be volatile and may not be readily ascertainable. As a result, the Fund may not be able to sell them when it desires to do so, or to realise what it perceives to be their fair value in the event of a sale. The sale of less liquid securities often requires more time and can result in higher brokerage charges or dealer discounts and other selling expenses.

*Considerations relating to specific types of MBS in which a Fund may invest*

*Commercial Mortgage Backed Security ("CMBS")*

A CMBS is a type of mortgage backed security that is secured by the loan on a commercial property; CMBS can provide liquidity to real estate investors and to commercial lenders. Typically a CMBS provides a lower degree of prepayment risk because commercial mortgages are most often set for a fixed term and not for a floating term as is generally the case with a residential mortgage. CMBS are not always in a standard form so can present increased valuation risk.

*Collateralised Mortgage Obligation ("CMO")*

A CMO is a security backed by the revenue from mortgage loans, pools of mortgages, or even existing CMOs, separated into different maturity classes. In structuring a CMO, an issuer distributes cash flow from the underlying collateral over a series of classes, which constitute a multiclass securities issue. The total revenue from a given pool of mortgages is shared between a collection of CMOs with differing cashflow and other characteristics. In most CMOs, coupon payments are not made on the final class until the other classes have been redeemed. Interest is added to increase the principal value.

CMOs aim to eliminate the risks associated with prepayment because each security is divided into maturity classes that are paid off in order. As a result, they yield less than other mortgage-backed securities. Any given class may receive interest, principal, or a combination of the two, and may include more complex stipulations. CMOs generally receive lower interest rates that compensate for the reduction in prepayment risk and increased predictability of payments. In addition, CMOs can exhibit relatively low liquidity, which can increase the cost of buying and selling them.

*Real Estate Mortgage Investment Conduits ("REMIC")*

A REMIC is an investment-grade mortgage bond that separates mortgage pools into different maturity and risk classes to the bank or conduit, which then passes the proceeds on to the note holders including the Fund. The REMIC is structured as a synthetic investment vehicle consisting of a fixed pool of mortgages broken apart and marketed to investors as individual securities and created for the purpose of acquiring collateral. This base is then divided into varying classes of securities backed by mortgages with different maturities and coupons.

*Residential mortgage-backed security ("RMBS")*

An RMBS is a type of security whose cash flows come from residential debt such as mortgages, home-equity loans and subprime mortgages. This is a type of MBS which focuses on residential instead of commercial debt.

Holders of an RMBS receive interest and principal payments that come from the holders of the residential debt. The RMBS comprises a large amount of pooled residential mortgages.

**Distressed Securities**

Investment in a security of an issuer that is either in default or in high risk of default ("Distressed Securities") involves significant risk. Such investments will only be made when the Investment Adviser believes either that the security trades at a materially different level from the Investment Adviser's perception of fair value or that it is reasonably likely that the issuer of the securities will make an exchange offer or will be the subject of a plan of reorganisation; however, there can be no assurance that such an exchange offer will be made or that such a plan of reorganisation will be adopted or that any securities or other assets received in connection with such an exchange offer or plan of reorganisation will not have a lower value or income potential than anticipated when the investment was made. In addition, a significant period of time may pass between the time at which the investment in Distressed Securities is made and the time that any such exchange, offer or plan of reorganisation is completed. During this period, it is unlikely that any interest payments on the Distressed Securities will be received, there will be significant uncertainty as to whether fair value will be achieved or not and the exchange offer or plan of reorganisation will be completed, and there may be a requirement

to bear certain expenses to protect the investing Fund's interest in the course of negotiations surrounding any potential exchange or plan of reorganisation. Furthermore, constraints on investment decisions and actions with respect to Distressed Securities due to tax considerations may affect the return realised on the Distressed Securities.

Some Funds may invest in securities of issuers that are encountering a variety of financial or earnings problems and represent distinct types of risks. A Fund's investments in equity or fixed income transferable securities of issuers in a weak financial condition may include issuers with substantial capital needs or negative net worth or issuers that are, have been or may become, involved in bankruptcy or reorganisation proceedings.

**Contingent Convertible Bonds**

A contingent convertible bond is a type of complex debt security which may be converted into the issuer's equity or be partly or wholly written off if a pre-specified trigger event occurs. Trigger events may be outside of the issuer's control. Common trigger events include the share price of the issuer falling to a particular level for a certain period of time or the issuer's capital ratio falling to a pre-determined level. Coupon payments on certain contingent convertible bonds may be entirely discretionary and may be cancelled by the issuer at any point, for any reason, and for any length of time.

Events that trigger the conversion from debt into equity are designed so that conversion occurs when the issuer of the contingent convertible bonds is in financial difficulty, as determined either by regulatory assessment or objective losses (e.g. if the capital ratio of the issuer company falls below a pre-determined level).

Investment in contingent convertible bonds may entail the following (non-exhaustive) risks:

Contingent convertible bonds' investors may suffer a loss of capital when equity holders do not.

Trigger levels differ and determine exposure to conversion risk depending on the distance of the capital ratio to the trigger level. It might be difficult for the Fund to anticipate the trigger events that would require the debt to convert into equity. Furthermore, it might be difficult for the Fund to assess how the securities will behave upon conversion.

In case of conversion into equity, the relevant Fund might be forced to sell these new equity shares because the investment policy of the relevant Fund may not allow equity in its portfolio. Such a forced sale, and the increased availability of these shares might have an effect on market liquidity in so far as there may not be sufficient demand for these shares. Investment in contingent convertible bonds may also lead to an increased industry concentration risk and thus counterparty risk as such securities are issued by a limited number of banks. Contingent convertible bonds are usually subordinated to comparable non-convertible securities, and thus are subject to higher risks than other debt securities.

In the event that a contingent convertible bond is written off (a "write-down") as the result of a pre-specified trigger event, the Fund may suffer a full, partial or staggered loss of the value of its investment. A write-down may be either temporary or permanent.

In addition, most contingent convertible bonds are issued as perpetual instruments which are callable at pre-determined dates. Perpetual contingent convertible bonds may not be called on the pre-defined call date and investors may not receive return of principal on the call date or at any date.

**Delayed Delivery Transactions**

Funds that invest in fixed income transferable securities may purchase "To Be Announced" securities contracts ("TBAs"). This refers to the common trading practice in the mortgage-backed securities market whereby a contract is purchased which entitles the buyer to buy a security from a mortgage pool (including but not limited to Ginnie Mae, Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac) for a fixed price at a future date. At the time of purchase the exact security is not known, but the main characteristics of it are specified. Although the price has been established at the time of purchase, the principal value has not been finalised. As a TBA is not settled at the time of purchase, this may lead to leveraged positions within a Fund. Purchasing a TBA involves a risk of loss if the value of the security to be purchased declines prior to the settlement date. Risks may also arise upon entering into these contracts from the potential inability of counterparties to meet the terms of their contracts. In certain jurisdictions, TBAs may be classed as financial derivative instruments.

The Funds may dispose of a commitment prior to settlement if it is deemed appropriate to do so. Proceeds of TBA sales are not received until the contractual settlement date. During the time a TBA sale commitment is outstanding, equivalent deliverable securities, or an offsetting TBA purchase commitment (deliverable on or before the sale commitment date), are held as cover for the transaction.

If the TBA sale commitment is closed through the acquisition of an offsetting purchase commitment, the Fund realises a gain or loss on the commitment without regard to any unrealised gain or loss on the underlying security. If the Fund delivers securities under the commitment, the Fund realises a gain or loss from the sale of the securities upon the unit price established at the date the commitment was entered into.

**Smaller Capitalisation Companies**

The securities of smaller companies may be subject to more abrupt or erratic market movements than larger, more established companies or the market average in general. These companies may have limited product lines, markets or financial resources, or they may be dependent on a limited management group. Full development of those companies takes time. In addition, many small company stocks trade less frequently and in smaller volume, and may be subject to more abrupt or erratic price movements than stocks of large companies. The securities of small companies may also be more sensitive to market changes than the securities of large companies. These factors may result in above-average fluctuations in the Net Asset Value of a Fund's Shares.

**Equity Risks**

The values of equities fluctuate daily and a Fund investing in equities could incur significant losses. The price of equities can be influenced by many factors at the individual company level, as well as by broader economic and political developments, including changes in investment sentiment, trends in economic growth, inflation and interest rates, issuer-specific factors, corporate earnings reports, demographic trends and catastrophic events.

**Money-Market Instruments**
The Euro Reserve Fund and the US Dollar Reserve Fund invest a significant amount of their Net Asset Value in approved money-market instruments and in this regard investors might compare the funds to regular deposit accounts. Investors should however note that holdings in these Funds are subject to the risks associated with investing in a CIS, in particular the fact that the principal sum invested is capable of fluctuation as the Net Asset Value of the Funds fluctuates.

Money-market instruments are subject to both actual and perceived measures of creditworthiness. The "downgrading" of a rated money-market instrument or adverse publicity and investor perception, which may not be based on fundamental analysis, could decrease the value and liquidity of these instruments, particularly in an illiquid market.

**Emerging Markets/Frontier Markets**
The following considerations, which apply to some extent to all international investments, are of particular significance in certain smaller emerging and frontier markets. Funds investing in equities (please refer to the respective investment objectives section of each relevant fund) may include investments in certain smaller emerging and frontier markets, which are typically those of poorer or less developed countries which exhibit lower levels of economic and/or capital market development, and higher levels of share price and currency volatility. The prospects for economic growth in a number of these markets are considerable and equity returns have the potential to exceed those in mature markets as growth is achieved. However, share price and currency volatility are generally higher in emerging and frontier markets.

Some governments exercise substantial influence over the private economic sector and the political and social uncertainties that exist for many developing countries are particularly significant. Another risk common to most such countries is that the economy is heavily export oriented and, accordingly, is dependent upon international trade. The existence of overburdened infrastructures and obsolete financial systems also presents risks in certain countries, as do environmental problems which may be exacerbated by climate change.

Certain economies also depend to a significant degree upon exports of primary commodities and, therefore, are vulnerable to changes in commodity prices which, in turn, may be affected by a variety of factors.

In adverse social and political circumstances, governments have been involved in policies of expropriation, confiscatory taxation, nationalisation, intervention in the securities market and trade settlement, and imposition of foreign investment restrictions and exchange controls, and these could be repeated in the future. In addition to withholding taxes on investment income, some emerging and frontier markets may impose different capital gains taxes on foreign investors.

Generally accepted accounting, auditing and financial reporting practices in emerging and frontier markets may be significantly different from those in developed markets. Compared to mature markets, some emerging and frontier markets may have a low level of regulation, enforcement of regulations and monitoring of investors' activities. Those activities may include practices such as trading on material non-public information by certain categories of investor.

The securities markets of developing countries are not as large as the more established securities markets and have substantially less trading volume, resulting in a lack of liquidity and high price volatility. There may be a high concentration of market capitalisation and trading volume in a small number of issuers representing a limited number of industries as well as a high concentration of investors and financial intermediaries. These factors may adversely affect the timing and pricing of a Fund's acquisition or disposal of securities.

Practices in relation to settlement of securities transactions in emerging and frontier markets involve higher risks than those in developed markets, in part because a Fund will need to use brokers and counterparties which are less well capitalised, and custody and registration of assets in some countries may be unreliable.

Delays in settlement could result in investment opportunities being missed if a Fund is unable to acquire or dispose of a security. The Depositary is responsible for the proper selection and supervision of its correspondent banks in all relevant markets in accordance with Luxembourg law and regulation.

In certain emerging and frontier markets, registrars are not subject to effective government supervision nor are they always independent from issuers. The possibility of fraud, negligence, undue influence being exerted by the issuer or refusal to recognise ownership exists, which, along with other factors, could result in the registration of a shareholding being completely lost. Investors should therefore be aware that the Funds concerned could suffer loss arising from these registration problems, and as a result of archaic legal systems a Fund may be unable to make a successful claim for compensation.

While the factors described above may result in a generally higher level of risk with respect to the individual smaller emerging and frontier markets, these may be reduced when there is a low correlation between the activities of those markets and/or by the diversification of investments within the relevant Funds.

**Sovereign Debt**
Sovereign debt refers to debt obligations issued or guaranteed by governments or their agencies and instrumentalities (each a "governmental entity"). Investments in sovereign debt may involve a degree of risk. The governmental entity that controls the repayment of sovereign debt may not be able or willing to repay the principal and/or interest when due in accordance with the terms of such debt. A governmental entity's willingness or ability to repay principal and interest due in a timely manner may be affected by, among other factors, its cash flow situation, the extent of its foreign reserves, the availability of sufficient foreign exchange on the date a payment is due, the relative size of the debt service burden to the economy as a whole, the governmental entity's policy towards the international monetary bodies, any constraints placed on it by inclusion in a common monetary policy, or any other constraints to which a governmental entity might be subject. Governmental entities may also be dependent on expected disbursements from foreign governments, multilateral agencies and other foreign entities to reduce principal and interest arrears on their debt. The commitment on the part of these governments, agencies and others to make such disbursements may be conditioned on a governmental entity's implementation of economic reforms and/or economic performance and the timely service of such debtor's obligations. Failure to implement such reforms, achieve such levels

of economic performance or repay principal or interest when due may result in the cancellation of such third parties' commitments to lend funds to the governmental entity, which may further impair such debtor's ability or willingness to service its debt on a timely basis. Consequently, governmental entities may default on their sovereign debt. Holders of sovereign debt, including a Fund, may be requested to participate in the rescheduling of such debt and to extend further loans to governmental entities.

Sovereign debt holders may also be affected by additional constraints relating to sovereign issuers which may include (i) the restructuring of such debt (including the reduction of outstanding principal and interest and or rescheduling of repayment terms) without the consent of the impacted Fund(s) (e.g. pursuant to legislative actions unilaterally taken by the sovereign issuer and/or decisions made by a qualified majority of the lenders); and (ii) the limited legal recourses available against the sovereign issuer in case of failure of or delay in repayment (for example there may be no bankruptcy proceedings available by which sovereign debt on which a government entity has defaulted may be recovered).

As set out in their investment policies, some of the Funds may invest in debt securities, issued by governments and agencies worldwide and may invest, from time to time, more than 10% of their Net Asset Value in non-investment grade debt securities issued by governments and agencies of any single country.

Non-investment grade, also known as "high-yield", sovereign debt may carry a greater risk of default than higher rated debt securities. In addition, non-investment grade securities tend to be more volatile than higher rated debt securities, so that adverse economic events may have a greater impact on the prices of non-investment grade debt securities than on higher rated debt securities. Further, an issuer's ability to service its debt obligations may be adversely affected by specific issuer developments, for example, an economic recession may adversely affect an issuer's financial condition and the market value of high yield debt securities issued by such entity.

Where Funds invest more than 10% of their Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by governments or agencies of any single country, they may be more adversely affected by the performance of those securities and will be more susceptible to any single economic, market, political or regulatory occurrence affecting that particular country or region.

**Bond Downgrade Risk**

A Fund may invest in highly rated / investment grade bonds, however, where a bond is subsequently downgraded it may continue to be held in order to avoid a distressed sale. To the extent that a Fund does hold such downgraded bonds, there will be an increased risk of default on repayment, which in turn translates into a risk that the capital value of the Fund will be affected. Investors should be aware that the yield or the capital value of the Fund (or both) could fluctuate.

**Bank Corporate Bonds "Bail-in" Risk**

Corporate bonds issued by a financial institution in the European Union may be subject to the risk of a write down or conversion (i.e. "bail-in") by an EU authority in circumstances where the financial institution is unable to meet its financial obligations. This may result in bonds issued by such financial institution being written down (to zero), converted into equity or alternative instrument of ownership, or the terms of the bond may be varied. 'Bail-in' risk refers to the risk of EU member state authorities exercising powers to rescue troubled banks by writing down or converting rights of their bondholders in order to absorb losses of, or recapitalise, such banks. Investors should be alerted to the fact that EU member state authorities are more likely to use a "bail-in" tool to rescue troubled banks, instead of relying on public financially support as they have in the past as EU member state authorities now consider that public financial support should only be used as a last resort after having assessed and exploited, to the maximum extent practicable, other resolution tools, including the "bail-in" tool. A bail-in of a financial institution is likely to result in a reduction in value of some or all of its bonds (and possibly other securities) and a Fund holding such securities when a bail-in occurs will also be similarly impacted.

**Restrictions on Foreign Investment**

Some countries prohibit or impose substantial restrictions on investments by foreign entities such as a Fund. As illustrations, certain countries require governmental approval prior to investments by foreign persons, or limit the amount of investment by foreign persons in a particular company, or limit the investment by foreign persons in a company to only a specific class of securities which may have less advantageous terms than securities of the company available for purchase by nationals. Certain countries may restrict investment opportunities in issuers or industries deemed important to national interests. The manner in which foreign investors may invest in companies in certain countries, as well as limitations on such investments, may have an adverse impact on the operations of a Fund. For example, a Fund may be required in certain of such countries to invest initially through a local broker or other entity and then have the share purchases re-registered in the name of the Fund. Re-registration may in some instances not be able to occur on a timely basis, resulting in a delay during which a Fund may be denied certain of its rights as an investor, including rights as to dividends or to be made aware of certain corporate actions. There also may be instances where a Fund places a purchase order but is subsequently informed, at the time of re-registration, that the permissible allocation to foreign investors has been filled, depriving the Fund of the ability to make its desired investment at the time. Substantial limitations may exist in certain countries with respect to a Fund's ability to repatriate investment income, capital or the proceeds of sales of securities by foreign investors. A Fund could be adversely affected by delays in, or a refusal to grant any required governmental approval for repatriation of capital, as well as by the application to the Fund of any restriction on investments. A number of countries have authorised the formation of closed-end investment companies to facilitate indirect foreign investment in their capital markets. Shares of certain closed-end investment companies may at times be acquired only at market prices representing premiums to their net asset values. If a Fund acquires shares in closed-end investment companies, Shareholders would bear both their proportionate share of expenses in the Fund (including management fees) and, indirectly, the expenses of such closed end investment companies. In addition, certain countries such as India and the PRC implement quota restrictions on foreign ownership of certain onshore investments. These investments may at times be acquired only at market prices representing premiums to their net asset values and such premiums may ultimately be borne by the relevant Fund. A Fund may also seek, at its own cost, to create its own investment entities under the laws of certain countries.

**Investments in the PRC**
Investments in the PRC are currently subject to certain additional risks, particularly regarding the ability to deal in securities in the PRC. Dealing in certain PRC securities is restricted to licensed investors and the ability of the investor to repatriate its capital invested in those securities may be limited at times. Due to issues relating to liquidity and repatriation of capital, the Company may determine from time to time that making direct investments in certain securities may not be appropriate for a UCITS. As a result, the Company may choose to gain exposure to PRC securities indirectly and may be unable to gain full exposure to the PRC markets.

**PRC Economic Risks**
The PRC is one of the world's largest global emerging markets. The economy in the PRC, which has been in a state of transition from a planned economy to a more market orientated economy, differs from the economies of most developed countries and investing in the PRC may be subject to greater risk of loss than investments in developed markets. This is due to, among other things, greater market volatility, lower trading volume, political and economic instability, greater risk of market shut down, greater control of foreign exchange and more limitations on foreign investment policy than those typically found in a developed market. There may be substantial government intervention in the PRC economy, including restrictions on investment in companies or industries deemed sensitive to relevant national interests. The PRC government and regulators may also intervene in the financial markets, such as by the imposition of trading restrictions, which may affect the trading of PRC securities. The companies in which the relevant Fund invests may be held to lower disclosure, corporate governance, accounting and reporting standards than companies in more developed markets. In addition, some of the securities held by the relevant Fund may be subject to higher transaction and other costs, foreign ownership limits, the imposition of withholding or other taxes, or may have liquidity issues which make such securities more difficult to sell at reasonable prices. These factors may have an unpredictable impact on the relevant Fund's investments and increase the volatility and hence the risk of a loss to the value of an investment in the relevant Fund.

As with any fund investing in an emerging market country, the relevant Fund investing in the PRC may be subject to greater risk of loss than a fund investing in a developed market country. The PRC economy has experienced significant and rapid growth in the past 20 years. However, such growth may or may not continue, and may not apply evenly across different geographic locations and sectors of the PRC economy. Economic growth has also been accompanied by periods of high inflation. The PRC government has implemented various measures from time to time to control inflation and restrain the rate of economic growth of the PRC economy. Furthermore, the PRC government has carried out economic reforms to achieve decentralisation and utilisation of market forces to develop the economy of the PRC. These reforms have resulted in significant economic growth and social progress. There can, however, be no assurance that the PRC government will continue to pursue such economic policies or, if it does, that those policies will continue to be successful. Any such adjustment and modification of those economic policies may have an adverse impact on the securities markets in PRC and therefore on the performance of the relevant Fund.

These factors may increase the volatility of any such Fund (depending on its degree of investment in the PRC) and hence the risk of loss to the value of your investment.

**PRC Political Risks**
Any political changes, social instability and adverse diplomatic developments which may take place in, or in relation to, the PRC could result in significant fluctuation in the price of China A-Shares and/or China onshore bonds.

**Legal System of the PRC**
The PRC legal system is based on written statutes and their interpretation by the Supreme People's Court. Prior court decisions may be cited for reference but have no precedent value. Since 1979, the PRC government has been developing a comprehensive system of commercial laws and considerable progress has been made in introducing laws and regulations dealing with economic matters such as foreign investment, corporate organisation and governance, commerce, taxation and trade. However, because of the limited volume of published cases and judicial interpretation and their non-binding nature, the interpretation and enforcement of these regulations involves significant uncertainties. Given the short history of the PRC system of commercial laws, the PRC regulatory and legal framework may not be as well developed as those of developed countries. Such regulations also empower the CSRC and SAFE to exercise discretion in their respective interpretation of the regulations, which may result in increased uncertainties in their application. In addition, as the PRC legal system develops, no assurance can be given that changes in such laws and regulations, their interpretation or their enforcement will not have a material adverse effect on the relevant Fund's onshore business operations or the ability of the relevant Fund to acquire China A-Shares and/or China onshore bonds.

**Accounting and Reporting Standards**
PRC companies are required to comply with PRC accounting standards and practices which follow international accounting standards to a certain extent. However, the accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards and practices applicable to PRC companies may be less rigorous, and there may be significant differences between financial statements prepared in accordance with the PRC accounting standards and practice and those prepared in accordance with international accounting standards. For example, there are differences in the valuation methods of properties and assets and in the requirements for disclosure of information to investors.

**Renminbi Currency and Conversion Risks**
The Renminbi, the lawful currency of the PRC, is not currently a freely convertible currency and is subject to exchange control imposed by the PRC government. Such control of currency conversion and movements in the Renminbi exchange rates may adversely affect the operations and financial results of companies in the PRC. Insofar as the relevant Fund may invest in the PRC, it will be subject to the risk of the PRC government's imposition of restrictions on the repatriation of funds or other assets out of the country, limiting the ability of the relevant Fund to satisfy payments to investors.

Non-Renminbi based investors are exposed to foreign exchange risk and there is no guarantee that the value of Renminbi against the investors' base currencies (for example USD) will not depreciate. Any depreciation of Renminbi could adversely affect the value of investor's investment in the Funds.



NM0324U-3453640-38/808

The exchange rate used for all relevant Fund transactions in Renminbi is in relation to the offshore Renminbi ("CNH"), not the onshore Renminbi ("CNY"), save for those made via the QFI regime. The value of CNH could differ, perhaps significantly, from that of CNY due to a number of factors including without limitation those foreign exchange control policies and repatriation restrictions applied by the PRC government from time-to-time as well as other external market forces. Any divergence between CNH and CNY may adversely impact investors.

**Investments in Russia**

For Funds that invest in or are exposed to investment in Russia, potential investors should also consider the following risk warnings which are specific to investing in or exposure to Russia:

- As a result of Russia's action in Europe, as at the date of this Prospectus Russia has been the subject of economic sanctions imposed by the United States, the European Union and other countries throughout the world. The scope and level of the sanctions may increase and there is a risk that this may adversely affect the Russian economy and result in a decline in the value and liquidity of Russian securities, a devaluation of the Russian currency and/or a downgrade in Russia's credit rating. These sanctions could also lead to Russia taking counter-measures more broadly against Western and other countries. Depending on the form of action which may be taken by Russia and other countries, it could become more difficult for the Funds with exposure to Russia to continue investing in Russia and/or to liquidate Russian investments and expatriate funds out of Russia. Measures taken by the Russian government could include freezing or seizure of Russian assets of European residents which would reduce the value and liquidity of any Russian assets held by the Funds. If any of these events were to occur, the Directors may (at their discretion) take such action as they consider to be in the interests of Shareholders in Funds which have investment exposure to Russia, including (if necessary) suspending trading in the Funds (see section 30. entitled "Suspensions and Deferrals" in Appendix B for more details).

- The laws relating to securities investments and regulations have been created on an ad-hoc basis and do not tend to keep pace with market developments leading to ambiguities in interpretation and inconsistent and arbitrary application. Monitoring and enforcement of applicable regulations is rudimentary.

- Rules regulating corporate governance either do not exist or are underdeveloped and offer little protection to minority Shareholders.

These factors may increase the volatility of any such Fund (depending on its degree of investment in Russia) and hence the risk of loss to the value of your investment.

Any Fund investing directly in local Russian stock will limit its exposure to no more than 10% of its Net Asset Value, except for investment in securities listed on MICEX-RTS, which has been recognised as being a regulated market.

**Euro and Euro Zone Risk**

The success of the Euro and the Eurozone is dependant on the general economic and political condition of each member state, as well as each state's credit worthiness and the willingness of the members to remain committed to monetary union and support for the other members. Default by any state on its Euro debts or a material decline in the credit rating of any Eurozone state could have a material negative impact on a Fund and its investments. The base currency of a number of the Funds is Euro and/or may hold Euro denominated assets either directly or as collateral and may experience a reduction of the value and/or liquidity of their investments as a result of events in the Eurozone regardless of the measures the Investment Adviser or Directors may take to reduce this risk.

The Eurozone is subject to risks arising from different trends, including high inflation, rapid monetary policy tightening, geopolitical instability, and an uncertain economic outlook, which could lead to new shocks and asset price corrections.

This situation has raised a number of uncertainties regarding the stability and overall standing of the European Economic and Monetary Union and may result in changes to the composition of the Euro zone. The departure or risk of departure from the Euro by one or more Euro zone countries could lead to the reintroduction of national currencies in one or more Euro zone countries or, in more extreme circumstances, the possible dissolution of the Euro entirely. These potential developments, or market perceptions concerning these and related issues, could adversely affect the value of the Fund's investments, including risk of redenomination from Euro into another currency, possible capital controls and legal uncertainty as to the ability to enforce obligations and debts. Shareholders should carefully consider how changes to the Euro zone and European Union may affect their investment in the Fund.

**Fund of funds**

Where a Fund may invest all or substantially all of its assets in CIS, the investment risks applicable to the target funds will apply in addition to the risks applicable to the Fund's direct investments. The investment in CIS may result in an increase of the TER and/or Ongoing Charges, subject to the limit described in Appendix A. A fund of funds may be permitted to invest in other Funds in the Company. Investors should be aware and understand that from time to time, the Investment Adviser may decide to only invest in investment products which are managed by the Management Company or an associate of the Management Company. Such an approach may, from time to time, limit the investment universe from which the Investment Adviser selects the investments of the fund of funds.

**Funds Investing in Specific Sectors**

Where investment is made in one or in a limited number of market sectors, Funds may be more volatile than other more diversified Funds. The companies within these sectors may have limited product lines, markets, or financial resources, or may depend on a limited management group.

Such Funds may also be subject to rapid cyclical changes in investor activity and / or the supply of and demand for specific products and services. As a result, a stock market or economic downturn in the relevant specific sector or sectors would have a larger impact on a Fund that concentrates its investments in that sector or sectors than on a more diversified Fund.

There may also be special risk factors associated with individual sectors. For example, the stock prices of companies operating in natural resource related sectors, such as precious and other metals may be expected to follow the market price of the related

natural resource, although there is unlikely to be perfect correlation between these two factors. Precious and other metal prices historically have been very volatile, which may adversely affect the financial condition of companies involved with precious and other metals. Also, the sale of precious and other metals by governments or central banks or other larger holders can be affected by various economic, financial, social and political factors, which may be unpredictable and may have a significant impact on the prices of precious and other metals. Other factors that may affect the prices of precious and other metals and securities related to them include changes in inflation, the outlook for inflation and changes in industrial and commercial supply and demand for such metals. There may also be increased impacts on the value of the investments in these Funds as a result of environmental factors (both physical changes related to climate change and the transition to alternative energy), as well as social and governance factors. Funds with specific sectoral concentrations such as investing in industries or issuers with high carbon intensity or high switching costs associated with the transition to low carbon alternatives, may be more impacted by climate transition risks.

Real estate securities are subject to some of the same risks associated with the direct ownership of real estate including, but not limited to: adverse changes in the conditions of the real estate markets, changes in the general and local economies, obsolescence of properties, changes in availability of real estate stock, vacancy rates, tenant bankruptcies, costs and terms of mortgage financing, costs of operating and improving real estate and the impact of laws affecting real estate (including environmental and planning laws).

However, investing in real estate securities is not equivalent to investing directly in real estate and the performance of real estate securities may be more heavily dependent on the general performance of stock markets than the general performance of the real estate sector. Historically there had been an inverse relationship between interest rates and property values. Rising interest rates can decrease the value of the properties in which a real estate company invests and can also increase related borrowing costs. Either of these events can decrease the value of an investment in real estate companies.

The current taxation regimes for property-invested entities are potentially complex and may change in the future. This may impact either directly or indirectly the returns to investors in a real estate fund and the taxation treatment thereof. There may also be increased impacts on the value of the investments in these Funds as a result of geographical concentration in locations the value of the investments in the Funds may be more susceptible to adverse physical climate events, as well as social and governance factors.

**Portfolio Concentration Risk**
Certain Funds may invest in a limited number of securities compared to other more diversified Funds holding a larger number of securities. Where a Fund holds a limited number of securities and is considered concentrated, the value of the Fund may fluctuate more than that of a diversified Fund holding a greater number of securities. The selection of securities in a concentrated portfolio may also result in sectoral and geographical concentration.

For Funds with geographical concentration, the value of the Funds may be more susceptible to adverse economic, political, policy, foreign exchange, liquidity, tax, sustainability related, legal or regulatory event affecting the relevant market.

**Turnover Risk**
The US Dollar Bond Fund may have a large exposure to US Treasury bonds. The Investment Adviser supports the liquidity of the Fund by ensuring that it invests in “on the run” Treasury bonds which are those that have recently been issued and are hence most liquid. The Investment Adviser has therefore a policy of rotating the bonds to offer greater liquidity for a lower cost of trading. However, this policy may result in additional transaction costs which will be borne by the Fund and may adversely affect the Fund’s Net Asset Value and the interest of relevant Shareholders.

**Exposure to Commodities within Exchange Traded Funds**
An Exchange Traded Fund investing in commodities may do so by replicating the performance of a commodities index. The underlying index may concentrate investment on selected commodity futures on multinational markets. This makes the underlying exchange traded fund extremely dependent on the performance of the commodity markets concerned.

**ESG Investment Policy Risk**
The ESG Funds will use certain ESG criteria in their investment strategies, as determined by the data provided by their respective ESG Providers and as set out in their respective investment policies. Different ESG Funds may use one or more different ESG Providers, and the way in which different ESG Funds will apply ESG criteria may vary.

The use of ESG criteria may affect an ESG Fund’s investment performance and, as such, ESG Funds may perform differently compared to similar funds that do not use such criteria. ESG-based exclusionary criteria used in an ESG Fund’s investment policy may result in the ESG Fund foregoing opportunities to buy certain securities when it might otherwise be advantageous to do so, and/or selling securities due to their ESG characteristics when it might be disadvantageous to do so.

In the event the ESG characteristics of a security held by an ESG Fund change, resulting in the Investment Adviser having to sell the security, neither the ESG Fund, the Company nor the Investment Advisers accept liability in relation to such change.

No investment will be made in contravention of Luxembourg law. Please also see the note on the United Nations Convention on Cluster Munitions, under the heading “Investment Objectives and Policies”, on page 44.

Any website indicated in the investment policy of an ESG Fund includes information on the index methodology published by the relevant ESG Provider and explains which types of issuer or security are excluded, for example by reference to the sector from which they derive their revenue. Such sectors might include Tobacco, Weapons or Thermal Coal. The relevant exclusions might not correspond directly with investors own subjective ethical views.

ESG Funds will vote proxies in a manner that is consistent with the relevant ESG exclusionary criteria, which may not always be consistent with maximising the short-term performance of the relevant issuer.



NM0324U-3453640-40/808

In evaluating a security or issuer based on ESG criteria, the Investment Adviser is dependent upon information and data from third party ESG Providers and other data providers, which may be incomplete, inaccurate, inconsistent or unavailable. As a result, there is a risk that the Investment Adviser may incorrectly assess a security or issuer. There is also a risk that the Investment Adviser may not apply the relevant ESG criteria correctly or that an ESG Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near- cash instruments, shares or units of CIS, and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers which may not be consistent with the relevant ESG criteria used by such ESG Fund. Neither the ESG Funds, the Company nor the Investment Advisers make any representation or warranty, express or implied, with respect to the fairness, correctness, accuracy, reasonableness or completeness of such ESG assessment.

**MSCI ESG Screening Criteria**
Certain ESG Funds will apply ESG criteria as defined by MSCI, an ESG Provider.

The MSCI methodology positively screens and ranks potential constituents according to their ESG credentials relative to their industry peers. No exclusion is made by MSCI on the basis of how ethical a particular industry/sector is perceived to be. Investors should make a personal ethical assessment of MSCI's ESG rating and/or controversies score and how they will be utilised as part of the relevant Fund's investment policy prior to investing in such Fund. Such ESG screening may affect, adversely or otherwise, the value and/or quality of the Fund's investments compared to a fund without such screening.

**Fixed Maturity Funds**
Fixed Maturity Funds are designed for investors whose Shares will be held until the relevant Fund's Maturity Date as specified for each Fund under the section "Investment Objectives and Policies of the Funds". Investors, in particular investors who redeem their Shares prior to the relevant Fund's Maturity Date, may suffer a loss of capital. Although Fixed Maturity Funds seek to provide income whilst also aiming to preserve capital in accordance with their relevant investment objective, there is no guarantee that either will be achieved. The Fixed Maturity Funds' capital is at risk.

The nature of the Fixed Maturity Funds' investment objectives and policies means that the risk profile of the Funds may vary over time. At any time, the Fixed Maturity Funds may be invested and/or exposed to the various risks inherent in a portfolio of corporate and sovereign bonds. As these securities mature and as the Maturity Date approaches, the nature of the risks associated with the portfolio may change. The Fixed Maturity Funds' risk profile may therefore change significantly between the applicable launch date, the time when it is fully invested in the relevant target assets and as they approach the Maturity Date.

Whilst aiming to provide income and to preserve capital in accordance with its investment objective, the Fixed Maturity Funds offer no such guarantee that either will be achieved and investors may suffer a loss of capital. In scenarios where investors wish to redeem their Shares prior to the relevant Fund's Maturity Date the loss of capital may be greater. Fixed Maturity Funds may also see an enhanced risk to early closure if insufficient capital is raised during the applicable Initial Offer Period and Pre-Investment Period or in the case that investors representing significant proportions of the relevant Fund wish to redeem their Shares prior to the Fund's Maturity Date. Given the changing nature of the assets held during the relevant Pre Investment Period, Ramp Up Period, Investment Period and Post Investment Period, as outlined in each Fund's investment objective and policy, the risks incurred by investors will differ during each period. As a result, investors should refer to the applicable instrument type risks in the general risk section.

The nature of the Sub-Fund's investment objective and policy means that the risk profile of the Fund may vary over time. At any time, the Fund may be invested and/or exposed to the various risks inherent in a portfolio of investment grade and sub-investment grade emerging market fixed income transferable securities. As these securities mature and as the Maturity Date approaches, the nature of the risks associated with the portfolio may change. The Sub-Fund's risk profile may therefore change significantly between its Launch Date, the time when it is fully invested in fixed income securities and as it approaches the Maturity Date.

## Specific Risks Applicable to QFI Investing

**Please refer to the section entitled "QFI Investments" in the "Investment Objectives and Policies" section for an overview of the QFI Scheme.**

The QFI Access Funds may invest directly in the PRC by investing in China A-Shares and/or China onshore bonds (as relevant) via the QFI status of BAMNA or an affiliate in the BlackRock Group who is a QFI Licence Holder.

In addition to the risks set out under "Investments in the PRC" and other risks applicable to the QFI Access Funds the following additional risks apply:

**QFI Risk**
The application and interpretation of the regulations which regulate investments through QFI regime in the PRC are relatively untested and there is no certainty as to how they will be applied as the PRC authorities and regulators have been given wide discretion in such investment regulations and there is no precedent or certainty as to how such discretion may be exercised now or in the future. It is not possible to predict the future development of the QFI system. Any restrictions on repatriation imposed in respect of the relevant QFI Access Fund's QFI investments may have an adverse effect on the QFI Access Fund's ability to meet redemption requests. Any change in the QFI system generally, including the possibility of the QFI losing its QFI status, may affect the relevant QFI Access Fund's ability to invest in eligible securities in the PRC directly through the relevant QFI. In addition, should the QFI status be suspended or revoked, the relevant QFI Access Fund's performance may be adversely affected as the relevant QFI Access Fund may be required to dispose of its QFI eligible securities holdings. The applicable laws, rules and regulations on QFI are subject to change and such change may have potential retrospective effects.

**QFI Investment Restrictions Risk**
Although the QFI does not anticipate that QFI investment restrictions will impact on the ability of the QFI Access Funds to achieve their investment objectives, investors should note that the relevant PRC laws and regulations may limit the ability of a QFI to acquire China A-Shares in certain PRC issuers from time to time. This may occur in a number of circumstances, such as (i) where an underlying foreign investor such as the QFI holds in aggregate 10% of the total share capital of a listed PRC issuer (regardless of

the fact that the QFI may hold its interest on behalf of a number of different ultimate clients), and (ii) where the aggregated holdings in China A-Shares by all underlying foreign investors (including other QFIIs and QFIs and whether or not connected in any way to the QFI Access Funds) already equal 30% of the total share capital of a listed PRC issuer. In the event that these limits are exceeded the relevant QFIs will be required to dispose of the China A-Shares in order to comply with the relevant requirements and, in respect of (ii), each QFI will dispose of the relevant China A-Shares on a "last in first out" basis. Such disposal will affect the capacity of the relevant QFI Access Fund in making investments in China A-Shares through the QFI.

**Suspensions, Limits and other Disruptions affecting Trading of China A-Shares**

Liquidity for China A-Shares will be impacted by any temporary or permanent suspensions of particular stocks imposed from time to time by the Shanghai and/or Shenzhen stock exchanges or pursuant to any regulatory or governmental intervention with respect to particular investments or the markets generally. Any such suspension or corporate action may make it impossible for the relevant QFI Access Fund to acquire or liquidate positions in the relevant stocks as part of the general management and periodic adjustment of the QFI Access Fund's investments through the QFI or to meet redemption requests. Such circumstances may also make it difficult for the Net Asset Value of the QFI Access Fund to be determined and may expose the QFI Access Fund to losses.

In order to mitigate the effects of extreme volatility in the market price of China A-Shares, the Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges currently limit the amount of fluctuation permitted in the prices of China A-Shares during a single trading day. The daily limit is currently set at 10% and represents the maximum amount that the price of a security (during the current trading session) may vary either up or down from the previous day's settlement price. The daily limit governs only price movements and does not restrict trading within the relevant limit. However, the limit does not limit potential losses because the limit may work to prevent a liquidation of any relevant securities at the fair or probable realisation value for such securities which means that the relevant QFI Access Fund may be unable to dispose of unfavourable positions. There can be no assurance that a liquid market on an exchange would exist for any particular China A- Share or for any particular time.

**Counterparty Risk to the QFI Custodian and other Depositaries for PRC assets**

Any assets acquired through the QFI regime will be maintained by the QFI Custodian pursuant to the PRC regulations, in electronic form via the QFI securities account(s) and any cash will be held in Renminbi cash account(s)) (as defined under the section "QFI Investments") with the QFI Custodian. QFI securities account(s) and Renminbi cash account(s) for the relevant QFI Access Fund in the PRC are maintained in accordance with market practice. Whilst the assets held in such accounts are segregated and held separately from the assets of the QFI and belong solely to the relevant QFI Access Fund, it is possible that the judicial and regulatory authorities in the PRC may interpret this position differently in the future. The relevant QFI Access Fund may also incur losses due to the acts or omissions of the QFI Custodian in the execution or settlement of any transaction or in the transfer of any funds or securities.

Cash held by the QFI Custodian in the Renminbi cash account(s) will not be segregated in practice but will be a debt owing from the QFI Custodian to the relevant QFI Access Fund as a depositor. Such cash will be co-mingled with cash belonging to other clients of the QFI Custodian. In the event of insolvency of the QFI Custodian, the relevant QFI Access Fund will not have any proprietary rights to the cash deposited in the cash account opened with the QFI Custodian, and the QFI Access Fund will become an unsecured creditor, ranking pari passu with all other unsecured creditors, of the QFI Custodian. The QFI Access Fund may face difficulties and/or encounter delays in recovering such debt, or may not be able to recover it in full or at all, in which case the relevant QFI Access Fund will lose some or all of its cash.

**Counterparty Risk to PRC broker(s)**

The QFI selects brokers in the PRC ("PRC Broker(s)") to execute transactions for the relevant QFI Access Fund in markets in the PRC. There is a possibility that the QFI may only appoint one PRC Broker for each of the SZSE and the SSE, which may be the same broker. While up to three PRC Brokers can be appointed for each of the Shenzhen and Shanghai stock exchanges, as a matter of practice, it is likely that that only one PRC Broker will be appointed in respect of each stock exchange in the PRC as a result of the requirement in the PRC that securities are sold through the same PRC Broker through which they were originally purchased.

If, for any reason, the QFI is unable to use the relevant broker in the PRC, the operation of the relevant QFI Access Fund may be adversely affected. The QFI Access Fund may also incur losses due to the acts or omissions of any of the PRC Broker(s) in the execution or settlement of any transaction or in the transfer of any funds or securities.

If a single PRC Broker is appointed, the relevant QFI Access Fund may not pay the lowest commission available in the market. However, the QFI shall, in the selection of PRC Brokers, have regard to factors such as the competitiveness of commission rates, size of the relevant orders and execution standards.

There is a risk that the relevant QFI Access Fund may suffer losses from the default, insolvency or disqualification of a PRC Broker. In such event, the relevant QFI Access Fund may be adversely affected in the execution of transactions through such PRC Broker. As a result, the Net Asset Value of the relevant QFI Access Fund may also be adversely affected. To mitigate the Company's exposure to the PRC Broker(s), the QFI employs specific procedures to ensure that each PRC Broker selected is a reputable institution and that the credit risk is acceptable to the Company.

**Remittance and Repatriation of Renminbi**

Repatriations of Renminbi by QFIs are currently not subject to, any lock-up periods or prior regulatory approval; although authenticity and compliance reviews will be conducted and monthly reports on remittances and repatriations will be submitted to SAFE by the QFI Custodian. The repatriation process may be subject to certain requirements set out in the relevant regulations (e.g. submission of certain documents when repatriating the realised cumulative profits). Completion of the repatriation process may be subject to delay. There is no assurance that PRC rules and regulations will not change or that repatriation restrictions will not be imposed in the future. Further, such changes to the PRC rules and regulations may be applied retroactively. Any restrictions on repatriation imposed in respect of the relevant QFI Access Fund's cash may

have an adverse effect on the QFI Access Fund's ability to meet redemption requests.

Furthermore, as the QFI Custodian's review on authenticity and compliance is conducted on each repatriation, the repatriation may be delayed or even rejected by the QFI Custodian in case of non-compliance with the QFI rules and regulations. In such case, it is expected that redemption proceeds will be paid to the redeeming Shareholder as soon as practicable and after the completion of the repatriation of funds concerned. The actual time required for the completion of the relevant repatriation will be beyond the QFI's control.

## Specific Risks Applicable to investing via the Stock Connects

**Please refer to the section entitled "Stock Connects" in the "Investment Objectives and Policies" section for an overview of the Stock Connects.**

The Stock Connect Funds may invest in China A-Shares via the Stock Connects. In addition to risks regarding "Investments in the PRC" and other risks applicable to the Stock Connect Funds the following additional risks apply:

**Quota Limitations**

The Stock Connects are subject to quota limitations, further details of which are set out in the "Investment Objectives and Policies" section below. In particular, once the daily quota is exceeded, buy orders will be rejected (although investors will be permitted to sell their cross-boundary securities regardless of the quota balance). Therefore, quota limitations may restrict the relevant Stock Connect Fund's ability to invest in the eligible securities through the Stock Connect on a timely basis, and the relevant Stock Connect Fund may not be able to effectively pursue its investment strategy.

## Legal / Beneficial Ownership

The SSE Securities and SZSE Securities each as defined under "Stock Connects" in the "Investment Objectives and Policies" section) in respect of the Stock Connect Funds are held by the Depositary/ sub-custodian in accounts in the Hong Kong Central Clearing and Settlement System ("CCASS") maintained by the HKSCC as central securities depositary in Hong Kong. HKSCC in turn holds the SSE Securities and SZSE Securities, as the nominee holder, through an omnibus securities account in its name registered with ChinaClear for each of the Stock Connects. The precise nature and rights of the Stock Connect Funds as the beneficial owners of the SSE Securities and SZSE Securities through HKSCC as nominee is not well defined under PRC law. There is lack of a clear definition of, and distinction between, "legal ownership" and "beneficial ownership" under PRC law and there have been few cases involving a nominee account structure in the PRC courts. Therefore the exact nature and methods of enforcement of the rights and interests of the Stock Connect Funds under PRC law is uncertain. Because of this uncertainty, in the unlikely event that HKSCC becomes subject to winding up proceedings in Hong Kong it is not clear if the SSE Securities and SZSE Securities will be regarded as held for the beneficial ownership of the Stock Connect Funds or as part of the general assets of HKSCC available for general distribution to its creditors.

For completeness, the CSRC has provided information titled "FAQ on Beneficial Ownership under SH-HK Stock Connect" dated 15 May 2015 in relation to beneficial ownership – the relevant sections from this FAQ have been extracted and reproduced below:

> ***Do overseas investors enjoy proprietary rights in the SSE Securities acquired through the Northbound Trading Link as Shareholders? Are the concepts of "nominee holder" and "beneficial owner" recognized under Mainland law?***
>
> *Article 18 of the Administrative Measures for Registration and Settlement of Securities (the "Settlement Measures") states that "securities shall be recorded in the accounts of the securities holders, unless laws, administrative regulations or CSRC rules prescribe that the securities shall be recorded in accounts opened in the name of nominee holders". Hence, the Settlement Measures expressly provides for the concept of nominee shareholding. Article 13 of the Certain Provisions on Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect Pilot Program (the "CSRC Stock Connect Rules") states that shares acquired by investors through the Northbound Trading Link shall be registered in the name of HKSCC and that "investors are legally entitled to the rights and benefits of shares acquired through the Northbound Trading Link". Accordingly, the CSRC Stock Connect Rules have expressly stipulated that, in Northbound trading, overseas investors shall hold SSE Securities through HKSCC and are entitled to proprietary interests in such securities as shareholders.*
>
> ***How do overseas investors bring legal action in the Mainland to realise their rights over the SSE Securities acquired through the Northbound Trading Link?***
>
> *Mainland law does not expressly provide for a beneficial owner under the nominee holding structure to bring legal proceedings, nor does it prohibit a beneficial owner from doing so. As we understand, HKSCC, as the nominee holder of the SSE Securities in Northbound Trading Link, may exercise shareholder rights and take legal actions on behalf of overseas investors. In addition, Article 119 of the Civil Procedure Law of the People's Republic of China states that "the claimant in a legal action shall be an individual, legal person or any other organization that has a direct interest in the relevant case". As long as an overseas investor can provide evidential proof of direct interest as a beneficial owner, the investor may take legal actions in its own name in Mainland courts.*

**Clearing and Settlement Risk**

HKSCC and ChinaClear have established the clearing links and each has become a participant of the other to facilitate clearing and settlement of cross-boundary trades. For cross-boundary trades initiated in a market, the clearing house of that market will on one hand clear and settle with its own clearing participants, and on the other hand undertake to fulfil the clearing and settlement obligations of its clearing participants with the counterparty clearing house.

As the national central counterparty of the PRC's securities market, ChinaClear operates a comprehensive network of clearing, settlement and stock holding infrastructure. ChinaClear has established a risk management framework and measures that are approved and supervised by the CSRC. The chances of ChinaClear default are considered to be remote. In the remote event of a ChinaClear default, HKSCC's liabilities in Northbound trades under its market contracts with clearing participants will be limited to assisting clearing participants in pursuing their claims

against ChinaClear. HKSCC should in good faith, seek recovery of the outstanding securities and monies from ChinaClear through available legal channels or through ChinaClear's liquidation. In that event, the relevant Stock Connect Fund may suffer delay in the recovery process or may not fully recover its losses from ChinaClear.

**Suspension Risk**
Each of the SEHK, SSE and SZSE reserves the right to suspend trading if necessary for ensuring an orderly and fair market and that risks are managed prudently. Consent from the relevant regulator would be sought before a suspension is triggered. Where a suspension is effected, the relevant Stock Connect Fund's ability to access the PRC market will be adversely affected.

**Differences in Trading Day**
The Stock Connects only operate on days when both the PRC and Hong Kong markets are open for trading and when banks in both markets are open on the corresponding settlement days. So it is possible that there are occasions when it is a normal trading day for the PRC market but the Stock Connect Funds cannot carry out any China A-Shares trading via the Stock Connects. The Stock Connect Funds may be subject to a risk of price fluctuations in China A-Shares during the time when any of the Stock Connects is not trading as a result.

**Restrictions on Selling Imposed by Front-end Monitoring**
PRC regulations require that before an investor sells any share, there should be sufficient shares in the account; otherwise the SSE or SZSE will reject the sell order concerned. SEHK will carry out pre-trade checking on China A-Share sell orders of its participants (i.e. the stock brokers) to ensure there is no over-selling.

If a Stock Connect Fund intends to sell certain China A-Shares it holds, it must transfer those China A-Shares to the respective accounts of its broker(s) before the market opens on the day of selling ("trading day"). If it fails to meet this deadline, it will not be able to sell those shares on the trading day. Because of this requirement, a Stock Connect Fund may not be able to dispose of its holdings of China A-Shares in a timely manner.

Alternatively, if a Stock Connect Fund maintains its SSE Securities and/or SZSE Securities with a custodian which is a custodian participant or general clearing participant participating in the CCASS, the Stock Connect Fund may request such custodian to open a special segregated account ("SPSA") in CCASS to maintain its holdings in SSE Securities and/or SZSE Securities (as the case may be)under the enhanced pre-trade checking model. Each SPSA will be assigned a unique "Investor ID" by CCASS for the purpose of facilitating the Stock Connects system to verify the holdings of an investor such as the Stock Connect Fund. Provided that there is sufficient holding in the SPSA when a broker inputs the Stock Connect Fund's sell order, the relevant Stock Connect Fund will only need to transfer SSE Securities and/or SZSE Securities from its SPSA to its broker's account after execution and not before placing the sell order and the relevant Stock Connect Fund will not be subject to the risk of being unable to dispose of its holdings of SSE Securities and/or SZSE Securities in a timely manner due to failure to transfer SSE Securities and/or SZSE Securities to its brokers in a timely manner.

To the extent a Stock Connect Fund is unable to utilize the SPSA model, it would have to deliver SSE Securities and/or SZSE Securities to its brokers before the market opens on the trading day. Accordingly, if there are insufficient SSE Securities and/or SZSE Securities in the Stock Connect Fund's account before the market opens on the trading day, the sell order will be rejected, which may adversely impact its performance.

**Settlement Mode under the SPSA model**
Under the normal Delivery Versus Payment (DVP) settlement mode, stock and cash settlement will take place on T+0 between clearing participants (i.e. brokers and custodian or a custodian participant) with a maximum window of four hours between stocks and cash movement. This applies to settlement in CNH only and on the condition that the brokers support same-day Chinese renminbi cash finality. Under the Real time Delivery Versus Payment (RDVP) settlement mode introduced in November, 2017, stock and cash movement will take place real time but the use of RDVP is not mandatory. The clearing participants must agree to settle the transaction RDVP and indicate RDVP on the settlement instruction in a specific field. If either of the clearing participants are unable to settle the trades RDVP, there is a risk that the trades could either fail or revert to normal DVP based on amendment from both parties. If the trades are to revert to normal DVP, an amended instruction from the Stock Connect Fund must be provided before the published cut-off and matched with the broker's amended instruction before the market cut off; in the absence of such amended instructions, there is a risk the trades could fail and therefore may impact on the ability of the relevant Stock Connect Fund to track closely the performance of its Benchmark Index.

**Operational Risk**
The Stock Connects are premised on the functioning of the operational systems of the relevant market participants. Market participants are permitted to participate in this program subject to meeting certain information technology capability, risk management and other requirements as may be specified by the relevant exchange and/or clearing house.

The securities regimes and legal systems of the two markets differ significantly and market participants may need to address issues arising from the differences on an on-going basis. There is no assurance that the systems of the SEHK and market participants will function properly or will continue to be adapted to changes and developments in both markets. In the event that the relevant systems fail to function properly, trading in both markets through the program could be disrupted. The relevant Stock Connect Fund's ability to access the PRC market (and hence to pursue its investment strategy) may be adversely affected.

**Regulatory Risk**
The Stock Connect is a novel concept. Because the Stock Connect rules are relatively recent, their interpretation and enforcement may involve significant uncertainty. In addition, the current regulations are subject to change which may have potential retrospective effects and there can be no assurance that the Stock Connect will not be abolished. New regulations may be issued from time to time by the regulators / stock exchanges in the PRC and Hong Kong in connection with operations, legal enforcement and cross-border trades under the Stock Connect. Stock Connect Funds may be adversely affected as a result of such changes.

Chinese companies, such as those in the financial services or technology sectors, and potentially other sectors in the future, are also subject to the risk that Chinese authorities can intervene in

their operations and structure, which may negatively affect the value of a Fund's investments.

**Recalling of Eligible Securities**
When a security is recalled from the scope of eligible stocks for trading via the Stock Connect, the stock can only be sold but restricted from being bought. This may affect the investment portfolio or strategies of the relevant Stock Connect Funds, for example, if the Investment Adviser wishes to purchase a stock which is recalled from the scope of eligible stocks.

## Specific risks associated with China Interbank Bond Market

**Please refer to the section entitled "China Interbank Bond Market" in the "Investment Objectives and Policies" section for an overview of the China Interbank Bond Market.**

**The CIBM Funds may gain direct exposure to China onshore bonds in the China Interbank Bond Market via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.**

In addition to risks regarding "Investments in the PRC" and other risks applicable to the CIBM Funds, the following additional risks apply:

**Volatility and Liquidity Risk**
Market volatility and potential lack of liquidity due to low trading volume of certain debt securities in the China Interbank Bond Market may result in prices of certain debt securities traded on such market fluctuating significantly. The relevant CIBM Fund investing in such market is therefore subject to liquidity and volatility risks. The bid and offer spreads of the prices of such securities may be large, and the relevant Fund may therefore incur significant trading and realisation costs and may even suffer losses when selling such investments. The debt securities traded in the China Interbank Bond Market may be difficult or impossible to sell, and this would affect the relevant CIBM Fund's ability to acquire or dispose of such securities at their intrinsic value.

**Risk of Default of Agents**
For investments via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect, the relevant filings, registration with PBOC and account opening have to be carried out via an onshore settlement agent, offshore custody agent, registration agent or other third parties (as the case may be). As such, the relevant Fund is subject to the risks of default or errors on the part of such third parties.

**Regulatory Risks**
Investing in the China Interbank Bond Market via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect is also subject to regulatory risks. The relevant rules and regulations on these regimes are subject to change which may have potential retrospective effect. In the event that the relevant Mainland Chinese authorities suspend account opening or trading on the China Interbank Bond Market, the relevant CIBM Fund's ability to invest in the China Interbank Bond Market will be adversely affected and limited. In such event, the relevant CIBM Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective will be negatively affected and, after exhausting other trading alternatives, the relevant CIBM Fund may suffer substantial losses as a result.

**System Failure Risks for Bond Connect**
Trading through Bond Connect is performed through newly developed trading platforms and operational systems. There is no assurance that such systems will function properly or will continue to be adapted to changes and developments in the market. In the event that the relevant systems fails to function properly, trading through Bond Connect may be disrupted. The relevant CIBM Fund's ability to trade through Bond Connect (and hence to pursue its investment strategy) may therefore be adversely affected. In addition, where the relevant CIBM Fund invests in the China Interbank Bond Market through Bond Connect, it may be subject to risks of delays inherent in the order placing and/or settlement systems.

**Taxation Risks**
On 22 November 2018, the Ministry of Finance and State Administration of Taxation jointly issued Circular 108 providing foreign Institutional Investors temporary exemption from PRC withholding income tax and Value Added Tax with respect to interests from non-government bonds in the domestic bond market for the period from 7 November 2018 to 6 November 2021.

Circular 108 is silent on the PRC tax treatment with respect to non-government bond interest derived prior to 7 November 2018. Any changes in PRC tax law, future clarifications thereof, and/or subsequent retroactive enforcement by the PRC tax authorities of any tax may result in a material loss to the relevant Funds.

The Management Company will keep the provisioning policy for tax liability under review, and may, in its discretion from time to time, make a provision for potential tax liabilities, if in their opinion such provision is warranted, or as further clarified by the PRC authorities in notifications.

For further details on PRC taxes and associated risks, please refer to the risk factor headed "Tax Considerations" under the "Risk Considerations" section.

## Excessive Trading Policy

The Funds do not knowingly allow investments that are associated with excessive trading practices, as such practices may adversely affect the interests of all Shareholders. Excessive trading includes individuals or groups of individuals whose securities transactions seem to follow a timing pattern or are characterised by excessively frequent or large trades.

Investors should, however, be aware that the Funds may be utilised by certain investors for asset allocation purposes or by structured product providers, which may require the periodic re-allocation of assets between Funds. This activity will not normally be classed as excessive trading unless the activity becomes, in the opinion of the Directors, too frequent or appears to follow a timing pattern.

As well as the general power of Directors to refuse subscriptions or conversions at their discretion, powers exist in other sections of this Prospectus to ensure that Shareholder interests are protected against excessive trading. These include:

- fair value pricing – Appendix B paragraph 16.;
- price swinging – Appendix B paragraph 17.3;
- in specie redemptions – Appendix B paragraphs 24.-25.; and

- conversion charges – Appendix B paragraphs 20.-22..

In addition, where excessive trading is suspected, the Funds may:

- combine Shares that are under common ownership or control for the purposes of ascertaining whether an individual or a group of individuals can be deemed to be involved in excessive trading practices. Accordingly, the Directors reserve the right to reject any application for switching and/or subscription of Shares from investors whom they consider to be excessive traders;

- adjust the Net Asset Value per Share to reflect more accurately the fair value of the Funds' investments at the point of valuation. This will only take place if the Directors believe that movements in the market price of underlying securities mean that in their opinion, the interests of all Shareholders will be met by a fair price valuation; and

- levy a redemption charge of up to a maximum of 2% on the redemption proceeds to Shareholders whom the Directors, in their reasonable opinion, suspect of excessive trading. This charge will be made for the benefit of the Funds, and affected Shareholders will be notified in their contract notes if such a fee has been charged.

## Investment Objectives and Policies

**Investors must read the Specific Risk Considerations section above before investing in any of the following Funds. There can be no assurance that the objectives of each Fund will be achieved.**

**General**

Each Fund is managed separately and in accordance with the investment and borrowing restrictions specified in Appendix A.

The specific investment objectives and policies of each Fund will be formulated by the Directors at the time of the creation of the Fund. Each Fund's investments will be in accordance with the permitted investments which are described in more detail in Appendix A.

References to "above average income" mean above the average return on an appropriate total return benchmark.

At the discretion of the Investment Adviser, the Funds will employ investment management techniques, including the use of financial derivative instruments and certain currency strategies not only for the purpose of hedging or risk management but also in order to increase total return. The Funds may use derivatives for investment purposes or efficient portfolio management in accordance with their respective investment objective and policies.

Derivative investments may include futures, options, forward contracts on financial instruments and options on such contracts, mortgage TBAs and swap contracts (including credit default swaps and total return swaps) by private agreement and other fixed interest, equity and credit derivatives. Appendix G specifies, for each Fund, the maximum and expected proportion of the Net Asset Value that can be subject to total return swaps. The expected proportion is not a limit and the actual percentage may vary over time depending on factors including, but not limited to, market conditions.

At the discretion of the Investment Adviser, the Funds will use securities financing transactions to help meet the investment objective of a Fund and/or as part of efficient portfolio management. For further detail please refer to Appendix G.

The Funds may also invest in units in CIS and in other transferable securities. For the purpose of these investment objectives and policies all references to "transferable securities" shall include "money market instruments and both fixed and floating rate instruments" but not, for the avoidance of doubt, vice versa.

Certain investment strategies and or certain Funds may become "capacity constrained". This means that the Directors may determine to restrict the purchase of Shares in a Fund affected by such a constraint when it is in the interests of such Fund and/or its Shareholders to do so, including without limitation (by way of example) when a Fund or the investment strategy of a Fund reaches a size that, in the opinion of the Management Company and/or Investment Adviser, could impact its ability to find suitable investments for the Fund or efficiently manage its existing investments. Refer to the section entitled "Dealing in Fund Shares" for further details.

Unless defined otherwise in the individual investment policies of the Funds, the following definitions, investment rules and restrictions apply to all Funds of the Company:

- Where an individual investment policy of a Fund refers to 70% of its total assets being invested in a specific type or range of investments, the remaining 30% of the total assets may be invested in financial instruments of companies or issuers of any size in any sector of the economy globally, unless the individual investment policy of such Fund contains further restrictions. However, in the case of a Bond Fund, no more than 10% of its total assets will be invested in equities.

**Investment in non-investment grade sovereign debt**

- As set out in their investment policies, some of the Funds may invest in a broad range of securities, including fixed income transferable securities, also known as debt securities, issued by governments and agencies worldwide. These Funds may seek to achieve capital appreciation and/or income from the portfolio of assets which the Funds hold. From time to time, in order to achieve these objectives, these Funds may invest more than 10% of their Net Asset Value in non-investment grade debt securities issued by governments and agencies of any single country.

  Non-investment grade, also known as "high-yield", debt may carry a greater risk of default than higher rated debt securities. In addition, non-investment grade securities tend to be more volatile than higher rated debt securities, so that adverse economic events may have a greater impact on the prices of non-investment grade debt securities than on higher rated debt securities. Further, an issuer's ability to service its debt obligations may be adversely affected by specific issuer developments, for example, an economic recession may adversely affect an issuer's financial condition and the market value of high yield debt securities issued by such entity.

  Where Funds invest more than 10% of their Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by governments or agencies of any single country, they may be more adversely affected by the performance of those securities and will be more susceptible to

any single economic, market, political or regulatory occurrence affecting that particular country or region.

For further information on the risks associated with Funds which may invest in emerging markets, sovereign debt, high yield securities, bonds and any other risks, investors should refer to the "General Risks" and "Specific Risks" sections of this Prospectus.

It is anticipated that the following Funds, as set out in the table below, may invest more than 10% of their Net Asset Value in debt securities issued and/or guaranteed by governments in each of the relevant countries listed below which, at the date of this Prospectus, are rated non-investment grade. Investors should note that whilst this table sets out the expected maximum exposure to these countries, these figures are not indicative of the Funds' current holdings in these countries which may fluctuate.

The Sustainable Emerging Markets Blended Bond Fund, Sustainable Emerging Markets Bond Fund, Sustainable Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund and Sustainable Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund each invest at least 70% of their respective total assets in fixed income transferable securities within the relevant J.P. Morgan LLC ("J.P. Morgan") Index, as more fully described in the investment objective and policy for these Funds. In relation to each of these Funds:

Note that only the relevant excerpt of the relevant Funds' investment objective and policy are set out below, for a full statement of investment objectives and policies please refer to page 44 onwards.

**Emerging Markets Bond Fund**

The objective of the Fund is to gain exposure to debt securities issued by governments, public or local authorities of emerging market countries which, by their nature, are more likely to be rated non-investment grade than developed market countries.

**Applicable to: Argentina, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine, and Venezuela only.**

The Fund may invest more than 10% (but no more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of the above countries, which are, as at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade.

Such investments are based on (i) reference to the weighting that the relevant country's bond market represents of the emerging market bond universe within the Fund's benchmark, the JP Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Index Global Diversified Index (although this Fund is not an index-tracking fund, the Investment Adviser will take into account the constituent weighting of the benchmark when making investment decisions); and/or (ii) the professional judgment of the Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/ positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes.

Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposures may change over time. The above countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to the Shareholders.

**Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund**

The objective of the Fund is to gain exposure to debt securities issued by governments, public or local authorities of emerging market countries which, by their nature, are more likely to be rated non-investment grade than developed market countries.

**Applicable to: Brazil, Hungary, Indonesia, Russia, Republic of South Africa and Turkey only.**

The Fund is expected to invest more than 10% (but no more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of the above countries, which are, as at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade.

Such investments are based on (i) reference to the weighting that the relevant country's bond market represents of the emerging market bond universe within the Fund's benchmark, the JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index (although this Fund is not an index-tracking fund, the Investment Adviser will take into account the constituent weighting of the benchmark when making investment decisions); and/or (ii) the professional judgment of the Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/ foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes.

Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposure may change over time. The above countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to the Shareholders.

**ESG Global Conservative Income Fund**

The objective of the Fund is to gain exposure to debt securities issued by governments, public or local authorities worldwide, including debt securities of which, by their nature, are more likely to be rated non-investment grade than debt securities of developed market countries.

**Applicable to: Brazil, Hungary, Indonesia, Russia, Republic of South Africa and Turkey only.**

The Fund is expected to invest more than 10% (but no more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of the above countries, which are, as at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade.

Such investments are based on the professional judgment of the Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes.

Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposure may change over time.

The above countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to the Shareholders.

**Sustainable Emerging Markets Blended Bond Fund**

The objective of the Fund is to gain exposure to debt securities issued by governments, public or local authorities of emerging market countries which, by their nature, are more likely to be rated non-investment grade than developed market countries.

**Applicable to: Argentina, Brazil, Hungary, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, Republic of South Africa, Turkey and Ukraine only.**

The Fund is expected to invest more than 10% (but no more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of the above countries, which are, as at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade.

Such investments are based on (i) reference to the weighting that the relevant country's bond market represents of the emerging market bond universe within the Fund's benchmark, the J.P. Morgan ESG Blended Emerging Market Bond Index (Sovereign) (although this Fund is not an index-tracking fund, the Investment Adviser will take into account the constituent weighting of the benchmark when making investment decisions); and/or (ii) the professional judgment of the Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/ positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes.

Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposure may change over time.

The above countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to the Shareholders.

**Sustainable Emerging Markets Bond Fund**

The objective of the Fund is to gain exposure to debt securities issued by governments, public or local authorities of emerging market countries which, by their nature, are more likely to be rated non-investment grade than developed market countries.

**Applicable to: Argentina, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine only.**

The Fund may invest more than 10% (but no more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of the above countries, which are, as at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade.

Such investments are based on (i) reference to the weighting that the relevant country's bond market represents of the emerging market bond universe within the Fund's benchmark, the J.P. Morgan ESG Emerging Market Bond Index Global Diversified (although this Fund is not an index-tracking fund, the Investment Adviser will take into account the constituent weighting of the benchmark when making investment decisions); and/or (ii) the professional judgment of the Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/ positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes.

Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposures may change over time. The above countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to the Shareholders.

**Sustainable Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund**

The objective of the Fund is to gain exposure to debt securities issued by companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets, but also permits exposure to debt securities issued by governments, public or local authorities of emerging market countries which, by their nature, are more likely to be rated non-investment grade than developed market countries.

**Applicable to: Argentina, Brazil, Hungary, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, Republic of South Africa, Turkey and Ukraine only.**

The Fund is expected to invest more than 10% (but no more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of the above countries, which are, as at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade.

Such investments are based on (i) reference to the weighting that the relevant country's bond market represents of the emerging market bond universe within the Fund's benchmark, the J.P. Morgan ESG Corporate Emerging Market Bond Index Broad Diversified (although this Fund is not an index-tracking fund, the Investment Adviser will take into account the constituent weighting of the benchmark when making investment decisions); and/or (ii) the professional judgment of the Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/ positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes.

Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposure may change over time.

The above countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to the Shareholders.

**Sustainable Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund**

The objective of the Fund is to gain exposure to debt securities issued by governments, public or local authorities of emerging market countries which, by their nature, are more likely to be rated non-investment grade than developed market countries.

**Applicable to: Brazil, Hungary, Indonesia, Russia, Republic of South Africa and Turkey only.**

The Fund is expected to invest more than 10% (but no more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of the above countries, which are, as at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade.

Such investments are based on (i) reference to the weighting that the relevant country's bond market represents of the emerging market bond universe within the Fund's benchmark, the J.P. Morgan ESG Government Bond Index – Emerging Market Global Diversified (although this Fund is not an index-tracking fund, the Investment Adviser will take into account the constituent weighting of the benchmark when making investment decisions); and/or (ii) the professional judgment of the Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes.

Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposure may change over time.

The above countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to the Shareholders.

**Sustainable Global Bond Income Fund**

The objective of the Fund is to gain exposure to debt securities issued by governments, public or local authorities worldwide, including debt securities of which, by their nature, are more likely to be rated non-investment grade than debt securities of developed market countries.

**Applicable to: Brazil, Hungary, Indonesia, Russia, Republic of South Africa and Turkey only.**

The Fund is expected to invest more than 10% (but no more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of the above countries, which are, as at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade.

Such investments are based on the professional judgment of the Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes.

Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposure may change over time.

The above countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to the Shareholders.

It is not anticipated that any of the Funds, other than those set out in the table above, will invest more than 10% of their Net Asset Value in debt securities issued and/or guaranteed by governments of any single country which are rated non-investment grade at the date of this Prospectus.

In the event that the debt securities issued and/or guaranteed by governments of a country which any of the Funds invest in are downgraded to non-investment grade following the date of this Prospectus, the relevant Fund may, subject to its investment objective and policy, invest more than 10% of its Net Asset Value in those securities and the table set out above will be updated accordingly in the next update to the Prospectus.

- Where an investment policy, other than that of the Reserve Funds, requires a particular percentage to be invested in a specific type or range of investments, such requirement will not apply under extraordinary market conditions and is subject to liquidity and/or market risk hedging considerations arising from the issuance, switching or redemption of Shares. In particular, in aiming to achieve a Fund's investment objective, investment may be made into other transferable securities than those in which the Fund is normally invested in order to mitigate the Fund's exposure to market risk.

- Funds may hold cash and near-cash instruments on an incidental basis unless otherwise stated in the investment objective of the Fund.

- Funds may use derivative instruments (including those on foreign exchange) as provided for in Appendix A. The Reserve Funds may only use derivatives for hedging purposes and with determined underlyings as more specifically described in the relevant investment policies.

- Where a Fund invests in derivatives, cover for such derivative positions are held in cash or other liquid assets.

- Unless specifically stated to the contrary, the currency exposure of the Equity Funds will normally be left unhedged. Elsewhere if a Fund's investment objective states that "currency exposure is flexibly managed", this means that the Investment Adviser may be expected to regularly employ currency management and hedging techniques in the Fund. Techniques used may include hedging the currency exposure on a Fund's portfolio or/and using more active currency management techniques such as currency overlays, but does not mean that a Fund's portfolio will always be hedged in whole or in part.

- Where the term "Asia Pacific" is used, it refers to the region comprising the countries in the Asian continent and surrounding Pacific islands including Australia and New Zealand.

- Where the term "Asian Tiger countries" is used, it refers to any of the following countries, regions or territories: South Korea, the PRC, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Indonesia, Macau, India and Pakistan.

- Where the term "Europe" is used, it refers to all European countries including the UK, Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union countries.

- The "weighted average maturity", or WAM, of a fund, is a measure of the average length of time to legal maturity (the date at which fixed income securities become due for repayment) or, if shorter, to the next interest rate reset to a money market rate of all the underlying assets of a fund reflecting the relative holdings in each asset. In practice, this measure is an indication of current investment strategy and is not an indication of liquidity.

- The "weighted average life", or WAL, of a fund, is a measure of the average length of time to legal maturity of all the underlying assets in the fund reflecting the relative holdings of each asset. In practice, this measure is an indication of current investment strategy and is not an indication of liquidity.

- A reference to the "EMU" means the Economic and Monetary Union of the European Union.

- A reference to the equity securities of companies domiciled in those EU member states participating in EMU may, at the Investment Adviser's discretion, be taken to include the equity securities of companies domiciled in countries which formerly participated in EMU.

- Where the term "Latin America" is used, it refers to Mexico, Central America, South America and the islands of the Caribbean, including Puerto Rico.

- Where the term "Mediterranean region" is used, it refers to countries bordering the Mediterranean Sea.

- Funds other than the Reserve Funds investing globally or in Europe may contain investments in Russia, subject always to the 10% limit referred to in the "Restrictions on Foreign Investment" section above except for investment in securities listed on the MICEX-RTS, which has been recognised as a regulated market.

- Where the term "Renminbi" is used, it refers to investments via the offshore Renminbi market (CNH), except where investments are made via the QFI regime (i.e. the onshore Renminbi market (CNY)).

- Where a Fund invests in initial public offerings or new debt issues, the prices of securities involved in initial public offerings or new debt issues are often subject to greater and more unpredictable price changes than more established securities.

- Funds which include "Equity Income", "Enhanced Equity Yield", "High Income" or "Multi-Asset Income" in their title or investment objective and policy seek either to out-perform in terms of income (from equity dividends, and/or fixed income securities and/or other asset classes as appropriate) their eligible investment universe or to generate a high level of income. The opportunity for capital appreciation within such Funds may be lower than other Funds of the Company – see "Risks to Capital Growth".

- Where the term "real return" is used, it means the nominal return less the level of inflation, which is typically measured by the change in an official measure of the level of prices in the relevant economy.

- The term "investment grade" defines debt securities which are rated, at the time of purchase, BBB- (Standard & Poor's or equivalent rating) or better by at least one recognised rating agency, or, in the opinion of the Management Company, and, where applicable, based on the Internal Credit Quality Assessment Procedure, are of comparable quality.

- The terms "non-investment grade" or "high yield" define debt securities which are unrated or rated, at the time of purchase, BB+ (Standard & Poor's or equivalent rating) or lower by at least one recognised rating agency or, in the opinion of the Management Company, and, where applicable, based on the

Internal Credit Quality Assessment Procedure, are of comparable quality.

- Fixed income transferable securities invested in by the Funds may include ABS and MBS. The Funds which may currently invest in such assets contain reference to this fact in their investment policies. The Reserve Funds may only invest in securitisations and asset-backed commercial paper fulfilling the requirements of the MMF Regulations.

- Where reference is made to "developed" markets or countries these are typically markets or countries which, on the basis of criteria such as economic wealth, development, liquidity and market accessibility are considered as more advanced or mature markets or countries. The markets and countries which may be classified as developed for a Fund are subject to change and may include, though are not limited to, countries and regions such as Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, United States of America and Western Europe.

- Where reference is made to "developing" or "emerging" markets or countries, these are typically markets of poorer or less developed countries which exhibit lower levels of economic and/or capital market development. The markets and countries which may be classified as developing or emerging for a Fund are subject to change and may include, though are not limited to, any country or region outside of Australia, Canada, Japan, New Zealand, United States of America and Western Europe.

- United Nations Convention on Cluster Munitions - The UN Convention on Cluster Munitions became binding international law on 1 August 2010 and prohibits the use, production, acquisition or transfer of cluster munitions. The Investment Advisers on behalf of the Company accordingly arrange for the screening of companies globally for their corporate involvement in anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions and depleted uranium ammunition and armour. Where such corporate involvement has been verified, the Directors' policy is not to permit investment in securities issued by such companies by the Company and its Funds.

- Where the term "transferable securities denominated in Euro" is used it refers to transferable securities which were denominated in Euro at the time of their issue and may also, at the Investment Adviser's discretion, be taken to include transferable securities denominated in the currencies of any countries that have previously formed part of the Eurozone.

**Environmental Social and Governance Integration**

Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investing, is often conflated or used interchangeably with the term "sustainable investing." BlackRock has identified sustainable investing as being the overall framework and ESG as a data toolkit for identifying and informing our solutions. BlackRock has defined ESG Integration as the practice of incorporating material ESG information and consideration of sustainability risks into investment decisions in order to enhance risk-adjusted returns. BlackRock recognises the relevance of material ESG information across all asset classes and styles of portfolio management. The Investment Adviser may incorporate sustainability considerations in its investment processes across all investment platforms. ESG information and sustainability risks are included as a consideration in investment research, portfolio construction, portfolio review, and investment stewardship processes.

The Investment Adviser considers ESG insights and data, including sustainability risks, within the total set of information in its research process and makes a determination as to the materiality of such information in its investment process. ESG insights are not the sole consideration when making investment decisions and the extent to which ESG insights are considered during investment decision making will also be determined by the ESG characteristics or objectives of the Fund. The Investment Adviser's evaluation of ESG data may be subjective and could change over time in light of emerging sustainability risks or changing market conditions. This approach is consistent with the Investment Adviser's regulatory duty to manage the Funds in accordance with their investment objectives and policies and in the best interests of the Funds' Shareholders. For each of the Funds, the firm's Risk and Quantitative Analysis group will review portfolios in partnership with the Investment Adviser to ensure that sustainability risks are considered regularly alongside traditional financial risks, that investment decisions are taken in light of relevant sustainability risks and that decisions exposing portfolios to sustainability risks are deliberate, and the risks diversified and scaled according to the investment objectives of the Funds.

BlackRock's approach to ESG integration is to broaden the total amount of information the Investment Adviser considers with the aim of improving investment analysis and understanding the likely impact of sustainability risks on the Funds' investments. The Investment Adviser assesses a variety of economic and financial indicators, which may include ESG data and insights, to make investment decisions appropriate for the Funds' objectives. This can include relevant third-party insights or data, internal research or engagement commentary and input from BlackRock Investment Stewardship.

Sustainability risks are identified at various steps of the investment process, where relevant, from research, allocation, selection, portfolio construction decisions, or management engagement, and are considered relative to the Funds' risk and return objectives. Assessment of these risks is done relative to their materiality (i.e. likeliness of impacting returns of the investment) and in tandem with other risk assessments (e.g. liquidity, valuation, etc.).

Unless otherwise stated in Fund documentation and included within a Fund's investment objective and investment policy, ESG integration does not change a Fund's investment objective or constrain the Investment Adviser's investable universe, and there is no indication that an ESG or impact focused investment strategy or any exclusionary screens will be adopted by a Fund. Impact investments are investments made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and/or environmental impact alongside a financial return. Similarly, ESG integration does not determine the extent to which a Fund may be impacted by sustainability risks. Please refer to "Sustainability Risks" in the risk factors section of this Prospectus.

BlackRock discloses further information about ESG risk integration practices at the team or platform level and for each unique investment strategy through a series of integration statements that are publicly available on product pages where permitted by law/ regulation or otherwise made available to current and prospective investors and investment advisers.

**Investment Stewardship**
BlackRock undertakes investment stewardship engagements and proxy voting with the goal of protecting and enhancing the long-term value of the Funds' assets for relevant asset classes. In our experience, sustainable financial performance and value creation are enhanced by sound governance practices, including risk management oversight, board accountability, and compliance with regulations. We focus on board composition, effectiveness and accountability as a top priority. In our experience, high standards of corporate governance are the foundations of board leadership and oversight. We engage to better understand how boards assess their effectiveness and performance, as well as their position on director responsibilities and commitments, turnover and succession planning, crisis management and diversity.

BlackRock takes a long-term perspective in its investment stewardship work informed by two key characteristics of our business: the majority of our Shareholders are saving for long-term goals, so we presume they are long-term Shareholders; and BlackRock offers strategies with varying investment horizons, which means BlackRock has long-term relationships with its investee companies.

For further detail regarding BlackRock's approach to sustainable investing and investment stewardship please refer to the website at www.blackrock.com/corporate/sustainability and https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/about-us/investment-stewardship#our-responsibility.

**SFDR**
SFDR categorises fund strategies into three categories based on their sustainable investment credentials, as follows:

An Article 6 fund is defined as a fund which "…*deems sustainability risks not to be relevant…*".

An Article 8 fund is defined as a fund which *"…promotes, among other characteristics, environmental or social characteristics, or a combination of those characteristics, provided that the companies in which the investments are made follow good governance practices....*".

An Article 9 fund is defined as a fund which "…*has sustainable investment as its objective…*".

The following Funds have been categorised under the SFDR as "Article 8" or "Article 9" funds:

Article 8 Funds: Asian Sustainable Equity Fund, Brown To Green Materials Fund, China Fund, China Impact Fund, China Innovation Fund, China Onshore Bond Fund, China Multi-Asset Fund, Climate Global Corporate Bond Fund, Continental European Flexible Fund, Developed Markets Sustainable Equity Fund, Emerging Markets Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027, Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund, ESG Flex Choice Cautious Fund, ESG Flex Choice Growth Fund, ESG Flex Choice Moderate Fund, ESG Global Conservative Income Fund, ESG Global Multi-Asset Income Fund, ESG Multi-Asset Fund, Euro Bond Fund, Euro Corporate Bond Fund, Euro High Yield Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027, Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (1), Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (2), Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2029, Euro Short Duration Bond Fund, Euro-Markets Fund, European Equity Income Fund, European Focus Fund, European Fund, European High Yield Bond Fund, European Special Situations Fund, European Sustainable Equity Fund, European Value Fund, FinTech Fund, Future Consumer Fund, Global Equity Income Fund, Global Government Bond Fund, Global High Yield Bond Fund, Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, Global Long-Horizon Equity Fund, Global Unconstrained Equity Fund, Japan Flexible Equity Fund, Japan Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund, Multi-Theme Equity Fund, Next Generation Health Care Fund, Next Generation Technology Fund, Social Action Equity Fund, Sustainable Asian Bond Fund, Sustainable Emerging Markets Blended Bond Fund, Sustainable Emerging Markets Bond Fund, Sustainable Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund, Sustainable Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund, Sustainable Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund, Sustainable Global Allocation Fund, Sustainable Global Bond Income Fund, Sustainable Global Dynamic Equity Fund, Sustainable Global Infrastructure Fund, Swiss Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund, Systematic China A-Share Opportunities Fund, Systematic China Environmental Tech Fund, Systematic ESG Multi Allocation Credit Fund, Systematic Global Sustainable Income & Growth Fund, United Kingdom Fund, US Dollar High Yield Bond Fund, US Sustainable Equity Fund, Systematic Sustainable Global SmallCap Fund, Sustainable World Bond fund, US Growth Fund, US Flexible Equity Fund, US Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027, World Financials Fund, World Healthscience Fund, and World Technology Fund.

Article 9 Funds: Circular Economy Fund, Climate Action Equity Fund, Climate Action Multi-Asset Fund, Emerging Markets Impact Bond Fund, Future Of Transport Fund, Impact Bond Fund, Nutrition Fund, Sustainable Energy Fund, Sustainable Global Infrastructure Fund, and US Government Mortgage Impact Fund.

For the avoidance of doubt, all Funds that have not been categorised under the SFDR as Article 8 or Article 9 in accordance with the above paragraphs are considered to fall under the Article 6 under the SFDR.

For all Article 8 Funds and Article 9 Funds BlackRock evaluates underlying investments in companies according to the good governance criteria outlined in the SFDR where relevant data is available and as appropriate given the underlying investment type. These criteria relate to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. BlackRock may consider additional factors relating to good governance in its assessment of the sustainability related characteristics of underlying issuers depending on the particular ESG strategy applicable to the Fund.

BlackRock will assess the good governance assessment framework of any delegated managers, including third party managers, where relevant information is available.

BlackRock intends to comply with transparency requirements relating to adverse sustainability principal impacts of the Fund within the timeframe set out in the SFDR.

For the Article 9 Funds, a majority of the assets will be invested in sustainable investments.

In addition to exposure to Sustainable Investments, all holdings within these Article 9 Funds will be assessed as doing no significant harm.

**Taxonomy Regulation**
*Article 6 Funds*

The investments underlying these Funds do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Article 8 Funds and Article 9 Funds*

Article 8 Funds and Article 9 Funds are required to disclose the proportion of investment in environmentally sustainable economic activities under Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation ("Environmentally Sustainable Economic Activities") selected for such Article 8 Funds and Article 9 Funds, including details of the proportions of enabling activities and transitional activities within the meaning of the Taxonomy Regulation.

The Technical Screening Criteria ("TSC") were finalised on 9 December 2021 (i.e. in respect of the first two Taxonomy environmental objectives of climate change mitigation and climate change adaptation) and the remaining four Taxonomy environmental objectives are not yet in force. These detailed criteria will require the availability of multiple, specific data points regarding each investment. As at the date hereof, there is insufficient reliable, timely and verifiable data available for BlackRock to be able to assess investments using the TSC.

In addition, the Regulatory Technical Standards (RTS) under the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) which define the methodology for the calculation of the share of environmentally sustainable investments and the templates for these disclosures are not yet in force. As at the date hereof, BlackRock is not able to provide standardised and comparable disclosures on the Taxonomy alignments of the Funds.

BlackRock considers itself unable to collect reliable data on the environmental objectives set forth in Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation and on how and to what extent the investments underlying such Article 8 Funds and Article 9 Funds relate to Environmentally Sustainable Economic Activities. Accordingly, while these Articles 8 Funds and Article 9 Funds may have investments in the activities referred to above, they do not currently commit to investing more than 0% of their assets in investments aligned with the EU criteria for Environmentally Sustainable Economic Activities.

BlackRock is keeping this situation under active review and where, in its discretion, it has assessed that it has sufficient reliable, timely and verifiable data on the Funds' investments, BlackRock will update the descriptions referred to above, in which case this Prospectus or the relevant supplement will be updated. For further information please refer to https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/prospectus/eu-taxonomy.pdf.

**SFDR Pre-Contractual Disclosures**
The pre-contractual disclosure "annexes" or "PCDs" for the Funds classified as Article 8 or Article 9 Funds pursuant to the SFDR are available under "Appendix H" SFDR-PCDs" of the prospectus.

**Consideration of Principal Adverse Impacts ("PAIs")**
The Investment Adviser has access to a range of data sources, including PAI data, when making decisions on selection of investments. However, whilst BlackRock considers ESG risks for all portfolios and these risks may coincide with environmental or social themes associated with the PAIs, unless stated otherwise in the SFDR PCDs, the Funds do not commit to considering PAIs in driving the selection of their investments.

**Labels**
With respect to the Funds listed below, it is BlackRock's intention to align with the following ESG labels in recognition of their support of promoting responsible investments in addition to complying with the SFDR and the Taxonomy Regulation. For these Funds that have applied and obtained the below ESG labels, alignment with the methodologies and ESG requirements established by such ESG labels may restrict investment selections of the Investment Advisers in addition to the policies disclosed with respect to each Fund identified as having obtained or applied for each ESG label.

***Febelfin Label***
The Belgian Financial Sector Federation ("Febelfin") supports the promotion of socially responsible financial products through its initiative to create a socially responsible investment ("SRI") label. Initially issued in February 2019, the Quality Standard, as revised from time to time (the "Febelfin Guidelines"), has been developed by the Central Labelling Agency (the "CLA"). The CLA is a not-for-profit association incorporated under Belgian law and its board is composed equally of independent directors (academia, civil society) and directors from the financial sector.

To be awarded the label, Funds need to implement at least two mandatory ESG strategies and the harm avoidance principle as further defined by the Febelfin Guidelines. The two mandatory ESG strategies are the integration of all dimensions of sustainability and negative/ exclusionary ESG screening. The harm avoidance principle is achieved by the exclusion from the eligible universe of companies violating the UN Global Compact. In addition to the two ESG strategies above, one or more of the following additional strategies may be implemented: positive/ best in class screening, norm-based screening, sustainability-themed investing or impact/community investing. All assets in the portfolio are assessed according to these ESG principles.

Exclusions required by the label apply at a company level, based on their engagement in a sector as measured by the proportion of the company's revenues derived from certain activities. A socially responsible financial product shall not finance weapons, tobacco production and trading, thermal coal extraction, unconventional oil and gas. Transitional energy sources however, like conventional oil and gas and nuclear energy, can be allowed on a limited basis but subject to corporate engagement or Shareholder action.

The current *Revised Towards Sustainability Quality Standard* comprises the revised Febelfin Guidelines published on 31 May 2021 and Technical Guidance issued on 31 October 2021, which implement more stringent requirements since January 2022. The Revised Quality Standards have aligned the Febelfin Guidelines with EU legislation and upcoming initiatives on sustainability, introduced criteria for ESG assessment of financial institutions and energy and electricity utilities sector and increased transparency requirements. Among the new requirements, Funds applying for the label now need to disclose the calculated average selectivity for the best-in-class approach. Revised thresholds have also been introduced, with phasing out margins decreasing year on year for companies that are not yet fully compliant with required business criteria but are amongst the best of their peer group in transitioning their business model. Additional rules deal with certain assets such as derivatives, fixed income instruments and green bonds. Specifically, sovereign bonds issued by states that have not ratified

or implemented certain international conventions are excluded. For this asset class, exceptions apply to public debt issued by certain issuers and for certain products (such as funds with an emerging market focus) with limitations applying by jurisdictions. Febelfin Guidelines allow exposure to core reserve (non-EURO) currency issuers that do not comply with its criteria only up to a combined limit of 30% (e.g. total exposure to US and Japanese sovereign bonds).

For the Funds that have obtained or applied for this label, the label requirements and investment constraints will inform the investment policies and strategies of such Funds.

An independent third-party verifier is appointed by the CLA to evaluate a Fund's initial compliance with the Febelfin Guidelines and also subsequent annual verification. The Investment Adviser may withdraw from the label or no longer qualify for it if a Fund does not meet compliance with its evolving criteria.

However, wherever consistent with a Fund investment policy, Manager will endeavour to take necessary and timely remedial measures (such as divestment) if investments deviate from the Febelfin Guidelines. Please refer to the label website for the most up to date list of Funds holding the label.

For a more complete and current account of the Febelfin label policies as may further evolve over time, Shareholders should consult the Febelfin label website at www.towardssustainability.be/en/quality-standard.

As at the date of this Prospectus, the following Funds have been awarded the Febelfin label.

Asian Sustainable Equity Fund, China Impact Fund, Circular Economy Fund, Climate Action Equity Fund, Developed Markets Sustainable Equity Fund, Emerging Market Impact Bond Fund, Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund, ESG Global Conservative Income Fund, ESG Global Multi-Asset Income Fund, ESG Multi-Asset Fund, Europe Sustainable Equity Fund, Future Of Transport Fund, Nutrition Fund, Sustainable Energy Fund, Social Action Equity Fund, US Sustainable Equity Fund and Sustainable Global Allocation Fund.

*The French SRI label*

The French SRI label is sponsored by the French Ministry for the Economy and Finance. The Funds that apply for the label are required to demonstrate the soundness of their ESG methodology and the environmental, social, governance or human rights benefit of their investment policies. The label guidelines (the "SRI Guidelines") cover fund governance, transparency and rules on portfolio composition. Funds that are awarded the label commit to enhanced transparency on their portfolio composition and management policy with distributors and investors. The French SRI label imposes certain requirements and investment constraints on funds. 90% of the issuers selected for a fund's portfolio need to have been assessed for their ESG characteristics by use of specified indicators outlined in the SRI Guidelines. To evidence the ESG significance of the portfolio selection, the Investment Advisor must provide information on each of the ESG areas. The Investment Adviser must present measurable improvements of the fund's portfolio in relation to ESG characteristics for all three E, S and G criteria, relative to the initial universe of the fund. Improvement compared to the initial universe can be achieved by removing the worst 20% securities. Alternatively, the Investment Adviser may present an average rating that is significantly higher than the rating of the initial universe, which can be no lower than the initial universe after eliminating the worst 20% securities. Specific ratios apply for certain assets (such as government bonds, etc.).

For the Funds that have obtained or applied for the label, the SRI Guidelines and their investment constraints will inform the investment policies and strategies of such Funds.

Independent auditors verify initially and periodically whether a Fund meets the label requirements. Where a Fund ceases to meet certain criteria, a transition period may be permitted for the fund to change its portfolio composition. The Investment Adviser may withdraw from the label or no longer qualify for it if a Fund does not meet compliance with the evolving criteria. However, wherever consistent with a Fund's investment policy, the Investment Adviser will endeavour to take necessary and timely remedial measures (such as divestment) if investments deviate from the SRI Guidelines.

For a more complete and current account of the SRI Guidelines, as may further evolve over time, Shareholder should consult the SRI label website at www.lelabelisr.fr/label-isr/criteres-attribution/. An English version of the SRI Guidelines is also available.

As at the date of this Prospectus, the following Funds have been awarded the SRI label. Please refer to the label website for an up-to-date list of Funds holding the label.

Asian Sustainable Equity Fund, Circular Economy Fund, Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund, ESG Multi-Asset Fund, Future Of Transport Fund, Nutrition Fund, Sustainable Energy Fund, US Sustainable Equity Fund and Sustainable Global Allocation Fund.

**BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens Policy**

Where the Baseline Screens Policy applies to a Fund, the Investment Adviser will seek to limit and/or exclude direct investment (as applicable) in corporate issuers which, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, have exposure to, or ties with, certain sectors (in some cases subject to specific revenue thresholds) including but not limited to:

(i) the production of controversial weapons;

(ii) the distribution or production of firearms or small arms ammunition intended for retail civilians;

(iii) the extraction of certain types of fossil fuel and/or the generation of power from them;

(iv) the production of tobacco products or certain activities in relation to tobacco-related products; and

(v) Companies involved in severe controversies or who are deemed to have breached accepted global norms, relating to their business practices and conduct.

To undertake its analysis of ESG criteria, the Investment Adviser may use data generated internally by the Investment Adviser and/or its affiliates or provided by one or more third party ESG research providers.

Should existing holdings, compliant at the time of investment subsequently become ineligible, they will be divested within a reasonable period of time.

An ESG Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near- cash instruments, shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

A full list of the limits and/or exclusions being applied by Investment Advisers at any time (including any specific threshold criteria) is available at https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf.

It is the Investment Advisers' intention that the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens policy will evolve over time as improved data and more research on this subject becomes available. The full list may be amended from time to time at the Investment Advisers' discretion and (unless it alters the description in this section) may be implemented without notification to Shareholders.

**Autorité des marchés financiers (AMF)**
The following Funds have been classified as compliant with the rules of the AMF regarding sustainable investing:

Asian Sustainable Equity Fund, Brown To Green Materials Fund, China Impact Fund, China Onshore Bond Fund, Circular Economy Fund, Climate Global Corporate Bond Fund, Developed Markets Sustainable Equity Fund, Emerging Markets Impact Bond Fund, Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund, ESG Multi-Asset Fund, European Sustainable Equity Fund, Future Of Transport Fund, Impact Bond Fund, Nutrition Fund, Social Action Equity Fund, Sustainable Asian Bond Fund, Sustainable Global Dynamic Equity Fund, Sustainable Global Infrastructure Fund, Sustainable Energy Fund, Sustainable Global Allocation Fund, US Government Mortgage Impact Fund and US Sustainable Equity Fund.

**QFI Investments**
Under current PRC law, subject to minor exceptions, investors based in certain jurisdictions outside the PRC may apply to the CSRC for status as a QFI. Once an entity is licensed as a QFI, it may register with the SAFE, and invest directly in eligible PRC securities. BAMNA has been licensed as a QFI and the QFI Access Funds may obtain access to eligible securities within the PRC directly and invest directly in QFI eligible securities investment via the QFI status of BAMNA. There may be additional BlackRock entities licensed as QFI's from time to time which may also enable the QFI Access Funds to invest directly in QFI eligible securities investment.

In respect of the QFI Access Funds which are authorised by the SFC, the Management Company will obtain an opinion from PRC legal counsel ("PRC Legal Opinion") before the QFI Access Funds invest through the QFI regime. The Management Company will ensure that the PRC Legal Opinion will, in respect of each of the QFI Access Funds, contain the following as a matter of PRC laws:

(a) securities account(s) opened with the relevant depositories and maintained by the QFI Custodian and the Renminbi special deposit account(s) with the QFI Custodian (respectively, the "QFI securities account(s)" and the "Renminbi cash account(s)") have been opened in the joint names of the QFI and the relevant QFI Access Fund for the sole benefit and use of the QFI Access Fund in accordance all applicable laws and regulations of the PRC and with approval from all competent authorities in the PRC;

(b) the assets held/credited in the QFI securities account(s) of the relevant QFI Access Fund (i) belong solely to the QFI Access Fund, and (ii) are segregated and independent from the proprietary assets of the QFI (as the QFI Licence Holder), the Depositary or the QFI Custodian and any PRC Broker(s), and from the assets of other clients of the QFI (as QFI Licence Holder), the Depositary, the QFI Custodian and any PRC Broker(s);

(c) the assets held/credited in the Renminbi cash account(s) (i) become an unsecured debt owing from the QFI Custodian to the relevant QFI Access Fund, and (ii) are segregated and independent from the proprietary assets of the QFI (as QFI Licence Holder) and any PRC Broker(s), and from the assets of other clients of the QFI (as QFI Licence Holder) and any PRC Broker(s);

(d) the Company, for and on behalf of the relevant QFI Access Fund, is the only entity which has a valid claim of ownership over the assets in the QFI securities account(s) and the debt in the amount deposited in the Renminbi cash account(s) of the QFI Access Fund;

(e) if the QFI or any PRC Broker(s) is liquidated, the assets contained in the QFI securities account(s) and Renminbi cash account(s) of the relevant QFI Access Fund will not form part of the liquidation assets of the QFI or such PRC Broker(s) in liquidation in the PRC; and

(f) if the QFI Custodian is liquidated, (i) the assets contained in the QFI securities account(s) of the relevant QFI Access Fund will not form part of the liquidation assets of the QFI Custodian in liquidation in the PRC, and (ii) the assets contained in the Renminbi cash account(s) of the relevant QFI Access Fund will form part of the liquidation assets of the QFI Custodian in liquidation in the PRC and the QFI Access Fund will become an unsecured creditor for the amount deposited in the Renminbi cash account(s).

**QFI Custodian**
The Depositary has appointed the QFI Custodian to act as its sub-custodian for the purpose of safekeeping the investments of its customers in certain agreed markets, including the PRC (the "Global Custody Network") through a sub-custody agreement.

According to the current QFI regulations, a QFI is allowed to appoint multiple QFI Custodians.

Notwithstanding that the Depositary has, pursuant to its obligations as a UCITS custodian, established the Global Custody Network for the purpose of safe-keeping the assets of its clients, including the Company, held in the PRC (as described above), QFI rules separately require that every QFI must appoint local QFI custodian(s) for the purposes of safe-keeping the investments and holding the cash in connection with the QFI regime and for the purpose of coordinating relevant foreign exchange requirements. Therefore, in order to satisfy the requirements of the QFI rules, the relevant QFI will enter into a separate agreement (the "QFI

Custodian Agreement") with the QFI Custodian appointing it to act as the local custodian of the relevant QFI Access Fund's assets acquired through the QFI regime.

In accordance with the UCITS requirements, the Depositary has additionally confirmed that it shall provide for the safekeeping of the Fund's assets in PRC through its Global Custody Network, and that such safekeeping is in accordance with the conditions set down by the CSSF which provides that there must be legal separation of non-cash assets held under custody and that the Custodian through its delegates must maintain appropriate internal control systems to ensure that records clearly identify the nature and amount of assets under custody, the ownership of each asset and where documents of title to each asset are located.

**Stock Connects**

The Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect is a securities trading and clearing links program developed by HKEX, SSE and ChinaClear and the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect is a securities trading and clearing links program developed by HKEX, SZSE and ChinaClear. The aim of Stock Connect is to achieve mutual stock market access between the PRC and Hong Kong.

The Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect comprises a Northbound Shanghai Trading Link and a Southbound Hong Kong Trading Link under Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect. Under the Northbound Shanghai Trading Link, Hong Kong and overseas investors (including the Stock Connect Funds), through their Hong Kong brokers and a securities trading service company established by SEHK, may be able to trade eligible securities listed on the SSE by routing orders to SSE. Under the Southbound Hong Kong Trading Link under Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect, investors in the PRC will be able to trade certain securities listed on the SEHK.

Under the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect, the Stock Connect Funds, through their Hong Kong brokers may trade certain eligible securities listed on the SSE ("SSE Securities"). These include all the constituent stocks from time to time of the SSE 180 Index and SSE 380 Index, and all the SSE-listed China A-Shares that are not included as constituent stocks of the relevant indices but which have corresponding H-Shares listed on SEHK, except the following:

- SSE-listed shares which are not traded in RMB; and
- SSE-listed shares which are included in the "risk alert board".

In addition, Hong Kong and overseas investors are able to trade eligible SSE-listed ETFs that satisfy the relevant criteria at a regular review and are accepted as eligible ETFs for Northbound trading under the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect. Regular reviews will be performed to determine the eligible ETFs for Northbound trading every six months.

It is expected that the list of eligible securities may be changed subject to review and approval by the relevant PRC regulators from time to time.

The trading is subject to rules and regulations issued from time to time. Trading under the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect is subject to a daily quota ("Daily Quota"). Northbound Shanghai Trading Link and Southbound Hong Kong Trading Link under the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect are subject to a separate set of Daily Quota. The Daily Quota limits the maximum net buy value of cross-boundary trades under the Stock Connect each day.

The Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect comprises a Northbound Shenzhen Trading Link and a Southbound Hong Kong Trading Link under Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect. Under the Northbound Shenzhen Trading Link, Hong Kong and overseas investors (including the Stock Connect Funds, if applicable), through their Hong Kong brokers and a securities trading service company established by SEHK, may be able to trade eligible securities listed on the SZSE by routing orders to SZSE. Under the Southbound Hong Kong Trading Link under Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect investors in the PRC will be able to trade certain securities listed on the SEHK.

Under the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect, the Stock Connect Funds through their Hong Kong brokers may trade certain eligible securities listed on the SZSE ("SZSE Securities"). These include any constituent stock of the SZSE Component Index and SZSE Small/Mid Cap Innovation Index which has a market capitalisation of RMB6 billion or above and all SZSE-listed shares of companies which have issued both China A-Shares and H Shares. At the initial stage of the Northbound Shenzhen Trading Link, investors eligible to trade securities that are listed on the ChiNext Board of SZSE under the Northbound Shenzhen Trading Link will be limited to institutional professional investors as defined in the relevant Hong Kong rules and regulations.

In addition, Hong Kong and overseas investors are able to trade eligible SZSE-listed ETFs that satisfy the relevant criteria at a regular review and are accepted as eligible ETFs for Northbound trading under the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect. Regular reviews will be performed to determine the eligible ETFs for Northbound trading every six months.

It is expected that the list of eligible securities may be changed subject to review and approval by the relevant PRC regulators from time to time.

The trading is subject to rules and regulations issued from time to time. Trading under the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect is subject to a Daily Quota. Northbound Shenzhen Trading Link and Southbound Hong Kong Trading Link under the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect is subject to a separate set of Daily Quota. The Daily Quota limits the maximum net buy value of cross-boundary trades under the Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect each day.

HKSCC, a wholly-owned subsidiary of HKEX, and ChinaClear will be responsible for the clearing, settlement and the provision of depository, nominee and other related services of the trades executed by their respective market participants and investors. The SSE Securities and SZSE Securities traded through Stock Connect are issued in scripless form, and investors will not hold any physical shares.

Although HKSCC does not claim proprietary interests in the SSE Securities and SZSE Securities held in its omnibus stock accounts in ChinaClear, ChinaClear as the share registrar for SSE Securities and SZSE Securities will still treat HKSCC as one of the Shareholders when it handles corporate actions in respect of such SSE Securities and SZSE Securities.

In accordance with the UCITS requirements, the Depositary shall provide for the safekeeping of the Fund's assets in the PRC through its Global Custody Network. Such safekeeping is in accordance with the conditions set down by the CSSF which provides that there must be legal separation of non-cash assets held under custody and that the Depositary through its delegates must maintain appropriate internal control systems to ensure that records clearly identify the nature and amount of assets under custody, the ownership of each asset and where documents of title to each asset are located.

Under the Stock Connects, Hong Kong and overseas investors will be subject to the fees and levies imposed by SSE, SZSE, ChinaClear, HKSCC or the relevant Mainland Chinese authority when they trade and settle SSE Securities and SZSE Securities. Further information about the trading fees and levies is available online at the website: https://www.hkex.com.hk/mutual-market/stock-connect?sc_lang=en.

**China Interbank Bond Market**
The CIBM Funds can invest in the China Interbank Bond Market via the Foreign Access Regime and/or the Bond Connect.

*Investment in China Interbank Bond Market via Foreign Access Regime*

Pursuant to the "Announcement (2016) No 3" issued by the PBOC on 24 February 2016, foreign Institutional Investors can invest in China Interbank Bond Market ("**Foreign Access Regime**") subject to other rules and regulations as promulgated by the Mainland Chinese authorities.

Under the prevailing regulations in Mainland China, foreign Institutional Investors who wish to invest directly in China Interbank Bond Market may do so via an onshore settlement agent, who will be responsible for making the relevant filings and account opening with the relevant authorities. There is no quota limitation.

*Investment in China Interbank Bond Market via Northbound Trading Link under Bond Connect*

Bond Connect is an initiative launched in July 2017 for mutual bond market access between Hong Kong and Mainland China established by China Foreign Exchange Trade System & National Interbank Funding Centre ("CFETS"), China Central Depository & Clearing Co., Ltd, Shanghai Clearing House, and HKEX and Central Moneymarkets Unit.

Under the prevailing regulations in Mainland China, eligible foreign investors will be allowed to invest in the bonds circulated in the China Interbank Bond Market through the northbound trading of Bond Connect ("Northbound Trading Link"). There will be no investment quota for Northbound Trading Link.

Under the Northbound Trading Link, eligible foreign investors are required to appoint the CFETS or other institutions recognised by the PBOC as registration agents to apply for registration with the PBOC.

The Northbound Trading Link refers to the trading platform that is located outside of Mainland China and is connected to CFETS for eligible foreign investor to submit their trade requests for bonds circulated in the China Interbank Bond Market through Bond Connect. HKEX and CFETS will work together with offshore electronic bond trading platforms to provide electronic trading services and platforms to allow direct trading between eligible foreign investors and approved onshore dealer(s) in Mainland China through CFETS.

Eligible foreign investors may submit trade requests for bonds circulated in the China Interbank Bond Market through the Northbound Trading Link provided by offshore electronic bond trading platforms (such as Tradeweb and Bloomberg), which will in turn transmit their requests for quotation to CFETS. CFETS will send the requests for quotation to a number of approved onshore dealer(s) (including market makers and others engaged in the market making business) in Mainland China. The approved onshore dealer(s) will respond to the requests for quotation via CFETS and CFETS will send their responses to those eligible foreign investors through the same offshore electronic bond trading platforms. Once the eligible foreign investor accepts the quotation, the trade is concluded on CFETS.

On the other hand, the settlement and custody of bond securities traded in the China Interbank Bond Market under Bond Connect will be done through the settlement and custody link between the Central Money-markets Unit, as an offshore custody agent, and the China Central Depository & Clearing Co., Ltd and Shanghai Clearing House, as onshore custodian and clearing institutions in Mainland China. Under the settlement link, China Central Depository & Clearing Co., Ltd or Shanghai Clearing House will effect gross settlement of confirmed trades onshore and the Central Moneymarkets Unit will process bond settlement instructions from Central Moneymarkets Unit members on behalf of eligible foreign investors in accordance with its relevant rules.

Since the introduction in August 2018 of Delivery Versus Payment (DVP) settlement in respect of Bond Connect, the movement of cash and securities is carried out simultaneously on a real time basis. Pursuant to the prevailing regulations in Mainland China, the Central Moneymarkets Unit, being the offshore custody agent recognised by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority open omnibus nominee accounts with the onshore custody agent recognised by the PBOC (i.e., the China Securities Depository & Clearing Co., Ltd and Shanghai Clearing House). All bonds traded by eligible foreign investors will be registered in the name of Central Moneymarkets Unit, which will hold such bonds as a nominee owner.

**Important Note: please note that the liquidity of the China Interbank Bond Market is particularly unpredictable. Investors should read the "Liquidity Risk" and "Specific risks associated with China Interbank Bond Market" sections of the "Risk Considerations" section of this Prospectus prior to investing in the CIBM Funds.**

**German Tax Rules – Equity Funds**
It is the intention of the Management Company to seek to maintain the status as "equity funds" or "mixed funds" (as applicable) pursuant to Sec. 2 para. 6 and 7 of the German Investment Tax Act as applicable from 1 January 2018 for the Funds listed below. Accordingly, as of the date of this Prospectus and notwithstanding any other provision in this Prospectus (including Appendix A):

(a) each of the following Funds ("equity funds") invests more than 50% of its Gross Assets on a continuous basis directly into Equities as defined below in accordance with Sec. 2 para. 8 of the German Investment Tax Act as applicable from 1 January 2018:

Asian Dragon Fund, Asian Growth Leaders Fund, Asian Sustainable Equity Fund, Brown To Green Materials Fund, China Impact Fund, China Fund, Circular Economy Fund, China Innovation Fund, Climate Action Equity Fund, Continental European Flexible Fund, Developed Markets Sustainable Equity Fund, Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund, Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund, Euro-Markets Fund, European Equity Income Fund, European Focus Fund, European Fund, European Special Situations Fund, European Sustainable Equity Fund, European Value Fund, FinTech Fund, Future Consumer Fund, Future Of Transport Fund, Global Equity Income Fund, Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, Global Long-Horizon Equity Fund, Global Unconstrained Equity Fund, Japan Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund, Japan Flexible Equity Fund, Natural Resources Fund, Next Generation Health Care Fund, Next Generation Technology Fund, Nutrition Fund, Social Action Equity Fund, Sustainable Energy Fund, Sustainable Global Dynamic Equity Fund, Sustainable Global Infrastructure Fund, Swiss Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund, Systematic China A-Share Opportunities Fund, Systematic China Environmental Tech Fund, Systematic Global Equity High Income Fund, Systematic Sustainable Global SmallCap Fund, United Kingdom Fund, US Basic Value Fund, US Flexible Equity Fund, US Growth Fund, US Mid-Cap Value Fund, US Sustainable Equity Fund, World Energy Fund, World Financials Fund, World Gold Fund, World Healthscience Fund, World Mining Fund and World Technology Fund.

(b) Each of the following Funds ("mixed funds") invests at least 25% of its Gross Assets on a continuous basis directly into Equities as defined below in accordance with Sec. 2 para . 8 of the German Investment Tax Act as applicable from 1 January 2018:

Emerging Markets Fund, Multi-Theme Equity Fund, ESG Flex Choice Growth Fund, ESG Flex Choice Moderate Fund and Sustainable Global Allocation Fund.

The "Gross Assets" of the Funds are defined as the value of the assets of the respective Fund without considering liabilities of such Fund (Sec. 2 para.9a sentence 1 of the German Investment Tax Act as applicable from 1 January 2018).

Corporate actions, subscriptions/redemptions, index rebalancings and market movements may temporarily cause a Fund not to meet the Equities investment levels set out above. In such a case, the Fund will take possible and reasonable measures to re-establish the indicated investment levels without undue delay after getting knowledge of the shortfall. The Funds may also enter into securities lending for the purpose of efficient portfolio management. The Equities investment levels set out above are exclusive of Equities that are lent out.

For the purpose of the above percentage numbers, "Equities" means in accordance with Sec. 2 para. 8 of the German Investment Tax Act as applicable from 1 January 2018:

1. Shares of a corporation which are admitted to official trading on a stock exchange or listed on an organised market (which is a market recognised and open to the public and which operates in a due and proper manner),

2. Shares of a corporation, which is not a real estate company and which:

   a. is resident in a Member State or a member state of the EEA and is subject to income taxation for corporations in that state and is not tax exempt; or

   b. is resident in any other state and is subject to an income taxation for corporations in that state at a rate of at least 15% and is not exempt from such taxation,

3. Fund units of an equity fund (being a fund that invests more than 50% of its Gross Assets on a continuous basis directly in Equities) with 51% of the equity fund units' value – or, if the investment conditions of the equity fund provide for a higher minimum Equities investment, with the respective higher percentage of the equity fund units' value – being taken into account as Equities, or

4. Fund units of a mixed fund (being a fund that invests at least 25% of its Gross Assets on a continuous basis directly in Equities) with 25% of the mixed fund units' value – or, if the investment conditions of the mixed fund provide for a higher minimum Equities investment, with the respective higher percentage of the equity fund units' value – being taken into account as Equities.

For purposes of calculating the investment levels set out above, the Funds may also consider the actual Equities quotas of the target funds published on each valuation day, provided that a valuation takes place at least once per week.

For the purpose of the above percentage numbers, the following in accordance with Sec. 2 para. 8 of the German Investment Tax Act as applicable from 1 January 2018 do not qualify as "Equities":

1. Shares in partnerships, even if the partnerships are holding themselves shares in corporations,

2. Shares in corporations, which pursuant to Sec. 2 para. 9 sentence 6 of the German Investment Tax Act qualify as real estate,

3. Shares in corporations which are exempt from income taxation, to the extent these corporations are distributing their profits, unless the distributions are subject to a taxation of at least 15% and the investment fund is not exempt from this taxation, and

4. Shares in corporations,

   a. whose income is directly or indirectly to more than 10% derived from shares in corporations, which do not fulfil the requirements of no. 2 a. or b. above, or

   b. which are holding directly or indirectly shares in corporations that do not fulfil the requirements of no. 2. a. or b. above, if the value of these participations amounts to more than 10% of the market value of the corporations.

The above reflects the Management Company's understanding of the relevant German tax legislation at the date of this Prospectus.

The legislation is subject to change and so adjustments to these figures may be made without prior notice.

Investors should refer to their tax advisors in relation to the implications of the Funds obtaining the status as "equity funds" or "mixed funds" (as applicable) pursuant to Sec. 2 para. 6 and 7 of the German Investment Tax Act as applicable from 1 January 2018.

**Japanese Tax Rules - Nippon Individual Savings Account (NISA) regulation**
It is the intention of the Management Company that the Funds listed below comply with the requirements on the use of derivatives (as described below), in order to remain eligible for investments from Nippon Individual Savings Account ("NISA") compliant investors (pursuant to the applicable NISA regulations effective as of 1st January 2024. Accordingly, as of the date of this Prospectus and notwithstanding any other provision in this Prospectus, the Funds below shall solely use derivatives for the following purposes:

(a) for investment purposes provided the derivatives are covered by cash and/or near-cash instruments; or

(b) for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging such as risks arising from FX rate fluctuations, interest rate fluctuations.

The following Funds will apply the above requirements on derivative use:

- Circular Economy Fund

The above reflects the Management Company's understanding of the NISA regulation at the date of this Prospectus. The regulation is subject to change and so adjustments to these requirements may be made without prior notice.

**Risk Management**
The Management Company is required by regulation to employ a risk management process in respect of the Funds, which enables it to monitor accurately and manage the global exposure from financial derivative instruments ("global exposure") which each Fund gains as a result of its strategy.

The Management Company uses one of two methodologies, the "Commitment Approach" or the "Value at Risk Approach" ("VaR"), in order to measure the global exposure of each of the Funds and manage the potential loss to them due to market risk. The methodology used in respect of each Fund is detailed below.

**VaR Approach**
The VaR methodology measures the potential loss to a Fund at a particular confidence (probability) level over a specific time period and under normal market conditions. The Management Company uses the 99% confidence interval and one month measurement period for the purposes of carrying out this calculation.

There are two types of VaR measure which can be used to monitor and manage the global exposure of a fund: "Relative VaR" and "Absolute VaR". Relative VaR is where the VaR of a Fund is divided by the VaR of an appropriate benchmark or reference portfolio, allowing the global exposure of a Fund to be compared to, and limited by reference to, the global exposure of the appropriate benchmark or reference portfolio. The regulations specify that the VaR of the Fund must not exceed twice the VaR of its benchmark. Absolute VaR is commonly used as the relevant VaR measure for absolute return style Funds, where a benchmark or reference portfolio is not appropriate for risk measurement purposes. The regulations specify that the VaR measure for such a Fund must not exceed 20% of that Fund's Net Asset Value.

In respect of those Funds that are measured using VaR, the Management Company uses Relative VaR to monitor and manage the global exposure of some of the Funds and Absolute VaR for others. The type of VaR measure used for each Fund is set out below and where this is Relative VaR the appropriate benchmark or reference portfolio used in the calculation is also disclosed.

**Commitment Approach**
The Commitment Approach is a methodology that aggregates the underlying market or notional values of financial derivative instruments to determine the degree of global exposure of a Fund to financial derivative instruments.

Pursuant to the 2010 Law, the global exposure for a Fund under the Commitment Approach must not exceed 100% of that Fund's Net Asset Value.

**Leverage**
A fund's level of investment exposure (for an equity fund, when combined with its instruments and cash) can in aggregate exceed its net asset value due to the use of financial derivative instruments or borrowing (borrowing is only permitted in limited circumstances and not for investment purposes). Where a fund's investment exposure exceeds its net asset value this is known as leverage. The regulations require that the Prospectus includes information relating to the expected levels of leverage in a fund where VaR is being used to measure global exposure. The expected level of leverage of each of the Funds is set out below and expressed as a percentage of its Net Asset Value. The Funds may have higher levels of leverage in atypical or volatile market conditions for example when there are sudden movements in investment prices due to difficult economic conditions in a sector or region. In such circumstances the relevant Investment Adviser may increase its use of derivatives in a Fund in order to reduce the market risk which that Fund is exposed to, this in turn would have the effect of increasing its levels of leverage. For the purposes of this disclosure, leverage is the investment exposure gained through the use of financial derivative instruments. It is calculated using the sum of the notional values of all of the financial derivative instruments held by the relevant Fund, without netting. The expected level of leverage is not a limit and may vary over time.

**Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 of the European Parliament and of the Council (the "Benchmark Regulation")**
In respect of those Funds that track a benchmark index, or are managed by reference to a benchmark index, the Company works with the applicable benchmark administrators for the benchmark indices of such Funds to confirm that the benchmark administrators are, or intend to get themselves, included in the register maintained by ESMA under the Benchmark Regulation.

The list of benchmark administrators that are included in the Benchmark Regulation Register is available on ESMA's website at www.esma.europa.eu. As at 1 September 2019, the following administrators are included in the Benchmark Regulation Register:

- IHS Markit Benchmark Administration Limited

- ICE Data Indices LLC
- FTSE International Limited
- S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC
- STOXX Ltd
- SIX Financial Information Nordic AB

The MSCI Limited is currently in transition and will have to be authorised in the EU in accordance with the Benchmark Regulation from 31 December 2025. The Management Company will monitor the Benchmark Regulation Register and, if there are any changes, this information will be updated in the Prospectus at the next opportunity. The Company has in place and maintains robust written plans setting out the actions that it would take in the event that a benchmark is materially changed or ceases to be provided, such plans being available upon request and free of charge at the registered office of the Company.

**Investment Objectives and Policies of the Funds**

The ***Asian Dragon Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Asia, excluding Japan.

The Fund is a QFI Access Fund and a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% in aggregate of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the QFI regime and/or via the Stock Connects. The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI All Country Asia ex Japan Index (the “Index”) when constructing the Fund’s portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund’s investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Asian Growth Leaders Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their activity in Asia, excluding Japan. The Fund places particular emphasis on sectors and companies that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, exhibit growth investment characteristics, such as above-average growth rates in earnings or sales and high or improving returns on capital.

The Fund is a QFI Access Fund and a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 30% in aggregate of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the QFI regime and/or via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI All Country Asia ex Japan Index (the “Index”) when constructing the Fund’s portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund’s investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Asian High Yield Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in high yield fixed income transferable securities, denominated in various currencies, issued by governments and agencies of, and companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in the Asia Pacific region. The Fund may invest in the full spectrum of permitted fixed income transferable securities and fixed income related securities, including non-investment grade. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and QFI Access Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China via the QFI regime and in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to investors. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund’s exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using the iBoxx ChinaBond Asian High Yield (USD Hedged) Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 70% of Net Asset Value.**

**Important Note: please note that the liquidity of Asian high yield bond market is particularly unpredictable. Investors should read the "Liquidity Risk" sections of the "Risk Considerations" section of this Prospectus and the "Suspension and Deferral" section of Appendix B of this Prospectus prior to investing in this Fund.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the iBoxx ChinaBond Asian High Yield (USD Hedged) Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope and credit rating requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Asian Multi-Asset Income Fund*** seeks to provide income and long-term capital growth from its investments. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets, directly and indirectly through permitted investments, in fixed income transferable securities and equity securities of issuers and companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Asia, excluding Japan. The Fund invests in the full spectrum of permitted investments including equities, equity-related securities, fixed income transferable securities (including non-investment grade), units of CIS, cash, deposits and money market instruments. The Fund has a flexible approach to asset allocation with a bias towards income-generating securities (including fixed income transferable securities and dividend-paying equities). Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a QFI Access Fund and a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly in the PRC by investing via the QFI regime and/ or via the Stock Connects. The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time. The Fund may invest up to 20% in aggregate of its total assets in the PRC via the QFI regime, the Stock Connects, the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to investors. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using 50% MSCI Asia ex Japan Index / 25% JP Morgan Asia Credit Index / 25% Markit iBoxx ALBI Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 100% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed and the asset classes and the extent to which the Fund is invested in these may vary without limit depending on market conditions and other factors at the Investment Adviser's discretion. In selecting these, the Investment Adviser may take into consideration a composite benchmark comprising the MSCI Asia ex Japan Index (50%), the JP Morgan Asia Credit Index (25%) and the Markit iBoxx ALBI Index (25%) (the "Index") for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. Whilst the Index is used by the Investment Adviser in constructing the portfolio of the Fund, the Investment Adviser is not bound by it and the Fund's portfolio holdings may therefore deviate significantly from the Index.

The ***Asian Sustainable Equity Fund*** seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled, or whose main business is, in Asia (excluding Japan) in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable investing.

The investment decisions are based on the Investment Adviser's fundamental research focusing on bottom up (i.e. company-specific) analysis, inclusive of financial and non-financial metrics. This approach aims to identify and select equity and equity-related securities that can, through a concentrated portfolio, reflect the Investment Adviser's conviction to deliver the Fund's investment objective. The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments

and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
The Investment Adviser will create a portfolio that seeks to deliver a superior ESG outcome versus the Index as defined below.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the production and retail sales of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; the mining, production and supply activities related to nuclear power, the production of adult entertainment materials, unconventional oil and gas production, and, the production of conventional weapons. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The ESG criteria also consists of a rating of B or higher as defined by MSCI's ESG Intangible Value Assessment Ratings or another equivalent third party ESG data provider.

The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the Index.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score at least 20% lower than its Index.

More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

Companies in the portfolio are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their sustainability characteristics and their ability to manage ESG risks and opportunities. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG data providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits. The Investment Adviser engages with companies to support improvement in their environmental, social and governance ("ESG") credentials.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI AC Asia ex Japan (the "Index") for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. In the opinion of the Investment Adviser, the Index is a fair representation of the Fund's investment universe and should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Asian Tiger Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the fixed income transferable securities of issuers domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Asian Tiger countries. The Fund may invest in the full spectrum of available securities, including non-investment grade. The currency exposure of the Fund is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a QFI Access Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the QFI regime.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/ or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time. The Fund may invest up to 20% in aggregate of its total assets in the PRC via the QFI regime, the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to investors. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets and the Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using JP Morgan Asian Credit Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 150% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so the Investment Adviser will refer to the JP Morgan Asia Credit Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Brown To Green Materials Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally that directly contribute to the transitioning materials theme. The transitioning materials theme covers the need for materials to build lower carbon technologies and efforts to reduce the emissions intensity of the materials sector. Although the intention is to invest only in equity securities of such companies, the Fund may gain limited indirect exposure to other equity securities, fixed income securities, CIS or cash (which may not be consistent with the transition theme) for the purposes of meeting the Fund's objective or for liquidity purposes.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments and the Fund seeks for its total assets to be invested in accordance with the principles of environmental, social and governance (ESG) Policy described below.

More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets. The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will aim to invest in line with the principles of the transition theme as determined by the Investment Adviser (having regard to specialist third party information sources as appropriate). In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation, across all industry sectors, that contribute to the advancement of the transition theme across three categories:

Emission Reducers: Companies supplying materials that have a plan to reduce their carbon emissions intensity over a defined period.

Enablers: Producers of materials that enable the world to transition to a lower carbon global economy (e.g. lithium) and companies providing solutions that enable materials companies to reduce their emissions intensity. Materials that enable the transition may be assessed based on end market use at a company level (i.e. percentage of the materials produced by that company used to build lower carbon technologies) where such data is available or it may be based on end market use at a global industry level that is not specific to individual producers (e.g. the percentage of total global lithium supply that is used to build lower carbon technologies).

Green Leaders: Companies producing materials with below average carbon emissions intensity for their particular industry (e.g. within the steel industry).

References to materials above include materials that enable transition to a lower carbon economy and also materials for which lower carbon technologies are not a key demand driver.

The assessment of a company's benefit from and/or contribution to the advancement of transition theme in each of the above categories may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to the transition theme regardless of the amount of revenue received. The companies are rated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the transition theme and on their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials.

The Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with one or more of the ten United Nations Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying securities of derivatives used by the Fund.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. In the opinion of the Investment Adviser, the MSCI All Countries World Index (MSCI ACWI) is a fair representation of the Fund's investment universe and should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. The MSCI ACWI measures the performance of large and mid-capitalisation stocks across developed and emerging markets countries. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.msci.com/acwi.

The ***China Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in fixed income transferable securities denominated in Renminbi or other non-Chinese domestic currencies issued by entities exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in the PRC through recognised mechanisms including but not limited to the Chinese Interbank

Bond Market, the exchange bond market, quota system and/or through onshore or offshore issuances and/or any future developed channels. The Fund is a QFI Access Fund and a CIBM Fund and may invest without limit in the PRC via the QFI regime and in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

The Fund may invest in the full spectrum of permitted fixed income transferable securities and fixed income related securities, including non-investment grade (limited to 50% of total assets). Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to investors. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Absolute VaR.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 120% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. The 1 Year China Household Savings Deposit Rate should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***China Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, the People's Republic of China.

The Fund is a QFI Access Fund and a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% in aggregate of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the QFI regime and/or via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed and the investment adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI China 10/40 Index when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the

Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***China Impact Fund*** seeks to achieve long-term capital growth. The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in a portfolio of equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their activity in, or from, the People's Republic of China (PRC) and whose goods and services seek to address China's social and environmental problems.

The Fund invests in "impact" investments which are those made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and/or environmental impact alongside a financial return. Investment decisions will be based on company-specific research (such as relative valuation, strength of earnings, quality of balance sheet and cashflow trends) to identify and select the equity and equity-related securities described above that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, have the potential to produce attractive long-term returns across "Impact Themes" which are mapped to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("UN SDGs"). The UN SDGs are a series of goals published by the United Nations who recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with improvements in health, education, and economic growth, reduction in inequalities, all whilst tackling climate change and working to preserve the planet's oceans and forests, as set out in more detail on the UN website: https://sdgs.un.org/goals. The Fund will aim to diversify its investments across companies that have an impact on people and the planet (the "Impact Categories") across themes including, but not limited to, affordable housing, education and skilling, financial and digital inclusion, public health, safety and security, efficiency, electrification and digitalisation, green energy, pollution remediation and prevention, sustainable food and water.

The Fund may hold concentrated positions within one or more of the Impact Themes and is expected to invest in companies across all market capitalisations. Market capitalisation is the share price of the company multiplied by the number of shares issued. The Fund will generally be well diversified by industry and issuer, and it may hold positions that are concentrated in any one of these factors from time to time.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and a QFI Access Fund and may invest without limit in the PRC via the Stock Connects and/or via the QFI regime. The Fund will have a flexible allocation between onshore and offshore Chinese equity markets. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 10% of total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Important Note: please note that the liquidity of Chinese equity markets is particularly unpredictable. Investors should read the "Liquidity Risk" and "Investments in the PRC" sections of the "Risk Considerations" section of this Prospectus and the "Suspension and Deferral" section of Appendix B of this Prospectus prior to investing in this Fund.**

**ESG Policy**
More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments.The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a lower carbon emissions intensity score 20% lower than its benchmark.

The Investment Adviser will not invest directly in securities of issuers involved in: the production and retail sales of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; the production of adult entertainment materials; the production of conventional weapons; companies with any reserves in oil, oil shale, oil sands, coal, thermal coal or tar sands; and companies with thermal coal-based power generation.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI China All-Share 10/40 Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***China Innovation Fund*** seeks to achieve long-term capital growth and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in a portfolio of equity securities or equity-related securities (including derivatives) of, or giving exposure to companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their activity in, or from, Greater China and whose goods and services are contributing to Greater China's competitive advantage through technology innovation, with a focus on companies that generate revenues from innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence, computing, automation, robotics, technological analytics, e-commerce, payment systems, electric and autonomous vehicles, communications technology and generative design. Greater China refers to the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of China (Taiwan).

In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 100% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. The MSCI China All Shares Index (the Index) should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***China Multi-Asset Fund*** follows an asset allocation policy that seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance (ESG) investing.

In order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund will seek to invest at least 70% of its total assets (excluding cash) in the full spectrum of permitted investments to gain exposure to the People's Republic of China ("PRC") which may include issuers and/or companies exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in the PRC. The Fund's permitted investment may include equities, equity-related securities, fixed income transferable securities and fixed income related transferable securities including non-investment grade securities (limited to 20% of total assets), units or shares in undertakings for collective investment (including exchange traded funds), derivatives and, when determined appropriate, cash, deposits and cash-equivalent instruments. The Fund may, at times, take indirect exposure to relevant assets, including commodities, through investments in undertakings for collective investment (including exchange traded funds), and derivatives on commodity indices where applicable.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 10% of total assets.

The Fund has a flexible approach to asset allocation. The Fund is a QFII Access Fund and a CIBM Fund and may invest without limit in the PRC via the QFII regime and in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Where the Fund holds securities directly, the Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund will invest at least 80% of total assets, excluding cash and derivatives, in Collective Investment Schemes qualifying as Article 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation and investment strategies which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome and do not adopt ESG exclusionary screens solely as their ESG policy, or, in the case of government bond exposures, track benchmark indices incorporating ESG requirements. Where determined appropriate, the Fund may invest directly in derivatives, cash and near-cash instruments.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining companies (i.e. those companies which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the ESG related risks and opportunities associated with their business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits. The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. The Fund has an unconstrained investment style.

The ***China Onshore Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in fixed income transferable securities denominated in Renminbi issued by entities exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in the PRC (through recognised mechanisms including (but not limited to) the Chinese Interbank Bond Market, the exchange bond market, quota system and/or through onshore or offshore issuances and/or any future developed channels) in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG" focused investing.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund is a QFI Access Fund and a CIBM Fund and may invest without limit in the PRC via the QFI regime and in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

The Fund may invest in the full spectrum of permitted fixed income transferable securities and fixed income related securities, including non-investment grade (limited to 50% of total assets). Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Absolute VaR.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 120% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes. The investment strategy reduces the investable universe of the Fund by at least 20%. For the purposes of measuring this reduction only, the RMB credit universe is represented by the China Bond Credit Bond Index modified to include certificate of deposits and exclude issuers with total outstanding bonds and certificates of deposits of less than RMB 2bn. The Investment Adviser believes this modification fairly represents the asset class' liquid investable universe. For the purposes of measuring this reduction only, the USD Chinese credit universe is represented by the JP Morgan Asia Credit Index – China.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. Investors should please note in relation to the screen which covers the UN Global Compact Principles (which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption) that at the time of the launch of this Fund coverage of the investable universe is limited but is expected to improve over time.

The remaining companies (i.e. those companies which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to

manage the ESG related risks and opportunities associated with their business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits. The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

The Investment Adviser also intends to invest at least 20% of the Fund's total assets in "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by its corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively).

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. The 1 Year China Household Savings Deposit Rate should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Circular Economy Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally that benefit from, or contribute to, the advancement of the "Circular Economy". Although the intention is to invest only in such equity securities, up to 20% of the total assets of the Fund may be invested in other equity securities, fixed income securities, CIS or cash (which may not be consistent with the Circular Economy concept) for the purposes of meeting the Fund's objective or for liquidity purposes.

The Circular Economy concept recognises the importance of a sustainable economic system and represents an alternative economic model to the default "make-use-throw away" approach of consumption, which is believed to be unsustainable given scarce resources and the rising cost of managing waste. The Circular Economy concept promotes the redesign of products and systems to minimise waste and to enable greater recycling and reuse of materials.

The Fund will aim to invest in line with the principles of the Circular Economy as determined by the Investment Adviser (having regard to specialist third party information sources as appropriate). In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation, across all industry sectors, that benefit from the Circular Economy and/or contribute to the advancement of the Circular Economy across three categories:

Adopters: Companies that are adopting 'circularity' in their business operations (e.g. companies involved in sustainable fashion or companies that have made a commitment to use recycled plastics in production processes).

Enablers: Companies that provide new, innovative solutions directly aimed at solving inefficient material use and pollution (e.g. companies involved in recycling of products, companies involved in reducing inputs such as water and energy and companies enabling sustainable transportation).

Beneficiaries: Companies that provide alternatives to materials that cannot be recycled or supply these to the extended value chain (e.g. companies that will see an increase in demand for their products from shifts towards more easily recyclable products and companies that offer natural or plant-based circular alternatives to non-recyclable and non-biodegradable products).

The assessment of a company's benefit from and/or contribution to the advancement of the Circular Economy in each of the above categories may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to the Circular Economy regardless of the amount of revenue received. The companies are rated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the Circular Economy and on their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials.

The Fund adopts a "best in class" approach to sustainable investing. This means that the Fund selects the best issuers (from an ESG perspective) for each relevant sector of activities (without excluding any sector of activities). More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets. The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying securities of derivatives used by the Fund.

The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the MSCI ACWI after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the index.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. In the opinion of the Investment Adviser, the MSCI All Countries World Index (MSCI ACWI) is a fair representation of the Fund's investment universe and should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. The MSCI ACWI measures the performance of large and mid-

capitalisation stocks across developed and emerging markets countries. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.msci.com/acwi.

The ***Climate Action Equity Fund*** seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally that are expected to enable, and/or benefit from, the transition to a lower greenhouse gas emissions economy and to net zero carbon emissions.

The Fund will focus on companies that are driving the reduction of greenhouse gases across all segments of the market and that provide solutions for the mitigation and/or adaptation of climate change, climate change risk or which are in the process of making their business models more resilient to the long-term risks presented by climate change and resource depletion. In normal market conditions the Fund will seek to invest in a relatively concentrated portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation across multiple sub-themes driven by the climate action theme, including (without limitation) the following: clean power, resource efficiency, sustainable nutrition, biodiversity and clean transport. The companies are rated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the future climate theme and their environmental, social and governance (ESG) risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials and their alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("UN SDGs"). The UN SDGs are a series of goals published by the United Nations which recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with improvements in health, education and economic growth, and a reduction in inequalities, all whilst tackling climate change and working to preserve the planet's oceans and forests. For further details see the UN website: https://sdgs.un.org/goals.

The assessment of the level of engagement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund adopts a "best in class" approach to sustainable investing. This means that the Fund selects the best issuers (including from an ESG perspective) for each relevant sector of activities (without excluding any sector of activities). More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets.

The Fund will not invest in companies that are classified in the following sectors (as defined by Global Industry Classification Standard): coal and consumables; oil and gas exploration and production; integrated oil and gas; and tobacco.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the MSCI ACWI after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the index.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying securities of derivatives used by the Fund.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. The MSCI All Countries World Index (MSCI ACWI) should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Climate Action Multi-Asset Fund*** seeks to maximise total return by investing in issuers globally that are expected to enable, and/or benefit from, the transition to a lower greenhouse gas emissions economy and to net zero carbon emissions. The Fund invests in the full spectrum of permitted investments including (but not limited to) equities, equity-related securities, fixed income transferable securities (which may include some high yield fixed income transferable securities), units of CIS, cash, deposits and money market instruments. Currency exposure and asset allocation is flexibly managed. The Fund may invest without limitation in securities denominated in currencies other than the reference currency (Euro).

The Fund will focus on issuers that are driving the reduction of greenhouse gases across all segments of the market and that provide solutions for the mitigation and/or adaptation of climate change, change risk or which are in the process of making their business models more resilient to the long-term risks presented by climate change and resource depletion across multiple sub-themes driven by the climate action theme, including (without limitation) the following: clean power, resource efficiency, sustainable nutrition, biodiversity and clean transport. The issuers are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the future climate theme and their environmental, social and governance (ESG) risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials and their alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("UN SDGs"). The UN SDGs are a series of goals published by the United Nations which recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with improvements in health, education and economic growth, and a reduction in inequalities, all whilst tackling climate change and working to preserve the planet's oceans and forests. For further details see the UN website: https://sdgs.un.org/goals. The assessment of the level of engagement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a lower carbon emissions intensity score than its benchmark and also intends the Fund to incorporate a year on year decarbonisation rate.

The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the Index. The weighted average ESG rating excludes certain asset classes, such as funds, that are not supported by ESG rating providers. In such cases, the Investment Adviser will assess these holdings to ensure they are in line with the Environmental objective of the Fund.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

The Fund's ESG score will be calculated as the total of each issuers ESG score (where applicable), weighted by its market value. The ESG score of the relevant benchmark will be calculated using the ESG scores of the relevant asset class indices weighted to reflect the benchmark allocations. These scores may be quoted for individual asset classes or allocation weighted in marketing material.

Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in issuers located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations.

The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 10% of total assets. The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using MSCI All Country World Index (Hedged to EUR) 65% / Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index (Hedged to EUR) 35% as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 300% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. The Investment Adviser may refer to a composite benchmark (which it believes is a fair representation of the Fund's investment universe) comprising the MSCI All Country World Index 65% / Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index 35% (the Index) for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. Further details are available at the index providers website at www.msci.com and www.bloomberg.com/professional/product/indices. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in asset classes or securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. The Fund's portfolio holdings are expected to deviate materially from the Index. The components of the Index (i.e. MSCI All Country World Index and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index) may be quoted separately in marketing material related to the Fund.

The ***Climate Global Corporate Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise its total return by investing in issuers globally that are expected to enable, and/or benefit from, the transition to a lower greenhouse gas emissions economy and to net zero carbon emissions.

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in investment grade corporate fixed income transferable securities issued by companies worldwide. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments, including, but not limited to, "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond principles) and "Green, Social and Sustainability" (GSS) bonds issued by governments and agencies of, and companies, where the proceeds of such GSS bonds are tied to green and socially responsible projects. The full spectrum of fixed income transferable securities, including non-investment grade, may be utilised. Investments in high yield fixed income transferable securities may represent up to 30% of the Fund's net asset value.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/ or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 20% in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt

obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets and the Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate Bond USD Hedged Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 250% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser intends to achieve a decarbonisation of the Fund's portfolio that aligns with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement through (i) a lower portfolio carbon emission intensity for the Fund relative to the benchmark and (ii) a year-on-year reduction in the carbon emissions intensity of the Fund's portfolio.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

At least 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The Investment Adviser also intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score that is 50% lower than the Index.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate Bond USD Hedged Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities.

The ***Continental European Flexible Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in Europe excluding the UK. The Fund normally invests in securities that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, exhibit either growth or value investment characteristics, placing an emphasis as the market outlook warrants.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with

ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities, In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so the Investment Adviser will refer to the FTSE World Europe ex UK Index when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Developed Markets Sustainable Equity Fund*** seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in, global developed markets in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable investing.

The investment decisions are based on the Investment Adviser's fundamental research focusing on bottom up (i.e. company-specific) analysis, inclusive of financial and non-financial metrics. This approach aims to identify and select equity and equity-related securities that can, through a concentrated portfolio, reflect the Investment Adviser's conviction to deliver the Fund's investment objective.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

Although most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying securities of derivatives used by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in: the production and retail sales of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; the mining, production and supply activities related to nuclear power, the production of adult entertainment materials, unconventional oil and gas production, and, the production of conventional weapons. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The ESG criteria also consists of a rating of B or higher as defined by MSCI's ESG Intangible Value Assessment Ratings or another equivalent third party ESG data provider.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score at least 20% lower than its Index as defined below.

More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

Companies in the portfolio are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their sustainability characteristics and their ability to manage ESG risks and opportunities. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG data providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Investment Adviser engages with companies to support improvement in their environmental, social and governance ("ESG") credentials.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI World Index (the "Index") for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. In the opinion of the Investment Adviser, the Index is a fair representation of the Fund's investment universe and should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. The Index measures the performance of large and mid-capitalisation companies across developed markets globally. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.msci.com.

The ***Dynamic High Income Fund*** follows a flexible asset allocation policy that seeks to provide a high level of income. In order to generate high levels of income the Fund will seek diversified income sources across a variety of asset classes, investing significantly in income producing assets such as fixed income transferable securities, including corporate and government issues which may be fixed and floating and may be investment grade, sub-investment grade or unrated, covered call options and preference shares. The Fund will use a variety of investment strategies and may invest globally in the full spectrum of permitted investments including equities, equity-related securities, fixed income transferable securities, units of CIS, cash, deposits and money market instruments. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects. The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/ or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time. The Fund may invest up to 20% in aggregate of its total assets in the PRC via the Stock Connects, the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 50% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets, its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets and its exposure to structured notes qualifying as transferable securities (which may embed a derivative) is limited to 30% of total assets. Where structured notes embed a derivative, the underlying instruments to such structured notes will be UCITS eligible investments.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have significant exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using 70% MSCI World Index / 30% Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index USD Hedged as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 100% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed and the asset classes and the extent to which the Fund is invested in these may vary without limit depending on market conditions and other factors at the Investment Adviser's discretion. In selecting these, the Investment Adviser may take into consideration a composite benchmark comprising MSCI World Index (70%) and the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index USD Hedged (30%) (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. Whilst the Index is used by the Investment Adviser in constructing the portfolio of the Fund, the Investment Adviser is not bound by its components or weighting when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. The Fund's portfolio holdings are expected to deviate materially from the Index.

The ***Emerging Europe Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging European countries. It may also invest in companies domiciled in and around, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in and around, the Mediterranean region.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI Emerging Markets

Europe 10/40 Index when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Emerging Markets Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the fixed income transferable securities of governments and agencies of, and companies domiciled or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets. The Fund may invest in the full spectrum of available securities, including non-investment grade. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/ or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

The Fund may invest more than 10% (but not more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of Argentina, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, Turkey, Ukraine and Venezuela, countries which are, at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade. Such investments are based on (i) reference to the weighting that the relevant country's bond market represents of the emerging market bond universe within the JP Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Index Global Diversified Index (although this Fund is not an index-tracking fund, the Investment Adviser will take into account the constituent weighting of the benchmark when making investment decisions), and/or (ii) the professional judgment of the Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes. Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposures may change over time. The afore-mentioned countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to Shareholders.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 10% of total assets and the Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using JP Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Index Global Diversified Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 150% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so the Investment Adviser will refer to the JP Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Index Global Diversified Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of total assets in fixed income transferable securities issued by companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/ or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets and the Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using JPMorgan Corporate Emerging Markets Bond Index Broad Diversified as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 100% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the JP Morgan Corporate Emerging Markets Bond Index Broad Diversified (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund*** seeks an above average income from its equity investments without sacrificing long term capital growth. The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets. Investment may also be made in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, developed markets that have significant business operations in emerging markets.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Emerging Markets Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027*** seeks to provide income, whilst also aiming to preserve the original amount of capital invested and investing in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG"-focused investing.

The Fund uses a "buy and maintain" strategy whereby fixed income securities will be held until their fixed maturity dates as part of a low turnover strategy, (subject, among other factors, to ongoing monitoring of credit risk), when their capital will become repayable to the Fund. The Fund is therefore intended for investors who will hold Shares until they are finally redeemed upon the Maturity Date of the Fund, as defined hereunder.

The Fund is intended to have a fixed term of up to 4 years and 2 months comprising three distinct periods namely:

i) the "**Pre Investment Period**": an initial subscription period of up to 2 months from a date to be determined by the Board of Directors upon creation of the Fund until the date on which the Fund is launched (the "**Launch Date**" of the Fund);

ii) the "**Investment Period**": a period of 3 years immediately following the Pre Investment Period including a ramp-up period of 20 Business Days, subject to the Investment Adviser's discretion to complete this within a longer time period depending on its assessment of market conditions (the "**Ramp-up Period**"); and

iii) the "**Post Investment Period**": a period of up to 12 months following the Investment Period, ending on a date determined by the Investment Adviser at its discretion and on which the Fund will be automatically closed (the "**Maturity Date**").

During the Pre Investment Period and Ramp-up Period, the Fund will hold up to 100% of its Net Asset Value in cash, deposits, Money Market Instruments, units of CIS and other cash equivalents.

In order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund will gradually look to build up its portfolio so that following the Ramp-up Period:

- at least 50% of its Net Asset Value is invested in emerging markets corporate fixed income securities issued by companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in, emerging markets;

- up to 50% of the Fund's Net Asset Value can be invested in bonds and money market instruments (i.e. debt securities with short term maturities) that may be issued by governments and government agencies of, and supranationals domiciled in, or the main business of which is in, emerging markets; and

- up to 50% of the Fund's Net Asset Value is invested in emerging markets fixed income securities which, at the time of purchase, are rated non-investment grade.

Should the credit quality of fixed income securities held by the Fund deteriorate causing the Fund to hold greater than 50% of its Net Asset Value in sub-investment grade or unrated, fixed income securities, the Fund may continue to hold the affected fixed income securities for a period of time, which could be three months or more, at the discretion of the Investment Adviser, in order to avoid a distressed sale of such downgraded securities.

Investment in fixed income securities may also include investments in instruments relating to such securities such as credit default swaps, currency swaps, futures and forwards. In addition, when deemed appropriate, the Fund may invest in cash equivalents such as deposits, Money Market Instruments, and units of CIS for the purpose of cash management, and to achieve its investment goals.

During the Investment Period, Fund may invest up to 50% of its Net Asset Value in securities which have average maturities of up to 4 years, measured from the start of the Investment Period, where the Investment Adviser considers it to be appropriate to the investment objective and policy of the Fund. The remainder of the securities invested in by the Fund are intended to have average maturities of up to 3 years, as measured from the start of the Investment Period.

During the Investment Period, all investment income and capital gains generated in the Fund will be reinvested back into the strategy at the discretion of the Investment Adviser and in accordance with the investment policy.

During the Post Investment Period, the Fund will invest progressively in securities (all as disclosed in this Investment

Policy section) which have shorter average maturities than those invested in by the Fund during the Investment Period.

In addition, in anticipation of the automatic closure of the Fund on the Maturity Date, the Fund may hold up to 100% of its Net Asset Value in cash, deposits, Money Market Instruments, units of CIS and other cash equivalents for the purpose of cash management in order to redeem Shareholders on the Maturity Date in accordance with its investment policy, provided that holdings in cash shall not exceed 20% of the Fund's Net Asset Value, except during the last six months prior to the Maturity Date. For avoidance of doubt, Shareholders should note that during the Post Investment Period, the investment limits set out above in relation to the Investment Period shall no longer apply.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets. In addition, the Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund does not qualify as a money market fund within the meaning of the Money Market Funds Regulation.

The Investment Adviser retains discretion to shorten or extend the Pre Investment Period, the Investment Period and the Post Investment Period, including but not limited to circumstances where the exercise of the suspension of the determination of the Net Asset Value, or the issue and redemption of Shares in the Fund, causes the term of the Fund to extend beyond 4 years and 2 months and the Maturity Date to be changed to a later date.

**Subscriptions**
Shareholders may subscribe into the Fund during the Pre Investment Period. At the end of the Pre Investment Period, the Fund will be closed to new subscriptions.

Shareholders will be notified of the closure of the Pre Investment Period and opening of the Investment Period by means of a notice published at the following link
https://www.blackrock.com/lu/individual/products/product-list.

Within 20 Business Days after the end of the Pre Investment Period, Shareholders will be informed in writing of the relevant Maturity Date. The Maturity Date shall be the date on which the Post Investment Period ends, within 12 months following the end of the Investment Period, as determined by the Investment Adviser at its discretion. On the Maturity Date, the Fund will be automatically closed and Shares in the Fund will be redeemed in accordance with the redemption provisions set out in this Prospectus, as if each investor remaining in the Fund on the Maturity Date had submitted an application form prior to the Maturity Date, requesting redemption in full on such Maturity Date.

**Redemptions**
Shareholders will be able redeem their Shares in the Fund during the Pre Investment Period, the Investment Period or the Post Investment Period in compliance with the provisions set out under the section "Redemption of Shares".

A redemption fee of up to 1% will, at the discretion of the Management Company acting in the best interests of Shareholders, be charged on Shares, on the applicable Dealing Day on which redemption is effected at all times but not including the Maturity Date.

The Fund is actively managed and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process.

The ***Emerging Markets Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets. Investment may also be made in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, developed markets that have significant business operations in emerging markets.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Emerging Markets Impact Bond Fund*** seeks to achieve capital growth and income over the long term (at least five consecutive years) by investing at least 80% of its total assets in a relatively concentrated global portfolio of "Green, Social and Sustainability" (GSS) bonds issued by governments and agencies of, and companies domiciled or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets, where the proceeds of such GSS bonds are tied to green and socially responsible projects.

The Fund invests in "impact" investments which are those made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and/or environmental impact alongside a financial return. More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes. The Fund may invest in the full spectrum of available fixed income securities, including non-investment grade. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

For the selection of GSS bonds, the Investment Adviser will analyse the use of proceeds of the issues and the issuer framework for alignment of the bonds with the Green Bond Principles (GBP), Social Bond Principles (SBP), and Sustainability Bond Guidelines (SBG) of the International Capital Markets Association to determine suitability within the investment universe. For the entire portfolio, the Investment Adviser will base investment decisions on issuer specific research (such as sovereign and credit analysis comprising a multi factor framework assessing global, country and issuer specific risk to determine issuers' ability and willingness to pay over the long term) to identify and select the GSS bonds and other fixed income securities that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, have the potential to produce attractive long-term returns whilst also being consistent with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("UN SDGs"). The UN SDGs are a series of goals published by the United Nations which recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with improvements in health, education, and economic growth, and a reduction in inequalities, all whilst tackling climate change and working to preserve the planet's oceans and forests. For further details see the UN website: https://sdgs.un.org/goals).

For the selection of non-GSS bonds, including emerging market corporate bonds and sovereign bonds, the Investment Adviser will only invest in highly rated ESG bonds.

The investment strategy reduces the investment universe of the Fund by at least 20%. For the purposes of measuring this reduction only, a combination of the JP Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Index and JPMorgan Corporate Emerging Markets Bond Index is used to define the investment universe.

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers which, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser: have any exposure to, or ties with, controversial weapons; derive more than five per cent of their revenue from the production, distribution, licensing, retail or supply of tobacco or tobacco-related products; the production or distribution of firearms or small arms ammunitions intended for retail civilians; are deemed to have failed to comply with one or more of the ten United Nation Global Compact Principles ("UNGC"), which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption. The Fund may invest more than 50% (but not more than 70%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments rated non-investment grade. The exposure to any one non-investment grade country will not exceed 10% of the Fund's Net Asset Value.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund

**Risk management measure used: Absolute VaR.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 100% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. The Fund has an unconstrained investment style (i.e. it will not take a benchmark index into account when selecting the Fund's investments). The JP Morgan ESG Green Bond Emerging Markets Index (USD Hedged) (the "Index") should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund over the long term. The Index measures the performance of green bonds across emerging markets. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.jpmorganmarkets.com.

The ***Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in local currency-denominated fixed income transferable securities issued by governments and agencies of, and companies domiciled or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets. The full spectrum of available securities, including non-investment grade, may be utilised. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.



NM0324U-3453640-76/808

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund is a QFI Access Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the QFI regime.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time. The Fund may invest up to 20% in aggregate of its total assets in the PRC via the QFI regime, the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect.

The Fund may invest more than 10% (but not more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of Brazil, Hungary, Indonesia, Russia Republic of South Africa and Turkey, countries which are, at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade. Such investments are based on (i) reference to the weighting that the relevant country's bond market represents of the emerging market bond universe within the JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index (although this Fund is not an index-tracking fund, the Investment Adviser will take into account the constituent weighting of the benchmark when making investment decisions), and/or (ii) the professional judgment of the Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes. Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposures may change over time. The afore-mentioned countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to Shareholders.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 480% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the JP Morgan GBI-EM Global Diversified Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund*** seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in, emerging markets in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable investing.

The investment decisions are based on the Investment Adviser's fundamental research focusing on bottom up (i.e. company-specific) analysis, inclusive of financial and non-financial metrics. This approach aims to identify and select equity and equity-related securities that can, through a concentrated portfolio, reflect the Investment Adviser's conviction to deliver the Fund's investment objective. The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying securities of derivatives used by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**

The Investment Adviser will create a portfolio that seeks to deliver a superior ESG outcome versus the Index as defined below.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in: the production and retail sales of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; the mining, production and supply activities related to nuclear power, the production of adult entertainment materials, unconventional oil and gas production, and, the production of conventional weapons. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The ESG criteria also consists of a rating of B or higher as defined by MSCI's ESG Intangible Value Assessment Ratings or another equivalent third party ESG data provider.

The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the Index.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score at least 20% lower than its Index.

More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

Companies in the portfolio are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their on their sustainability characteristics and their ability to manage ESG risks and opportunities. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by

external ESG data providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Investment Adviser engages with companies to support improvement in their environmental, social and governance ("ESG") credentials.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (the "Index") for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. In the opinion of the Investment Adviser, the Index is a fair representation of the Fund's investment universe and should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. The Index measures the performance of large and mid-capitalisation companies across emerging markets globally. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.msci.com.

The ***ESG Flex Choice Cautious Fund*** seeks to maximise total return commensurate with a cautious level of risk and in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG" focused investing.

The Fund will seek to achieve its investment objective by obtaining indirect exposure to a broad range of asset classes, which may include equity and equity-related securities, fixed income and fixed income-related securities, alternative assets, cash and near-cash instruments. Exposure to these asset classes will be achieved through investment in shares or units of a concentrated portfolio of CIS (which themselves invest in a diversified portfolio of assets), including actively managed funds, exchange traded funds and index funds managed by an affiliate of the BlackRock Group.

The Fund will invest at least 80% of total assets in CIS qualifying as Article 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome and do not adopt ESG exclusionary screens solely as their ESG policy, or, in the case of government bond exposures, track benchmark indices incorporating ESG requirements or comprised of bonds issued by governments that have an ESG sovereign rating of at least BB (as defined by third party ESG data vendors). Where determined appropriate, the Fund may invest directly in derivatives, cash and near-cash instruments.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score that is 20% lower and a weighted average ESG score higher than a composite benchmark comprising MSCI All Country World Index (20%) and Bloomberg US Universal Index (80%) (the "Index").

The Fund will not be subject to any geographic restrictions. Whilst the Fund's exposures may vary over time, it is intended that its direct and indirect exposure to equities will be targeted at 20% of Net Asset Value, and its direct and indirect exposure to fixed income securities will be targeted at 80% of Net Asset Value. The currency exposure of the Fund is flexibly managed.

There can be no guarantee that the Fund will maintain a cautious level of risk, especially during periods of unusually high or low volatility in the equity and fixed income markets.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. The Index should be used by investors to compare the ESG performance of the Fund. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components and weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The components of the Index (i.e. MSCI All Country World Index and Bloomberg US Universal Index) may be quoted separately in marketing material related to the Fund. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.msci.com/acwi.

The ***ESG Flex Choice Growth Fund*** seeks to maximise total return commensurate with a relatively high level of risk and in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG" focused investing.

The Fund will seek to achieve its investment objective by obtaining indirect exposure to a broad range of asset classes, which may include equity and equity-related securities, fixed income and fixed income-related securities, alternative assets, cash and near-cash instruments. Exposure to these asset classes will be achieved through investment in shares or units of a concentrated portfolio of CIS (which themselves invest in a diversified portfolio of assets), including actively managed funds, exchange traded funds and index funds managed by an affiliate of the BlackRock Group.

The Fund will invest at least 80% of total assets in CIS qualifying as Article 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome and do not adopt ESG exclusionary screens solely as their ESG policy, or, in the case of government bond exposures, track benchmark indices incorporating ESG requirements or comprised of bonds issued by governments that have an ESG sovereign rating of at least BB (as defined by third party ESG data vendors). Where determined appropriate, the Fund may invest directly in derivatives, cash and near-cash instruments.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score that is 20% lower and a weighted average ESG score higher than a composite benchmark comprising MSCI All Country World Index (80%) and Bloomberg US Universal Index (20%) (the "Index").

The Fund will not be subject to any geographic restrictions. Whilst the Fund's exposures may vary over time, it is intended that its direct and indirect exposure to equities will be targeted at 80% of Net Asset Value, and its direct and indirect exposure to fixed

income securities will be targeted at 20% of Net Asset Value. The currency exposure of the Fund is flexibly managed.

There can be no guarantee that the Fund will maintain a relatively high level of risk, especially during periods of unusually high or low volatility in the equity and fixed income markets.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. The Index should be used by investors to compare the ESG performance of the Fund. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components and weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The components of the Index (i.e. MSCI All Country World Index and Bloomberg US Universal Index) may be quoted separately in marketing material related to the Fund. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.msci.com/acwi.

The ***ESG Flex Choice Moderate Fund*** seeks to maximise total return commensurate with a moderate level of risk and in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG" focused investing.

The Fund will seek to achieve its investment objective by obtaining indirect exposure to a broad range of asset classes, which may include equity and equity-related securities, fixed income and fixed income-related securities, alternative assets, cash and near-cash instruments. Exposure to these asset classes will be achieved through investment in shares or units of a concentrated portfolio of CIS (which themselves invest in a diversified portfolio of assets), including actively managed funds, exchange traded funds and index funds managed by an affiliate of the BlackRock Group.

The Fund will invest at least 80% of total assets in CIS qualifying as Article 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome and do not adopt ESG exclusionary screens solely as their ESG policy, or, in the case of government bond exposures, track benchmark indices incorporating ESG requirements or comprised of bonds issued by governments that have an ESG sovereign rating of at least BB (as defined by third party ESG data vendors). Where determined appropriate, the Fund may invest directly in derivatives, cash and near-cash instruments.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score that is 20% lower, and a weighted ESG score higher than a composite benchmark comprising MSCI All Country World Index (60%) and Bloomberg US Universal Index (40%) (the "Index").

The Fund will not be subject to any geographic restrictions. Whilst the Fund's exposures may vary over time, it is intended that its direct and indirect exposure to equities will be targeted at 60% of Net Asset Value, and its direct and indirect exposure to fixed income securities will be targeted at 40% of Net Asset Value. The currency exposure of the Fund is flexibly managed.

There can be no guarantee that the Fund will maintain a moderate level of risk, especially during periods of unusually high or low volatility in the equity and fixed income markets.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. The Index should be used by investors to compare the ESG performance of the Fund. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components and weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The components of the Index (i.e. MSCI All Country World Index and Bloomberg US Universal Index) may be quoted separately in marketing material related to the Fund. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.msci.com/acwi.

The ***ESG Global Conservative Income Fund*** follows a flexible asset allocation policy that seeks to provide a conservative level of income with a focus on capital stability in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG" focused investing.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

In order to generate income, the Fund will take a conservative level of risk commensurate with its risk benchmark, referred to below. The Fund invests globally in the full spectrum of permitted investments denominated in various currencies, including equities, equity-related securities, fixed income transferable securities, units of CIS, cash, deposits and money market instruments. The fixed income transferable securities in which the fund invests may be issued by governments, agencies, companies and supranationals worldwide, including in emerging markets, and may be investment grade, non-investment grade or unrated. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/ or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time. The Fund may invest up to 20% in aggregate of its total assets in the PRC via the Stock Connects, the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect.

The Fund may invest more than 10% (but not more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of Brazil, Hungary, Indonesia, Russia, Republic of South Africa, and Turkey, countries which are, at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade. Such investments are based on the professional judgment of the

Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes. Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposures may change over time. The aforementioned countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to Shareholders.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 50% of its total assets in ABS and MBS which will typically be investment grade but may also include non-investment grade. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have significant exposure to ABS and MBS, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using 30% MSCI World Index EUR Hedged/ 70% Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index EUR Hedged as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 200% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the production, distribution or licensing of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; production, supply and mining activities related to nuclear power and production of adult entertainment materials. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Investment Adviser will seek to minimise exposure to issuers with lower ESG ratings within each applicable asset class universe. The remaining companies (i.e. those companies which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the ESG related risks and opportunities associated with their business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits. The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

The Investment Adviser will create a portfolio that seeks to deliver a higher ESG score than the investable universe. The Fund's ESG score will be calculated as the total of each security's ESG score (where applicable), weighted by its market value. The ESG and carbon emission intensity score of the investable universe will be calculated as the total of each security's score (where applicable), weighted by its market value or using the ESG scores of the relevant asset class indices weighted to reflect the asset class exposure in the Fund. As the Fund has the ability to adjust its exposure over time in order to seek to achieve its investment objectives, the Fund's asset allocation and therefore weight of each asset class index in the investable universe may change over time. These scores may be quoted for individual asset classes or allocation weighted in marketing material. Shareholders may contact the Investment Adviser for details of the indices used and their weights.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a lower carbon emissions intensity score than the investable universe, the investable universe represented by the relevant asset class indices weighted to reflect the asset class exposure in the Fund. These scores may be quoted for individual asset classes or allocation weighted in marketing material.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed across asset classes and the extent to which the Fund is invested in these may vary without limit depending on market conditions and other factors at the Investment Adviser's discretion. In doing so, the Investment Adviser may refer to a composite benchmark comprising 30% MSCI World Index EUR Hedged and 70% Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index EUR Hedged (the "Index") for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components and weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. The Fund's portfolio is expected to deviate materially from the Index. The components of the Index (i.e. MSCI World Index and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index US Hedged)

may be quoted separately in marketing material related to the Fund. Further details are available at the index providers website at www.bloomberg.com/professional/product/indices and www.msci.com.

The ***ESG Global Multi-Asset Income Fund*** follows a flexible asset allocation policy that seeks to provide income without sacrificing long term capital growth in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG" focused investing. The Fund invests globally in the full spectrum of permitted investments including (but not limited to) equities, equity-related securities, fixed income transferable securities (which may include some high yield fixed income transferable securities), units of CIS, cash, deposits and money market instruments. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects. The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time. The Fund may invest up to 20% in aggregate of its total assets in the PRC via the Stock Connects, the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 50% of its total assets in ABS and MBS. ABS and MBS are debt securities backed or collateralised by the income stream from an underlying pool of assets or mortgage loans respectively. These ABS and MBS will include investments in sectors that have identified by the Investment Adviser (in accordance with its proprietary methodology) as having enhanced social or environmental impact. It is anticipated that most of the ABS and MBS held by the Fund will have an investment grade rating, but the Fund will be able to use the full spectrum of available ABS and MBS, including non-investment grade instruments. ABS and MBS held by the Fund may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The issuers of the ABS and MBS may be companies, governments or municipalities and, more particularly, the Fund may hold MBS issued by government-sponsored enterprises ("agency MBS"). The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets. The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have significant exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using 50% MSCI World Index / 50% Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index USD Hedged as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 100% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the production, distribution or licensing of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; production, supply and mining activities related to nuclear power and production of adult entertainment materials. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Investment Adviser will minimise exposure to issuers with lower ESG ratings within each applicable asset class universe.

The remaining companies (i.e. those companies which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the ESG related risks and opportunities associated with their business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits. The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

The Investment Adviser will create a portfolio that seeks to deliver a higher ESG score than the investable universe. The Fund's ESG score will be calculated as the total of each security's ESG score (where applicable), weighted by its market value. The ESG and carbon emission intensity score of the investable universe will be calculated as the total of each security's score (where applicable), weighted by its market value or using the ESG scores of the relevant asset class indices weighted to reflect the asset class exposure in the Fund. As the Fund has the ability to adjust its exposure over time in order to seek to achieve its investment objectives, the Fund's asset allocation and therefore weight of each asset class index in the investable universe may change over time. These scores may be quoted for individual asset classes or allocation weighted in marketing material. Shareholders may contact the Investment Adviser for details of the indices used and their weights.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a lower carbon emissions intensity score than the investable universe, the investable universe represented by the relevant asset class indices weighted to reflect the asset class exposure in the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed across asset classes and the extent to which the Fund is invested in these may vary without limit depending on market conditions and other factors at the Investment Adviser's discretion. The Investment Adviser may refer to a composite benchmark comprising MSCI World Index (50%) and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index USD Hedged (50%) (the "Index") for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. The Fund's portfolio holdings are expected to deviate materially from the Index. The components of the Index (i.e. MSCI World Index and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index US Hedged) may be quoted separately in marketing material related to the Fund. Further details are available at the index providers website at www.bloomberg.com/professional/product/indices and www.msci.com.

The ***ESG Multi-Asset Fund*** follows an asset allocation policy that seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG" focussed investing.

The Fund invests globally in the full spectrum of permitted investments including equities, fixed income transferable securities (which may include some high yield fixed income transferable securities), units of CIS, cash, deposits and money market instruments.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund has a flexible approach to asset allocation (which includes taking indirect exposure to commodities through permitted investments, principally through derivatives on commodity indices and exchange traded funds). The Fund may invest without limitation in securities denominated in currencies other than the reference currency (Euro). The currency exposure of the Fund is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects. The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/ or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time. The Fund may invest up to 20% in aggregate of its total assets in the PRC via the Stock Connects, the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. The Fund may use total return swaps that have, in accordance with its investment policy, equity or fixed income transferable securities and equity or fixed income related securities as underlying assets. Investors should refer to Appendix G for more details on the expected and maximum portion of total return swaps held by the Fund. Any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying securities of derivatives used by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using 50% MSCI World Index and 50% Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index hedged to EUR as the appropriate risk benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 175% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit investments in companies within the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) Oil & Gas Exploration & Production sector and companies within the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) Integrated Oil & Gas sector to below 5% of its total assets. The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the production, distribution or licensing of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; production, supply and mining activities related to nuclear power and production of adult entertainment materials. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received. The Investment Adviser will exclude any issuer with a MSCI ESG rating below BBB.

The remaining companies (i.e. those companies which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local

intelligence and may undertake site visits. The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The Fund's ESG score will be calculated as the total of each issuer ESG score (where applicable), weighted by its market value. The Investment Adviser will create a portfolio that seeks to deliver a superior ESG outcome versus the Index and the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index. The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score that is lower than the Index.

The components of the Index (i.e. 50% MSCI World Index and 50% Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index hedged to EUR) may be quoted separately in marketing material related to the Fund.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed with multiple asset classes and the extent to which the Fund is invested in these may vary without limit depending on market conditions and other factors at the Investment Adviser's discretion. The Investment Adviser may refer to a composite benchmark (which it believes is a fair representation of the Fund's investment universe) comprising the 50% MSCI World Index and 50% Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index hedged to EUR (the "Index") for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the Index. Further details are available on the index provider websites at www.msci.com and www.bloomberg.com/professional/product/indices.

The ***Euro Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in investment grade fixed income transferable securities. At least 70% of total assets will be invested in fixed income transferable securities denominated in euro. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using Bloomberg Euro-Aggregate 500mm+ Bond Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 120% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) compared to the ESG Reporting Index (as defined under the Benchmark use Section below) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

At least 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities)) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

The weighted average ESG rating of the corporate portion of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the corporate portion of the ESG Reporting Index (as defined under the Benchmark use Section below).

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the:

(i) Bloomberg Euro-Aggregate 500mm+ Bond Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope and credit rating requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

(ii) Bloomberg Euro-Aggregate Index (80%) and the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index (20%) (the "ESG Reporting Index") to assess the impact of ESG screening on the Fund's investment universe. The ESG Reporting Index is not intended to be used when constructing the Fund's portfolio, for risk management purposes to monitor active risk, or to compare the performance of the Fund. Further details are available on the index provider website at https://www.bloomberg.com/company/press/bloomberg-completes-fixed-income-indices-rebrand/.

The ***Euro Corporate Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in investment grade corporate fixed income transferable securities denominated in euro. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using ICE BofAML Euro Corporate Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 100% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) compared to the ESG Reporting Index (as defined under the Benchmark use Section below) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

At least 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares

or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities)) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the ESG Reporting Index (as defined under the Benchmark use Section below).

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the:

(i) ICE BofAML Euro Corporate Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope and credit rating requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

(ii) Bloomberg Euro-Corporate Index (80%) and the Bloomberg Global Corporate Index (20%) (the "ESG Reporting Index") to assess the impact of ESG screening on the Fund's investment universe. The ESG Reporting Index is not intended to be used when constructing the Fund's portfolio, for risk management purposes to monitor active risk, or to compare the performance of the Fund. Further details are available on the index provider website at https://www.bloomberg.com/company/press/bloomberg-completes-fixed-income-indices-rebrand.

The ***Euro High Yield Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027*** seeks to provide income, whilst also aiming to preserve the original amount of capital invested and investing in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG"-focused investing.

The Fund uses a "buy and maintain" strategy whereby fixed income securities will be held until their fixed maturity dates as part of a low turnover strategy, (subject, among other factors, to ongoing monitoring of credit risk), when their capital will become repayable to the Fund. The Fund is therefore intended for investors who will hold Shares until they are finally redeemed upon the Maturity Date of the Fund, as defined hereunder.

The Fund is intended to have a fixed term of up to 4 years and 2 months comprising three distinct periods namely:

i) the "**Pre Investment Period**": an initial subscription period of up to 2 months from a date to be determined by the Board of Directors upon creation of the Fund until the date on which the Fund is launched (the "**Launch Date**" of the Fund);

ii) the "**Investment Period**": a period of 3 years immediately following the Pre Investment Period including a ramp-up period of 20 Business Days, subject to the Investment Adviser's discretion to complete this within a longer time period depending on its assessment of market conditions (the "**Ramp-up Period**"); and

iii) the "**Post Investment Period**"**:** a period of up to 12 months following the Investment Period, ending on a date determined by the Investment Adviser at its discretion and on which the Fund will be automatically closed (the "**Maturity Date**").

During the Pre Investment Period and Ramp-up Period, the Fund will hold up to 100% of its Net Asset Value in cash, deposits, Money Market Instruments, units of CIS and other cash equivalents.

In order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund will gradually look to build up its portfolio so that following the Ramp-up Period at least 50% of its Net Asset Value is invested in high yield fixed income transferable securities, denominated in various currencies, issued by governments and agencies of, and companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in Europe. Such fixed income securities shall, at the time of purchase, shall be rated B or BB or equivalent rating.

Investment in fixed income securities may also include investments in instruments relating to such securities such as credit default swaps, currency swaps, futures and forwards. In addition, when deemed appropriate, the Fund may invest in cash equivalents such as deposits, Money Market Instruments, and units of CIS for the purpose of cash management, and to achieve its investment goals.

During the Investment Period, Fund may invest up to 50% of its Net Asset Value in securities which have average maturities of up to 4 years, measured from the start of the Investment Period, where the Investment Adviser considers it to be appropriate to the investment objective and policy of the Fund. The remainder of the securities invested in by the Fund are intended to have average maturities of up to 3 years, as measured from the start of the Investment Period.

During the Investment Period, all investment income and capital gains generated in the Fund will be reinvested back into the strategy at the discretion of the Investment Adviser and in accordance with the investment policy.

During the Post Investment Period, the Fund will invest progressively in securities (all as disclosed in this Investment Policy section) which have shorter average maturities than those invested in by the Fund during the Investment Period.

In addition, in anticipation of the automatic closure of the Fund on the Maturity Date, the Fund may be fully invested in cash, deposits, Money Market Instruments, units of CIS and other cash equivalents for the purpose of cash management in order to redeem Shareholders on the Maturity Date in accordance with its investment policy, provided that holdings in cash shall not exceed 20% of the Fund's Net Asset Value, except during the last six months prior to the Maturity Date. For avoidance of doubt, Shareholders should note that during the Post Investment Period, the investment limits set out above in relation to the Investment Period shall no longer apply.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets. In addition, the Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund does not qualify as a money market fund within the meaning of the Money Market Funds Regulation.

The Investment Adviser retains discretion to shorten or extend the Pre Investment Period, the Investment Period and the Post Investment Period, including but not limited to circumstances where the exercise of the suspension of the determination of the Net Asset Value, or the issue and redemption of Shares in the Fund, causes the term of the Fund to extend beyond 4 years and 2 months and the Maturity Date to be changed to a later date.

**Subscriptions**
Shareholders may subscribe into the Fund during the Pre Investment Period. At the end of the Pre Investment Period, the Fund will be closed to new subscriptions.

Shareholders will be notified of the closure of the Pre Investment Period and opening of the Investment Period by means of a notice published at the following link https://www.blackrock.com/lu/individual/products/product-list.

Within 20 Business Days after the end of the Pre Investment Period, Shareholders will be informed in writing of the relevant Maturity Date. The Maturity Date shall be the date on which the Post Investment Period ends, within 12 months following the end of the Investment Period, as determined by the Investment Adviser at its discretion. On the Maturity Date, the Fund will be automatically closed and Shares in the Fund will be redeemed in accordance with the redemption provisions set out in this Prospectus, as if each investor remaining in the Fund on the Maturity Date had submitted an application form prior to the Maturity Date, requesting redemption in full on the Maturity Date.

**Redemptions**
Shareholders will be able to redeem their Shares in the Fund during the Pre Investment Period, the Investment Period or the Post Investment Period in compliance with the provisions set out under the section "Redemption of Shares".

A redemption fee of up to 1% will, at the discretion of the Management Company acting in the best interests of Shareholders, be charged on Shares, on the applicable Dealing Day on which redemption is effected at all times but not including the Maturity Date.

The Fund is actively managed and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process.

The ***Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (1)*** seeks to provide income, whilst also aiming to preserve the original amount of capital invested and investing in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG"-focused investing.

The Fund uses a "buy and maintain" strategy whereby fixed income securities will be held until their fixed maturity dates as part of a low turnover strategy, (subject, among other factors, to ongoing monitoring of credit risk), when their capital will become repayable to the Fund. The Fund is therefore intended for investors who will hold Shares until they are finally redeemed upon the Maturity Date of the Fund, as defined hereunder.

The Fund is intended to have a fixed term of up to 4 years and 2 months comprising three distinct periods namely:

i) the "**Pre Investment Period**": an initial subscription period of up to 2 months from a date to be determined by the Board of Directors upon creation of the Fund until the date on which the Fund is launched (the "**Launch Date**" of the Fund);

ii) the "**Investment Period**": a period of 3 years immediately following the Pre Investment Period including a ramp-up period of 20 Business Days, subject to the Investment Adviser's discretion to complete this within a longer time period

depending on its assessment of market conditions (the "**Ramp-up Period**"); and

iii) the "**Post Investment Period**": a period of up to 12 months following the Investment Period, ending on a date determined by the Investment Adviser at its discretion and on which the Fund will be automatically closed (the "**Maturity Date**").

During the Pre Investment Period and Ramp-up Period, the Fund will hold up to 100% of its Net Asset Value in cash, deposits, Money Market Instruments, units of CIS and other cash equivalents.

In order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund will gradually look to build up its portfolio so that following the Ramp-up Period:

- at least 75% of its Net Asset Value is invested in corporate fixed income securities issued by companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in, global developed markets and denominated in Euro. Such fixed income securities shall, at the time of purchase, be rated investment grade; and

- up to 25% of the Fund's Net Asset Value is invested in global fixed income securities which, at the time of purchase, are rated non-investment grade.

Should the credit quality of fixed income securities held by the Fund deteriorate to below investment grade causing the Fund to hold below 75% of its Net Asset Value in investment grade (or deemed equivalent), and/or greater than 25% of its Net Asset Value in sub-investment grade or unrated, fixed income securities, the Fund may continue to hold the affected fixed income securities for a period of time, which could be three months or more, at the discretion of the Investment Adviser, in order to avoid a distressed sale of such downgraded securities.

Investment in fixed income securities may also include investments in instruments relating to such securities such as credit default swaps, currency swaps, futures and forwards. In addition, when deemed appropriate, the Fund may invest in cash equivalents such as deposits, Money Market Instruments, and units of CIS for the purpose of cash management, and to achieve its investment goals.

During the Investment Period, Fund may invest up to 50% of its Net Asset Value in securities which have average maturities of up to 4 years, measured from the start of the Investment Period, where the Investment Adviser considers it to be appropriate to the investment objective and policy of the Fund. The remainder of the securities invested in by the Fund are intended to have average maturities of up to 3 years, as measured from the start of the Investment Period.

During the Investment Period, all investment income and capital gains generated in the Fund will be reinvested back into the strategy at the discretion of the Investment Adviser and in accordance with the investment policy.

During the Post Investment Period, the Fund will invest progressively in securities (all as disclosed in this Investment Policy section) which have shorter average maturities than those invested in by the Fund during the Investment Period.

In addition, in anticipation of the automatic closure of the Fund on the Maturity Date, the Fund may be fully invested in cash, deposits, Money Market Instruments, units of CIS and other cash equivalents for the purpose of cash management in order to redeem Shareholders on the Maturity Date in accordance with its investment policy, provided that holdings in cash shall not exceed 20% of the Fund's Net Asset Value, except during the last six months prior to the Maturity Date. For avoidance of doubt, Shareholders should note that during the Post Investment Period, the investment limits set out above in relation to the Investment Period shall no longer apply.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets. In addition, the Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund does not qualify as a money market fund within the meaning of the Money Market Funds Regulation.

The Investment Adviser retains discretion to shorten or extend the Pre Investment Period, the Investment Period and the Post Investment Period, including but not limited to circumstances where the exercise of the suspension of the determination of the Net Asset Value, or the issue and redemption of Shares in the Fund, causes the term of the Fund to extend beyond 4 years and 2 months and the Maturity Date to be changed to a later date.

**Subscriptions**
Shareholders may subscribe into the Fund during the Pre Investment Period. At the end of the Pre Investment Period, the Fund will be closed to new subscriptions.

Shareholders will be notified of the closure of the Pre Investment Period and opening of the Investment Period by means of a notice published at the following link https://www.blackrock.com/lu/individual/products/product-list.

Within 20 Business Days after the end of the Pre Investment Period, Shareholders will be informed in writing of the relevant Maturity Date. The Maturity Date shall be the date on which the Post Investment Period ends, within 12 months following the end of the Investment Period, as determined by the Investment Adviser at its discretion. On the Maturity Date, the Fund will be automatically closed and Shares in the Fund will be redeemed in accordance with the redemption provisions set out in this Prospectus, as if each investor remaining in the Fund on the Maturity Date had submitted an application form prior to the Maturity Date, requesting redemption in full on the Maturity Date.

**Redemptions**
Shareholders will be able redeem their Shares in the Fund during the Pre Investment Period, the Investment Period or the Post Investment Period in compliance with the provisions set out under the section "Redemption of Shares".

A redemption fee of up to 1% will, at the discretion of the Management Company acting in the best interests of Shareholders, be charged on Shares, on the applicable Dealing Day on which redemption is effected at all times but not including the Maturity Date.

The Fund is actively managed and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including, but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process.

The ***Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (2)*** seeks to provide income, whilst also aiming to preserve the original amount of capital invested and investing in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG"-focused investing.

The Fund uses a "buy and maintain" strategy whereby fixed income securities will be held until their fixed maturity dates as part of a low turnover strategy, (subject, among other factors, to ongoing monitoring of credit risk), when their capital will become repayable to the Fund. The Fund is therefore intended for investors who will hold Shares until they are finally redeemed upon the Maturity Date of the Fund, as defined hereunder.

The Fund is intended to have a fixed term of up to 4 years and 2 months comprising three distinct periods namely:

i) the "**Pre Investment Period**": an initial subscription period of up to 2 months from a date to be determined by the Board of Directors upon creation of the Fund until the date on which the Fund is launched (the "**Launch Date**" of the Fund);

ii) the "**Investment Period**": a period of 3 years immediately following the Pre Investment Period including a ramp-up period of 20 Business Days, subject to the Investment Adviser's discretion to complete this within a longer time period depending on its assessment of market conditions (the "**Ramp-up Period**"); and

iii) the "**Post Investment Period**": a period of up to 12 months following the Investment Period, ending on a date determined by the Investment Adviser at its discretion and on which the Fund will be automatically closed (the "**Maturity Date**").

During the Pre Investment Period and Ramp-up Period, the Fund will hold up to 100% of its Net Asset Value in cash, deposits, Money Market Instruments, units of CIS and other cash equivalents.

In order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund will gradually look to build up its portfolio so that following the Ramp-up Period:

- at least 75% of its Net Asset Value is invested in corporate fixed income securities issued by companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in, global developed markets and denominated in Euro. Such fixed income securities shall, at the time of purchase, be rated investment grade; and

- up to 25% of the Fund's Net Asset Value is invested in global fixed income securities which, at the time of purchase, are rated non-investment grade.

Should the credit quality of fixed income securities held by the Fund deteriorate to below investment grade causing the Fund to hold below 75% of its Net Asset Value in investment grade (or deemed equivalent), and/or greater than 25% of its Net Asset Value in sub-investment grade or unrated, fixed income securities, the Fund may continue to hold the affected fixed income securities for a period of time, which could be three months or more, at the discretion of the Investment Adviser, in order to avoid a distressed sale of such downgraded securities.

Investment in fixed income securities may also include investments in instruments relating to such securities such as credit default swaps, currency swaps, futures and forwards. In addition, when deemed appropriate, the Fund may invest in cash equivalents such as deposits, Money Market Instruments, and units of CIS for the purpose of cash management, and to achieve its investment goals.

During the Investment Period, Fund may invest up to 50% of its Net Asset Value in securities which have average maturities of up to 4 years, measured from the start of the Investment Period, where the Investment Adviser considers it to be appropriate to the investment objective and policy of the Fund. The remainder of the securities invested in by the Fund are intended to have average maturities of up to 3 years, as measured from the start of the Investment Period.



NM0324U-3453640-88/808

During the Investment Period, all investment income and capital gains generated in the Fund will be reinvested back into the strategy at the discretion of the Investment Adviser and in accordance with the investment policy.

During the Post Investment Period, the Fund will invest progressively in securities (all as disclosed in this Investment Policy section) which have shorter average maturities than those invested in by the Fund during the Investment Period.

In addition, in anticipation of the automatic closure of the Fund on the Maturity Date, the Fund may be fully invested in cash, deposits, Money Market Instruments, units of CIS and other cash equivalents for the purpose of cash management in order to redeem Shareholders on the Maturity Date in accordance with its investment policy, provided that holdings in cash shall not exceed 20% of the Fund's Net Asset Value, except during the last six months prior to the Maturity Date. For avoidance of doubt, Shareholders should note that during the Post Investment Period, the investment limits set out above in relation to the Investment Period shall no longer apply.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets. In addition, the Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund does not qualify as a money market fund within the meaning of the Money Market Funds Regulation.

The Investment Adviser retains discretion to shorten or extend the Pre Investment Period, the Investment Period and the Post Investment Period, including but not limited to circumstances where the exercise of the suspension of the determination of the Net Asset Value, or the issue and redemption of Shares in the Fund, causes the term of the Fund to extend beyond 4 years and 2 months and the Maturity Date to be changed to a later date.

**Subscriptions**
Shareholders may subscribe into the Fund during the Pre Investment Period. At the end of the Pre Investment Period, the Fund will be closed to new subscriptions.

Shareholders will be notified of the closure of the Pre Investment Period and opening of the Investment Period by means of a notice published at the following link https://www.blackrock.com/lu/individual/products/product-list.

Within 20 Business Days after the end of the Pre Investment Period, Shareholders will be informed in writing of the relevant Maturity Date. The Maturity Date shall be the date on which the Post Investment Period ends, within 12 months following the end of the Investment Period, as determined by the Investment Adviser at its discretion. On the Maturity Date, the Fund will be automatically closed and Shares in the Fund will be redeemed in accordance with the redemption provisions set out in this Prospectus, as if each investor remaining in the Fund on the Maturity Date had submitted an application form prior to the Maturity Date, requesting redemption in full on the Maturity Date.

**Redemptions**
Shareholders will be able to redeem their Shares in the Fund during the Pre Investment Period, the Investment Period or the Post Investment Period in compliance with the provisions set out under the section "Redemption of Shares".

A redemption fee of up to 1% will, at the discretion of the Management Company acting in the best interests of Shareholders, be charged on Shares, on the applicable Dealing Day on which redemption is effected at all times but not including the Maturity Date.

The Fund is actively managed and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process.

The ***Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2029*** seeks to provide income, whilst also aiming to preserve the original amount of capital invested and investing in a manner consistent

with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG"-focused investing.

The Fund uses a "buy and maintain" strategy whereby fixed income securities will be held until their fixed maturity dates as part of a low turnover strategy, (subject, among other factors, to ongoing monitoring of credit risk), when their capital will become repayable to the Fund. The Fund is therefore intended for investors who will hold Shares until they are finally redeemed upon the Maturity Date of the Fund, as defined hereunder.

The Fund is intended to have a fixed term of up to 6 years and 2 months comprising three distinct periods namely:

i) the "**Pre Investment Period**": an initial subscription period of up to 2 months from a date to be determined by the Board of Directors upon creation of the Fund until the date on which the Fund is launched (the "**Launch Date**" of the Fund);

ii) the "**Investment Period**": a period of 5 years immediately following the Pre Investment Period including a ramp-up period of 20 Business Days, subject to the Investment Adviser's discretion to complete this within a longer time period depending on its assessment of market conditions (the "**Ramp-up Period**"); and

iii) the "**Post Investment Period**": a period of up to 12 months following the Investment Period, ending on a date determined by the Investment Adviser at its discretion and on which the Fund will be automatically closed (the "**Maturity Date**").

During the Pre Investment Period and Ramp-up Period, the Fund will hold up to 100% of its Net Asset Value in cash, deposits, Money Market Instruments, units of CIS and other cash equivalents.

In order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund will gradually look to build up its portfolio so that following the Ramp-up Period:

- at least 75% of its Net Asset Value is invested in corporate fixed income securities issued by companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in, global developed markets and denominated in Euro. Such fixed income securities shall, at the time of purchase, be rated investment grade; and

- up to 25% of the Fund's Net Asset Value is invested in global fixed income securities which, at the time of purchase, are rated non-investment grade.

Should the credit quality of fixed income securities held by the Fund deteriorate to below investment grade causing the Fund to hold below 75% of its Net Asset Value in investment grade (or deemed equivalent), and/or greater than 25% of its Net Asset Value in sub-investment grade or unrated, fixed income securities, the Fund may continue to hold the affected fixed income securities for a period of time, which could be three months or more, at the discretion of the Investment Adviser, in order to avoid a distressed sale of such downgraded securities.

Investment in fixed income securities may also include investments in instruments relating to such securities such as credit default swaps, currency swaps, futures and forwards. In addition, when deemed appropriate, the Fund may invest in cash equivalents such as deposits, Money Market Instruments, and units of CIS for the purpose of cash management, and to achieve its investment goals.

During the Investment Period, Fund may invest up to 50% of its Net Asset Value in securities which have average maturities of up to 6 years, measured from the start of the Investment Period, where the Investment Adviser considers it to be appropriate to the investment objective and policy of the Fund. The remainder of the securities invested in by the Fund are intended to have average maturities of up to 5 years, as measured from the start of the Investment Period.

During the Investment Period, all investment income and capital gains generated in the Fund will be reinvested back into the strategy at the discretion of the Investment Adviser and in accordance with the investment policy.

During the Post Investment Period, the Fund will invest progressively in securities (all as disclosed in this Investment Policy section) which have shorter average maturities than those invested in by the Fund during the Investment Period.

In addition, in anticipation of the automatic closure of the Fund on the Maturity Date, the Fund may be fully invested in cash, deposits, Money Market Instruments, units of CIS and other cash equivalents for the purpose of cash management in order to redeem Shareholders on the Maturity Date in accordance with its investment policy, provided that holdings in cash shall not exceed 20% of the Fund's Net Asset Value, except during the last six months prior to the Maturity Date. For avoidance of doubt, Shareholders should note that during the Post Investment Period, the investment limits set out above in relation to the Investment Period shall no longer apply.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets. In addition, the Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund does not qualify as a money market fund within the meaning of the Money Market Funds Regulation.

The Investment Adviser retains discretion to shorten or extend the Pre Investment Period, the Investment Period and the Post Investment Period, including but not limited to circumstances where the exercise of the suspension of the determination of the Net Asset Value, or the issue and redemption of Shares in the Fund, causes the term of the Fund to extend beyond 6 years and 2 months and the Maturity Date to be changed to a later date.

**Subscriptions**

Shareholders may subscribe into the Fund during the Pre Investment Period. At the end of the Pre Investment Period, the Fund will be closed to new subscriptions.

Shareholders will be notified of the closure of the Pre Investment Period and opening of the Investment Period by means of a notice published at the following link https://www.blackrock.com/lu/individual/products/product-list.

Within 20 Business Days after the end of the Pre Investment Period, Shareholders will be informed in writing of the relevant Maturity Date. The Maturity Date shall be the date on which the Post Investment Period ends, within 12 months following the end

of the Investment Period, as determined by the Investment Adviser at its discretion. On the Maturity Date, the Fund will be automatically closed and Shares in the Fund will be redeemed in accordance with the redemption provisions set out in this Prospectus, as if each investor remaining in the Fund on the Maturity Date had submitted an application form prior to the Maturity Date, requesting redemption in full on the Maturity Date.

**Redemptions**
Shareholders will be able to redeem their Shares in the Fund during the Pre Investment Period, the Investment Period or the Post Investment Period in compliance with the provisions set out under the section "Redemption of Shares".

A redemption fee of up to 1% will, at the discretion of the Management Company acting in the best interests of Shareholders, be charged on Shares, on the applicable Dealing Day on which redemption is effected at all times but not including the Maturity Date.

The Fund is actively managed and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process.

The ***Euro Reserve Fund*** seeks to offer returns in line with money market rates consistent with preservation of capital and liquidity. The Fund invests its assets exclusively in Euro denominated short-term assets and cash in accordance with the requirements of the MMF Regulations, as summarised in Appendix A. The Fund is a short-term money market fund.

The Fund may invest up to 15% of its total assets in securitisations and asset backed commercial paper ("ABCP") that are sufficiently liquid and have received a favourable assessment pursuant to the Internal Credit Quality Assessment Procedure.

At the discretion of the Investment Adviser, the Fund will invest in eligible reverse repurchase agreements for both liquidity management purposes and for permitted investment purposes.

The Fund may only use derivatives for the purpose of hedging the interest rate or exchange rate risks inherent in its investments. The underlying of the derivative instruments must consist of interest rates, foreign exchange rates, currencies or indices representing one of those categories.

The Fund does not rely on external support for guaranteeing the liquidity of the Fund or stabilising the NAV per share.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to permitted securitisations and ABCPs and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. Without reference to a benchmark. The Euro Short Term Rate (ESTR) should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Euro Short Duration Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in investment grade fixed income transferable securities. At least 70% of total assets will be invested in fixed income transferable securities denominated in Euro with a duration of less than five years. The average duration is not more than three years. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and

student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Absolute VAR.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 120% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) compared to the ESG Reporting Index (as defined under the Benchmark use Section below) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

At least 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities)) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

The weighted average ESG rating of the corporate portion of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the corporate portion of the ESG Reporting Index (as defined under the Benchmark use Section below).

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so the Investment Adviser will refer to the:

(i) Bloomberg Euro-Aggregate 500mm 1-3 Years Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope, credit rating requirements and maturity requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

(ii) Bloomberg Euro-Aggregate Index (1-3 years) (80%) and the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index (1-3 years) (20%) (the "ESG Reporting Index") to assess the impact of ESG screening on the Fund's investment universe. The ESG Reporting Index is not intended to be used when constructing the Fund's portfolio, for risk management purposes to monitor active risk, or to compare the performance of the Fund. Further details are available on the index provider website at https://www.bloomberg.com/company/press/bloomberg-completes-fixed-income-indices-rebrand/.

The ***Euro-Markets Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in those EU Member States participating in EMU. Other exposure may include, without limitation, investments in those EU Member States that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, are likely to join EMU in the foreseeable future and companies based elsewhere that exercise the predominant part of their economic activity in EMU-participating countries.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.



NM0324U-3453640-92/808

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI EMU Index when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***European Equity Income Fund*** seeks an above average income from its equity investments without sacrificing long term capital growth and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Europe. The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs (generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser may take into consideration the MSCI Europe Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***European Focus Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in a concentrated portfolio of equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Europe.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI Europe Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***European Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Europe.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.



NM0324U-3453640-94/808

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI Europe Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***European High Yield Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in high yield fixed income transferable securities, denominated in various currencies, issued by governments and agencies of, and companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in Europe. The Fund may invest in the full spectrum of available fixed income transferable securities, including non-investment grade. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using Bloomberg Pan European High Yield 3% Issuer Constrained Index EUR Hedged as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 70% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

Issuers are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG consistent business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

The Investment Adviser monitors issuers with lower ESG ratings and flagged controversies according to third party data providers. The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on such issuers through a 'watchlist' to identify relevant ESG related information that is not reflected in the third party data analysis and may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those issuers in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG data providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the Bloomberg Pan European High Yield 3% Issuer Constrained Index EUR Hedged (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope and credit rating requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***European Special Situations Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activities in, Europe.

The Fund places particular emphasis on "special situations" companies that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, are companies with potential for improvement that the market has failed to appreciate. Such companies generally take the form of small, mid or large capitalisation companies that are undervalued and exhibit growth investment characteristics, such as above-average growth rates in earnings or sales and high or improving returns on capital. In some cases such companies can also benefit from changes in corporate strategy and business restructuring.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI Europe Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope and credit rating requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***European Sustainable Equity Fund*** seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in Europe, in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable investing.

The investment decisions are based on the Investment Adviser's fundamental research focusing on bottom up (i.e. company-specific) analysis, inclusive of financial and non-financial metrics. This approach aims to identify and select equity and equity-related securities that can, through a concentrated portfolio, reflect the Investment Adviser's conviction to deliver the Fund's investment objective. The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments

and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying securities of derivatives used by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in: the production and retail sales of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; the mining, production and supply activities related to nuclear power, the production of adult entertainment materials, unconventional oil and gas production, and, the production of conventional weapons. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The ESG criteria also consists of a rating of B or higher as defined by MSCI's ESG Intangible Value Assessment Ratings or another equivalent third party ESG data provider.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score at least 20% lower than its Index as defined below.

More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

Companies in the portfolio are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their sustainability characteristics and their ability to manage ESG risks and opportunities. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG data providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Investment Adviser engages with companies to support improvement in their environmental, social and governance ("ESG") credentials.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI Europe Index (the "Index") for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. In the opinion of the Investment Adviser, the Index is a fair representation of the Fund's investment universe and should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. The Index measures the performance of large and mid-capitalisation companies in Europe. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.msci.com.

The ***European Value Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Europe. The Fund places particular emphasis on companies that are, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, undervalued and therefore represent intrinsic investment value.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs (generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI Europe Value Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***FinTech Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally whose predominant economic activity comprises the research, development, production and/or distribution of technologies used and applied in financial services.

The Fund will focus on companies that generate revenues from the application of technology in the financial services industry sector and/or which aim to compete with traditional methods in the operation and distribution of financial products and services.

In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation that are involved in activities including the following: payment systems, banking, investments, lending, insurance and software. Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects. The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. The MSCI All Countries World Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in fixed income transferable securities denominated in various currencies issued by governments, agencies and companies worldwide. The full spectrum of available securities, including non-investment grade, may be utilised. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/



NM0324U-3453640-98/808

or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 100% of its total assets in ABS and MBS. ABS and MBS are debt securities backed or collateralised by the income stream from an underlying pool of assets or mortgage loans respectively. It is anticipated that a large portion of the ABS and MBS held by the Fund will have an investment grade rating, but the Fund will be able to use the full spectrum of available ABS and MBS, including non-investment grade instruments. ABS and MBS held by the Fund may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit–linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The issuers of the ABS and MBS may be companies, governments or municipalities and, more particularly, the Fund may hold MBS issued by government-sponsored enterprises ("agency MBS"). The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). Although this will not typically be the case, the ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets. The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Where the Fund uses derivatives, this may generate varying amounts of market leverage (i.e. where the Fund gains market exposure in excess of the value of its assets) and at times these levels of market leverage may be high. The use of derivatives will inevitably create leverage, because of the required calculation method i.e. leverage is the sum or gross notional exposure created by the derivatives used. A high leverage number is not necessarily an indication of high risk.

**This Fund may have significant exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Absolute VaR.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 500% of Net Asset Value. Leverage per se is not an accurate risk indicator as a higher degree of leverage does not necessarily imply a higher degree of risk. This Fund has a higher gross leverage figure than many of the other Funds due to the way in which it uses financial derivative instruments (for example, through its use of futures, swaps, options and forward contracts and short term interest rate derivatives, which can each contribute to increased leverage). In particular, short term interest rate derivatives can contribute to increased leverage due to the large notional values associated with these instruments relative to the duration exposure gained. As a result of its use of derivatives, this Fund may be more highly leveraged than other Funds. While leverage may present opportunities for increasing the Fund's total return, it also has the potential for increasing losses. The cumulative effect of the use of leverage by the Fund in a market that moves adversely to the Fund's investments could result in a loss to the Fund. Investors should note that the expected level of leverage can be exceeded in certain circumstances. Leverage, in this context is calculated as the sum of gross notional exposure created by the derivatives used.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process.

The ***Future Consumer Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally that are expected to benefit from changes in the way people consume goods and services globally.

In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a relatively concentrated portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation across multiple sub-themes driven by the next generation of consumers, including (without limitation) the following: gaming, digital services, sustainable living, healthy living, education, pet humanisation and consumer experiences. Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities, In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-

europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. The MSCI All Countries World Index (MSCI ACWI) should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. The MSCI ACWI measures the performance of large and mid-capitalisation stocks across developed and emerging markets countries. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.msci.com/acwi.

The ***Future Of Transport Fund*** seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally whose predominant economic activity comprises the research, development, production and/or distribution of technologies used and applied to transport.

The Fund will focus on companies that generate revenues from the transition to a lower carbon transportation system such as electric, autonomous and/or digitally connected vehicles.

In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation that are involved in activities including the following: raw materials (e.g. metals and battery materials), components and computer systems (e.g. batteries and cabling), technology (e.g. vehicle sensor technology) and infrastructure (e.g. vehicle battery charging stations). The companies are rated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with renewable energy and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials. The assessment of the level of engagement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund adopts a "best in class" approach to sustainable investing. This means that the Fund selects the best issuers (from an ESG perspective) for each relevant sector of activities (without excluding any sector of activities). More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying securities of derivatives used by the Fund.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. In the opinion of the Investment Adviser, the MSCI All Countries World Index (MSCI ACWI) is a fair representation of the Fund's investment universe and should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. The MSCI ACWI measures the performance of large and mid-capitalisation stocks across developed and emerging markets countries. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.msci.com/acwi.

The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the MSCI ACWI after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the index.

The ***Global Allocation Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests globally in equity, debt and short term securities, of both corporate and governmental issuers, with no prescribed limits. In normal market conditions the Fund will invest at least 70% of its total assets in the securities of corporate and governmental issuers. The Fund generally will seek to invest in securities that are, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, undervalued. The Fund may also invest in the equity securities of small and emerging growth companies. The Fund may also invest a portion of its debt portfolio in high yield fixed income transferable securities. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects. The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time. The Fund may invest up to 20% in aggregate of its total assets in the PRC via the Stock Connects, the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or

not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets. The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using 36% S&P 500 Index, 24% FTSE World Index (Ex-US), 24% ICE BofAML Current 5Yr US Treasury Index, 16% FTSE Non-USD World Government Bond Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 140% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to a composite benchmark comprising the S&P 500 (36%); FTSE World (ex-US) (24%); ICE BofAML Current 5 Yr US Treasury Index (24%) and FTSE Non-USD World Government Bond Index (16%) (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. In addition, given the fund's ability to invest in global stocks and global bonds, investors may use the FTSE World Index to compare the performance of the Fund vs. global equities and the FTSE World Government Bond Index to compare the performance of the Fund vs. global bonds (and the Investment Adviser intends to include these comparisons in its reports on the Fund from time to time).

The ***Global Corporate Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in investment grade corporate fixed income securities issued by companies worldwide. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/ or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 20% in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets. The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate Bond USD Hedged Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 200% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate Bond USD Hedged Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the credit rating requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Sustainable Global Dynamic Equity Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focused investing.

The Fund invests globally, with no prescribed country or regional limits, at least 70% of its total assets in equity securities. The Fund will generally seek to invest in securities that are, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, undervalued. The Fund may also invest in the equity securities of small and emerging growth companies. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets. The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using MSCI All Countries World Index (MSCI ACWI) as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 100% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

At least 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to MSCI All Countries World Index (MSCI ACWI) (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ESG Policy reduces the investment universe of the Fund compared to the Index by at least 20%.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score that is lower than the Index.

The ***Global Equity Income Fund*** seeks an above average income from its equity investments without sacrificing long term capital growth in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, developed markets. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities, In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in

seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI All Country World Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Global Government Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return, in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focused investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in investment grade fixed income transferable securities issued by governments and their agencies worldwide. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments, including, but not limited to, "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond principles) and "Green, Social and Sustainability" (GSS) bonds issued by governments and agencies of, and companies, where the proceeds of such GSS bonds are tied to green and socially responsible projects.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 30% of the Fund's total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets. The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using FTSE World Government Bond USD Hedged Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 400% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue

threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the FTSE World Government Bond USD Hedged Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the credit rating and issuer requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Global High Yield Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in high yield fixed income transferable securities. The Fund may invest in the full spectrum of available fixed income transferable securities, including non-investment grade. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 20% in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using BofA Merrill Lynch Global High Yield Constrained USD Hedged Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 60% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

Issuers are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG consistent business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

The Investment Adviser monitors issuers with lower ESG ratings and flagged controversies according to third party data providers. The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on such issuers through a 'watchlist' to identify relevant ESG related information that is not reflected in the third party data analysis and may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those issuers in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG data providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the BofA Merrill Lynch Global High Yield Constrained USD Hedged Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the

credit rating requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Global Inflation Linked Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise real return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in inflation-linked fixed income transferable securities that are issued globally. The Fund may invest in fixed income transferable securities which are investment grade or non-investment grade (up to a limit of 10% of total assets). Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 20% in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

It is intended that the maturity of the majority of the fixed income securities held by the Fund will be less than 20 years. However, since the Fund is actively managed, it still has the flexibility to invest in fixed income securities which have a maturity profile outside of the 1 to 20 years range.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using Bloomberg World Government Inflation-Linked 1-20yr Index USD Hedged as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 350% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the Bloomberg World Government Inflation-Linked 1-20yr Index USD Hedged (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the credit rating requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Global Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027*** seeks to provide income, whilst also aiming to preserve the original amount of capital invested.

The Fund uses a "buy and maintain" strategy whereby fixed income securities will be held until their fixed maturity dates as part of a low turnover strategy, (subject, among other factors, to ongoing monitoring of credit risk), when their capital will become repayable to the Fund. The Fund is therefore intended for investors who will hold Shares until they are finally redeemed upon the Maturity Date of the Fund, as defined hereunder.

The Fund is intended to have a fixed term of up to 4 years and 2 months comprising three distinct periods namely:

i) the "**Pre Investment Period**": an initial subscription period of up to 2 months from a date to be determined by the Board of Directors upon creation of the Fund until the date on which the Fund is launched (the "**Launch Date**" of the Fund);

ii) the "**Investment Period**": a period of 3 years immediately following the Pre Investment Period including a ramp-up period of 20 Business Days, subject to the Investment Adviser's discretion to complete this within a longer time period depending on its assessment of market conditions (the "**Ramp-up Period**"); and

iii) the "**Post Investment Period**": a period of up to 12 months following the Investment Period, ending on a date determined by the Investment Adviser at its discretion and on which the Fund will be automatically closed (the "**Maturity Date**").

During the Pre Investment Period and Ramp up Period, the Fund will hold up to 100% of its Net Asset Value in cash, deposits, Money Market Instruments, units of CIS and other cash equivalents.

In order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund will gradually look to build up its portfolio so that following the Ramp-up Period:

- at least 70% of its Net Asset Value is invested in corporate fixed income securities issued by companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in, global developed markets. Such fixed income securities shall, at the time of purchase, be rated investment grade; and

- up to 20% of the Fund's Net Asset Value is invested in global fixed income securities which, at the time of purchase, are rated non-investment grade.

Should the credit quality of fixed income securities held by the Fund deteriorate to below investment grade causing the Fund to hold below 70% of its Net Asset Value in investment grade (or deemed equivalent), and/or greater than 20% of its Net Asset Value in sub-investment grade or unrated, fixed income securities, the Fund may continue to hold the affected fixed income securities for a period of time, which could be three months or more, at the discretion of the Investment Adviser, in order to avoid a distressed sale of such downgraded securities.

Investment in fixed income securities may also include investments in instruments relating to such securities such as credit default swaps, currency swaps, futures and forwards. In addition, when deemed appropriate, the Fund may invest in cash equivalents such as deposits, Money Market Instruments, and units of CIS for the purpose of cash management, and to achieve its investment goals.

During the Investment Period, Fund may invest up to 50% of its Net Asset Value in securities which have average maturities of up to 4 years, measured from the start of the Investment Period, where the Investment Adviser considers it to be appropriate to the investment objective and policy of the Fund. The remainder of the securities invested in by the Fund are intended to have average maturities of up to 3 years, as measured from the start of the Investment Period.

During the Investment Period, all investment income and capital gains generated in the Fund will be reinvested back into the strategy at the discretion of the Investment Adviser and in accordance with the investment policy.

During the Post Investment Period, the Fund will invest progressively in securities (all as disclosed in this Investment Policy section) which have shorter average maturities than those invested in by the Fund during the Investment Period.

In addition, in anticipation of the automatic closure of the Fund on the Maturity Date, the Fund may be fully invested in cash, deposits, Money Market Instruments, units of CIS and other cash equivalents for the purpose of cash management in order to redeem Shareholders on the Maturity Date in accordance with its investment policy, provided that holdings in cash shall not exceed 20% of the Fund's Net Asset Value, except during the last six months prior to the Maturity Date. For avoidance of doubt, Shareholders should note that during the Post Investment Period, the investment limits set out above in relation to the Investment Period shall no longer apply.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets. In addition, the Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund does not qualify as a money market fund within the meaning of the Money Market Funds Regulation.

The Investment Adviser retains discretion to shorten or extend the Pre Investment Period, the Investment Period and the Post Investment Period, including but not limited to circumstances where the exercise of the suspension of the determination of the Net Asset Value, or the issue and redemption of Shares in the Fund, causes the term of the Fund to extend beyond 4 years and 2 months and the Maturity Date to be changed to a later date.

**Subscriptions**
Shareholders may subscribe into the Fund during the Pre Investment Period. At the end of the Pre Investment Period, the Fund will be closed to new subscriptions.

Shareholders will be notified of the closure of the Pre Investment Period and opening of the Investment Period by means of a notice published at the following link https://www.blackrock.com/lu/individual/products/product-list.

Within 20 Business Days after the end of the Pre Investment Period, Shareholders will be informed in writing of the relevant Maturity Date. The Maturity Date shall be the date on which the Post Investment Period ends, within 12 months following the end of the Investment Period, as determined by the Investment Adviser at its discretion. On the Maturity Date, the Fund will be automatically closed and Shares in the Fund will be redeemed in accordance with the redemption provisions set out in this Prospectus, as if each investor remaining in the Fund on the Maturity Date had submitted an application form prior to the Maturity Date, requesting redemption in full on the Maturity Date.

**Redemptions**
Shareholders will be able to redeem their Shares in the Fund during the Pre Investment Period, the Investment Period or the Post Investment Period in compliance with the provisions set out under the section "Redemption of Shares".

A redemption fee of up to 1% will, at the discretion of the Management Company acting in the best interests of Shareholders, be charged on Shares, on the applicable Dealing Day on which redemption is effected at all times but not including the Maturity Date.

The Fund is actively managed and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process.

The ***Global Listed Infrastructure Fund*** seeks to maximise long term total returns. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in infrastructure companies globally that are facilitating, enabling and leading the transition to a low carbon economy. The Fund's primary investment universe will be in the areas of electricity and gas networks, water networks, transportation infrastructure, renewable energy; and communications infrastructure (telecommunication towers, data centres and satellites).

Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets. The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the transition criteria below.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below and at the levels set out in its SFDR Pre-Contractual Disclosure in Appendix H.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will invest in line with the principles of the transition

theme as determined by the Investment Adviser (having regard to specialist third party information sources as appropriate). In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of infrastructure companies with large, medium and small market capitalization. The Fund will invest at least 70% of its assets in equities or equity-related securities of infrastructure companies, that contribute to the advancement of the transition theme in any of these three categories:

Improvers: companies demonstrating positive progress or commitment to reducing the carbon emissions intensity of their operations;

Solutions Providers: companies that enable and facilitate the transition to a lower carbon economy. These companies may be assessed on how they facilitate the reduction of carbon (e.g. companies providing electricity grids that provide the transmission and distribution of renewable energy) or enable the transition to net zero. They may be assessed at an individual company level where such date is available, or they may be assessed at a global industry level on whether their industry enables other companies to transition;

Peer Group Leaders: companies that are already considered within their respective sectors as leaders in carbon reduction.

Further, the Fund will apply a custom ESG screen which incorporates multiple components. First, a screen is used to limit or exclude direct investment (as applicable) in corporate issuers which, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser: have any exposure to, or ties with, controversial weapons or conventional weapons; the production, distribution, licensing, retail or supply of tobacco or tobacco-related products; the production or distribution of firearms or small arms ammunitions intended for retail civilians; are deemed to have failed to comply with one or more of the ten United Nation Global Compact Principles ("UNGC"), which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the extraction of, or the generation of power using, thermal coal or tar sands (also known as oil sands). However, the Investment Adviser may invest in the securities of issuers with higher levels of revenue from these activities if the issuer has committed to a net zero transition plan and its forward-looking capital expenditure plans do not include investment in new coal- powered generation assets.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the FTSE Developed Core Infrastructure 50/50 Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy.

The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the industry sector requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Global Long-Horizon Equity Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests globally, with no prescribed country, regional or capitalisation limits, at least 70% of its total assets in equity securities. The Fund may invest in equity securities that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, have a sustained competitive advantage and will typically be held over a long-term horizon. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**

Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or

more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser may refer to the MSCI All Country World Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Global Multi-Asset Income Fund*** follows a flexible asset allocation policy that seeks an above average income without sacrificing long term capital growth. The Fund invests globally in the full spectrum of permitted investments including equities, equity-related securities, fixed income transferable securities (which may include some high yield fixed income transferable securities), units of CIS, cash, deposits and money market instruments. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects. The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/ or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time. The Fund may invest up to 20% in aggregate of its total assets in the PRC via the Stock Connects, the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 50% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets. The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have significant exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using 50% MSCI World Index / 50% Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index USD Hedged as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 100% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed and the asset classes and the extent to which the Fund is invested in these may vary without limit depending on market conditions and other factors at the Investment Adviser's discretion. The Investment Adviser may refer to a composite benchmark comprising MSCI World Index (50%) and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index USD Hedged (50%) (the "Index") for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. The Fund's portfolio holdings are expected to deviate materially from the Index.

The ***Global Unconstrained Equity Fund*** seeks to achieve long term capital growth. The Fund will take into account the principles of environmental social and governance ("ESG") criteria in its investments selection.

The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in equity securities and equity-related securities (namely American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) and Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs)) of companies domiciled in, or exercising a significant part of their economic activity in, global developed markets. ADRs and GDRs are investments issued by financial institutions which give exposure to underlying equity securities. These instruments will be listed or traded on regulated markets.

The Fund's assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below

Although most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets and namely in:

- equity securities and equity related securities (namely ADRs and GDRs) of companies domiciled in, or exercising a significant part of their economic activity in, global emerging markets;

- cash and/or cash equivalents (such as term deposits and bank certificates), liquid government debt instruments and Money

Market Instruments (including certificates of deposit, commercial paper and bankers acceptances); and

- other CIS, including exchange-traded funds (where the objectives of such CIS are consistent with its objective or for efficiently managing cash holdings and/or collateral) The Fund may not invest more than 10% of its Net Asset Value in other CIS.

Investment decisions are based on company-specific research to identify and select equity securities that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, have a viable competitive advantage and the potential to produce attractive long-term capital growth. The Fund's portfolio is expected to be concentrated (i.e. it is expected to hold relatively few stocks in comparison to other funds), but there is no guarantee that this will always be the case.

The Fund may use derivatives for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Manager may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on www.blackrock.com/ https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. The Fund has an unconstrained investment style (i.e. it will not take a benchmark index into account when selecting the Fund's investments). However, the Investment Adviser uses the MSCI World Index (the "Index") for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy (including, in particular, its unconstrained investment style). The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments, nor is the Index reflective of the Fund's ESG Policy. The Fund's portfolio holdings are expected to deviate materially from the Index. Further information on the Index can be found at www.msci.com. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Impact Bond Fund*** seeks to achieve capital growth and income over the long term (at least five consecutive years) by investing in a global portfolio of fixed income instruments which have a positive social and/or environmental impact.

The Fund invests globally at least 80% of its total assets in "impact" investments which are those made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and/or environmental impact alongside a financial return. This includes, but is not limited to, "Green, Social and Sustainability" (GSS) bonds where the proceeds of such GSS bonds are tied to green and socially responsible projects. More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes including, but not limited to, bonds from companies which have social and/or environmental impact characteristics that the Investment Adviser has at its discretion deemed to be impactful and bespoke impact MBS pools. The Fund may invest in the full spectrum of available fixed income securities, including non-investment grade. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

For the selection of GSS bonds, the Investment Adviser will analyse the use of proceeds of the issues and the issuer framework for alignment of the bonds with the Green Bond Principles (GBP), Social Bond Principles (SBP), and Sustainability Bond Guidelines (SBG) of the International Capital Markets Association to determine suitability within the investment universe. Investment decisions will be based on issuer specific research (such as sovereign and credit analysis comprising a multi factor framework assessing global, country and issuer specific risk to determine issuers' ability and willingness to pay over the long term) to identify and select the GSS bonds and other fixed income securities that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, have the potential to produce attractive long-term returns whilst also being consistent with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("UN SDGs"). The UN SDGs are a series of goals published by the United Nations which recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with improvements in health, education, and economic growth, reduction in inequalities, all whilst tackling climate change and working to preserve the planet's oceans and forests, as set out in more detail on the UN website: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals. The Fund will aim to diversify its investments across issuers that have an impact on people and the planet (the

"Impact Categories") across themes including, but not limited to, affordable housing, education and skilling, financial and digital inclusion, public health, safety and security, efficiency, electrification and digitalisation, green energy, pollution remediation and prevention, sustainable food, water and waste.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets. The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have significant exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR. using ICE Green, Social & Sustainable Bond Index, EUR hedged as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 250% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS (including exchange traded funds) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. The Fund has an unconstrained investment style (i.e. it will not take a benchmark index into account when selecting the Fund's investments). The ICE Green, Social & Sustainable Bond Index, EUR hedged (the "Index") should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund over the long term. The Index measures the performance of GSS bonds across global markets. The Investment Adviser refers to the Index for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy.

The ***India Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, India.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI India TR Net 10/40 Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.



NM0324U-3453640-110/808

The ***Japan Flexible Equity Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Japan. The Fund normally invests in securities that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, exhibit either growth or value investment characteristics, placing an emphasis as the market outlook warrants. The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI Japan Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Japan Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of small and mid capitalisation companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Japan. Small and mid capitalisation companies are considered companies which, at the time of purchase, form the bottom 30% by market capitalisation of Japanese stock markets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the S&P Japan Mid Small Cap Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope and market capitalisation requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Latin American Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Latin America.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI EM Latin America 10/40 Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Multi-Theme Equity Fund*** seeks to achieve capital growth over the long term (at least five consecutive years) in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance (ESG) investing.

The Fund is an actively managed fund of funds. It will seek to achieve its investment objective by obtaining exposure, in respect of at least 80% of its total assets, to global equities and equity-related securities, both indirectly, through investment in units of UCITS managed by an affiliate of the BlackRock Group, and by investing directly in equity and equity-related securities and derivatives.

The Fund may invest in other Funds in the Company. The conditions applicable to investment in other Funds in the Company are set out in Appendix A, paragraph 2.4 of this Prospectus.

The Fund will not be subject to any geographic restrictions and may obtain indirect exposure to equities of companies located in developed markets and emerging markets globally. In practice the Fund may have a high allocation to particular countries or sectors at any one time.

The Fund will allocate strategically to longer-term investment opportunities intended to provide exposure to long-term themes (explained below) with the aim of gaining exposure to five global "Megatrends" (explained below) identified by the Investment Adviser. The Fund will maintain the ability to adjust these exposures tactically based on the Investment Adviser's assessment of market conditions.

The Fund will also allocate tactically to shorter-term investment opportunities on the basis of shorter-term thematic trends (explained below), where such investments may provide attractive risk and return characteristics or demonstrate better relative performance in the short term.

The five "Megatrends" are key transformative forces which are changing the global economy, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser. These are technological innovation (e.g. technology which aims to address large-scale challenges such as climate change or bring better alternatives to existing markets such as payments or streaming), demographics and social change (growth opportunities for businesses based on e.g. skills imbalance and ageing populations in advanced economies), rapid urbanization (growth opportunities for businesses arising from the significant needs of growing cities, e.g. communication networks and housing), climate change and resource scarcity (e.g. producers of sustainable energy and providers of substitutes to scarce materials) and emerging global wealth (growth opportunities for businesses arising from increasing consumer spending power in various parts of the world).

"Themes" and "Thematic trends" refers to major trends which may enable the identification of short-, medium- and long-duration investment opportunities which are derived from fundamental (i.e. judgement-based) research into drivers of the global economy and interpretation of the major economic, political and social developments that may have an impact on asset risks and returns.

The Investment Adviser will refer to qualitative (i.e. judgement-based) and quantitative (i.e. mathematical or statistical) research analysing a wide range of economic data and market behaviour, with a focus on the five Megatrends and a range of other "thematic trends". The research may be produced by the Investment Adviser or another member of the BlackRock Group, or by a third party.

The currency exposure of the Fund is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a QFI Access Fund and a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% in aggregate of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the QFI regime and/or via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described below.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will invest at least 80% of total assets in CIS qualifying as Article 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome or comprised of bonds issued by governments that have an ESG sovereign rating of at least BB (as defined by third party ESG data vendors).

The Fund will seek to invest at least 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments. The Investment Adviser also intends the Fund to deliver exposure to Sustainable Investments that is higher than the MSCI All Countries World Index.

The Investment Adviser will analyse all the securities in the underlying investment universe to assess their contribution to environmental and social objectives. The assessment of the level of alignment in each activity is based on percentage of revenue and a defined total revenue threshold.

The Fund will maintain a minimum exposure to investments that specifically support climate objectives.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. The MSCI All Countries World Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. Investors may use the Index for the purposes of measuring performance of the Fund against the relevant commitments set out in the ESG policy.

The ***Natural Resources Fund*** seeks to maximise total return . The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies whose predominant economic activity is in the natural resources sector, such as, but not limited to, companies engaged in mining, energy and agriculture.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the S&P Global Natural Resources Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the industry sector requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Next Generation Health Care Fund*** seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally that are involved with new and emerging themes in health care.

In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation across multiple industries including (without limitation) biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, life sciences tools and services, health care technology, health care equipment, medical devices and digital health care, and across multiple sub-themes including (without limitation) the following: genetic medicine, next generation diagnostics, immunotherapy, robotic-assisted surgery, biosensors and trackers, medical artificial intelligence applications and telehealth. The companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the next generation health care theme and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials.

Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a lower carbon emissions intensity score than the MSCI All Countries World Index.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying securities of derivatives used by the Fund.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. The MSCI All Countries World Index (MSCI ACWI) should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. The MSCI ACWI measures the performance of large and mid-capitalisation stocks across developed and emerging markets countries. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.msci.com/acwi. Investors should note that the Fund is not benchmarked against a specific Health Care focused benchmark since, as described above, it looks to give exposure to growth and innovation in the health care industry. The Fund is therefore likely to perform differently and have a different risk and volatility profile from products that do and so may generally perform better or worse than such a fund in different market conditions.

The ***Next Generation Technology Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally whose predominant economic activity comprises the research, development, production and/or distribution of new and emerging technology.

The Fund will focus on next generation technology themes including artificial intelligence, computing, automation, robotics, technological analytics, e-commerce, payment systems, communications technology and generative design.

In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation. Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. The MSCI All Countries World Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.msci.com/acwi.

The ***Nutrition Fund*** seeks to maximise total return by investing globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies engaged in any activity forming part of the food and agriculture value chain, including packaging, processing, distribution, technology, food and agriculture related services, seeds, agricultural or food-grade chemicals and food producers. As part of this, the Fund invests in companies which are actively combatting global sustainability challenges within the nutrition theme. The three major sustainable nutrition trends in focus are: the promotion of healthy and sustainable eating choices, delivering efficiencies across global food supply chains, and enabling less resource intensive farming. The companies are rated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the nutrition theme and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials. The assessment of the level of engagement in each activity may be based on percentage of

revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund adopts a "best in class" approach to sustainable investing. This means that the Fund selects the best issuers (from an ESG perspective) for each relevant sector of activities (without excluding any sector of activities). More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The investment universe of the Fund is represented by any company worldwide which, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, prioritises changing consumer preferences towards nutrition as a key strategic driver of its business ("Factset Nutrition Universe"). The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Factset Nutrition Universe after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the Factset Nutrition Universe.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying securities of derivatives used by the Fund.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. The MSCI All Countries World Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.msci.com/acwi.

The ***Social Action Equity Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance (ESG) investing.

The Fund focuses on investing in companies that offer mutual value creation whereby social progress is achieved, alongside shared prosperity. The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally whose products, services and /or behaviours enable improved social outcomes. (having regard to specialist third party information sources as appropriate). The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, other equity securities, fixed income securities, CIS or cash (which may not be consistent with the Social Action concept)) for the purposes of meeting the Fund's objective or for liquidity purposes.

The Fund will not be subject to any geographic restrictions. In practice the Fund may have a high allocation to specific countries or sectors at any one time. In normal market conditions, the Fund will seek to invest in a relatively concentrated portfolio of equity securities with large, medium and small market capitalisation across multiple sub-themes driven by the social action theme, including (without limitation) financial and digital inclusion, education and skilling, equality, human health, safety and security, access to basic resources.

The companies are rated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the social action theme and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials and their alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("UN SDGs"). The UN SDGs are a series of goals published by the United Nations which recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with improvements in health, education and economic growth, and a reduction in inequalities. For further details see the UN website: https://sdgs.un.org/goals.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The Fund will apply a custom ESG screen which incorporates multiple components. First, The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and will seek to limit or exclude direct investment in corporate issuers which, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser have any exposure to, or ties with, controversial weapons or conventional weapons; the production, distribution, licensing, retail or supply of tobacco or tobacco-related products; the production or distribution of firearms or small arms ammunitions intended for retail civilians; are deemed to have failed to comply with one or more of the ten United Nation Global Compact Principles ("UNGC"), which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption. The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the extraction of, or the generation of power using, thermal coal or tar sands (also known as oil sands). The Investment Adviser may invest in the securities of issuers with higher levels of revenue from these activities if the issuer has committed to a net zero transition plan.

Additionally, the Fund will apply custom social screens and will seek to limit or exclude direct investment in corporate issuers whose products, services and /or behaviours, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser impair social outcomes and / or affect social progress, mutual value creation and shared prosperity. These social screens include but are not limited to alcohol and gambling.

The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability

criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

The ESG Policy reduces the investment universe of the Fund compared to the Index by at least 20%.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments. Please see the definition of Sustainable Investments in the Glossary.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. In the opinion of the Investment Adviser, the MSCI All Countries World Index (the "Index") is a fair representation of the Fund's investment universe and should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. The Index measures the performance of large and mid-capitalisation stocks across developed and emerging markets countries. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.msci.com/acwi.

The ***Sustainable Asian Bond Fund*** seeks an above average income when compared to its benchmark, without sacrificing capital growth, with the aim of maximising total return over a rolling three-year period, and seeks to invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focussed investing. The Fund seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by allocating to green and sustainable bonds, lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers positioned to benefit from the low carbon transition.

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the fixed income transferable securities of issuers domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Asia. In order to generate above average income, the Fund will seek diversified income sources across a variety of such fixed income transferable securities. The Fund may invest in the full spectrum of available securities, including investment grade, non-investment grade and unrated securities. Investments in high yield fixed income transferable securities are expected to represent an important part of the portfolio and may exceed, depending on market conditions, 30% of the Fund's net asset value. The currency exposure of the Fund is flexibly managed.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments, including, but not limited to, "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond Principles) and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund is a QFI Access Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via QFI regime.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

The Fund may invest up to 20% in aggregate of its total assets in the PRC via QFI regime, the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect.

As part of its investment objective, the Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets and the Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**The Fund may have a material exposure to non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosure contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using J. P. Morgan ESG Asia Credit Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 100% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and will seek to limit or exclude direct investment in corporate issuers which, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, (i) derive more than 5% of revenue from the production or distribution of palm oil, (ii) derive more than 5% of revenue from the ownership or operation of gambling related activities or facilities, or (iii) involved in the production of adult entertainment materials (the "Screens"). Should existing holdings, compliant at the time of investment subsequently become ineligible with the Screens they will be divested within a reasonable period.

The Fund invests at least 20% in "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by its corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.

In very limited circumstances, the Fund may inadvertently gain indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.

In selecting investments, the Investment Adviser will, in addition to other investment criteria, take into account the ESG characteristics of the relevant issuer. At least 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

To undertake this analysis and exclusion, the Investment Adviser intends to use data generated internally by the Investment Adviser and/or its affiliates, or provided by external ESG research providers, proprietary models and local intelligence.

The ESG Policy reduces the investment universe of the Fund compared to the ESG Reporting Index by at least 20%.

The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be calculated as the total of each issuer's ESG rating (excluding cash and issuers not supported by the index provider), weighted by its market value. The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG Reporting Index after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the ESG Reporting Index.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score that is 30% lower than the ESG Reporting Index.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so the Investment Adviser will refer to the:

(i) J.P. Morgan ESG Asia Credit Index (the "Index") for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

(ii) J.P. Morgan Asia Credit Index (the "ESG Reporting Index") to assess the impact of ESG screening on the Fund's investment universe. The ESG Reporting Index is not intended to be used when constructing the Fund's portfolio, for risk management purposes to monitor active risk, or to compare the performance of the Fund. Further details are available on the index provider website at www.jpmorgan.com/insights/research/index-research/composition-docs.

The ***Sustainable Emerging Markets Blended Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focused investing.

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in fixed income transferable securities issued by governments and government agencies of, and companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets, denominated in both emerging market and non-emerging market currencies, and included within the J.P. Morgan ESG Blended Emerging Market Bond Index (Sovereign) (the "Index", and the securities comprised within it being the "Index Securities"). The Index provides the investment universe for at least 70% of the Fund's total assets. The weighting of Index Securities within the Fund's portfolio may differ from the weightings of securities within the Index, as the Fund is actively managed and does not seek to track the Index. The asset allocation of the Fund is intended to be flexible and the Fund will maintain the ability to switch exposure between currencies and issuers as market conditions and other factors dictate.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments, including, but not limited to, "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond Principles) and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The full spectrum of fixed income transferable securities, including non-investment grade, may be utilised. Investments in high yield fixed income transferable securities are expected to represent a significant part of the portfolio and are likely to exceed 50% of the Fund's net asset value.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

The Fund may invest more than 10% (but not more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of Argentina, Brazil, Hungary, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, Republic of South Africa, Turkey and Ukraine, countries which are, at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade. Such investments are based on (i) reference to the weighting that the relevant country's bond market represents of the emerging market bond universe within the J.P. Morgan ESG Blended Emerging Market Bond Index (Sovereign) (although this Fund is not an index-tracking fund, the Investment Adviser will take into account the constituent weighting of the benchmark when making investment decisions), and/or (ii) the professional judgment of the Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes. Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposures may change over time.

The afore-mentioned countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to Shareholders.

Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 10% of total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Absolute VaR.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 550% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
In selecting Index Securities, the Investment Adviser will, in addition to other investment criteria, take into account the ESG characteristics of the relevant issuer. The Investment Adviser will analyse which ESG factors drive an issuer's ESG credentials within the Index and its broader ESG performance.

The Index methodology assesses and ranks potential constituents according to their ESG credentials relative to their industry peers. This means that the Index provider, J.P. Morgan LLC, carries out an assessment on the sustainability and ethical impact of those constituents in accordance with its predetermined methodology. For further details please refer to https://www.jpmorgan.com/insights/research/index-research/composition-docs.

The Fund may also invest in fixed income transferable securities of emerging markets and non-emerging markets issuers which are not included in the Fund's benchmark index at the time of purchase, but which the Investment Adviser considers to meet similar ESG criteria (in addition to other investment criteria).

In addition to the above, the Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) compared to the ESG Reporting Index (as defined under the Benchmark use section below) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments, provided that: the Fund will invest at least 70% of its total assets in fixed income (FI) securities within the J.P. Morgan ESG Blended Emerging Market Bond Index (Sovereign) (the "Index"). In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the:

- J.P. Morgan ESG Blended Emerging Market Bond Index (Sovereign) (the "Index"), for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the weighting of the Index when selecting Index Securities. The geographical scope and the ESG requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

- J.P. Morgan Blended Emerging Market Bond Index (Sovereign) (the "ESG Reporting Index") to assess the impact of ESG screening on the Fund's investment universe. The ESG Reporting Index is not intended to be used when constructing the Fund's portfolio, for risk management purposes to monitor active risk, or to compare the performance of the Fund. Further details are available on the index provider website at www.jpmorgan.com/insights/research/index-research/composition-docs.

The ***Sustainable Emerging Markets Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focused investing.

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the fixed income transferable securities of governments and government agencies of, and companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets, and included within the J.P. Morgan ESG Emerging Market Bond Index Global Diversified (the "Index" and the securities comprised within it being "Index Securities"). The Index provides the investment universe for at least 70% of the Fund's total assets. The weighting of Index Securities within the Fund's portfolio may differ from the weightings of securities within the Index, as the Fund is actively managed and does not seek to track the Index.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments including, but not limited to, “green bonds” (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond Principles) and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below. The full spectrum of fixed income transferable securities, including non-investment grade, may be utilised. Investments in high yield fixed income transferable securities are expected to represent a significant part of the portfolio and are likely to exceed 50% of the Fund’s net asset value.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

The Fund may invest more than 10% (but not more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of Argentina, Brazil, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, Turkey and Ukraine, countries which are, at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade. Such investments are based on (i) reference to the weighting that the relevant country’s bond market represents of the emerging market bond universe within the J.P. Morgan ESG Emerging Market Bond Index Global Diversified (although this Fund is not an index-tracking fund, the Investment Adviser will take into account the constituent weighting of the benchmark when making investment decisions), and/or (ii) the professional judgment of the Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes. Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposures may change over time. The afore-mentioned countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to Shareholders.

Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund’s exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 10% of total assets.

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using J. P. Morgan ESG Emerging Market Bond Index Global Diversified as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 150% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**

In selecting such Index Securities, the Investment Adviser will, in addition to other investment criteria, take into account the ESG characteristics of the relevant issuer. The Investment Adviser will analyse which ESG factors drive an issuer’s ESG credentials within the Index and its broader ESG performance.

The Index methodology assesses and ranks potential constituents according to their ESG credentials relative to their industry peers. This means that the Index provider, J.P. Morgan LLC, carries out an assessment on the sustainability and ethical impact of those constituents in accordance with its predetermined methodology. For further details please refer to https://www.jpmorgan.com/insights/research/index-research/composition-docs.

The Fund may also invest in fixed income transferable securities of an issuer which is not included in the Index at the time of purchase, but which the Investment Adviser considers to meet similar ESG criteria (in addition to other investment criteria).

In addition to the above, the Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) compared to the ESG Reporting Index (as defined under the Benchmark use section below) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer’s financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments, provided that the Fund will invest at least 70% of its total assets in fixed income (FI) securities within the J.P. Morgan ESG Emerging Market Bond Index Global Diversified (the "Index"). In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the:

- J.P. Morgan ESG Emerging Market Bond Index Global Diversified (the “Index”) for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund’s

investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the weighting of the Index when selecting Index Securities. The geographical scope and the environmental, social and governance ("ESG") requirements (described below) of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

- J.P. Morgan Emerging Market Bond Index Global Diversified (the "ESG Reporting Index") to assess the impact of ESG screening on the Fund's investment universe. The ESG Reporting Index is not intended to be used when constructing the Fund's portfolio, for risk management purposes to monitor active risk, or to compare the performance of the Fund. Further details are available on the index provider website at www.jpmorgan.com/insights/research/index-research/composition-docs.

The ***Sustainable Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing.

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the fixed income transferable securities issued by companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets and included within the J.P. Morgan ESG Corporate Emerging Market Bond Index Broad Diversified (the "Index" and the securities comprised within it being the "Index Securities"). The Index provides the investment universe for at least 70% of the Fund's total assets. The weighting of Index Securities within the Fund's portfolio may differ from the weightings of securities within the Index, as the Fund is actively managed and does not seek to track the Index.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments, including, but not limited to, "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond Principles) and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The full spectrum of fixed income transferable securities, including non-investment grade, may be utilised. Investments in high yield fixed income transferable securities are expected to represent a significant part of the portfolio and are likely to exceed 50% of the Fund's net asset value.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

The Fund may invest more than 10% (but not more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of Argentina, Brazil, Hungary, Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, Russia, Republic of South Africa, Turkey and Ukraine, countries which are, at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade. Such investments are based on (i) reference to the weighting that the relevant country's bond market represents of the emerging market bond universe within the J.P. Morgan ESG Corporate Emerging Market Bond Index Diversified (although this Fund is not an index-tracking fund, the Investment Adviser will take into account the constituent weighting of the benchmark when making investment decisions), and/or (ii) the professional judgment of the Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes. Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposures may change over time. The afore-mentioned countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to Shareholders.

Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of its total assets.

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using J. P. Morgan ESG Corporate Emerging Market Bond Index Broad Diversified as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 100% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**

In selecting Index Securities, the Investment Adviser will, in addition to other investment criteria, take into account the ESG characteristics of the relevant issuer. The Investment Adviser will analyse which ESG factors drive an issuer's ESG credentials within the Index and its broader ESG performance.

The Index methodology assesses and ranks potential constituents according to their ESG credentials relative to their industry peers. This means that the Index provider, J.P. Morgan LLC, carries out an assessment on the sustainability and ethical impact of those constituents in accordance with its predetermined methodology. For further details please refer to https://www.jpmorgan.com/insights/research/index-research/composition-docs.

The Fund may also invest in fixed income transferable securities of an issuer which is not included in the Fund's benchmark index at the time of purchase, but which the Investment Adviser considers to meet similar ESG criteria (in addition to other investment criteria).

In addition to the above, the Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score that is lower than the J.P. Morgan Corporate Emerging Market Bond Index Broad Diversified (the "ESG Reporting Index"). The ESG Reporting Index is not intended to be used when constructing the Fund's portfolio, for risk management purposes to monitor active risk, or to compare the performance of the Fund.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments, provided that: the Fund will invest at least 70% of its total assets in fixed income (FI) securities within the J.P. Morgan ESG Corporate Emerging Market Bond Index Broad Diversified (the "Index"). The Fund will also refer to the Index for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the weighting of the Index when selecting Index Securities. The geographical scope and the environmental, social and governance ("ESG") requirements (described below) of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Sustainable Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focused investing.

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the fixed income transferable securities issued by governments of emerging markets, denominated in the local currency of such emerging markets countries and included within the J.P. Morgan ESG Government Bond Index – Emerging Market Global Diversified (the "Index", and the securities comprised within it being the "Index Securities"). The Index provides the investment universe for at least 70% of the Fund's total assets. The weighting of Index Securities within the Fund's portfolio may differ from the weightings of securities within the Index, as the Fund is actively managed and does not seek to track the Index.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments including, but not limited to, "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond Principles) and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The full spectrum of fixed income transferable securities, including non-investment grade, may be utilised. Investments in high yield fixed income transferable securities are expected to represent an important part of the portfolio and are likely to exceed, depending on market conditions, 30% of the Fund's net asset value.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

The Fund may invest more than 10% (but not more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of Brazil, Hungary, Indonesia, Russia, Republic of South Africa and Turkey, countries which are, at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade. Such investments are based on (i) reference to the weighting that the relevant country's bond market represents of the emerging market bond universe within the J.P. Morgan ESG Government Bond Index – Emerging Market Global Diversified (although this Fund is not an index-tracking fund, the Investment Adviser will take into account the constituent weighting of the benchmark when making investment decisions), and/or (ii) the professional judgment of the Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes. Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposures may change over time. The afore-mentioned countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to Shareholders.

Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of total assets.

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using J.P. Morgan ESG Government Bond Index — Emerging Market Global Diversified Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 480% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**

In selecting Index Securities, the Investment Adviser will, in addition to other investment criteria, take into account the ESG characteristics of the relevant issuer. The Investment Adviser will analyse which ESG factors drive an issuer's ESG credentials within the Index and its broader ESG performance.

The Index methodology assesses and ranks potential constituents according to their ESG credentials relative to their industry peers.

This means that the Index provider, J.P. Morgan LLC, carries out an assessment on the sustainability and ethical impact of those constituents in accordance with its predetermined methodology. For further details please refer to https://www.jpmorgan.com/insights/research/index-research/composition-docs.

The Fund may also invest in fixed income transferable securities of an issuer which is not included in the Fund's benchmark index at the time of purchase, but which the Investment Adviser considers to meet similar ESG criteria (in addition to other investment criteria).

In addition to the above, the Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) compared to the ESG Reporting Index (as defined under the Benchmark use Section below) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments, provided that: the Fund will invest at least 70% of its total assets in fixed income (FI) securities within the J.P. Morgan ESG Government Bond Index-Emerging Market Global Diversified (the "Index"). In doing so the Investment Adviser will refer to the:

- J.P. Morgan ESG Government Bond Index – Emerging Market Global Diversified (the "Index"), for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the weighting of the Index when selecting Index Securities. The geographical scope and the environmental, social and governance ("ESG") requirements (described below) of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

- J.P. Morgan Government Bond Index – Emerging Market Global Diversified (the "ESG Reporting Index") to assess the impact of ESG screening on the Fund's investment universe. The ESG Reporting Index is not intended to be used when constructing the Fund's portfolio, for risk management purposes to monitor active risk, or to compare the performance of the Fund. Further details are available on the index provider website at www.jpmorgan.com/insights/research/index-research/composition-docs.

The ***Sustainable Energy Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of sustainable energy companies. Sustainable energy companies are those which are engaged in alternative energy and energy technologies including: renewable energy technology; renewable energy developers; alternative fuels; energy efficiency; enabling energy and infrastructure. The companies are rated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with alternative energy and energy technologies and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials. The Fund will not invest in companies that are classified in the following sectors (as defined by Global Industry Classification Standard): coal and consumables; oil and gas exploration and production; and integrated oil and gas. The assessment of the level of engagement in each activity or sector may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund adopts a "best in class" approach to sustainable investing. This means that the Fund selects the best issuers (from an ESG perspective) for each relevant sector of activities (without excluding any sector of activities). More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the MSCI ACWI after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the index.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying securities of derivatives used by the Fund.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. In the opinion of the Investment Adviser, the MSCI All Countries World Index (MSCI ACWI) is a fair representation of the Fund's investment universe and should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. The MSCI ACWI measures the performance of large and mid-capitalisation stocks across developed and emerging markets countries. Further details are available at the index provider website at www.msci.com/acwi.

The ***Sustainable Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focused investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in fixed income transferable securities denominated in various currencies issued by governments, agencies and companies worldwide. The full spectrum of available securities, including non-investment grade, may be utilised. The Fund's base currency is Euro and currency exposure is flexibly managed. The asset allocation of the Fund will reflect its Euro base currency and consequently the composition of the portfolio may be different to that of a similar fund with a US Dollar denominated base currency.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments, including, but not limited to, "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond Principles) and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 100% of its total assets in ABS and MBS. ABS and MBS are debt securities backed or collateralised by the income stream from an underlying pool of assets or mortgage loans respectively. These ABS and MBS will include investments in sectors that have been identified by the Investment Adviser (in accordance with its proprietary methodology) as having enhanced social or environmental impact. It is anticipated that most of the ABS and MBS held by the Fund will have an investment grade rating, but the Fund will be able to use the full spectrum of available ABS and MBS, including non-investment grade instruments. ABS and MBS held by the Fund may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit–linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The issuers of the ABS and MBS may be companies, governments or municipalities and, more particularly, the Fund may hold MBS issued by government-sponsored enterprises ("agency MBS"). The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). Although this will not typically be the case, the ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets. The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Where the Fund uses derivatives, this may generate varying amounts of market leverage (i.e. where the Fund gains market exposure in excess of the value of its assets) and at times these levels of market leverage may be high. The use of derivatives will inevitably create leverage, because of the required calculation method i.e. leverage is the sum or gross notional exposure created by the derivatives used. A high leverage number is not necessarily an indication of high risk.

**This Fund may have significant exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Absolute VaR.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 550% of Net Asset Value. Leverage per se is not an accurate risk indicator as a higher degree of leverage does not necessarily imply a higher degree of risk. This Fund has a higher gross leverage figure than many of the other Funds due to the way in which it uses financial derivative instruments (for example, through its use of futures, swaps, options and forward contracts and short term interest rate derivatives, which can each contribute to increased leverage). In particular, short term interest rate derivatives can contribute to increased leverage due to the large notional values associated with these instruments relative to the duration exposure gained. As a result of its use of derivatives, this Fund may be more highly leveraged than other Funds. While leverage may present opportunities for increasing the Fund's total return, it also has the potential for increasing losses. The cumulative effect of the use of leverage by the Fund in a market that moves adversely to the Fund's investments could result in a loss to the Fund. Investors should note that the expected level of leverage can be exceeded in certain circumstances. Leverage, in this context is calculated as the sum of gross notional exposure created by the derivatives used.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and

issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities including limiting direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the ownership or operation of gambling related activities or facilities, production, supply and mining activities related to nuclear power and production of adult entertainment materials.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process.

The ***Sustainable Global Allocation Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focused investing. The Fund invests globally in equity, debt and short term securities, of both corporate and governmental issuers, with no prescribed limits. In normal market conditions the Fund will invest at least 70% of its total assets in the securities of corporate and governmental issuers. The Fund generally will seek to invest in securities that are, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, undervalued. The Fund may also invest in the equity securities of small and emerging growth companies. The Fund may also invest a portion of its debt portfolio in high yield fixed income transferable securities. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects. The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time. The Fund may invest up to 20% in aggregate of its total assets in the PRC via the Stock Connects, the Foreign Access Regime and/or Bond Connect.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets. The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets. The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using 60% MSCI All Country World Index, 40% Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 140% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant

business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

At least 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The ESG policy reduces the investment universe of the Fund by 20%. For the purposes of measuring this reduction only, MSCI All Country World Index and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index are used to define the investment universe and are reduced separately.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a lower carbon emissions intensity score than the Index.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to a composite benchmark comprising the MSCI All Country World Index (60%) and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index (40%) (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy.

The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. In addition, given the fund's ability to invest in global stocks and global bonds, investors may use the MSCI All Country World Index to compare the performance of the Fund vs. global equities and the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index to compare the performance of the Fund vs. global bonds (and the Investment Adviser intends to include these comparisons in its reports on the Fund from time to time).

The ***Sustainable Global Bond Income Fund*** seeks to maximise income without sacrificing long term capital growth in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG" focused investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in fixed income transferable securities denominated in various currencies issued by governments, government agencies, companies and supranationals worldwide, including in emerging markets. In order to maximise income the Fund will seek diversified income sources across a variety of such fixed income transferable securities. The full spectrum of available fixed income securities may be utilised, including investment grade, non-investment grade (which may be significant exposure) and unrated. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments, including, but not limited to, "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond Principles) and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/ or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

The Fund may invest more than 10% (but not more than 20%) of its Net Asset Value in debt securities issued by and/or guaranteed by governments in each of Brazil, Hungary, Indonesia, Russia, Republic of South Africa, and Turkey, countries which are, at the date of this Prospectus, rated non-investment grade. Such investments are based on the professional judgment of the Investment Adviser, whose reasons for investment may include a favourable/positive outlook on the relevant sovereign/foreign issuer, potential for ratings upgrade and the expected changes in the value of such investments due to ratings changes. Due to market movements, as well as credit/investment rating changes, the exposures may change over time. The aforementioned countries are for reference only and may change without prior notice to Shareholders.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 60% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit–linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have significant exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Absolute VaR.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 200% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments without reference to a benchmark.

The ***Sustainable Global Infrastructure Fund*** seeks to maximise long term total return and invest at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies whose predominant economic activity is in the infrastructure sector and with a particular focus on companies aligned with and supporting the objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("UN SDGs").

In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a relatively concentrated portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation across a broad range of infrastructure sub-sectors including (without limitation) regulated utilities, renewables, transportation and communications.

Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets.

The Fund will apply a custom ESG screen which incorporates multiple components. First, a screen is used to limit or exclude direct investment (as applicable) in corporate issuers which, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser: have any exposure to, or ties with, controversial weapons or conventional weapons; the production, distribution, licensing, retail or supply of tobacco or tobacco-related products; the production or distribution of firearms or small arms ammunitions intended for retail civilians; are deemed to have failed to comply with one or more of the ten United Nation Global Compact Principles ("UNGC"), which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption. The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the extraction of, or the generation of power using, thermal coal or tar sands (also known as oil sands). The Investment Adviser may invest in the securities of issuers with higher levels of revenue from these activities if the issuer has committed to a net zero transition plan.

Secondly, the Investment Adviser will look at the targets and the indicators for certain UN SDG namely SDG3 (Good Health & Well-Being), SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation) SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation &Infrastructure) SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action) and identify those that are supported by the sustainable infrastructure theme. The Investment Adviser screens the investment universe to invest only in companies that align with and advance at least one of the UN SDGs.

As part of the climate objective of the Fund, the Investment Adviser seeks to invest in companies that enhance the energy transition in line with objectives SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). In both cases the assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

Thirdly, the Investment Adviser conducts an enhanced analysis on all companies selected based on the proprietary methodology of its in-house ESG framework, of which the internally generated data produces ESG scores for the target companies. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may also use data provided by external ESG data providers and/or local intelligence. In this respect, companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the infrastructure theme and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials. Based on the in-depth assessment of the abovementioned factors, the Investment Adviser calculates an ESG score for each portfolio company. The assessment of the level of engagement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The investment strategy reduces the investable universe of the Fund compared to all securities in the Fund's investment universe by at least 20%.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the FTSE 50/50 Developed Core Infrastructure Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the industry sector requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Sustainable World Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focused investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in investment grade fixed income transferable securities. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/ or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments, including, but not limited to, "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond Principles) and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 50% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets. The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have significant exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using Bloomberg Global Aggregate USD Hedged Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 250% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the Bloomberg Global Aggregate USD Hedged Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the credit rating requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Swiss Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of small and mid capitalisation companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Switzerland. Small and mid capitalisation companies are considered companies which, at the time of purchase, are not members of the Swiss Market Index.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs (generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the SPI Extra Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Systematic China A-Share Opportunities Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in a portfolio of equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their activity in the People's Republic of China (PRC). The Fund is a QFI Access Fund and a Stock Connect Fund and may invest without limit in the PRC via the QFI regime and/or via the Stock Connects. For the purpose of the investment objective, the PRC excludes Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions and Taiwan and accordingly the Fund will invest only in onshore Chinese equity markets (A-Shares).

In order to achieve its investment objective and policy, the Fund will invest in a variety of investment strategies and instruments. In particular, the Fund will use quantitative (i.e. mathematical or statistical) models in order to achieve a systematic (i.e. rule based) approach to stock selection. This means that stocks will be

selected based on their expected contribution to portfolio returns when risk and transaction cost forecasts are taken into account.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Important Note: please note that the liquidity of Chinese equity markets is particularly unpredictable. Investors should read the "Liquidity Risk" and "Investments in the PRC" sections of the "Risk Considerations" section of this Prospectus and the "Suspension and Deferral" section of Appendix B of this Prospectus prior to investing in this Fund.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI China A Onshore Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Systematic China Environmental Tech Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or the main business of which is in, the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the industries and supply chain of new energy, carbon neutral, green energy, energy conservation and emission reduction themes. The Fund will have a flexible allocation between onshore and offshore Chinese equity markets. The Fund may invest in the Chinese equity markets through the Shanghai-Hong Kong Stock Connect and Shenzhen-Hong Kong Stock Connect. In order to achieve its investment objective and policy, the Fund will invest in a variety of investment strategies and instruments. In particular, the Fund will use quantitative (i.e. mathematical or statistical) models in order to achieve a systematic (i.e. rule based) approach to stock selection. This means that stocks will be selected based on their expected contribution to portfolio returns when risk and transaction cost forecasts are taken into account.

The Fund seeks to invest in in Sustainable Investments and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and a QFI Access Fund and may invest without limit in the PRC via the Stock Connects and/or via the QFI regime. The Fund will have a flexible allocation between onshore and offshore Chinese equity markets. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

The Investment Adviser will create a portfolio that seeks to deliver a superior ESG score versus the Index.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to MSCI China All Share IMI Environmental 10/40 Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy.

The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. The MSCI China All Shares Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***Systematic ESG Multi Allocation Credit Fund*** seeks to provide a positive return (net of fees) over a composite benchmark comprising (in equal proportion) Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate USD Hedged Index, Bloomberg Global High Yield Index Excl CMBS & EMG 2% Capped USD Hedged Index and J.P. Morgan EMBI ESG Global Diversified USD Hedged Index, by investing at least 70% of its total assets in a globally diversified range of investment grade and non-investment grade (i.e. securities which have a relatively low credit rating or which are unrated) fixed income securities (i.e. both government and corporate bonds).

The Fund may also invest in debt related securities (for example, credit bonds issued by government agencies, supranational entities (e.g. the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development) and local authorities, or hybrid securities (i.e.

financial securities which combine both debt and equity characteristics such as convertible bonds). The Fund may also invest in other asset classes to give the Fund the best chance of achieving its investment objective and/or for liquidity purposes. These other asset classes include CIS, cash, assets that can be turned into cash quickly and deposits.

The Fund will use a broadly rules based active approach (i.e. an investment approach involving a clear set of pre-determined rules designed to ensure a consistent, transparent and disciplined investment process incorporating data-driven inputs (which may relate to economics, valuation, price and positioning)). The Investment Adviser will use macro-economic data (i.e. data based on the whole economy as opposed to individual asset data), asset valuations and price and positioning based indicators (i.e. indicators employed by the Investment Adviser to analyse investor holdings and changes in these holdings over time, in order to assess investor demand and risk appetite in respect of specific asset classes) to determine asset allocation. The Investment Adviser will adjust the Fund's asset allocation (at its discretion), compared to the benchmark indices, in order to achieve the Fund's overall investment objective.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

With respect to the investment grade and high yield corporate debt securities portion of the Fund's portfolio, the Investment Adviser will also apply additional ESG criteria when selecting the investments to be held by the Fund.

In relation with investment grade corporate debt securities, the ESG criteria applied by the Fund consists of (i) achieving a carbon emission intensity score lower and (ii) an ESG score higher than the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate USD Hedged Index. The Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate USD Hedged Index represents the investment grade corporate debt securities portion of the Fund's index composite benchmark. In relation with high yield corporate debt securities, the criteria applied by the Fund consists of (i) achieving a carbon emission intensity score lower and (ii) an ESG score higher than the Bloomberg Global High Yield Index Excl CMBS & EMG 2% Capped USD Hedged Index. The Bloomberg Global High Yield Index Excl CMBS & EMG 2% Capped USD Hedged Index represents the high yield corporate debt securities portion of the Fund's index composite benchmark.

In relation to the emerging debt issuers, the Fund will invest in issuers that consists of the component securities of the J.P. Morgan ESG-Emerging Markets Bond Index Global Diversified Index (the Index). It is expected that this portion of the Fund's assets will be invested in either issuers within the Index or in issuers that meet the ESG selection criteria of the Index.

By investing in the constituents of the Index, the Fund's investment strategy enables it to comply with the ESG requirements of its Index as determined by the index provider. In the event that any investments cease to comply, the Fund may continue to hold such investments only until such time as the relevant issuers cease to form part of the Index and it is possible and practicable to liquidate the position.

The Fund's ESG score will be calculated as the total of each investment grade and high yield corporate debt securities' ESG score (where applicable), weighted by its market value. The ESG score of the respective benchmarks will be calculated using the ESG scores of the investment grade corporate debt securities portion of the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate USD Hedged Index and the high yield corporate debt securities portion of the Bloomberg Global High Yield Index Excl CMBS & EMG 2% Capped USD Hedged Index. These scores may be quoted for individual asset classes or allocation weighted in marketing material.

The Fund's exposure to non-investment grade fixed income securities is limited to 90% of its total assets.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate USD Hedged Index, Bloomberg Global High Yield Index Excl CMBS & EMG 2% Capped USD Hedged Index and J.P. Morgan EMBI ESG Global Diversified USD Hedged Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 100% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. A composite benchmark made up of the following indices in equal proportion: Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate USD Hedged Index, Bloomberg Global High Yield Index Excl CMBS & EMG 2% Capped USD Hedged Index and J.P. Morgan EMBI ESG Global Diversified USD Hedged Index, should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. The Investment Adviser may also refer to this composite benchmark for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the benchmark) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy.

The ***Systematic Global Equity High Income Fund*** seeks to generate a high level of income. The Fund invests globally, with no prescribed country or regional limits, at least 70% of its total assets in equity securities.

In order to achieve its investment objective and policy, the Fund will invest in a variety of investment strategies and instruments. In particular, the Fund will use quantitative (i.e. mathematical or statistical) models in order to achieve a systematic (i.e. rule based) approach to stock selection. This means that stocks will be selected based on their expected contribution to portfolio returns when risk and transaction cost forecasts are taken into account.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so may take into consideration the MSCI ACWI Minimum Volatility Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. The Fund's portfolio holdings are expected to deviate materially from the Index.

The ***Systematic Global Sustainable Income & Growth Fund*** seeks to provide income and capital growth from its investments in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG" focused investing.

In order to achieve its investment objective the Fund will invest globally, directly and indirectly, in the full spectrum of permitted investments including on average, typically two thirds of its total assets in equities and one third of its total assets in fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities which may include the Fund investing up to 20% of its total assets in some high yield fixed income transferable securities), as well as investing in units of CIS, cash, deposits and money market instruments. The Fund will not be subject to prescribed country or regional limits and although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets. The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

To evaluate a company at the time of purchase using the Fund's ESG methodology, multiple areas are focused on: environmental, social and governance outcomes, expected returns (including ESG return drivers), risk and transaction costs, as determined through proprietary research. In order to achieve its investment objective and policy, the Fund will invest in a variety of investment strategies and instruments. In particular, the Fund will use quantitative (i.e. mathematical or statistical) models in order to achieve a systematic approach to stock selection. This means that stocks will be selected and weightings allocated based on their ESG attributes and on forecasts of return, risk and transaction costs.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits. The Investment Adviser may also consider additional factors relating to good governance in its assessment of the sustainability related characteristics of underlying issuers depending on the particular ESG strategy applicable to the Fund.

The Investment Adviser will create a portfolio that seeks to deliver a superior ESG outcome versus the Index and the weighted average ESG score of the Fund will be higher than the ESG score of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the Index. The Investment Adviser also intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score that is lower than the Index.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser may take into consideration a composite benchmark comprising 33.3% MSCI World Minimum Volatility Index, 33.3% MSCI All Country World Index, 16.7% BBG Global Aggregate Corporate Index and 16.7% BBG Global High Yield Corp ex Emerging Markets Index Hedged in USD (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components and weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. The Fund's portfolio holdings are expected to deviate materially from the Index.

The ***Systematic Sustainable Global SmallCap Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of smaller capitalisation companies in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable investing. Smaller capitalisation companies are considered companies which, at the time of purchase, form the bottom 20% by market capitalisation of global stock markets. Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in the emerging markets of the world. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

In order to achieve its investment objective and policy, the Fund will invest in a variety of investment strategies and instruments. In particular, the Fund will use quantitative (i.e. mathematical or statistical) models in order to achieve a systematic (i.e. rule based) approach to stock selection. This means that stocks will be selected based on their expected contribution to portfolio returns when risk and transaction cost forecasts are taken into account.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments. The Fund is a Stock

Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund's ESG score will be calculated as the total of each issuer ESG score (where applicable), weighted by its market value.

The Investment Adviser will create a portfolio that seeks to deliver a superior ESG outcome versus the Index and the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the Index. The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a lower carbon emissions intensity score than its Index.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser may refer to the MSCI ACWI Small Cap Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the market capitalisation requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***United Kingdom Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies incorporated or listed in the UK.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the FTSE All-Share Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***US Basic Value Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, the US. The Fund places particular emphasis on companies that are, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, undervalued and therefore represent basic investment value.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the Russell 1000 Value Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Russell 1000 Value Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***US Dollar Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in investment grade fixed income transferable securities. At least 70% of the Fund's total assets are invested in fixed income transferable securities denominated in US dollars. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/ or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 100% of its total assets in ABS and MBS. ABS and MBS are debt securities backed or collateralised by the income stream from an underlying pool of assets or mortgage loans respectively. It is anticipated that a large portion of the ABS and MBS held by the Fund will have an investment grade rating but the Fund will be able to utilise the full spectrum of available ABS and MBS, including non-investment grade or not instruments. ABS and MBS held by the Fund may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The issuers of the ABS and MBS may be companies, governments or municipalities and, more particularly, the Fund may hold MBS issued by government-sponsored enterprises ("agency MBS"). The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). Although this will not typically be the case, the ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 10% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Where the Fund uses derivatives, this may generate varying amounts of market leverage (i.e. where the Fund gains market exposure in excess of the value of its assets) and at times these levels of market leverage may be high. The use of derivatives will inevitably create leverage, because of the required calculation method i.e. leverage is the sum or gross notional exposure created by the derivatives used. A high leverage number is not necessarily an indication of high risk.

**This Fund may have significant exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using Bloomberg US Aggregate Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 300% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the Bloomberg US Aggregate Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the currency and credit rating requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***US Dollar High Yield Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in high yield fixed income transferable securities denominated in US dollars. The Fund may invest in the full spectrum of available fixed income transferable securities, including non-investment grade. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets and its exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 20% of total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using Bloomberg US High Yield 2% Constrained Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 20% of Net Asset Value.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

Issuers are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG consistent business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

The Investment Adviser monitors issuers with lower ESG ratings and flagged controversies according to third party data providers. The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on such issuers through a 'watchlist' to identify relevant ESG related information that is not reflected in the third party data analysis and may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those issuers in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG data providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the Bloomberg US High Yield 2% Constrained Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the currency requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***US Dollar Reserve Fund*** seeks to offer returns in line with money market rates consistent with preservation of capital and liquidity. The Fund invests its assets exclusively in US dollar denominated short-term assets and cash in accordance with the requirements of the MMF Regulations, as summarised in Appendix A. The Fund is a short-term money market fund.

The Fund may invest up to 15% of its total assets in securitisations and asset backed commercial paper ("ABCP") that are sufficiently liquid and have received a favourable assessment pursuant to the Internal Credit Quality Assessment Procedure.

At the discretion of the Investment Adviser, the Fund will invest in eligible reverse repurchase agreements for both liquidity management purposes and for permitted investment purposes.

The Fund may only use derivatives for the purpose of hedging the interest rate or exchange rate risks inherent in its investments. The underlying of the derivative instruments must consist of interest rates, foreign exchange rates, currencies or indices representing one of those categories.

The Fund does not rely on external support for guaranteeing the liquidity of the Fund or stabilising the NAV per share.

**This Fund may have a material exposure to permitted securitisations and ABCPs and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments without reference to any benchmark. The Secured Overnight Financing Rate (SOFR) should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***US Dollar Short Duration Bond Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in investment grade fixed income transferable securities. At least 70% of the Fund's total assets are invested in fixed income transferable securities denominated in US dollars with a duration of less than five years. The average duration is not more than three years. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a CIBM Fund and may gain direct exposure for no more than 20% of its total assets to onshore bonds distributed in Mainland China in the CIBM via the Foreign Access Regime and/ or Bond Connect and/or other means as may be permitted by the relevant regulations from time to time.

As part of its investment objective the Fund may invest up to 100% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. The ABS and MBS will generally be issued in the US, the securitised assets will be rated investment grade by at least one of the leading credit rating agencies and agency ABS and MBS will carry the same credit rating as the US Government. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit-linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The

underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**This Fund may have significant exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Absolute VaR.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 350% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the ICE BoAML 1-3 Year U.S . Government/Corporate Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the currency, credit rating and maturity requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***US Flexible Equity Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, the US. The Fund normally invests in securities that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, exhibit either growth or value investment characteristics, placing an emphasis as the market outlook warrants.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities, In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf.) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the Russell 1000 Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***US Government Mortgage Impact Fund*** seeks a high level of income. The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in fixed income transferable securities issued or guaranteed by the United States Government which have a positive social and/or environmental impact.

The Fund may invest in fixed income transferable securities issued or guaranteed by the United States Government, its agencies or instrumentalities, including Government National Mortgage Association ("GNMA") mortgage-backed certificates and other US Government securities representing ownership interests in mortgage pools, such as mortgage-backed securities issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac which have social and/or environmental impact characteristics that the Investment Adviser has at its discretion deemed to be impactful, including (without limitation) rural housing, manufactured housing, housing pools issued by State Housing Finance Authorities and bespoke impact MBS pools. All securities in which the Fund invests are US dollar-denominated securities.

"Impact" investments are those which are made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and/or environmental impact alongside a financial return. Investment decisions for the Fund will be based on agency and program specific research to identify and select the fixed income securities described above that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, have the potential to produce attractive income returns whilst having a positive social and/or environmental impact. The team evaluates existing housing programs and initiatives to determine the level of social and/or environmental impact and how the programs or initiatives support increased access to home ownership, savings to borrowers, support the increase affordable housing supply, and / or reduce barriers to the provision of affordable housing credit. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits. More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes. The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund may invest up to 100% of its total assets in ABS and MBS whether investment grade or not. The ABS and MBS will generally be issued in the US, the securitised assets will be rated investment grade by at least one of the leading credit rating agencies and agency ABS and MBS will carry the same credit rating as the US Government. These may include asset-backed commercial paper, collateralised debt obligations, collateralised mortgage obligations, commercial mortgage-backed securities, credit–linked notes, real estate mortgage investment conduits, residential mortgage-backed securities and synthetic collateralised debt obligations. The underlying assets of the ABS and MBS may include loans, leases or receivables (such as credit card debt, automobile loans and student loans in the case of ABS and commercial and residential mortgages originating from a regulated and authorised financial institution in the case of MBS). The ABS and MBS in which the Fund invests may use leverage to increase return to Shareholders. Certain ABS may be structured by using a derivative such as a credit default swap or a basket of such derivatives to gain exposure to the performance of securities of various issuers without having to invest in the securities directly.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**This Fund may have significant exposure to ABS, MBS and non-investment grade debt, and investors are encouraged to read the relevant risk disclosures contained in the section "Specific Risk Considerations".**

**Risk management measure used: Relative VaR using Bloomberg US MBS Index as the appropriate benchmark.**

**Expected level of leverage of the Fund: 240% of Net Asset Value.**

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the Bloomberg US MBS Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the issuer, guarantor and credit rating requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. The investment strategy reduces the universe of the Fund compared to the Index by at least 20%.

The ***US Growth Fund*** seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, the US. The Fund places particular emphasis on companies that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, exhibit growth investment characteristics, such as above-average growth rates in earnings or sales and high or improving returns on capital.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**

Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities, In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this

analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**

The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the Russell 1000 Growth Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***US Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027*** seeks to provide income, whilst also aiming to preserve the original amount of capital invested and investing in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG"-focused investing.

The Fund uses a "buy and maintain" strategy whereby fixed income securities will be held until their fixed maturity dates as part of a low turnover strategy, (subject, among other factors, to ongoing monitoring of credit risk), when their capital will become repayable to the Fund. The Fund is therefore intended for investors who will hold Shares until they are finally redeemed upon the Maturity Date of the Fund, as defined hereunder.

The Fund is intended to have a fixed term of up to 4 years and 2 months comprising three distinct periods namely:

i) the "**Pre Investment Period**": an initial subscription period of up to 2 months from a date to be determined by the Board of Directors upon creation of the Fund until the date on which the Fund is launched (the "**Launch Date**" of the Fund);

ii) the "**Investment Period**": a period of 3 years immediately following the Pre Investment Period including a ramp-up period of 20 Business Days, subject to the Investment Adviser's discretion to complete this within a longer time period depending on its assessment of market conditions (the "**Ramp-up Period**"); and

iii) the "**Post Investment Period**": a period of up to 12 months following the Investment Period, ending on a date determined by the Investment Adviser at its discretion and on which the Fund will be automatically closed (the "**Maturity Date**").

During the Pre Investment Period and Ramp up Period, the Fund will hold up to 100% of its Net Asset Value in cash, deposits, Money Market Instruments, units of CIS and other cash equivalents.

In order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund will gradually look to build up its portfolio so that following the Ramp-up Period:

- at least 80% of its Net Asset Value is invested in corporate fixed income securities issued by companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in, global developed markets and denominated in US Dollar. Such fixed income securities shall, at the time of purchase, be rated investment grade; and

- up to 20% of the Fund's Net Asset Value is invested in global fixed income securities which, at the time of purchase, are rated non-investment grade.

Should the credit quality of fixed income securities held by the Fund deteriorate to below investment grade causing the Fund to hold below 80% of its Net Asset Value in investment grade (or deemed equivalent), and/or greater than 20% of its Net Asset Value in sub-investment grade or unrated, fixed income securities, the Fund may continue to hold the affected fixed income securities for a period of time, which could be three months or more, at the discretion of the Investment Adviser, in order to avoid a distressed sale of such downgraded securities.

Investment in fixed income securities may also include investments in instruments relating to such securities such as credit default swaps, currency swaps, futures and forwards. In addition, when deemed appropriate, the Fund may invest in cash equivalents such as deposits, Money Market Instruments, and units of CIS for the purpose of cash management, and to achieve its investment goals.

During the Investment Period, Fund may invest up to 50% of its Net Asset Value in securities which have average maturities of up to 4 years, measured from the start of the Investment Period, where the Investment Adviser considers it to be appropriate to the investment objective and policy of the Fund. The remainder of the securities invested in by the Fund are intended to have average maturities of up to 3 years, as measured from the start of the Investment Period.

During the Investment Period, all investment income and capital gains generated in the Fund will be reinvested back into the strategy at the discretion of the Investment Adviser and in accordance with the investment policy.

During the Post Investment Period, the Fund will invest progressively in securities (all as disclosed in this Investment Policy section) which have shorter average maturities than those invested in by the Fund during the Investment Period.

In addition, in anticipation of the automatic closure of the Fund on the Maturity Date, the Fund may be fully invested in cash, deposits, Money Market Instruments, units of CIS and other cash equivalents for the purpose of cash management in order to redeem Shareholders on the Maturity Date in accordance with its investment policy, provided that holdings in cash shall not exceed 20% of the Fund's Net Asset Value, except during the last six months prior to the Maturity Date. For avoidance of doubt, Shareholders should note that during the Post Investment Period, the investment limits set out above in relation to the Investment Period shall no longer apply.

The Fund's exposure to Distressed Securities is limited to 10% of its total assets. In addition, the Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund does not qualify as a money market fund within the meaning of the Money Market Funds Regulation.

The Investment Adviser retains discretion to shorten or extend the Pre Investment Period, the Investment Period and the Post Investment Period, including but not limited to circumstances where the exercise of the suspension of the determination of the Net Asset Value, or the issue and redemption of Shares in the Fund, causes the term of the Fund to extend beyond 4 years and 2 months and the Maturity Date to be changed to a later date.

**Subscriptions**
Shareholders may subscribe into the Fund during the Pre Investment Period. At the end of the Pre Investment Period, the Fund will be closed to new subscriptions.

Shareholders will be notified of the closure of the Pre Investment Period and opening of the Investment Period by means of a notice published at the following link https://www.blackrock.com/lu/individual/products/product-list.

Within 20 Business Days after the end of the Pre Investment Period, Shareholders will be informed in writing of the relevant Maturity Date. The Maturity Date shall be the date on which the Post Investment Period ends, within 12 months following the end of the Investment Period, as determined by the Investment Adviser at its discretion. On the Maturity Date, the Fund will be automatically closed and Shares in the Fund will be redeemed in accordance with the redemption provisions set out in this Prospectus, as if each investor remaining in the Fund on the Maturity Date had submitted an application form prior to the Maturity Date, requesting redemption in full on the Maturity Date.

**Redemptions**
Shareholders will be able to redeem their Shares in the Fund during the Pre Investment Period, the Investment Period or the Post Investment Period in compliance with the provisions set out under the section "Redemption of Shares".

A redemption fee of up to 1% will, at the discretion of the Management Company acting in the best interests of Shareholders, be charged on Shares, on the applicable Dealing Day on which redemption is effected at all times but not including the Maturity Date.

The Fund is actively managed and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process.

The ***US Mid-Cap Value Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of mid capitalisation companies domiciled in, or exercising the

predominant part of their economic activity in, the US. Mid capitalisation companies are considered companies which, at the time of purchase, have market capitalisations in the range of companies included in the Russell Midcap Value Index.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the Russell Midcap Value Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope and market capitalisation requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***US Sustainable Equity Fund*** seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in the United States, in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable investing.

The investment decisions are based on the Investment Adviser's fundamental research focusing on bottom up (i.e. company-specific) analysis, inclusive of financial and non-financial metrics. This approach aims to identify and select equity and equity-related securities that can, through a concentrated portfolio, reflect the Investment Adviser's conviction to deliver the Fund's investment objective.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying securities of derivatives used by the Fund.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
The Investment Adviser will create a portfolio that seeks to deliver a superior ESG outcome versus the Index as defined below.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in: the production and retail sales of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; the mining, production and supply activities related to nuclear power, the production of adult entertainment materials, unconventional oil and gas production, and, the production of conventional weapons. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The ESG criteria also consists of a rating of B or higher as defined by MSCI's ESG Intangible Value Assessment Ratings or another equivalent third party ESG data provider.

The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the Index.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score at least 20% lower than its Index.

More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

Companies in the portfolio are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their sustainability characteristics and their ability to manage ESG risks and opportunities. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG data providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Investment Adviser engages with companies to support improvement in their environmental, social and governance ("ESG") credentials.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed. The Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the Russell 1000 Index (the "Index") for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. In the opinion of the Investment Adviser, the Index is a fair representation of the Fund's investment universe and should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund. The Index measures the performance of large and mid-capitalisation companies in the United States. Further details are available at the index provider website at https://www.ftserussell.com/products/indices/russell-us.

The ***World Energy Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies whose predominant economic activity is in the exploration, development, production and distribution of energy.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI World Energy 30% Buffer 10 /40Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the industry sector requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***World Financials Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies whose predominant economic activity is financial services.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI ACWI Financials Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the industry sector requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***World Gold Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies whose predominant economic activity is gold-mining. It may also invest in the equity securities of companies whose predominant economic activity is other precious metal or mineral and base metal or mineral mining. The Fund does not hold physical gold or metal.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments and is not constrained by any benchmark in this process. The FTSE Gold Mines Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***World Healthscience Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies whose predominant economic activity is in healthcare, pharmaceuticals, medical technology and supplies and the development of biotechnology. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI World Health Care Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the industry sector requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***World Mining Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of mining and metals companies whose predominant economic activity is the production of base metals and industrial minerals such as iron ore and coal. The Fund may also hold the equity securities of companies whose predominant economic activity is in gold or other precious metal or mineral mining. The Fund does not hold physical gold or metal.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund's exposure to contingent convertible bonds is limited to 5% of its total assets.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI ACWI Metals & Mining 30% Buffer 10/40 Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the

components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the industry sector requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***World Real Estate Securities Fund*** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies whose predominant economic activity is in the real estate sector. This may include residential and / or commercial real estate focused companies as well as real estate operating companies and real estate holding companies (for example, real estate investment trusts).

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the FTSE EPRA/Nareit Developed Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the industry sector requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

The ***World Technology Fund*** seeks to maximise total return and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies whose predominant economic activity is in the technology sector.

The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects.

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

**Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.**

**ESG Policy**
Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 49 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund.

**Benchmark use**
The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI AC World Information Technology 10/40 Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the industry sector requirements of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.

**New Funds or Share Classes**
The Directors may create new Funds or issue further Share Classes. This Prospectus will be supplemented to refer to these new Funds or Classes.

## Classes and Form of Shares

Shares in the Funds are divided into Class A, Class AI, Class C, Class CI, Class D, Class DD, Class E, Class EI, Class I, Class J, Class S, Class SI, Class SR, Class X, Class Z and Class ZI Shares, all representing different charging structures. Shares are further divided into Distributing and Non-Distributing Share classes. Non-Distributing Shares do not pay dividends, whereas Distributing Shares pay dividends. See section "Dividends" for further information.

**Class A Shares**
Class A Shares are available to all investors as Distributing and Non-Distributing Shares and are issued in registered form and global certificate form. Unless otherwise requested, all Class A Shares will be issued as registered shares.

**Class AI Shares**
Subject to the discretion of the Management Company (taking into account local regulations), Class AI Shares are available only in Italy through specific distributors selected by the Management Company and the Principal Distributor (details of which may be obtained from the local Investor Servicing team). Class AI Shares are available as Distributing and Non-Distributing Shares and are issued as registered shares and global certificates. Unless otherwise requested, all Class AI Shares will be issued as registered shares.

**Class B Shares**
Class B Shares are available as Distributing and Non-Distributing Shares to clients of certain distributors (which provide nominee facilities to investors) and to other investors at the discretion of the Management Company. Class B Shares are available as registered shares only. Class B Shares will automatically convert without any CDSC fee into Class A Shares of the same Fund three years from the date of the original subscription in the relevant Class B Shares.

In addition, during the three years since the original subscription, Shareholders of the Class B Shares are entitled to exchange those Shares for Class B Shares of any other Fund without any CDSC fee.

For the purposes of determining the amount of the applicable CDSC, the length of time that the Shareholder has owned the Shares will be measured from the date they acquired the original Class B Shares subject to a CDSC and this will not be affected by a subsequent exchange in another Class B Share, as described in further detail in paragraph 19. of Appendix B.

**Class C Shares**
Class C Shares are available as Distributing and Non-Distributing Shares to clients of certain distributors (which provide nominee facilities to investors) and to other investors at the discretion of the Management Company. Class C Shares are available as registered shares only.

A CDSC is charged on Class C Shares, as described in further detail in paragraph 19. of Appendix B.

**Class CI Shares**
Class CI Shares are available as Distributing and Non-Distributing Shares to clients of certain distributors (which provide nominee facilities to investors) and to other investors at the discretion of the Management Company. Class CI Shares are available as registered shares only.

**Class D Shares**
Subject to the discretion of the Management Company (taking into account local regulations), Class D Shares are intended for providers of independent advisory services or discretionary investment management, or other distributors who: (i) provide investment services and activities as defined by the MiFID II Directive; and (ii) have separate fee arrangements with their clients in relation to those services and activities provided; and (iii) do not receive any other fee, rebate or payment from the relevant Fund in relation to those services and activities. Class D Shares are not intended for providers of independent advisory services or discretionary portfolio management services that are subject to German law according to the German Banking Act (§ 32 KWG), in relation to those services conducted in Germany.

Class D Shares are available as Distributing and Non-Distributing Shares and are issued as registered shares and global certificates. Unless otherwise requested, all Class D Shares will be issued as registered shares.

**Class DD Shares**
Subject to the discretion of the Management Company (taking into account local regulations), Class DD Shares are intended for providers of independent advisory services or discretionary portfolio management services that are subject to German Banking Act (§ 32 KWG), in relation to those services conducted in Germany.

Class DD Shares are available as Distributing and Non-Distributing Shares and are issued as registered shares and global certificates. Unless otherwise requested, all Class DD Shares will be issued as registered shares.

**Class E Shares**
Class E Shares are available in certain countries, subject to the relevant regulatory approval, through specific distributors selected by the Management Company and the Principal Distributor (details of which may be obtained from the local Investor Servicing team). They are available as Distributing and Non-Distributing Shares, and are issued as registered shares and global certificates for all Funds. Unless otherwise requested, all Class E Shares will be issued as registered shares.

**Class EI Shares**
Class EI Shares are available in certain countries, subject to the relevant regulatory approval, through specific distributors selected by the Management Company and the Principal Distributor (details of which may be obtained from the local Investor Servicing team). They are available as Distributing and Non-Distributing Shares, and are issued as registered shares and global certificates for all Funds. Unless otherwise requested, all Class EI Shares will be issued as registered shares.

**Class I Shares**
Class I Shares are available as Distributing and Non-Distributing Shares to Institutional Investors and are issued as registered shares and global certificates. Unless otherwise requested, all

Class I Shares will be issued as registered shares. They are only available at the Management Company's discretion.

Class I Shares are only available to Institutional Investors within the meaning of Article 174 of the 2010 Law. Investors must demonstrate that they qualify as Institutional Investors by providing the Company and its Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing team with sufficient evidence of their status.

On application for Class I Shares, Institutional Investors indemnify the Company and its functionaries against any losses, costs or expenses that the Company or its functionaries may incur by acting in good faith upon any declarations made or purporting to be made upon application.

**Class J Shares**
Class J Shares are offered to funds established for the benefit of Japanese investors, or other funds at the discretion of the Management Company. Class J Shares are available as Distributing and Non-Distributing Shares. No management fees are payable in respect of Class J Shares (instead a fee will be paid to the Management Company or affiliates under an agreement). Unless otherwise requested, all Class J Shares will be issued as registered shares.

Class J Shares are only available to Institutional Investors within the meaning of Article 174 of the 2010 Law. Investors must demonstrate that they qualify as Institutional Investors by providing the Company and its Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing team with sufficient evidence of their status.

On application for Class J Shares, Institutional Investors indemnify the Company and its functionaries against any losses, costs or expenses that the Company or its functionaries may incur by acting in good faith upon any declarations made or purporting to be made upon application.

**Class S Shares**
Subject to the discretion of the Management Company (taking into account local regulations), Class S Shares are intended for providers of independent advisory services or discretionary investment management, or other distributors who: (i) provide investment services and activities as defined by the MiFID II Directive; and (ii) have separate fee arrangements with their clients in relation to those services and activities provided; and (iii) do not receive any other fee, rebate or payment from the relevant Fund in relation to those services and activities. Class S Shares are not intended for providers of independent advisory services or discretionary portfolio management services that are subject to German law according to the German Banking Act (§ 32 KWG), in relation to those services conducted in Germany. Class S Shares are available as Distributing and Non-Distributing Shares and are issued as registered shares and global certificates. Unless otherwise requested, all Class S Shares will be issued as registered shares. Class S Shares are only available to investors who have entered into a separate agreement with the relevant entity of the BlackRock Group.

**Class SI Shares**
Class SI Shares are available as Non-Distributing and Distributing Shares, and are only issued as registered shares. They are only available at the Management Company's discretion.

**Class SR Shares**
Subject to the discretion of the Management Company (taking into account local regulations), Class SR Shares are intended for providers of independent advisory services who: (i) provide investment services and activities as defined by the MiFID II Directive; and (ii) have separate fee arrangements with their clients in relation to those services and activities provided; and (iii) do not receive any other fee, rebate or payment from the relevant Fund in relation to those services and activities. Class SR Shares are not intended for providers of discretionary investment management.

**Class X Shares**
Class X Shares are available as Non-Distributing Shares and Distributing Shares, and are issued as registered shares only at the discretion of the Investment Adviser and its affiliates. No management fees are payable in respect of Class X Shares (instead a fee will be paid to the Investment Adviser or affiliates under an agreement).

Class X Shares are only available to Institutional Investors within the meaning of Article 174 of the 2010 Law, and who have entered into a separate agreement with the relevant entity of the BlackRock Group. Investors must demonstrate that they qualify as Institutional Investors by providing the Company and its Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing team with sufficient evidence of their status.

On application for Class X Shares, Institutional Investors indemnify the Company and its functionaries against any losses, costs or expenses that the Company or its functionaries may incur by acting in good faith upon any declarations made or purporting to be made upon application.

**Class Z Shares**
Class Z Shares are available as Non-Distributing and Distributing Shares, and are only issued as registered shares. They are only available at the Management Company's discretion.

**Class ZI Shares**
Class ZI Shares are available as Distributing and Non-Distributing Shares to Institutional Investors and are issued as registered shares and global certificates. Unless otherwise requested, all Class ZI Shares will be issued as registered shares. They are only available at the Management Company's discretion.

Class ZI Shares are only available to Institutional Investors within the meaning of Article 174 of the 2010 Law. Investors must demonstrate that they qualify as Institutional Investors by providing the Company and its Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing team with sufficient evidence of their status.

On application for Class ZI Shares, Institutional Investors indemnify the Company and its functionaries against any losses, costs or expenses that the Company or its functionaries may incur by acting in good faith upon any declarations made or purporting to be made upon application. Class ZI Shares are only available to investors who have entered into a separate agreement with the relevant entity of the BlackRock Group.

**Hedged Share Classes**
The hedging strategies applied to Hedged Share Classes will vary on a Fund by Fund basis. With the exception of BRL Hedged Share Classes (see further below), Funds will apply a hedging strategy which aims to mitigate currency risk between the Net

Asset Value of the Fund and the currency of the Hedged Share Class, while taking account of practical considerations including transaction costs. All gains/losses or expenses arising from hedging transactions are borne separately by the Shareholders of the respective Hedged Share Classes.

Any over-hedged position arising in a Hedged Share Class is not permitted to exceed 105% of the Net Asset Value of that Hedged Share Class and any under-hedged position arising in a Hedged Share Class is not permitted to fall short of 95% of the Net Asset Value of that Hedged Share Class.

*BRL Hedged Share Classes*

BRL Hedged Share Classes, designated with the suffix "BRL Hedged", are intended for Brazilian feeder funds only. A feeder fund is a CIS that invests all or nearly all of its assets in another single fund (sometimes referred to as a master fund). BRL Hedged Share Classes are available at the Management Company's discretion.

BRL Hedged Share Classes aim to provide investors with currency exposure to BRL without using a Hedged Share Class denominated in BRL (i.e. due to currency trading restrictions on BRL).

The currency of a BRL Hedged Share Class will be the Base Currency of the relevant Fund. BRL currency exposure will be sought by converting the Net Asset Value of the BRL Hedged Share Class into BRL using financial derivative instruments (including currency forwards). The Net Asset Value of such BRL Hedged Share Class will remain denominated in the Base Currency of the relevant Fund (and the Net Asset Value per Share will be calculated in such Base Currency), however, due to the additional financial derivative instrument exposure, such Net Asset Value is expected to fluctuate in line with the fluctuation of the exchange rate between BRL and such Base Currency. This fluctuation will be reflected in the performance of the relevant BRL Hedged Share Class, and therefore the performance of such BRL Hedged Share Class may differ significantly from the performance of the other Share Classes of the relevant Fund. Profit or loss and costs and expenses resulting from this BRL Hedged Share Class hedging strategy will be reflected in the Net Asset Value of the relevant BRL Hedged Share Class. Risks in respect of BRL Hedged Share Classes will, for risk-management purposes, be measured and monitored in BRL.

**General**

Investors purchasing any Share Class through a distributor will be subject to the distributor's normal account opening requirements. Title to registered shares is evidenced by entries in the Company's Share register. Shareholders will receive confirmation notes of their transactions. Registered share certificates are not issued.

Global certificates are available under a registered common global certificate arrangement operated with Clearstream International and Euroclear. Global certificates are registered in the Company's share register in the name of Clearstream International and Euroclear's common depository. Physical share certificates are not issued in respect of global certificates. Global certificates may be exchanged for registered shares under arrangements between Clearstream International, Euroclear and the Central Paying Agent. Information on global certificates and their dealing procedures is available on request from the local Investor Servicing team.

Any Shares that are listed will be listed on the Euro multi-lateral trading facility (MTF).

## Dealing in Fund Shares

**Daily Dealing**

Dealing in Shares can normally be effected daily on any day that is a Dealing Day for the relevant Fund. Orders for subscription, redemption and conversion of Shares in all Funds except the Multi-Theme Equity Fund should be received by the Transfer Agent before 12 noon Luxembourg time on the relevant Dealing Day (the "Cut-Off Point" for all Funds except the Multi-Theme Equity Fund), and in respect of the Multi-Theme Equity Fund, before 12 noon Luxembourg time one Business Day before the relevant Dealing Day (the "Cut-Off Point" for the Multi-Theme Equity Fund). Such orders shall be processed on the relevant Dealing Day and the prices applied will be those calculated in the afternoon of the relevant Dealing Day. Any dealing orders received by the Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing team after the Cut-Off Point will be dealt with on the next available Dealing Day. At the discretion of the Company, dealing orders transmitted by a paying agent, a correspondent bank or other entity aggregating deals on behalf of its underlying clients before the Cut-Off Point but only received by the Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing team after the Cut-Off Point may be treated as if they had been received before the Cut-Off Point. At the discretion of the Company, prices applied to orders backed by uncleared funds may be those calculated in the afternoon of the day following receipt of cleared funds. Further details and exceptions are described under the sections entitled "Application for Shares", "Redemption of Shares" and "Conversion of Shares" below. Once given, applications to subscribe and instructions to redeem or convert are irrevocable except in the case of suspension or deferral (see paragraphs 30. to 33. of Appendix B) and cancellation requests received before the Cut-Off Point.

Orders placed through distributors rather than directly with the Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing team may be subject to different procedures which may delay receipt by the Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing team. Investors should consult their distributor before placing orders in any Fund.

Shareholders should note that the Directors may determine to restrict the purchase of Shares in certain Funds, including, without limitation, where any such Fund, and/or the investment strategy of any such Fund, has become "capacity constrained", when it is in the interests of such Fund and/or its Shareholders to do so, including without limitation (by way of example), when a Fund or the investment strategy of a Fund reaches a size that in the opinion of the Management Company and/or Investment Advisers could impact its ability to implement its investment strategy, find suitable investments or manage efficiently its existing investments. When a Fund has reached its capacity limit, Shareholders will be notified accordingly, and the Directors are authorised from time to time at their discretion to resolve to close the Fund or any Share Class to new subscriptions in whole or in part (except those made through regular investment programs as agreed in advance with the Management Company at its discretion) either for a specified period or until they otherwise determine at their discretion. Should a Fund then fall beneath its capacity limit, including without limitation (by way of example), as result of redemptions or market movements, the Directors are permitted, in their absolute

discretion, to re-open the Fund or any Share Class on a temporary or permanent basis. Information on whether the purchase of Shares in a Fund at a specific point in time is restricted in this way is available from the local Investor Servicing team.

**Non-Dealing Days**
Some Business Days will not be Dealing Days for certain Funds where, for example, a substantial amount of such Fund's portfolio is traded in market(s) which are closed. In addition, the day immediately preceding such a relevant market closure may be a non-Dealing Day for such Funds, in particular where the Cut-Off Point occurs at a time when the relevant markets are already closed to trading, so that the Funds will be unable to take appropriate actions in the underlying market(s) to reflect investments in or divestments out of Fund Shares made on that day. A list of the Business Days which will be treated as non-Dealing Days for certain Funds from time to time can be obtained from the Management Company upon request and is also available in the Library section at www.blackrock.com/uk/individual/education/library. This list is subject to change.

**General**
Confirmation notes and other documents sent by post will be at the risk of the investor.

## Prices of Shares

All prices are determined after the deadline for receipt of dealing orders on the Dealing Day concerned, i.e. the Cut-Off Point (as set out in the section headed "Daily Dealing", above). In the case of those Funds for which two or more Dealing Currencies are available, if an investor does not specify his choice of Dealing Currency at the time of dealing then the Base Currency of the relevant Fund will be used.

The previous Dealing Day's prices for Shares may be obtained during business hours from the local Investor Servicing team and are also available from the BlackRock website. They will also be published in such countries as required under applicable law and at the discretion of the Directors in a number of newspapers or electronic platforms worldwide. The Company cannot accept any responsibility for error or delay in the publication or non-publication of prices. Historic dealing prices for all Shares are available from the Fund Accountant or the local Investor Servicing team.

Where Shareholders subscribe for or redeem Shares having a specific value, the number of Shares dealt in is calculated by dividing the specific value by the applicable Net Asset Value per Share (which may be rounded to up to four decimal places). Such rounding may result in a benefit to the Fund or the Shareholder. Confirmation of the Net Asset Value per Share for any transaction will be shown on your contract note.

**Class A, Class AI, Class D, Class DD, Class E, Class I, Class J, Class S, Class SI, Class SR, Class X, Class Z and Class ZI Shares**
Class A, Class AI, Class D, Class DD, Class E, Class I, Class J, Class S, Class SI, Class SR, Class X, Class Z and Class ZI Shares may normally be acquired or redeemed at their Net Asset Value. Prices may include or have added to them, as appropriate: (i) an initial charge; (ii) a distribution fee; and (iii) in limited circumstances, adjustments to reflect fiscal charges and dealing costs (see paragraph 17.3 of Appendix B).

**Class B and Class C Shares**
Class B and Class C Shares may normally be acquired or redeemed at their respective Net Asset Values. No charge is added to or included in the price payable on acquisition or redemption but, with the exception of Shares of the Reserve Funds, a CDSC, where applicable, will be deducted from the proceeds of redemption as described in the section "Fees, Charges and Expenses" and in paragraph 19. of Appendix B. Prices may include or have added to them, as appropriate, (i) a distribution fee; and (ii), in limited circumstances, adjustments to reflect fiscal charges and dealing costs (see paragraph 17.3 of Appendix B).

The specific levels of fees and charges that apply to each Share Class are explained in more detail in the section "Fees, Charges and Expenses" and in Appendices B, C and E.

## Application for Shares

**Applications**
Initial applications for Shares must be made to the Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing team on the application form. Certain distributors may allow underlying investors to submit applications through them for onward transmission to the Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing team. All initial applications for Shares must be made by completing the Application Form and returning it to the Transfer Agent by fax or the local Investor Servicing team via email, followed by original via post. Failure to provide the original Application Form along with all requested AML documentation will delay the completion of the transaction and consequently the ability to effect subsequent dealings in the Shares concerned. Subsequent applications for Shares may be made electronically through a 'straight through process' (STP) or by fax (followed by original via post) and the Management Company may, in its sole discretion, accept individual dealing orders submitted via other forms of electronic communication. Investors who do not specify a Share Class in the application will be deemed to have requested Class A Non-Distributing Shares.

All application forms and other dealing orders must contain all required information, including (but not limited to) Share Class specific information such as the International Securities Identification Number (ISIN) of the Share Class the investor wishes to deal in. Where the ISIN quoted by the investor is different from any other Share Class specific information provided by the investor with respect to such order, the quoted ISIN shall be decisive and the Management Company and the Transfer Agent may process the order accordingly taking into account the quoted ISIN only.

Applications for registered shares should be made for Shares having a specified value and fractions of Shares will be issued where appropriate. Global certificates will be issued in whole Shares only.

The right is reserved to reject any application for Shares or to accept any application in part only. In addition, issues of Shares of any or all Funds may be deferred until the next Dealing Day or suspended, where the aggregate value of orders for all Share Classes of that Fund exceeds a particular value (currently fixed by the Directors at 5% by approximate value of the Fund concerned) and the Directors consider that to give effect to such orders on the relevant Dealing Day would adversely affect the interests of existing Shareholders. This may result in some Shareholders having subscription orders deferred on a particular Dealing Day,

whilst others do not. Applications for Shares so deferred will be dealt with in priority to later requests.

Investors must meet the investment criteria for any Share Class in which they intend to invest (such as minimum initial investment and specified investor type as set out under the section “Classes and Form of Shares”). If an investor purchases Shares in a Share Class in which that investor does not meet the investment criteria then the Directors reserve the right to redeem the investor’s holding. In such a scenario the Directors are not obliged to give the investor prior notice of their actions. The Directors may also decide, upon prior consultation with, and the approval of, the investor who does not meet the investment criteria, to switch the investor into a more appropriate class in the relevant Fund (where available). If the Shareholder holds Class X Shares but has not entered into a separate agreement with the relevant entity of the BlackRock Group (as set out under the section “Classes and Form of Shares”) then the Directors reserve the right, subject to 30 calendar days’ prior notice, to switch the Shareholder into a Share Class other than Class X in the relevant Fund, without prior consultation with or approval of the Shareholder.

**Data Protection**
Prospective investors and investors are referred to the privacy notice of the Company and the Management Company, which is provided in the Application Form (the "Privacy Notice").

The Privacy Notice explains, among other things, how the Company and the Management Company process personal data about individuals who invest in the Company or apply to invest in the Company and personal data about the directors, officers, employees and ultimate beneficial owners of Institutional Investors.

The Privacy Notice may be updated from time to time. The latest version of the Privacy Notice is available at www.blackrock.com.

If you would like further information on the collection, use, disclosure, transfer or processing of your personal data or the exercise of any of the rights in relation to personal data as set out in the Privacy Notice, please address questions and requests to: The Data Protection Officer, BlackRock, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London, EC2N 2DL.

**Settlement**
For all Shares, settlement in cleared funds net of bank charges must be made within three Business Days of the relevant Dealing Day unless otherwise specified in the contract note in cases where the standard settlement date is a public holiday for the currency of settlement. If timely settlement is not made (or a completed application form is not received for an initial subscription) the relevant allotment of Shares may be cancelled and an applicant may be required to compensate the relevant distributor and/or the Company (see paragraph 27. of Appendix B).

Payment instructions are summarised at the back of this Prospectus. Payments made by cash or cheque will not be accepted.

Settlement should normally be made in the Dealing Currency for the relevant Fund or, if there are two or more Dealing Currencies for the relevant Fund, in the one specified by the investor. An investor may, by prior arrangement with the Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing team, provide the Transfer Agent with any major freely convertible currency and the Transfer Agent will arrange the necessary currency exchange transaction. Any such currency exchange will be effected at the investor’s risk and cost.

The Management Company may, at its discretion, accept subscriptions in specie, or partly in cash and in specie, subject always to the minimum initial subscription amounts and the additional subscription amounts and provided further that the value of such subscription in specie (after deduction of any relevant charges and expenses) equals the subscription price of the Shares. Such securities will be valued on the relevant Dealing Day and, in accordance with Luxembourg law, may be subject to a special report of the Auditor. Further details of redemptions in specie are set out in paragraphs 24. and 25. of Appendix B.

**Minimum Subscription**
The minimum initial subscription in respect of Class A, Class C and Class E Shares is currently USD5,000, for Class AI Shares USD25,000, for Class D Shares USD100,000, for Class DD Shares USD1 million, for Class I Shares, Class J Shares, Class X Shares and Class Z Shares USD10 million, for Class ZI Shares USD 25 million, for Class S Shares and Class SR Shares USD50 million and for Class SI Shares USD 1billion. In all cases, the minimum subscription will also be accepted in the approximate equivalent in the relevant Dealing Currency. The minimum for additions to existing holdings of any Share Class of a Fund is USD1,000 or the approximate equivalent. These minima may be varied for any particular case or distributor or generally. Details of the current minima are available from the local Investor Servicing team.

**Compliance with Applicable Laws and Regulations**
Investors who wish to subscribe for Shares must provide the Transfer Agent and/or the Management Company and/or Depositary with all necessary information which they may reasonably require to verify the identity of the investor in accordance with applicable Luxembourg regulations on the prevention of the use of the financial sector for money laundering purposes and in particular in accordance with CSSF circular 13/556 as amended, restated or supplemented from time to time and in order to comply with screening requirements issued by any regulatory, governmental or other official authorities in respect of applicable international financial sanctions. Failure to do so may result in the Management Company rejecting a subscription order.

Furthermore, as a result of any other applicable laws and regulations, including but not limited to, other relevant anti-money laundering legislation, requirements in respect of applicable international financial sanctions including sanctions administered by the United States Office of Foreign Asset Control, European Union and United Nations, tax laws and regulatory requirements, investors may be required, in certain circumstances, to provide additional documentation to confirm their identity or provide other relevant information pursuant to such laws and regulations, as may be required from time to time, even if an existing investor. Any information provided by investors will be used only for the purposes of compliance with these requirements and all original documentation will be duly returned to the relevant investor. Until the Transfer Agent and/or the Management Company and/or the Depositary receives the requested documentation or additional information, there may be a delay in processing any subsequent redemption requests and the Management Company reserves the right in all cases to withhold redemption proceeds until such a time as the required documentation or additional information is received.

The Transfer Agent shall at all times comply with any obligations imposed by any applicable laws, rules and regulations with respect to money laundering prevention and, in particular, with the law of 12 November 2004 on the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing and CSSF Circular 13/556 of 16 January 2013, as amended, restated or supplemented from time to time. The Transfer Agent shall furthermore adopt procedures designed to ensure, to the extent applicable, that it and its agents shall comply with the foregoing undertaking. Moreover, the Transfer Agent is legally responsible for identifying the origin of monies transferred, provided that such duties may be delegated, always subject to the responsibility and control of the Transfer Agent, to investment professionals and financial sector institutions required to enforce an identification procedure equal to that required under Luxembourg law. The Transfer Agent as well as the Depositary acting on behalf of the Company may require at any time additional documentation relating to the admission of an investor as a Shareholder.

## Redemption of Shares

**Applications to Redeem**

**Instructions for the redemption of registered Shares should normally be given electronically through an approved 'straight through process' (STP) provider. If this option is unavailable then this can be completed by fax (followed by original via post) to the Transfer Agent and the Management Company may, at its sole discretion, accept individual dealing orders submitted via other forms of electronic communication. Instructions given by fax must be followed in each case by an email or a phone call to the local Investor Services teams on the same day before cut off, making sure fax Instruction has been received by the Transfer Agent. Certain distributors may allow underlying investors to submit instructions for redemptions through them for onward transmission to the Transfer Agent. They may also be given to the Transfer Agent in original or by fax followed by confirmation via phone or email to the local Investor Servicing teams unless a coverall renunciation and fax indemnity including instructions to pay the redemption proceeds to a specified bank account has been agreed. Failure to provide original confirmations may delay settlement of the transaction (see also paragraph 27. of Appendix B). Redemption requests must include the full name(s) and address of the holders, the name of the Fund, the Class (including whether it is the Distributing or Non-Distributing Share Class), the value or number of Shares to be redeemed and full settlement instructions and must be signed according to the latest Authorized Signatory List (ASL) provided to the Transfer Agent. If a redemption order is made for a cash amount or for a number of Shares to a higher value than that of the applicant's account then this order will be automatically treated as an order to redeem all of the Shares on the applicant's account.**

Redemptions may be suspended or deferred as described in paragraphs 30. to 33. of Appendix B.

**Settlement**

Subject to paragraph 23. of Appendix B, redemption payments will normally be despatched in the relevant Dealing Currency on the third Business Day after the relevant Dealing Day, provided that the relevant documents (as described above and any applicable money laundering prevention or international financial sanctions information) have been received. On written request to the Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing team, payment may be made in such other currency as may be freely purchased by the Transfer Agent with the relevant Dealing Currency and such currency exchange will be effected at the Shareholder's cost.

Redemption payments for Shares are made by telegraphic transfer to the Shareholder's bank account at the Shareholder's cost. Investors with bank accounts in the European Union must provide the IBAN (International Bank Account Number) and BIC (Bank Identifier Code) of their account.

The Directors may, subject to the prior consent of a Shareholder and to the minimum dealing and holding amounts, effect a payment of redemption proceeds in specie. Such redemption in specie will be valued on the relevant Dealing Day and, in accordance with Luxembourg law, may be subject to a special report of the Auditor. Further details of redemptions in specie are set out in paragraph 25. of Appendix B.

## Conversion of Shares

**Switching Between Funds and Share Classes**

Shareholders may request conversions of their shareholdings between the same Share Classes of the various Funds and thereby alter the balance of their portfolios to reflect changing market conditions.

Shareholders may also request conversion from one Share Class in a Fund to another Share Class of either the same Fund or a different Fund or between Distributing and Non-Distributing Shares of the same Class or between Hedged Share Classes and un-hedged Shares of the same Class (where available).

In addition, investors may convert between any Class of UK Reporting Fund status Shares in one currency and the equivalent class of Distributing Shares in non-UK Reporting Fund status shares of the same currency. Investors should note that a conversion between a Share Class which has UK Reporting Fund status and a Share Class which does not have UK Reporting Fund status may cause the Shareholder to be subject to an "offshore income gain" on the eventual disposal of their interest in the Fund. If this is the case, any capital gain realised by investors on disposal of their investment (including any capital gain accruing in relation to the period where they held the UK Reporting Fund Share Class) may be subject to tax as income at their appropriate income tax rate. Investors should seek their own professional tax advice in this regard.

Investors should note that a conversion between Shares held in different Funds may give rise to an immediate taxable event.

As tax laws differ widely from country to country, investors should consult their tax advisers as to the tax implications of such a conversion in their individual circumstances.

Shareholders may request conversions of the whole or part of their shareholding provided that the Shareholder satisfies the conditions applicable to investment in the Share Class being converted into (see "Classes and Form of Shares" above). Such conditions include but are not limited to:

- satisfying any minimum investment requirement;
- demonstrating that they qualify as an eligible investor for the purposes of investing in a particular Share Class;

- the suitability of the charging structure of the Share Class being converted into; and by
- satisfying any conversion charges that may apply.

provided that the Management Company may, at its discretion, elect to waive any of these requirements where it deems such action reasonable and appropriate under the circumstances.

For holders of all Share Classes, there is normally no conversion charge by the Management Company. However, conversion charges may apply in some circumstances – see paragraphs 20. to 22. of Appendix B.

Subject to any exceptions and conditions applicable to Class B Shares as further described in the section "Classes and Form of Shares", conversion from a Share Class carrying a CDSC, where the CDSC is still outstanding, will not be treated as a conversion but as a redemption thereby causing any CDSC due at the time of conversion to become payable. Conversion and investment into and out of certain Share Classes is at the discretion of the Management Company. At the Management Company's discretion and provided always that the investor is an Institutional Investor, conversion from any Share Class into Class I, Class X or Class J Shares is permitted.

The Management Company may, at its discretion, refuse conversions in order to ensure that the Shares are not held by or on behalf of any person who does not meet the conditions applicable to investment in that Share Class, or who would then hold the Shares in circumstances which could give rise to a breach of law, or requirements of any country, government or regulatory authority on the part of that person or the Company or give rise to adverse tax or other pecuniary consequences for the Company, including a requirement to register under any securities or investment or similar laws or requirements of any country or authority. In addition, the Management Company may, at its discretion, refuse conversions between Share Classes if it presented currency conversion issues, for example, if the relevant currencies in respect of the conversion were illiquid at the time.

**Instructions to Convert**

**Instructions for the conversion of registered shares should normally be given electronically through an approved 'straight through process' (STP) provider. If this option is unavailable then this can be completed by fax (followed by original via post) to the Transfer Agent and the Management Company may, at its sole discretion, accept individual conversion orders submitted via other forms of electronic communication. Instructions given by fax must be followed in each case by an email or a phone call to the local Investor Services teams on the same day before cut off, making sure fax Instruction has been received by the Transfer Agent. Failure to provide adequate original confirmation may delay the conversion. Certain distributors may allow underlying investors to submit instructions for conversions through them for onward transmission to the Transfer Agent. Instructions may also be given in original to the Transfer Agent. Conversion requests (or original confirmations of such requests) must include the full name(s) and address of the holder(s), the name of the Fund, the Class (including whether it is the Distributing or Non-Distributing Share class), the value or number of Shares to be converted and the Fund to be converted into (and the choice of Dealing Currency of the Fund where more than one is available) and whether or not they are UK Reporting Fund status Shares. Where the Funds to which a conversion relates have different Dealing Currencies, currency will be converted at the relevant rate of exchange on the Dealing Day on which the conversion is effected.**

Conversions may be suspended or deferred as described in paragraphs 30. to 33. of Appendix B and an order for conversion into a Fund constituting over 10% of such Fund's value may not be accepted, as described in paragraph 32. of Appendix B.

**Exchange Privilege**

Certain distributors allow Shareholders who have acquired Shares through it to exchange their Shares for shares with a similar charging structure of certain other funds, provided that the distributor believes that an exchange is permitted under applicable law and regulations. Details of this exchange privilege can be obtained from your financial advisor.

**Transfer of Shares**

Shareholders holding Shares of any Class through a distributor or other intermediary may request that their existing holdings be transferred to another distributor or intermediary which has an agreement with the Principal Distributor. Any transfer of Class B and Class C Shares in this way is subject to the payment of any outstanding CDSC to the investor's existing distributor or intermediary.

**Minimum Dealing & Holding Sizes**

The Company may refuse to comply with redemption, conversion or transfer instructions if they are given in respect of part of a holding in the relevant Share Class which has a value of less than USD1,000 or the approximate equivalent in the relevant Dealing Currency or if to do so would result in such a holding of less than USD5,000 (except for Class D, Class DD, Class I, Class J, Class S, Class SI, Class SR, Class X, Class Z and Class ZI Shares where there is no on-going minimum holding size once the initial subscription amount has been made). These minima may be varied for any particular case or distributor or generally. Details of any variations to the current minima shown above are available from the local Investor Servicing team.

If as a result of a withdrawal, switch or transfer a small balance of Shares, meaning an amount of USD5 (or its currency equivalent) or less, is held by a Shareholder, the Management Company shall have absolute discretion to realise this small balance and donate the proceeds to a Luxembourg or UK registered charity selected by the Management Company.

**Dividend Policy**

The Directors' current policy depends on the Fund and Share Class.

a) Fund

The following Funds distribute income gross of expenses across all distributing share classes:

Asian Multi-Asset Income Fund
Dynamic High Income Fund
Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund
ESG Global Conservative Income Fund
ESG Global Multi-Asset Income Fund

European Equity Income Fund
Global Equity Income Fund
Global Multi-Asset Income Fund
Natural Resources Fund
Systematic Global Equity High Income Fund
Systematic Global Sustainable Income & Growth Fund

All distributing share classes of the above-named Funds have a "G" mentioned in their naming convention except for Distributing (S), (R), (T), (C) and (Y) Shares which are distributing gross income for all Funds. These Distributing Shares where income is distributed gross of expenses will also be referred to as Distributing (G) Shares e.g. Class A4(G). For the avoidance of doubt, Distributing (G) Shares may also be issued for Funds not named above.

If dividends calculated in respect of Distributing (Y) Shares are lower than the Dividend Threshold Amount, this will mean that there may be a shortfall which may need to be paid out of capital and therefore may have the effect of reducing capital. This risk to capital growth is particularly relevant for Distributing (Y), (T) and (C) Shares as, for these Share Classes, a material portion of any dividend payment may be made out of capital. Therefore, the capital that is returned via the dividend will not be available for future capital growth.

b) Share Class

The aim for all distributing (Q) classes of the Systematic Global Equity High Income Fund and of the Systematic Global Sustainable Income & Growth Fund is to maintain a stable yield for Shareholders. At the discretion of the Directors the dividend may include distributions from capital, net realised and net unrealised capital gains.

For Non-Distributing Share Classes the current policy is to retain and reinvest all net income. In this regard the income is retained in the Net Asset Value and reflected in the Net Asset Value per share of the relevant Class. For the Distributing Share Classes, the current policy is to distribute substantially all of the investment income (where available) for the period after deduction of expenses for Share Classes which distribute net or all of the investment income for the period, and potentially a portion of capital before deduction of expenses for Share Classes which distribute gross income or total return. Please refer to the "Calculation of Dividends" section below for further information regarding the distribution policies for each Distributing Share Class.

The Directors may also determine if and to what extent dividends may include distributions from both net realised and net unrealised capital gains. Where Distributing Share Classes pay dividends that include net realised capital gains or net unrealised capital gains, or, in the case of Funds which distribute income gross of expenses, dividends may include initially subscribed capital. Shareholders should note that dividends distributed in this manner may be taxable as income, depending on the local tax legislation, and should seek their own professional tax advice in this regard.

Where a Fund has UK Reporting Fund status and reported income exceeds distributions made then the surplus shall be treated as a deemed dividend and will be taxed as income, subject to the tax status of the Shareholder.

For those Funds which offer UK Reporting Fund status Share Classes, the frequency at which the dividend payment is generally made is determined by the Fund type as described in the section "Classes and Form of Shares".

A list of Dealing Currencies, Hedged Share Classes, Distributing and Non-Distributing Share Classes and UK Reporting Fund status Classes is available from the Company's registered office and the local Investor Servicing team.

Please refer to the table below entitled "Calculation of Dividends" which sets out the usual calculation methodology for the Distributing Share Classes. Please refer to the table below entitled "Declaration, Payment of Reinvestment of Dividend" which sets out the usual declaration, payment and reinvestment methodology for the Distributing Share Classes. The Directors may make additional dividend payments or amend the policy of a Distributing Share Class under certain circumstances.

Distributing Shares with alternative payment frequencies may be introduced at the Directors' discretion. Confirmation of additional distribution frequencies and the date of their availability can be obtained from the Company's registered office and the local Investor Servicing team. The Company may operate income equalisation arrangements with a view to ensuring that the level of net income accrued within a Fund (or gross income in the case of Distributing (G) Shares, Distributing (S) Shares, Distributing (T), Distributing (C) and Distributing (Y) Shares, and gross income and any Interest Rate Differential for Distributing (R) Shares) attributable to each Share is not affected by the issue, conversion or redemption of those Shares during an accounting period.

Where an investor buys Shares during an accounting period, the price at which those Shares were bought may be deemed to include an amount of net income accrued since the date of the last distribution. The result is that, in relation to Distributing (A) Shares, Distributing (M) Shares, Distributing (Q) Shares, Distributing (R) Shares, Distributing (S) Shares, Distributing (T) Shares, Distributing (Y) Shares or Distributing (C) Shares, the first distribution which an investor receives following purchase may include a repayment of capital. Non-Distributing Shares do not distribute income and so should not be impacted in the same way.

Where an Shareholder sells Shares during an accounting period the redemption price in relation to Distributing (A) Shares, Distributing (M) Shares or Distributing (Q) Shares, may be deemed to include an amount of net income accrued since the date of the last distribution. In the case of Distributing (G) Shares, Distributing (S) Shares, Distributing (T), Distributing (C) and Distributing (Y) Shares equalisation will be calculated on the gross income of the Fund, and in the case of Distributing (R) Shares, equalisation will be calculated on the gross income of the Fund and any Interest Rate Differential attributable to the Shares. Non-Distributing Shares do not distribute income and so should not be impacted in the same way.

The list of Funds operating income equalisation arrangements and the income element included in the daily price of Distributing (A) Shares, Distributing (M) Shares, Distributing (Q) Shares, Distributing (R) Shares, Distributing (S) Shares, Distributing (T) Shares, Distributing (C) and Distributing (Y) Shares will be made available upon request from the Company's registered office.



NM0324U-3453640-150/808

## Calculation of Dividends

The usual calculation method for each type of Distributing Share Class is described below. The methodology may be changed at the Directors discretion.

| | **Calculation Method** |
|---|---|
| **Distributing (D) Shares**<br><br>**(which may be referred to using the number 1 e.g. A1)** | The dividend is calculated daily based upon daily-accrued income less expenses, for the number of Shares outstanding on that day.<br><br>A cumulative monthly dividend is then distributed to Shareholders based upon the number of Shares held and the number of days for which they were held during the period. Holders of Distributing (D) Shares shall be entitled to dividends from the date of subscription to the date of redemption. |
| **Distributing (M) Shares**<br><br>**(which may be referred to using the number 3 e.g. A3)** | The dividend is calculated monthly (on the last business day of each calendar month) based upon income accrued during the dividend period less expenses.<br><br>The dividend is distributed to Shareholders based upon the number of Shares held at the month end. |
| **Distributing (S) Shares**<br><br>**(which may be referred to using the number 6 e.g. A6)** | The dividend is calculated at the discretion of the Directors on the basis of the expected gross income over a given period (such period to be determined by the Directors from time to time) with a view to providing consistent monthly dividend distributions to Shareholders during such period.<br><br>At the discretion of the Directors the dividend may include distributions from capital and/or net realised and net unrealised capital gains. Where distributions are made from capital, this will have the effect of reducing capital and therefore will reduce the potential for future capital growth.<br><br>The dividend is calculated monthly (on the last business day of each calendar month) and distributed to Shareholders based upon the number of Shares held at the month end.<br><br>In volatile or exceptional market conditions, the level of distributions may be permitted to fluctuate more and there may also be an increase in distributions from capital and/or net realised and net unrealised gains, at the discretion of the Directors, to manage consistency of distributions resulting in increased capital erosion when the fund's level of income falls. |
| **Distributing (R) Shares**<br><br>**(which may be referred to using the number 8 e.g. A8)** | The dividend is calculated at the discretion of the Directors on the basis of the expected gross income and Interest Rate Differential arising from Share Class currency hedging over a given period (such period to be determined by the Directors from time to time) with a view to providing consistent monthly dividend distributions to Shareholders during such period.<br><br>At the discretion of the Directors the dividend may include distributions from capital and/or net realised and net unrealised capital gains. Inclusion of any Interest Rate Differential arising from Share Class currency hedging in the dividend calculation will be considered a distribution from capital or capital gains. Where distributions are made from capital, this will have the effect of reducing capital and therefore will reduce the potential for future capital growth.<br><br>The dividend is calculated monthly (on the last business day of each calendar month) and distributed to Shareholders based upon the number of Shares held at the month end.<br><br>In volatile or exceptional market conditions, the level of distributions may be permitted to fluctuate more and there may also be an increase in distributions from capital and/or net realised and net unrealised gains, at the discretion of the Directors, to manage consistency of distributions resulting in increased capital erosion when the fund's level of income falls. |
| **Distributing (T) Shares**<br><br>**(which may be referred to using the number 10 e.g. A10)** | The dividend is calculated at the discretion of the Directors on the basis of the expected gross total return over a given period (such period to be determined by the Directors from time to time) with a view to providing consistent monthly dividend distributions to Shareholders during such period.<br><br>It is expected that the dividend may include distributions from capital and/or net realised and net unrealised capital gains and may at times exceed the increase in the NAV per Share from the net income and realised and unrealised gains of the Share Class. Where distributions are made from capital, this will have the effect of reducing capital and therefore will reduce the potential for future capital growth.<br><br>The dividend is calculated monthly (on the last business day of each calendar month) and distributed to Shareholders based upon the number of Shares held at the month end.<br><br>In volatile or exceptional market conditions, the level of distributions may be permitted to fluctuate more and there may also be an increase in distributions from capital and/or net realised and net unrealised gains, at the discretion of the Directors, to manage consistency of distributions resulting in increased capital erosion when the fund's level of income falls. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Distributing (Q) Shares**<br><br>**(which may be referred to using the number 5 e.g. A5)** | The dividend is calculated quarterly based upon income accrued during the dividend period less expenses.<br><br>The dividend is distributed to Shareholders based upon the number of Shares held at the declaration date. |
| **Distributing (A) Shares**<br><br>**(which may be referred to using the number 4 e.g. A4)** | The dividend is calculated annually (on the last business day of each financial year) based upon income accrued during the dividend period less expenses.<br><br>The dividend is distributed to Shareholders based upon the number of Shares held at the end of the annual period. |
| **Distributing (Y) Shares**<br><br>**(which may be referred to using the number 9 e.g. A9)** | The dividend is calculated at the discretion of the Directors on the basis of the expected gross income over a given period (such period to be determined by the Directors from time to time) with a view to providing quarterly dividend distributions to Shareholders which will on an annual basis be equal to, or greater than, the Dividend Threshold Amount. Quarterly dividend distributions may exceed the Dividend Threshold Amount, where underlying income generated on the Fund's assets is greater the Dividend Threshold Amount on an annual basis.<br><br>At the discretion of the Directors the dividend may include distributions from capital and/or net realised and net unrealised capital gains in order to ensure that the dividend is on an annual basis at least equal to the Dividend Threshold Amount. This will have the effect of reducing the potential for capital growth.<br><br>The dividend is calculated quarterly (on the last business day of each calendar quarter) and distributed to Shareholders based upon the number of Shares held at the end of the quarter.<br><br>In volatile or exceptional market conditions, there may be an increase in distributions from capital, net realised and net unrealised gains, at the discretion of the Directors, to manage consistency of distributions resulting in increased capital erosion when the fund's level of income falls. |
| **Distributing (C) Shares**<br><br>**(which may be referred to using the number 11 e.g. A11)** | The dividend is calculated at the discretion of the Directors with a view to providing consistent monthly dividend distributions to Shareholders over a given period (such period to be determined by the Directors from time to time) that may not be linked to income or capital gains.<br><br>It is expected that the dividend will include distributions from capital and/or net realised and unrealised capital gains and may exceed the increase in the NAV per Share from the net income and realized and unrealized gains of the Share Class.<br><br>Where distributions are made from capital, this will have the effect of reducing capital and therefore will reduce the potential for future capital growth.<br><br>In volatile or exceptional market conditions, the level of distributions may be permitted to fluctuate more and there may also be an increase in distributions from capital and/or net realised and net unrealised gains, at the discretion of the Directors, to manage consistency of distributions resulting in increased capital erosion when the fund's level of income falls. |

Non-Distributing Shares of any class are also referred to using the number 2 e.g. Class A2.

Where Distributing (G) Shares are issued for (D), (M), (Q) or (A) Shares, the calculation method set out above is amended to reflect that income is distributed gross of expenses. Distributing (G) Shares is the default Share Class issued in respect of the Equity Income Funds.

Most of the Funds deduct their charges from the income produced from their investments however some may deduct some or all of their charges from capital. Whilst this might allow more income to be distributed, it will also have the effect of reducing the potential for capital growth.

## Declaration, Payment of Reinvestment of Dividend

The chart below describes the usual process for the declaration and payment of dividends and the reinvestment options available to Shareholders. The declaration date frequency may change at the Directors discretion.

| Dividend Classification* | Declaration | Payment | Automatic Dividend Reinvestment | Payment Method |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Distributing (D) Shares** | Last Business Day of each calendar month in the Dealing Currency(ies) of the relevant Fund (or such other Business Day as the Directors may determine and notify to Shareholders, in advance if possible). | Within 1 calendar month of declaration to Shareholders holding Shares during the period following the previous declaration. | Dividends will be automatically reinvested in further Shares of the same form of the same class of the same Fund, unless the Shareholder requests otherwise either in writing to the local Investor Servicing team or on the application form. | Dividends (where a Shareholder has notified the local Investor Servicing team or on the application form) are paid directly into the Shareholder's bank account by telegraphic transfer in the Shareholder's chosen dealing currency at the Shareholder's cost (except as otherwise agreed with by an underlying investor with his/her distributor). |
| **Distributing (M) Shares** | | Within 1 calendar month of declaration to Shareholders registered in the share register on the Business Day prior to the declaration date. | | |
| **Distributing (S) Shares** | | | | |
| **Distributing (R) Shares** | | | | |
| **Distributing (T) Shares** | | | | |
| **Distributing (C) Shares** | | | | |
| **Distributing (Y) Shares** | Last Business Day of each calendar quarter in the Dealing Currency(ies) of the relevant Fund (or such other Business Day as the Directors may determine and notify to Shareholders, in advance if possible). | | | |
| **Distributing (Q) Shares** | 20 March, 20 June, 20 September and 20 December (provided such day is a Business Day and if not, the following Business Day). | Within 1 calendar month of the date of the declaration to Shareholders registered in the share register on the Business Day prior to the declaration date. | | |
| **Distributing (A) Shares** | Last Business Day of each fiscal year in the Dealing Currency(ies) of the relevant Fund (or such other Business Day as the Directors may determine and notify to Shareholders, in advance if possible). | Within 1 calendar month of declaration to Shareholders registered in the share register on the Business Day prior to the declaration date. | | |

* The options described in this chart will also apply to the respective class(es) of UK Reporting Fund status Shares and apply to both net and gross distributions.

No initial charge or CDSC is made on Class A Distributing Shares, issued by way of dividend reinvestment.

It should be borne in mind that re-invested dividends may be treated for tax purposes in most jurisdictions as income received by the Shareholder. **Investors should seek their own professional tax advice in this regard.**

## Fees, Charges and Expenses

**Please see Appendix E for a summary of fees and charges.** Further information on fees, charges and expenses is given in paragraphs 16. to 22. of Appendix C, and the following information must be read in conjunction with those paragraphs.

**Management Fees**

The Company will pay the management fee at an annual rate as shown in Appendix E. The level of management fee varies according to which Fund and share class the investor buys. These fees accrue daily, are based on the Net Asset Value of the relevant Fund and are paid monthly. Certain costs and fees are paid out of the management fee, including the fees of the Investment Advisers.

To assist in achieving the investment objectives of the Reserve Funds, in certain circumstances, including where market conditions cause decreasing yields on the Fund's underlying investments, the Management Company may determine to waive its right to take the full amount of management fees to which it is entitled on any particular day or days. The Management Company may exercise its discretion to do this without prejudice to its entitlement to take the full amount of the management fee accruing on any future days.

In relation to the SR Share Class, a single fee is charged (which comprises the management fee and the Annual Service Charge) which forms part of the ongoing charges figure. Please refer to the applicable KIID for the ongoing charges figure. Please note that this figure may vary from year to year. It excludes portfolio trade-related costs, except costs paid to the custodian and any entry/exit charge paid to an underlying CIS (if any).

**Distribution Fees**

The Company pays annual distribution fees as shown in Appendix E. These fees accrue daily, are based on the Net Asset Value of the relevant Fund (reflecting, when applicable, any adjustment to the Net Asset Value of the relevant Fund, as described in paragraph 17.3 of Appendix B) and are paid monthly.

**Securities Lending Fees**

The securities lending agent, BlackRock Advisors (UK) Limited, receives remuneration in relation to its activities. Such remuneration amounts to 37.5% of the gross revenue from the securities lending activities, with all direct and indirect costs borne out of BlackRock's share. The relevant Funds receive 62.5% of the gross revenue from the securities lending activities. The securities lending agent is a related party to the Management Company.

**Annual Service Charge**

The Company pays an Annual Service Charge to the Management Company.

The level of Annual Service Charge may vary at the Directors' discretion, as agreed with the Management Company, and will apply at different rates across the various Funds and Share Classes issued by the Company. However, it has been agreed between the Directors and the Management Company that the Annual Service Charge currently paid shall not exceed 0.25% per annum. It is accrued daily, based on the Net Asset Value of the relevant Share Class and paid monthly.

The Directors and the Management Company set the level of the Annual Service Charge at a rate which aims to ensure that the ongoing charges of each Fund remain competitive when compared across a broad market of similar investment products available to Shareholders in the Funds, taking into account a number of criteria such as the market sector of each Fund and the Fund's performance relative to its peer group.

The Annual Service Charge is used by the Management Company to meet all fixed and variable operating and administrative costs and expenses incurred by the Company, with the exception of the Depositary fees, Distribution fees, Securities Lending fees, any fees arising from borrowings (including for the avoidance of doubt any commitment fee that may be due to the lender), any costs relating to (EU and non EU – see "Other Fees" further below) withholding tax reclaims (plus any taxes or interest thereon) and any taxes at an investment or Company level.

These operating and administrative expenses include all third party expenses and other recoverable costs incurred by or on behalf of the Company from time to time, including but not limited to, fund accounting fees, transfer agency fees (including sub-transfer agency and associated platform dealing charges), all professional costs, such as consultancy, legal, tax advisory and audit fees, Directors' fees (for those Directors who are not employees of the BlackRock Group), travel expenses, reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, printing, publication, translation and all other costs relating to Shareholder reporting, regulatory filing and licence fees, correspondent and other banking charges, software support and maintenance, operational costs and expenses attributed to the Investor Servicing teams and other global administration services provided by various BlackRock Group companies.

The Management Company bears the risk of ensuring that the Funds' ongoing charges remain competitive. Accordingly the Management Company is entitled to retain any amount of the Annual Service Charge paid to it which is in excess of the actual expenses incurred by the Company during any period whereas any costs and expenses incurred by the Company in any period which exceed the amount of Annual Service Charge that is paid to the Management Company, shall be borne by the Management Company or another BlackRock Group company.

**Research Fees**

In accordance with new rules coming into force in January 2018 pursuant to EU Directive 2014/65/EU on markets in financial instruments referred to as "MiFID II", BlackRock Group will no longer pay for external research via client trading commissions for its MiFID II-impacted funds ("MIFID II-impacted funds").

The BlackRock Group shall meet such research costs out of its own resources. MiFID II-impacted funds are those which have appointed a BlackRock Group MiFID firm as investment adviser or where investment management has been delegated by such firm to an overseas affiliate.

Funds which have directly appointed an overseas affiliate of the BlackRock Group within a third country (i.e. outside the European Union) to perform portfolio management are not in-scope for the purposes of MiFID II and will be subject to the local laws and market practices governing external research in the applicable jurisdiction of the relevant affiliate. This means that costs of external research may continue to be met out of the assets of such funds. A list of such funds is available on request from the Management Company or can be found on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com/corporate/mifid/research/bgf.

Where investments are made in non-BlackRock Group funds, they will continue to be subject to the external manager's approach to paying for external research in each case. This approach may be different from that of the BlackRock Group and may include the collection of a research charge alongside trading commissions in accordance with applicable laws and market practice. This means that the costs of external research may continue to be met out of the assets within the fund.

**Other Fees**
The Company also pays the fees of the Depositary and any professional costs relating to European Union withholding tax reclaims. Any commitment fees arising from borrowings or any costs relating to withholding tax reclaims will be allocated between the relevant Funds on a fair and equitable basis. Any costs relating to withholding tax reclaims outside of the EU (plus any taxes or interest thereon) will be paid by the Company and will be allocated between the relevant Funds on a fair and equitable basis. As the Company has had a good degree of success with its EU withholding tax reclaims (which are paid by the Company) to date, any costs associated with non-EU withholding tax reclaims will no longer be paid out of the Annual Service Charge and will now be paid by the Company and allocated between the relevant Funds on a fair and equitable basis.

These fees are normally allocated between the relevant Funds (plus any taxes thereon) on a fair and equitable basis at the Directors' discretion.

**Initial Charge**
On application for subscription of Shares an initial charge, payable to the Principal Distributor, of up to 5% may be added to the price of Class A Shares, Class AI Shares, Class D Shares and Class DD Shares. An initial charge of up to 3% may be added to the price of some Class E Shares (see Appendix E for details) subject to terms available from relevant distributors. No initial charge is levied on subscriptions into the Reserve Funds.

**Contingent Deferred Sales Charge**
If applicable, a decreasing CDSC of up to 3% may be deducted from redemption proceeds and paid on redemption of all Class B Shares of all Funds (except in the case of Reserve Funds) unless the Shares are held for more than three years. As further specified below, the relevant CDSC will decrease on a quarterly basis by 0.25% until the expiry of the three-year period.

| **Redemption Period** | **Contingent Deferred Sales Charge** *(% of Net Asset Value of the Shares on the date of redemption)* |
|---|---|
| Within first 3 months | 3.00 |
| After 3 months and before 6 months | 2.75 |
| After 6 months and before 9 months | 2.50 |
| After 9 months and before 12 months | 2.25 |
| After 12 months and before 15 months | 2.00 |
| After 15 months and before 18 months | 1.75 |
| After 18 months and before 21 months | 1.50 |
| After 21 months and before 24 months | 1.25 |
| After 24 months and before 27 months | 1.00 |
| After 27 months and before 30 months | 0.75 |
| After 30 months and before 33 months | 0.50 |
| After 33 months and before 36 months | 0.25 |
| After 36 months | 0.00 |

If applicable, a fixed CDSC of 1% may be deducted from redemption proceeds and paid on redemption of all Class C Shares of all Funds (except in the case of Reserve Funds) unless the Shares are held for more than a year.

Further information on the CDSC is contained in the section "Classes and Form of Shares" as well as in paragraph 19. of Appendix B.

**Conversion Charges**
Conversion charges may be applied by selected distributors, on conversion from a Reserve Fund into another of the Company's Funds, or on excessively frequent conversions. See paragraphs 20. to 22. of Appendix B for further details.

**Redemption Charges**
A redemption charge of up to a maximum of 2% of the redemption proceeds can be charged to a Shareholder at the discretion of the Directors where the Directors, in their reasonable opinion, suspect that Shareholder of excessive trading as described in the section "Excessive Trading Policy". This charge will be made for the benefit of the Funds, and Shareholders will be notified in their contract notes if such a fee has been charged. This charge will be in addition to any applicable conversion charge or deferred sales charge.

**General**
Over time, the different charging structures summarised above may result in different Share Classes of the same Fund, which were bought at the same time, producing different investment returns. In this context investors may also wish to consider the services provided by their distributor in relation to their Shares.

The Management Company may pay fees and charges to the Principal Distributor, which in turn may pay fees to other distributors as described in paragraph 20. of Appendix C where permitted by applicable local laws.

## Taxation
The following summary is based on current law and practice, which is subject to change.

Shareholders should inform themselves of, and when appropriate consult their professional advisers on, the possible tax consequences of subscribing for, buying, holding, redeeming, converting or selling shares or the effects of any equalisation policy relevant in respect of shares, under the laws of their country of citizenship, residence or domicile. Investors should note that the levels and bases of, and relief from, taxation can change.

**Luxembourg**
Under present Luxembourg law and practice, the Company is not liable to any Luxembourg income or capital gains tax, nor are dividends paid by the Company subject to any Luxembourg withholding tax. However, the Company is liable to a tax in Luxembourg of 0.05% per annum or, in the case of the Reserve Funds, Class I, Class J and Class X Shares, 0.01% per annum of

its Net Asset Value, payable quarterly on the basis of the value of the net assets of the respective Funds at the end of the relevant calendar quarter. No stamp or other tax is payable in Luxembourg on the issue of Shares.

The benefit of the 0.01% tax rate is available to Class I, Class J, Class X and Class ZI Shares on the basis of Luxembourg legal, regulatory and tax provisions as known to the Company at the date of this Prospectus and at the time of admission of subsequent investors. However, such assessment is subject to interpretations on the status of an Institutional Investor by any competent authorities as will exist from time to time. Any reclassification made by an authority as to the status of an investor may submit all of Class I, Class J, Class X and Class ZI Shares to a tax of 0.05%.

Under Luxembourg tax law in force at the time of this Prospectus, Shareholders are not subject to any capital gains, income, withholding, estate, inheritance or other taxes in Luxembourg (except for those domiciled, resident or having a permanent establishment in Luxembourg). Non-resident Shareholders are not subject to tax in Luxembourg on any capital gain realized from January 1, 2011, upon disposal of Shares held in the Company.

**United Kingdom**

The Company is not resident in the UK for tax purposes and it is the intention of the Directors to continue to conduct the affairs of the Company so that it does not become resident in the UK. Accordingly it should not be subject to UK taxation (except in respect of income for which every investor is inherently subject to UK tax). Any gain realised by a UK resident shareholder on disposal of Shares in the Company that have not obtained UK Reporting Fund status would be expected to be an 'offshore income gain' subject to tax as income. UK residents are likely to be subject to income tax on any dividends declared in respect of such shares in the Company, even if they elect for such dividends to be reinvested.

Dividends from offshore funds received by investors subject to UK income tax will be taxed as dividends in the hands of the investor provided that the fund does not at any time during the distribution period hold more than 60% of its assets in interest-bearing (or economically similar) form. From 6 April 2016, there is no longer a notional 10% tax credit on dividend distributions. Instead, a £2,000 tax free dividend allowance has been introduced for UK individuals. Dividends received in excess of this threshold will be taxed at 7.5% for basic rate taxpayers, 32.5% for higher rate taxpayers and 38.1% for additional rate taxpayers.

If the fund holds more than 60% of its assets in interest-bearing (or economically similar) form, any distribution received by UK investors who are subject to income tax will be treated as a payment of yearly interest. The tax rates applying will be those applying to interest (section 378A ITTOIA 2005).

The attention of individuals resident in the UK is drawn to sections 714 to 751 of the Income Tax Act 2007, which contains provisions for preventing avoidance of income tax by transactions resulting in the transfer of income to persons (including companies) abroad and may render them liable to taxation in respect of undistributed income and profits of the Company.

The provisions of section 13 TCGA 1992 may apply to a holding in the Company. Where at least 50% of the Shares are held by five or fewer participators, then any UK person who (together with connected parties) holds more than 25% of the Shares may be taxed upon his proportion of the chargeable gain realised by the Fund as calculated for UK tax purposes.

On the death of a UK resident and domiciled individual shareholder, the shareholder's estate (excluding the UK Reporting Fund status Share Classes) may be liable to pay income tax on any accrued gain. Inheritance tax may be due on the value of the holding after deduction of income tax and subject to any available inheritance tax exemptions.

A UK corporate shareholder may be subject to UK taxation in relation to its holdings in the Fund. It may be required to apply fair value accounting basis in respect of its shareholding in accordance with provisions of Chapter 3 Part 6 Corporation Tax Act 2009 and any increases or decreases in value of the Shares may be taken into account as receipts or deductions for corporation tax purposes.

Corporate Shareholders resident in the UK for taxation purposes should note that the "controlled foreign companies" legislation contained in Part 9A of TIOPA 2010 could apply to any UK resident company which is, either alone or together with persons connected or associated with it for taxation purposes, deemed to be interested in 25 per cent or more of any chargeable profits of a non-UK resident company, where that non-UK resident company is controlled by residents of the UK and meets certain other criteria (broadly that it is resident in a low tax jurisdiction). "Control" is defined in Chapter 18, Part 9A of TIOPA 2010. A non-UK resident company is controlled by persons (whether companies, individuals or others) who are resident in the UK for taxation purposes or is controlled by two persons taken together, one of whom is resident in the UK for tax purposes and has at least 40 per cent of the interests, rights and powers by which those persons control the non-UK resident company, and the other of whom has at least 40 per cent and not more than 55 per cent of such interests, rights and powers. The effect of these provisions could be to render such Shareholders liable to UK corporation tax in respect of the income of the Fund.

It is the intention of the Company that assets held by the Funds will generally be held for investment purposes and not for the purposes of trading. Even if Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs ("HMRC") successfully argued that a Fund is trading for UK tax purposes, it is expected that the conditions of the Investment Management Exemption ("IME") should be met, although no guarantee is given in this respect. Assuming that the requirements of the IME are satisfied, the Fund should not be subject to UK tax in respect of the profits / gains earned on its investments (except in respect of income for which every investor is inherently subject to UK tax). This is on the basis that the investments held by the Funds meet the definition of a "specified transaction" as defined in The Investment Adviser (Specified Transactions) Regulations 2009. It is expected that the assets held by the Company should meet the definition of a "specified transaction", although no guarantee is given in this respect.

If the Company failed to satisfy the conditions of the IME or if any investments held are not considered to be a "specified transaction", this may lead to tax leakage within the Funds.

In addition to the above, if HMRC successfully argue that a Fund is trading for UK tax purposes, the returns earned by the Fund from its interest in the underlying assets may need to be included in the



NM0324U-3453640-156/808

Fund's calculation of "income" for the purposes of computing the relevant amount to report to investors in order to meet the requirements for UK Reporting Fund status. However, it is considered that the investments held by the Funds should meet the definition of an "investment transaction" as defined by The Offshore Funds (Tax) Regulations 2009 ("the regulations") which came into force on 1 December 2009. Therefore, it is considered that these investments should be considered as "non-trading transactions" as outlined in the regulations. This assumption is on the basis that the Company meets both the "equivalence condition" and the "genuine diversity of ownership" condition as outlined in the regulations. On the basis that the Company is a UCITS fund, the first condition should be met. Shares in each of the Funds shall be widely available. The intended categories of investors for the Funds are retail and Institutional Investors. Shares in the Funds shall be marketed and made available sufficiently widely to reach the intended categories of investors, and in a manner appropriate to attract those categories of investors. On this basis, the second condition should also be met.

**UK Reporting Funds**

In November 2009, the UK Government enacted Statutory Instrument 2009 / 3001 (The Offshore Funds (Tax) Regulations 2009) which provides for a new framework for the taxation of investments in offshore funds, and which operates by reference to whether a fund opts into a reporting regime ("UK Reporting Funds") or not ("Non- UK Reporting Funds"). Under the regime, investors in UK Reporting Funds are subject to tax on the share of the UK Reporting Fund's income attributable to their holding in the Fund, whether or not distributed, but any gains on disposal of their holding are subject to capital gains tax. The UK Reporting Funds regime has applied to the Company since 1 September 2010.

A list of the Funds which currently have UK Reporting Fund status is available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/offshore-funds-list-of-reporting-funds.

Provided such certification is obtained, shareholders who are UK taxpayers (i.e. resident in the UK for tax purposes) will (unless regarded as trading in securities) have any gain realised upon disposal or conversion of the Company's Share treated as a capital gain which will be subject to UK capital gains tax. Otherwise any such gain would be treated as income subject to income tax. In the case of individuals domiciled for UK tax purposes outside the UK, the tax implications in relation to any gain on disposal will depend on whether or not the individual is subject to the remittance basis of taxation. Please note that the changes made in Finance Bill 2008 relating to the UK taxation of non-domiciled, UK resident individuals are complex therefore investors subject to the remittance basis of taxation should seek their own professional advice.

In accordance with Regulation 90 of the Offshore Funds (Tax) Regulations 2009, shareholder reports are made available within six months of the end of the reporting period at www.blackrock.com/uk/reportingfundstatus. The intention of the Offshore Fund Reporting regulations is that reportable income data shall principally be made available on a website accessible to UK investors. Alternatively, the shareholders may if they so require, request a hard copy of the reporting fund data for any given year. Such requests must be made in writing to the following address:

Head of Product Tax, BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2N 2DL.

Each such request must be received within three months of the end of the reporting period. Unless the Management Company is notified to the contrary in the manner described above, it is understood that investors do not require their report to be made available other than by accessing the appropriate website.

**Hong Kong**

Hong Kong profits tax is charged on the Hong Kong sourced profits of an offshore fund that carries on a trade, business or profession in Hong Kong. The Fund believes that, as an offshore fund, it will be entitled to exemptions from this tax with respect to profits derived from (i) "specified transactions" (as defined in Revenue Ordinance 2006 (the "Ordinance")) arranged by BAMNA, a "specified person" (as defined in the Ordinance), and (ii) transactions "incidental" to carrying out specified transactions. However certain other types of transactions in which the Fund may engage may be subject to this tax, and if the Fund's "incidental" transactions exceed 5% of the total transactions effected, the incidental transactions will be subject to the profits tax.

**People's Republic of China ("PRC")**

Under prevailing tax regulations, a 10% withholding income tax is imposed on PRC sourced dividends and interests from non-government bonds paid to the relevant Funds unless the rate is reduced under an applicable tax treaty.

On 14 November 2014, the Ministry of Finance, China Securities Regulatory Commission and the State Administration of Taxation, acting with State Council's approval, jointly released Circular 79, which temporarily exempts QFIIs and QFIs from tax on capital gains derived from the trading of shares and other equity interest investments on or after 17 November 2014. Subsequently, Circulars 81 and 127 were issued to temporarily exempt tax on capital gains derived from trading of A-Shares through the Stock Connects.

From 1 May 2016, Value Added Tax ("VAT") is levied on certain income derived by the relevant Funds, including interest income from non-government bonds and trading gains, unless specifically exempted by the PRC tax authorities. VAT exemptions currently apply to trading of QFII and QFI products, A-Shares traded on the Stock Connects and debt securities traded in the China Interbank Bond Market.

On 22 November 2018, the Ministry of Finance and State Administration of Taxation jointly issued Circular 108 providing foreign Institutional Investors temporary exemption from withholding income tax and VAT with respect to interests derived from non-government bonds in the domestic bond market for the period from 7 November 2018 to 6 November 2021. Circular 108 is silent on the PRC tax treatment with respect to non-government bond interest derived prior to 7 November 2018.

There is a risk the PRC tax authorities may withdraw the temporary tax exemptions in the future and seek to collect capital gains tax realised on the sale of A-Shares or withholding income tax and VAT on interest income from non-government bonds to the relevant Funds without giving any prior notice. If the tax exemptions are withdrawn, any taxes arising from or to the relevant Funds may be directly borne by or indirectly passed on to the Funds and may result in a substantial impact to their Net Asset Value. As with any Net Asset Value adjustment, investors may be advantaged or disadvantaged depending on when the investors

purchased/subscribed and/or sold/redeemed the Shares of the Funds.

Any changes in PRC tax law, future clarifications thereof, and/or subsequent retroactive enforcement by the PRC tax authorities may result in a loss which could be material to the relevant Funds.

The Management Company will keep the provisioning policy for tax liability under review and may, in its discretion from time to time, make a provision for potential tax liabilities if in their opinion such provision is warranted or as further clarified by the PRC in notifications.

**Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA") and other cross-border reporting systems**
The US-Luxembourg Agreement to Improve International Tax Compliance and to Implement FATCA (the "US-Luxembourg IGA") was entered into with the intention of enabling the Luxembourg implementation of the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act provisions of the U.S. Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act ("FATCA"), which impose a reporting regime and potentially a 30% withholding tax on certain payments made from (or attributable to) US sources or in respect of US assets to certain categories of recipient including a non-US financial institution (a "foreign financial institution" or "FFI") that does not comply with the terms of FATCA and is not otherwise exempt. Certain financial institutions ("reporting financial institutions") are required to provide certain information about their US accountholders to the *Administration des contributions directes* (the "ACD") (which information will in turn be provided to the US tax authority) pursuant to the US-Luxembourg IGA. It is expected that the Company will constitute a reporting financial institution for these purposes. Accordingly, the Company is required to provide certain information about its direct and, in certain circumstances, its indirect US Shareholders to the ACD (which information will in turn be provided to the US tax authorities) and is also required to register with the US Internal Revenue Service. It is the intention of the Company and the Management Company to procure that the Company is treated as complying with the terms of FATCA by complying with the terms of the reporting system contemplated by the US-Luxembourg IGA. No assurance can, however, be provided that the Company will be able to comply with FATCA and, in the event that it is not able to do so, a 30% withholding tax may be imposed on payments it receives from (or which are attributable to) US sources or in respect of US assets, which may reduce the amounts available to it to make payments to its Shareholders.

A number of jurisdictions have entered into multilateral arrangements modelled on the Common Reporting Standard for Automatic Exchange of Financial Account Information published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This will require the Company to provide certain information to the ACD about its direct and, in certain circumstances, its indirect Shareholders from the jurisdictions which are party to such arrangements (which information will in turn be provided to the relevant tax authorities).

In light of the above, Shareholders in the Company will be required to provide certain information to the Company to comply with the terms of the reporting systems. Please note that the Directors have determined that US Persons are not permitted to own units in the Funds, Please see paragraph 4. of Appendix B below.

**Generally**
Dividends and interest received by the Company on its investments may be subject to withholding taxes in the countries of origin which are generally irrecoverable as the Company itself is exempt from income tax. Recent European Union case law may, however, reduce the amount of such irrecoverable tax.

Investors should inform themselves of, and when appropriate consult their professional advisers on, the possible tax consequences of subscribing for, buying, holding, redeeming, converting or selling Shares under the laws of their country of citizenship, residence or domicile. Investors should note that the levels and bases of, and reliefs from, taxation can change.

Under current Luxembourg tax law, there is no withholding tax on payments made by the Company or its paying agent to the Shareholders. Indeed, in accordance with the law of 25 November 2014, Luxembourg elected out of the withholding tax system in favour of an automatic exchange of information under the Council Directive 2003/48/EC on the taxation of savings income (the "EU Savings Directive") as from 1 January 2015. The information to be automatically exchanged relates to the identity and the residence of the beneficial owner, the name or denomination and the address of the paying agent, the account number of the beneficial owner, or instead the identification of the debt claim generating the interests, and the total amount of interest or assimilated income generated.

The European Union has adopted a Directive repealing the EU Savings Directive from 1 January 2016 (1 January 2017 in the case of Austria) (in each case subject to transitional arrangements).

## Meetings and Reports

**Meetings**
An annual general meeting of Shareholders of the Company is held in Luxembourg each year. Other general meetings of Shareholders will be held at such times and places as are indicated in the notices of such meetings. Notices are sent to registered Shareholders and (when legally required) published in such newspapers as decided by the Board of Directors and in the RESA in Luxembourg.

**Reports**
Financial periods of the Company end on 31 August each year. The annual report containing the audited financial accounts of the Company and of each of the Funds in respect of the preceding financial period is available within four months of the relevant year-end. An unaudited interim report is available within two months of the end of the relevant half-year. Copies of all reports are available upon request at the registered office of the Company and from the local Investor Servicing teams. Registered Shareholders will be sent a personal statement of account twice-yearly.

# Appendix A – Investment and Borrowing Powers and Restrictions

**Investment and Borrowing Powers**

1. The Company's Articles of Association permit it to invest in transferable securities and other liquid financial assets, to the full extent permitted by Luxembourg law. The Articles have the effect that, subject to the law, it is at the Directors' discretion to determine any restrictions on investment or on borrowing or on the pledging of the Company's assets.

   The Company's Articles of Association permit the subscription, acquisition and holding of securities issued or to be issued by one or more other Fund of the Company under the conditions set forth by Luxembourg laws and regulations.

**Investment and Borrowing Restrictions**

2. The following restrictions of Luxembourg law and (where relevant) of the Directors currently apply to the Company:

2.1 The investments of each Fund shall consist of:

2.1.1 Transferable securities and money market instruments admitted to official listings on regulated stock exchanges in Member States of the European Union (the "EU"),

2.1.2 Transferable securities and money market instruments dealt in on other regulated markets in Member States of the EU, that are operating regularly, are recognised and are open to the public,

2.1.3 Transferable securities and money market instruments admitted to official listings on stock exchanges in any other country in Europe, Asia, Oceania, the American continents and Africa,

2.1.4 Transferable securities and money market instruments dealt in on other regulated markets that are operating regularly, are recognised and open to the public of any other country in Europe, Asia, Oceania, the American continents and Africa,

2.1.5 Recently issued transferable securities and money market instruments provided that the terms of the issue include an undertaking that application will be made for admission to the official listing on one of the stock exchanges as specified in 2.1.1 and 2.1.3 or regulated markets that are operating regularly, are recognised and open to the public as specified in 2.1.2 and 2.1.4 and that such admission is secured within a year of issue,

2.1.6 Units of UCITS and/or other undertakings for collective investment ("UCIs") within the meaning of Article 1(2), points (a) and (b) of Directive 2009/65/EC, as amended, whether they are situated in a Member State or not, provided that:

- such other UCIs are authorised under laws which provide that they are subject to supervision considered by CSSF to be equivalent to that laid down in EU law, and that cooperation between authorities is sufficiently ensured;
- the level of protection for Shareholders in the other UCIs is equivalent to that provided for Shareholders in a UCITS, and in particular that the rules on asset segregation, borrowing, lending, and uncovered sales of transferable securities and money market instruments are equivalent to the requirements of Directive 2009/65/EC, as amended;
- the business of the other UCIs is reported in half-yearly and annual reports to enable an assessment to be made of the assets and liabilities, income and operations over the reporting period;
- no more than 10% of the UCITS' or the other UCIs' assets (or of the assets of any sub-fund thereof, provided that the principle of segregation of liabilities of the different compartments is ensured in relation to third parties), whose acquisition is contemplated, can, according to their constitutional documents, be invested in aggregate in units of other UCITS or other UCIs;

2.1.7 deposits with credit institutions which are repayable on demand or have the right to be withdrawn, and maturing in no more than 12 months, provided that the credit institution has its registered office in an EU Member State or, if the registered office of the credit institution is situated in a non-Member State, provided that it is subject to prudential rules considered by the CSSF as equivalent to those laid down in EU law;

2.1.8 financial derivative instruments, including equivalent cash-settled instruments, dealt in on a regulated market; and/or financial derivative instruments dealt in OTC derivatives, provided that:

- the underlying consists of instruments described in sub-paragraphs 2.1.1 to 2.1.7 above and 2.1.9 below, financial indices, interest rates, foreign exchange rates or currencies, in which the Company may invest according to its investment objectives;
- the counterparties to OTC derivative transactions are institutions subject to prudential supervision, and belonging to the categories approved by the CSSF; and
- the OTC derivatives are subject to reliable and verifiable valuation on a daily basis and can be sold, liquidated or closed by an offsetting transaction at any time at their fair value at the Company's initiative;

2.1.9 money market instruments other than those dealt in on a regulated market, which fall under Article 1 of the 2010 Law, if the issue or issuer of such instruments is itself regulated for the purpose of protecting investors and savings, and provided that they are:

- issued or guaranteed by a central, regional or local authority or central bank of an EU Member State, the European Central Bank, the EU or the European Investment Bank, a non-Member State or, in the case of a Federal State, by one of the members making up the federation, or by a public international body to which one or more Member States belong; or
- issued by an undertaking any securities of which are dealt in on regulated markets referred to in subparagraphs 2.1.1, 2.1.2 or 2.1.3 above; or
- issued or guaranteed by an establishment subject to prudential supervision, in accordance with criteria defined by EU law, or by an establishment which is subject to and complies with prudential rules considered by the CSSF to be at least as stringent as those laid down by EU law; or
- issued by other bodies belonging to the categories approved by the CSSF provided that investments in such instruments are subject to investor protection equivalent to that laid down in the first, the second or the third indent and provided that the issuer is a company whose capital and reserves amount to at least €10 million and which presents and publishes its annual accounts in accordance with Directive 78/660/EEC, is an entity which, within a group of companies which includes one or several listed companies, is dedicated to the financing of the group or is an entity which is dedicated to the financing of securitisation vehicles which benefit from a banking liquidity line.

2.2 Furthermore, each Fund may invest no more than 10% of its net assets in transferable securities and money market instruments other than those referred to in sub-paragraph 2.1.1 to 2.1.9.

2.3 Each Fund may acquire the units of other Funds in the Company, UCITS and/or other UCIs referred to in paragraph 2.1.6 Each Fund's aggregate investment in UCITS, other Funds in the Company and other UCIs will not exceed 10% of its net assets in order that the Funds are deemed eligible investments for other UCITS funds provided that such restriction shall not be applied to the following Funds:

- ESG Flex Choice Cautious Fund
- ESG Flex Choice Moderate Fund
- ESG Flex Choice Growth Fund
- Multi-Theme Equity Fund

In relation to the Climate Action Multi-Asset Fund only, the 10% limit will not apply to the Fund until such time as the Fund's net asset value exceeds €100m (for the first time) and in relation to the China Multi-Asset Fund and Systematic Global Sustainable Income & Growth Fund the 10% limit will not apply to the Fund until such time as the Fund's net asset value exceeds $200m (for the first time).

In relation to the Circular Economy Fund only, of the 10% investment permitted in other UCIs referred to in paragraph 2.3, no more than 5% may be invested in eligible UCIs that are not listed on a stock exchange of a Member State of the OECD.

Each Fund may acquire the units of UCITS and/or other UCIs referred to in paragraph 2.1.6, provided that no more than 20% of such Fund's net assets are invested in the units of any single UCITS and/or other UCI. For the purpose of the application of this limit, each target UCITS or UCI sub-fund of an umbrella is to be considered as a separate issuer, provided that segregated liability in relation to third party claims between sub-funds is effective.

The maximum aggregate investment by a Fund in units of eligible UCIs other than UCITS may not exceed 30% of such Fund's net assets.

When each Fund has acquired shares of UCITS and/or other UCIs, the assets of the respective UCITS or other UCIs do not have to be combined for the purposes of the limits laid down in paragraph 2.6.

When a Fund invests in the units of other UCITS and/or other UCIs that are managed, directly or by delegation, by the same Investment Adviser or by any other company with which the Investment Adviser is linked by common management or control, or by a substantial direct or indirect holding, no subscription or redemption fees may be charged to the Company on its investment in the units of such other UCITS and/or UCIs. For further details please refer to the section entitled "Conflicts of interest from relationships within the BlackRock Group" of this Prospectus.

Where a Fund invests a substantial proportion of its net assets in other UCITS and other UCIs, the Investment Adviser will ensure that the total management fee (excluding any performance fee, if any) charged to such Fund (including management fees from other UCITS and UCIs in which it invests) shall not exceed 1.50% of the net asset value of the Fund.

2.4 When a Fund invests (the "investor Fund") in shares of another Fund in the Company (the "target Fund"):

- the target Fund may not itself invest in the investor Fund;
- the target Fund may not invest more than 10% of its net assets in units of another Fund of the Company ( as set out in paragraph 2.3 above);
- any voting rights which may be attached to the shares of the target Fund will be suspended for the investor Fund for the duration of the investment;
- any management fees or subscription or redemption fees payable in relation to the target Fund may not be charged to the investor Fund; and
- the net asset value of the shares of the target Fund may not be considered for the purpose of the requirement that the capital of the Company should be above the legal minimum as specified in the 2010 Law, currently €1,250,000.

2.5 A Fund may hold no more than 20% ancillary liquid assets (such as cash held in current accounts with a bank accessible at any time "Deposits at sight", in order to cover current or exceptional payments, or for the time necessary to reinvest in eligible assets provided under article 41(1) of the 2010 Law, or for a period of time strictly necessary in case of unfavourable market conditions. This restriction may only be exceeded temporarily for a period of time strictly necessary if the Directors consider this to be in the best interest of the Shareholders (during exceptionally unfavourable market conditions such as a severe financial market collapse).

2.6 A Fund may not invest in any one issuer in excess of the limits set out below:

2.6.1 Not more than 10% of a Fund's net assets may be invested in transferable securities or money market instruments issued by the same entity.

2.6.2 Not more than 20% of a Fund's net assets may be invested in deposits made with the same entity.

2.6.3 By way of exception, the 10% limit stated in the first paragraph of this section may be increased to:

- a maximum of 35% if the transferable securities or money market instruments are issued or guaranteed by an EU Member State, by its local authorities, by a non-Member State or by public international bodies to which one or more Member States belong;
- a maximum of 25% in the case of certain bonds when these are issued by a credit institution which has its registered office in an EU Member State and is subject by law to special public supervision designed to protect bond holders. In particular, sums deriving from the issue of these bonds must be invested in conformity with the law in assets which, during the whole period of validity of the bonds, are capable of covering claims attaching to the bonds and which, in the event of failure of the issuer, would be used on a priority basis for the reimbursement of the principal and payment of the accrued interest. When a Fund invests more than 5% of its net assets in the bonds referred to in this paragraph and issued by one issuer, the total value of these investments may not exceed 80% of the value of the net assets of such Fund.

2.6.4 The total value of the transferable securities or money market instruments held by a Fund in the issuing bodies in each of which it invests more than 5% of its net assets must not then exceed 40% of the value of its net assets. This limitation does not apply to deposits and OTC derivative transactions made with financial institutions subject to prudential supervision. The transferable securities and money market instruments limits referred to in the two indents of paragraph 2.6.3 above shall not be taken into

account for the purpose of applying the limit of 40% referred to in this paragraph.

Notwithstanding the individual limits laid down in sub-paragraphs 2.6.1 to 2.6.4 above, a Fund may not combine:

- investments in transferable securities or money market instruments issued by a single entity; and/or
- deposits made with a single entity; and/or
- exposures arising from OTC derivative transactions undertaken with a single entity, in excess of 20% of its net assets.

When a transferable security or money market instrument embeds a derivative, the latter must be taken into account when complying with the requirements of the above mentioned restrictions.

The limits provided for in sub-paragraphs 2.6.1 to 2.6.4 above may not be combined, and thus investments in transferable securities or money market instruments issued by the same entity or in deposits or derivative instruments made with this entity carried out in accordance with paragraphs 2.6.1 to 2.6.4 shall under no circumstances exceed in total 35% of the net assets of the Fund.

Companies which are included in the same group for the purposes of consolidated accounts, as defined in accordance with Directive 83/349/ EEC or in accordance with recognised international accounting rules, are regarded as a single entity for the purpose of calculating the investment limits mentioned in sub-paragraphs 2.6.1 to 2.6.4 above.

The Fund may not invest cumulatively more that 20% of its net assets in transferable securities or money market instruments of the same group subject to restrictions 2.6.1 and the three indents under 2.6.4 above.

Without prejudice to the limits laid down in paragraph 2.8 below, the limit of 10% laid down in sub-paragraph 2.6.1 above is raised to a maximum of 20% for investment in equity and/or debt securities issued by the same body when the aim of the investment policy of a Fund is to replicate the composition of a certain equity or debt securities index which is recognised by the CSSF, on the following basis:

- the composition of the index is sufficiently diversified;
- the index represents an adequate benchmark for the market to which it refers;
- it is published in an appropriate manner;
- it is replicable;
- it is transparent, with the full calculation methodology and index performance published; and
- it is subject to independent valuation.

This limit is 35% where that proves to be justified by exceptional market conditions in particular in regulated markets where certain transferable securities or money market instruments are highly dominant. The investment up to this limit is only permitted for a single issuer.

**By way of derogation, each Fund (including the Reserve Funds by virtue of Article 17.7 of the MMFR) is authorised to invest up to 100% of its net assets in different transferable securities and money market instruments issued or guaranteed by an EU Member State, its local authorities, by another member state of the OECD or public international bodies of which one or more EU Member States are members, provided that (i) such securities are part of at least six different issues and (ii) securities from any one issue do not account for more than 30% of the net assets of such Fund.**

2.7 The Company may not invest in shares with voting rights enabling it to exercise significant influence over the management of the issuing body.

2.8 Each Fund may not:

2.8.1 acquire more than 10% of the shares with non-voting rights of one and the same issuer.

2.8.2 acquire more than 10% of the debt securities of one and the same issuer.

2.8.3 acquire more than 25% of the units of one and the same undertaking for collective investment.

2.8.4 acquire more than 10% of the money market instruments of any single issuer.

The limits stipulated in sub-paragraphs 2.8.2, 2.8.3 and 2.8.4 above may be disregarded at the time of acquisition if, at that time, the gross amount of debt securities or of the money market instruments, or the net amount of securities in issue cannot be calculated.

2.9 The limits stipulated in paragraphs 2.7 and 2.8 above do not apply to:

2.9.1 Transferable securities and money market instruments issued or guaranteed by an EU Member State or its local authorities;

2.9.2 Transferable securities and money market instruments issued or guaranteed by a non-EU Member State;

2.9.3 Transferable securities and money market instruments issued by public international institutions of which one or more EU Member States are members;

2.9.4 Transferable securities held by a Fund in the capital of a company incorporated in a non-Member State investing its assets mainly in the securities of issuing bodies having their registered offices in that State, where under the legislation of that State such a holding represents the only way in which such Fund can invest in the securities of issuing bodies of that State. This derogation, however, shall apply only if in its investment policy the company from the non-Member State complies with the limits laid down in Articles 43, 46 and 48(1) and (2) of the 2010 Law. Where the limits set in Articles 43 and 46 of the 2010 Law are exceeded, Article 49 shall apply mutatis mutandis; and

2.9.5 Transferable securities held by the Company in the capital of subsidiary companies carrying on only the business of management, advice or marketing in the country where the subsidiary is located, in regard to the repurchase of units at Shareholders' request exclusively on its or their behalf.

2.10 The Company may always, in the interest of the Shareholders, exercise the subscription rights attached to securities, which form part of its assets.

When the maximum percentages stated in paragraphs 2.2 through 2.8 above are exceeded for reasons beyond the control of the Company, or as a result of the exercise of subscription rights, the

Company must adopt, as a priority objective, sales transactions to remedy the situation, taking due account of the interests of its Shareholders.

2.11 A Fund (with the exception of the Reserve Funds) may borrow to the extent of 10% of its total net assets (valued at market value) provided these borrowings are made on a temporary basis. However, the Company may acquire for the account of a Fund foreign currency by way of back-to-back loan. Any repayment of monies borrowed, together with accrued interest and any fees arising from the committed credit line (including for the avoidance of doubt any commitment fee that may be due to the lender), shall be paid out of the assets of the respective Fund. Any new Funds will not automatically be subject to a credit line and will therefore be required to be added by way of a joinder process. This process includes, inter alia, any necessary due diligence being carried out by the lenders in order to approve the addition of the new Funds. During this period, such Funds will not be subject to, or able to draw down on, any credit line. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that the addition of any new Funds will be approved by the lenders, or that credit will be available to a Fund since the credit line is subject to availability (on an equitable allocation basis) between the Funds and other BlackRock funds participating in the credit agreement. As such, certain Funds may not be subject to the credit line and will not incur any fees with respect to same.

2.12 The Company may not grant credit facilities nor act as guarantor on behalf of third parties, provided that for the purpose of this restriction (i) the acquisition of transferable securities, money market instruments or other financial investments referred to in sub-paragraphs 2.1.6, 2.1.8 and 2.1.9 above, in fully or partly paid form and (ii) the permitted lending of portfolio securities shall be deemed not to constitute the making of a loan.

2.13 The Company undertakes not to carry out uncovered sales transactions of transferable securities, money market instruments or other financial instruments referred to in sub-paragraphs 2.1.6, 2.1.8 and 2.1.9 above; provided that this restriction shall not prevent the Company from making deposits or carrying out accounts in connection with financial derivatives instruments, permitted within the limits referred to above.

2.14 The Company's assets may not include precious metals or certificates representing them, commodities, commodities contracts, or certificates representing commodities.

2.15 The Company may not purchase or sell real estate or any option, right or interest therein, provided that the Company may invest in securities secured by real estate or interests therein or issued by companies which invest in real estate or interests therein.

2.16 The Company will in addition comply with such further restrictions as may be required by the regulatory authorities in any country in which the Shares are marketed.

2.17 The Reserve Funds shall not undertake any of the activities set out in Article 9(2) of the MMF Regulations, including borrowing and lending cash.

3. **Short Term VNAV Money-Market Funds**

3.1 A Fund which is categorised in this Prospectus as a "Short Term VNAV Money-Market Fund" in accordance with the MMF Regulations will satisfy the conditions set out in this section:

a) the Fund's primary investment objective is to maintain the principal and aim to provide a return in line with money-market rates;

b) the Fund will invest only in the categories of financial assets set out in paragraph 3.2 below;

c) the Fund will provide daily net asset value and price calculation and allow for daily subscription and redemption of units at a price equal to the Fund's NAV per unit, notwithstanding any permitted fees or charges as specified in this Prospectus; and

d) the Fund will maintain a variable net asset value.

3.2 A MMF shall invest only in one or more of the following categories of financial assets and only under the conditions specified in the MMF Regulations:

a) Money market instruments that fulfil the requirements set out in Article 10 of the MMF Regulations which can be summarised as follows: (a) they must fall within one of the categories of eligible MMIs provided for in the UCITS Directive; (b) they must have a legal maturity at issuance of 397 days or less; or have a residual maturity of 397 days or less. Standard MMFs are allowed to invest in MMIs with a residual maturity until the legal redemption date of less than or equal to two years, provided that the time remaining until the next interest rate reset date is 397 days or less.

b) Eligible securitisations and asset-backed commercial paper ("ABCPs") that fulfil the requirements set out in Article 11 of the MMF Regulations which can be summarised as follows: the securitisation or ABCP is sufficiently liquid and is any of the following: (a) a securitisation that constitutes a "Level 2B Securitisation" under the Liquidity Coverage Ratio Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/611 made under the EU Capital Requirements Regulation (575/2013) ("CRR"); (b) an ABCP issued by an ABCP programme which (i) is fully supported by a regulated credit institution; (ii) is not a re-securitisation and the exposures underlying the securitisation at the level of each ABCP transaction do not include any securitisation position; and (iii) does not include a synthetic securitisation; or (c) a simple, transparent and standardised (STS) securitisation or ABCP.

A Short-Term MMF may invest in the securitisations or ABCPs referred to above provided any of the following conditions is met, as applicable: (i) the legal maturity at issuance of the securitisation referred to in point (a) above is two years or less and the time remaining until the next interest rate reset date is 397 days or less; (ii) the legal maturity at issuance or residual maturity of the securitisations or ABCPs referred to in points (b) and (c) above is 397 days or less; or (iii) the securitisations referred to in points (a) and (c) above are amortising instruments and have a WAL of two years or less.

A Standard MMF may invest in the securitisations or ABCPs referred to above provided any of the following conditions is met, as applicable: (i) the legal maturity at issuance or residual maturity of the securitisations and ABCPs referred to in points (a), (b) and (c) above is two years or less and the time remaining until the next interest rate reset date is 397 days or less; or (ii) the securitisations referred to in points (a) and (c) above are amortising instruments and have a WAL of two years or less.

c) Deposits with credit institutions that fulfil the requirements of Article 12 of the MMF Regulations which can be summarised as: (a) a deposit that is repayable on demand or is able to be withdrawn at any time; (b) a deposit that it matures in no more than 12 months; and (c) a deposit that is made with an EU credit institution or a non-EU credit institution subject to prudential rules considered equivalent to those laid down in the CRR.

d) Financial derivative instruments that fulfil the requirements of Article 13 of the MMF Regulations. which can be summarised

as: (a) the underlying of the derivative consists of interest rates, foreign exchange rates, currencies or indices representing one of those categories; (b) the derivative serves only the purpose of hedging the interest rate or exchange rate risks inherent in other investments of the MMF; (c) the counterparties to OTC derivative are institutions subject to prudential regulation and supervision and belonging to the categories approved by the competent authority of the MMF; and (d) an OTC derivative is subject to reliable and verifiable valuation on a daily basis and can be sold, liquidated or closed by an offsetting transaction at any time at their fair value at the MMF's initiative.

e) Repurchase agreements that fulfil the conditions set out in Article 14 of the MMF Regulations which can be summarised as follows: (a) they are used on a temporary basis only (for no more than seven working days) for liquidity management purposes and not for investment purposes other than as detailed in (c) below; (b) the counterparty is prohibited from selling, investing, pledging or otherwise transferring those assets without the MMF's prior consent; (c) the cash received is only (i) placed on deposit with eligible credit institutions pursuant to the UCITS Directive, or (ii) invested in liquid transferable securities or MMIs (other than eligible MMIs) where they are issued or guaranteed by certain public bodies; (d) the cash received by the MMF does not exceed 10% of its assets; and (e) the MMF has the right to terminate the agreement at any time upon giving prior notice of no more than two working days.

f) Reverse repurchase agreements that fulfil the conditions set out in Article 15 of the MMF Regulations which can be summarised as follows: (a) the MMF has the right to terminate the agreement at any time upon giving prior notice of no more than two working days; (b) the market value of the assets received is at all times at least equal to the value of the cash paid out; (c) the assets received by a MMF are eligible MMIs as described above at paragraph 3.2(a); (d) the assets received are not sold, reinvested, pledged or otherwise transferred; (e) securitisations and ABCPs shall not be received by a MMF as part of a reverse repurchase agreement; (f) the assets received are sufficiently diversified with a maximum exposure to a given issuer of 15%, except where those assets take the form of MMIs issued or guaranteed by certain public bodies; and (g) the MMF is able to recall the full amount of cash at any time on either an accrued basis or a mark-to-market basis.

g) Units or shares of other MMFs in accordance with the requirements set out in Article 16 of the MMF Regulations and as summarised in paragraphs 3.19 to 3.23 below.

3.3 A MMF may hold ancillary liquid assets in accordance with Article 41(2) of the 2010 Law.

3.4 A MMF shall invest no more than:

a) 5% of its assets in money market instruments, eligible securitisations and ABCPs issued by the same body;

b) 10% of its assets in deposits made with the same credit institution unless the structure of the banking sector in the Member State in which the MMF is domiciled is such that there are insufficient viable Credit Institutions to meet that diversification requirement and it is not economically feasible for the MMF to make deposits in another member state of the European Union, in which case up to 15% of its assets may be deposited with the same Credit Institution.

3.5 By way of derogation from paragraph 3.4(a), a VNAV MMF may invest up to 10% of its assets in money market instruments, eligible securitisations and ABCPs issued by the same body provided that the total value of such money market instruments, eligible securitisations and ABCPs held by the VNAV MMF in each issuing body in which it invests more than 5% of its assets does not exceed 40% of the value of its assets.

3.6 The aggregate of all of a MMF's exposures to eligible securitisations and ABCPs shall not exceed 15% of the assets of the MMF. As from the date of application of the delegated act referred to in Article 11(4) of the MMF Regulations, the aggregate of all of a MMF's exposures to eligible securitisations and ABCPs shall not exceed 20% of the assets of the MMF, whereby up to 15% of the assets of the MMF may be invested in eligible securitisations and ABCPs that do not comply with the criteria for the identification of simple, transparent and standardised ("STS") securitisations and ABCPs.

3.7 The aggregate risk exposure of a MMF to the same counterparty to OTC derivative transactions which fulfil the conditions set out in Article 13 of the MMF Regulations shall not exceed 5% of the assets of the MMF.

3.8 The cash received by the MMF as part of the repurchase agreement shall not exceed 10% of its assets.

3.9 The aggregate amount of cash provided to the same counterparty of a MMF in reverse repurchase agreements shall not exceed 15% of the assets of the MMF. Collateral received under reverse repurchase agreements must be comprised of eligible assets set out in paragraph 3.2 above, and comply with the diversification requirements in paragraphs 3.10 and 3.11 below

3.10 Notwithstanding paragraphs 3.4 and 3.6 above, a MMF shall not combine, where to do so would result in an investment of more than 15% of its assets in a single body, any of the following:

a) investments in money market instruments, securitisations and ABCPs issued by that body;

b) deposits made with that body;

c) OTC financial derivative instruments giving counterparty risk exposure to that body.

3.11 A MMF may invest up to 100% of its assets in different money market instruments issued or guaranteed separately or jointly by the Union, the national, regional and local administrations of the Member States or their central banks, the European Central Bank, the European Investment Bank, the European Investment Fund, the European Stability Mechanism, the European Financial Stability Facility, a central authority or central bank of a member state of the OECD, a G20 member country, Hong Kong and Singapore, the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Council of Europe Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Bank for International Settlements, or any other relevant international financial institution or organisation to which one or more Member States belong.

3.12 Paragraph 3.11 shall only apply where all of the following requirements are met:

a) the MMF holds money market instruments from at least six different issues by the issuer; and

b) the MMF limits the investment in money market instruments from the same issue to a maximum of 30% of its assets.

3.13 Notwithstanding the individual limits laid down in paragraph 3.4, a MMF may invest no more than 10% of its assets in bonds issued by a single credit institution that has its registered office in a Member State and is subject by law to special public supervision designed to protect bond-holders. In particular, sums deriving from the issue of

those bonds shall be invested in accordance with the law in assets which, during the whole period of validity of the bonds, are capable of covering claims attaching to the bonds and which, in the event of failure of the issuer, would be used on a priority basis for the reimbursement of the principal and payment of the accrued interest.

3.14 Where a MMF invests more than 5% of its assets in the bonds referred to in paragraph 3.13 issued by a single issuer, the total value of those investments shall not exceed 40% of the value of the assets of the MMF.

3.15 Notwithstanding the individual limits laid down in paragraph 3.4, a MMF may invest no more than 20% of its assets in bonds issued by a single credit institution where the requirements set out in point (f) of Article 10(1) or point (c) of Article 11(1) of Delegated Regulation (EU) 2015/61 are met, including any possible investment in assets referred to in paragraph 3.14.

3.16 Where a MMF invests more than 5% of its assets in the bonds referred to in paragraph 3.15 issued by a single issuer, the total value of those investments shall not exceed 60% of the value of the assets of the MMF, including any possible investment in assets referred to in paragraph 3.14, respecting the limits set out therein.

3.17 Companies which are included in the same group for the purposes of consolidated accounts under Directive 2013/34/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council or in accordance with recognised international accounting rules, shall be regarded as a single body for the purpose of calculating the limits referred to in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.10.

3.18 A MMF will invest only in securities with a maturity at issuance or residual term to maturity of 397 days or less. At least 7.5% of the Fund's assets will be daily maturing reverse repo contracts which are able to be terminated by giving prior notice of one working day or cash which is able to be withdrawn by giving prior notice of one working day and at least 15% of the Fund's assets will be weekly maturing assets, reverse repo contracts which are able to be terminated by giving prior notice of five working days or cash which is able to be withdrawn by giving prior notice of five working days. Money Market Instruments and units or shares in other money market funds may be included in the weekly maturity assets, up to 7.5%, provided they can be redeemed and settled within five working days). The Fund will maintain a weighted average maturity of 60 days or less and a weighted average life of 120 days or less. The calculation of both the weighted average maturity and the weighted average life of the Fund will take into account the impact of deposits and any hedging or repo contracts used by the Fund.

3.19 A MMF may acquire the units or shares of any other MMF ('targeted MMF') provided that all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

a) no more than 10% of the assets of the targeted MMF are able, according to its fund rules or instruments of incorporation, to be invested in aggregate in units or shares of other MMFs;

b) the targeted MMF does not hold units or shares in the acquiring MMF.

3.20 A MMF whose units or shares have been acquired shall not invest in the acquiring MMF during the period in which the acquiring MMF holds units or shares in it.

3.21 A MMF may acquire the units or shares of other MMFs, provided that no more than 5% of its assets are invested in units or shares of a single MMF.

3.22 A MMF may, in aggregate, invest no more than 10% of its assets in units or shares of other MMFs.

3.23 Units or shares of other MMFs shall be eligible for investment by a MMF provided that all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

a) the targeted MMF is authorised under the MMFR;

b) where the targeted MMF is managed, whether directly or under a delegation, by the same manager as that of the acquiring MMF or by any other company to which the manager of the acquiring MMF is linked by common management or control, or by a substantial direct or indirect holding, the manager of the targeted MMF, or that other company, is prohibited from charging subscription or redemption fees on account of the investment by the acquiring MMF in the units or shares of the targeted MMF;

c) Short-term MMFs may only invest in units or shares of other short-term MMFs.

3.24 With respect to MMFs, the Investment Adviser has established and implemented and consistently applies a credit analysis process agreed with the Management Company in determining the credit quality of money market instruments, securitisations and asset-backed commercial paper (ABCPs) in which it is intended that an Money Market Fund will invest, taking into account the issuer of the instruments and the characteristics of the instrument itself.

3.24.1 The credit quality assessment considers the following factors and general principles:

(a) the quantification of the credit risk of the issuer and of the relative risk of default of the issuer and of the instrument;

(b) qualitative indicators on the issuer of the instrument, including in the light of the macroeconomic and financial market situation;

(c) the short-term nature of money market instruments;

(d) the asset class of the instrument;

(e) the type of issuer distinguishing at least the following types of issuers: national, regional or local administrations, financial corporations, and non-financial corporations;

(f) for structured financial instruments, the operational and counterparty risk inherent within the structured financial transaction and, in case of exposure to securitisations, the credit risk of the issuer, the structure of the securitisation and the credit risk of the underlying assets;

(g) the liquidity profile of the instrument with respect to the liquidity and solvency of the issuer.

3.24.2 The credit quality assessment includes a range of quantitative and qualitative indicators which are applied as appropriate depending on the type of security (i.e. money market instrument, securitisation or ABCP) and the type of issuer (e.g. a corporation, government or public entity) being considered.

3.24.3 For corporate issuers qualitative and quantitative indicators considered include: financial condition, liquidity resources, financial flexibility and vulnerability to event risk, competitor positioning, industry and company analysis, management, strategy, business model, event risk, disruption, legal and regulatory, statutory, capital structure, Shareholder activity, and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors, bond pricing information, including credit spreads and pricing of comparable fixed income instruments and related securities; pricing of money market instruments relevant to the issuer, instrument or industry sector; credit default-swap pricing information, including credit default-swap spreads for

comparable instruments; default statistics relating to the issuer, instrument, or industry sector, financial indices relevant to the geographic location, industry sector or asset class of the issuer or instrument; pricing of new issues including the existence of more junior securities. In addition, analysis of relevant markets, including degree of volume and liquidity.

3.24.4 For national issuers, qualitative and quantitative indicators considered include: per capital income; GDP; inflation rate; economic development; current account; macroeconomic factors; political event risk; sources of revenue; ratio of debt/GDP; real exchange rate; default history; ratio of reserves/imports; corruption index; regulatory quality, accountability, rule of law and political stability; economic diversity; explicit and contingent liabilities; size of foreign exchange reserves versus foreign exchange liabilities.

For regional or local administrations, qualitative and quantitative indicators considered include: underlying credit fundamentals; revenue base and susceptibility to economic conditions; operational, administrative or financial linkages to a sovereign; economic importance of the issuer to a sovereign; estimates of government support (if any); guarantees (if any); credit strength of sovereign providing support; barriers to support; explicit and contingent liabilities; size of foreign exchange reserves/liabilities.

3.24.5 For structured financial instruments qualitative and quantitative indicators considered include: the operational and counterparty risk inherent within the structured financial transaction, and in the case of exposure to securitizations, the credit risk of the issuer, the structure of the securitization, and the credit risk of the underlying assets.

3.24.6 The management company shall ensure that the information used in applying the internal credit quality assessment procedure is of sufficient quality, up-to-date and from reliable sources. The internal credit quality assessment procedure shall be based on prudent, systematic and continuous assessment methodologies. The methodologies used shall be subject to validation by the management company based on historical experience and empirical evidence, including back testing. The management company shall ensure that the internal credit quality assessment procedure complied with all of the following general principles:

(a) an effective process is to be established to obtain and update relevant information on the issuer and the instrument's characteristics;

(b) adequate measures are to be adopted and implemented to ensure that the internal credit quality assessment is based on a thorough analysis of the information that is available and pertinent, and includes all relevant driving factors that influence the creditworthiness of the issuer and the credit quality of the instruments;

(c) the internal credit quality assessment procedure is to be monitored on an ongoing basis and all credit quality assessments shall be received at least annually;

(d) while there is to be no mechanistic over-reliance on external ratings in accordance with article 5a of Regulation (EC) N° 1060/2009, the management company shall undertake a new credit quality assessment for money market instruments, securitisations and ABCPs when there is a material change that could have an impact on the existing assessment of the instrument;

(e) the credit quality assessment methodologies are to be reviewed at least annually by the management company to determine whether they remain appropriate for the current portfolio and external conditions. Where the management company becomes aware of errors in the credit quality assessment methodology or in its application, it shall immediately correct those errors; and

(f) when methodologies, models or key assumptions used in the internal credit quality assessment procedure are changed, the management company shall review all affected internal credit quality assessments as soon as possible.

**The Company shall take the risks that it deems reasonable to reach the assigned objective set for each Fund; however, it cannot guarantee that it shall reach its goals given stock exchange fluctuations and other risks inherent in investments in transferable securities.**

4. Financial Techniques and Instruments.

4.1 The Company must employ a risk-management process which enables it to monitor and measure at any time the risk of the positions and their contribution to the overall risk profile of the portfolio; it must employ a process for accurate and independent assessment of the value of OTC derivative instruments. It must communicate to the CSSF regularly and in accordance with the detailed rules defined by the latter, the types of derivative instruments, the underlying risks, the quantitative limits and the methods which are chosen in order to estimate the risks associated with transactions in derivative instruments.

4.2 In addition, the Company is authorised to employ techniques and instruments relating to transferable securities and to money market instruments under the conditions and within the limits laid down by the CSSF provided that such techniques and instruments are used for the purpose of efficient portfolio management or for hedging purposes.

4.3 When these operations concern the use of derivative instruments, these conditions and limits shall conform to the provisions laid down in the 2010 Law.

Under no circumstances shall these operations cause the Company to diverge from its investment policies and investment restrictions.

4.4 The Company will ensure that the global exposure of the underlying assets shall not exceed the total net value of a Fund. The underlying assets of index based derivative instruments are not combined to the investment limits laid down under sub-paragraphs 2.6.1 to 2.6.4 above.

- When a transferable security or money market instrument embeds a derivative, the latter must be taken into account when complying with the requirements of the above-mentioned restrictions.

- The exposure is calculated taking into account the current value of the underlying assets, the counterparty risk, future market movements and the time available to liquidate the positions.

4.5 **Efficient Portfolio Management – Other Techniques and Instruments**

In addition to the investments in financial derivatives instruments, the Company may employ other techniques and instruments relating to transferable securities and money market instruments subject to the conditions set out in the CSSF Circular 08/356, as amended from time to time, and ESMA Guidelines ESMA/2012/832EL, such as repurchase/ reverse repurchase transactions, ("repo transactions") and securities lending.

Appendix G specifies, for each Fund, the maximum and expected proportion of the Net Asset Value that can be subject to securities

lending and repo transactions. The expected proportion is not a limit and the actual percentage may vary over time depending on factors including, but not limited to, market conditions and borrowing demand in the market.

Techniques and instruments which relate to transferable securities or money market instruments and which are used for the purpose of efficient portfolio management, including financial derivatives instruments which are not used for direct investment purposes, shall be understood as a reference to techniques and instruments which fulfil the following criteria:

4.5.1 they are economically appropriate in that they are realised in a cost-effective way;

4.5.2 they are entered into for one or more of the following specific aims:

(a) reduction of risk;

(b) reduction of cost;

(c) generation of additional capital or income for the Company with a level of risk which is consistent with the risk profile of the Company and its relevant Funds and the risk diversification rules applicable to them;

4.5.3 their risks are adequately captured by the risk management process of the Company; and

4.5.4 they cannot result in a change to the Fund's declared investment objective or add significant supplementary risks in comparison to the general risk policy as described in the Prospectus and relevant KIIDs.

Techniques and instruments (other than financial derivatives instruments) which may be used for efficient portfolio management purposes are set out below and are subject to the conditions set out below.

Moreover those transactions may be carried out for 100% of the assets held by the relevant Fund provided (i) that their volume is kept at an appropriate level or that the Company is entitled to request the return of the securities lent in a manner that enables it, at all times, to meet its redemption obligations; and (ii) that these transactions do not jeopardise the management of the Company's assets in accordance with the investment policy of the relevant Fund. Risks shall be monitored in accordance with the risk management process of the Company.

As part of the efficient portfolio management techniques the Funds may underwrite or sub-underwrite certain offerings from time to time through the Investment Advisers. The Management Company will seek to ensure that the relevant Funds will receive the commissions and fees payable under such contracts and all investments acquired pursuant to such contracts will form part of the relevant Funds' assets. Under the Luxembourg regulation, there is no requirement to require a prior consent of the trustee/depositary.

4.6 Securities lending transactions and related potential conflicts of interest

Each Fund may conduct securities lending transactions in aggregate for up to such percentage of its Net Asset Value as disclosed in the table in Appendix G.

The Company may enter into securities lending transactions provided that it complies with the following rules:

4.6.1 the Company may lend securities either directly or through a standardised system organised by a recognised clearing institution or a lending program organised by a financial institution subject to prudential supervision rules which are recognised by the CSSF as equivalent to those laid down in EU law and specialised in this type of transactions;

4.6.2 the borrower must be subject to prudential supervision rules considered by the CSSF as equivalent to those prescribed by EU law;

4.6.3 net exposures (i.e. the exposures of a Fund less the collateral received by a Fund) to a counterparty arising from securities lending transactions shall be taken into account in the 20% limit provided for in article 43(2) of the 2010 Law.

4.6.4 as part of its lending transactions, the Company must receive collateral, the market value of which, shall, at all times, be equal to at least the market value of the securities lent plus a premium;

4.6.5 such collateral must be received prior to or simultaneously with the transfer of the securities lent. When the securities are lent through an intermediary referred to under 4.6.1 above, the transfer of the securities lent may be effected prior to receipt of the collateral, if the relevant intermediary ensures proper completion of the transaction. The intermediary may, instead of the borrower, provide to the UCITS collateral in lieu of the borrower; and

4.6.6 the Company must have the right to terminate any securities lending arrangement which it has entered into at any time or demand the return of any or all of the securities loaned.

Counterparties for securities lending transactions are selected based on a rigorous credit assessment and in-depth review at the individual legal entity level at the outset of the trading relationship. Credit assessments include an evaluation of the legal entity corporate and/or ownership structure, regulatory regime, track record, financial health and any external agency ratings, where applicable.

The Company shall disclose the global valuation of the securities lent in the annual and semi-annual reports. Please refer also to paragraph 11. ("The Depositary") in Appendix C for information on additional requirements pursuant to the UCITS Directive in relation to the reuse of assets held in custody by the Depositary.

There are potential conflicts of interests in managing a securities lending program, including but not limited to: (i) BlackRock as lending agent may have an incentive to increase or decrease the amount of securities on loan or to lend particular securities in order to generate additional risk-adjusted revenue for BlackRock and its affiliates; and (ii) BlackRock as lending agent may have an incentive to allocate loans to clients that would provide more revenue to Blackrock. As described further below, BlackRock seeks to mitigate this conflict by providing its securities lending clients with equal lending opportunities over time in order to approximate pro-rata allocation.

As part of its securities lending program, BlackRock indemnifies certain clients and/or funds against a shortfall in collateral in the event of borrower default. BlackRock's Risk and Quantitative Analytics Group ("RQA") calculates, on a regular basis, BlackRock's potential dollar exposure to the risk of collateral shortfall upon counterparty default ("shortfall risk") under the securities lending program for both indemnified and non-indemnified clients. On a periodic basis, RQA also determines the maximum amount of potential indemnified shortfall risk arising from securities lending activities ("indemnification exposure limit") and the maximum amount of counterparty-specific credit exposure ("credit limits") BlackRock is willing to assume as well as the program's operational complexity. RQA oversees the risk model that calculates projected

shortfall values using loan-level factors such as loan and collateral type and market value as well as specific borrower counterparty credit characteristics. When necessary, RQA may further adjust other securities lending program attributes by restricting eligible collateral or reducing counterparty credit limits. As a result, the management of the indemnification exposure limit may affect the amount of securities lending activity BlackRock may conduct at any given point in time and impact indemnified and non-indemnified clients by reducing the volume of lending opportunities for certain loans (including by asset type, collateral type and/or revenue profile).

BlackRock uses a predetermined systematic and fair process in order to approximate pro-rata allocation. In order to allocate a loan to a portfolio: (i) BlackRock as a whole must have sufficient lending capacity pursuant to the various program limits (i.e. indemnification exposure limit and counterparty credit limits); (ii) the lending portfolio must hold the asset at the time a loan opportunity arrives; and (iii) the lending portfolio must also have enough inventory, either on its own or when aggregated with other portfolios into one single market delivery, to satisfy the loan request. In doing so, BlackRock seeks to provide equal lending opportunities for all portfolios, independent of whether BlackRock indemnifies the portfolio. Equal opportunities for lending portfolios does not guarantee equal outcomes. Specifically, short and long-term outcomes for individual clients may vary due to asset mix, asset/liability spreads on different securities, and the overall limits imposed by the firm.

4.7 Repo transactions

The Company may enter into:

- repurchase transactions which consist of the purchase or sale of securities with provisions reserving the seller the right or the obligation to repurchase from the buyer securities sold at a price and term specified by the two parties in their contractual arrangement; and

- reverse repurchase agreement transactions, which consist of a forward transaction at the maturity of which the seller (counterparty) has the obligation to repurchase the securities sold and the Company the obligation to return the securities received under the transaction.

Each Fund may conduct repurchase/reverse repurchase transactions in aggregate for up to such percentage of its latest available net asset value as disclosed in the table in Appendix G. All incremental incomes generated from such transactions will be accrued to the Fund.

4.7.1 The Company can act either as buyer or seller in repo transactions. Its involvement in such transactions is however subject to the following rules:

(a) the fulfilment of the conditions 4.6.2 and 4.6.3;

(b) during the life of a repo transaction with the Company acting as purchaser, the Company shall not sell the securities which are the object of the contract, before the counterparty has exercised its option or until the deadline for the repurchase has expired, unless the Company has other means of coverage;

(c) the securities acquired by the Company under a repo transaction must conform to the Fund's investment policy and investment restrictions and must be limited to:

(i) short-term bank certificates or money market instruments as defined in Directive 2007/16/EC of 19 March 2007;

(ii) bonds issued by non-governmental issuers offering an adequate liquidity;

(iii) assets referred to under 4.8.2(b), 4.8.2(c) and 4.8.2(d) below; and

The Company shall disclose the total amount of the open repo transactions on the date of reference of its annual and interim reports.

4.7.2 Where the Company enters into repurchase agreements, it must be able at any time to recall any securities subject to the repurchase agreement or to terminate the repurchase agreement into which it has entered. Fixed-term repurchase agreements that do not exceed seven days should be considered as arrangements on terms that allow the assets to be recalled at any time by the Company.

4.7.3 Where the Company enters into reverse repurchase agreements, it must be able at any time to recall the full amount of cash or to terminate the reverse repurchase agreement on either an accrued basis or a mark-to-market basis. When the cash is recallable at any time on a mark-to-market basis, the mark-to-market value of the reverse repurchase agreement should be used for the calculation of the net asset value. Fixed-term reverse repurchase agreements that do not exceed seven days should be considered as arrangements on terms that allow the assets to be recalled at any time by the Company.

4.8 Management of collateral for OTC financial derivative transactions and efficient portfolio management techniques

4.8.1 Collateral obtained in respect of OTC financial derivative transactions and efficient portfolio management techniques ("Collateral"), such as a repo transaction or securities lending arrangement, must comply with the following criteria:

(a) liquidity: Collateral (other than cash) should be highly liquid and traded on a regulated market or multi-lateral trading facility with transparent pricing in order that it can be sold quickly at a price that is close to its pre-sale valuation. Collateral received should also comply with the provisions of Article 48 of the 2010 Law;

(b) valuation: Collateral should be capable of being valued marked to market on a daily basis and assets that exhibit high price volatility should not be accepted as Collateral unless suitably conservative haircuts are in place;

(c) issuer credit quality: Collateral should be of high quality;

(d) correlation: Collateral should be issued by an entity that is independent from the counterparty and is expected not to display a high correlation with the performance of the counterparty;

(e) diversification: Collateral should be sufficiently diversified in terms of country, markets and issuers with a maximum exposure to a given issuer of 20% of a Fund's Net Asset Value. When a Fund is exposed to different counterparties, the different baskets of Collateral should be aggregated to calculate the 20% limit of exposure to a single issuer. A Fund may be fully collateralised in different transferable securities and money market instruments issued or guaranteed by a Member State, its local authorities, as well as non-Member States and public international bodies set out in Appendix A, paragraph 2.6.4. Such a Fund should receive securities from at least six different issues, but securities from any single issue should not account for more than 30% of the Fund's Net Asset Value; and

(f) immediately available: Collateral must be capable of being fully enforced by the Company at any time without reference to or approval from the counterparty.

Counterparties for repurchase / reverse repurchase transactions are selected based on a rigorous credit assessment and in-depth review at the individual legal entity level at the outset of the trading relationship. Credit assessments include an evaluation of the legal entity corporate and/or ownership structure, regulatory regime, track record, financial health and any external agency ratings, where applicable.

4.8.2 Subject to the above criteria, Collateral must comply with the following criteria:

(a) liquid assets such as cash, short term bank deposits, money market instruments as defined in Directive 2007/16/EC of 19 March 2007, letters of credit and guarantees at first demand issued by a first class credit institution not affiliated to the counterparty;

(b) bonds issued or guaranteed by a Member State of the OECD or by their local authorities or supranational institutions and bodies of a community, regional or world-wide scope;

(c) shares or units issued by money market-type UCIs calculating a daily net asset value and having a rating of AAA or its equivalent;

(d) shares or units issued by UCITS investing mainly in bonds/ shares mentioned under e) and f) hereunder;

(e) bonds issued or guaranteed by first class issuers offering an adequate liquidity; or

(f) shares admitted to or dealt in on a regulated market of a Member State of the European Union or on a stock exchange of a Member State of the OECD, provided that these shares are included in a main index.

4.8.3 Where there is title transfer, the Collateral received should be held by the Depositary, or its agent. This is not applicable in the event that there is no title transfer in which case the Collateral will be held by a third party custodian which is subject to prudential supervision, and which is unrelated to the provider of the Collateral.

4.8.4 When the Collateral given in the form of cash exposes the Company to a credit risk vis-à-vis the trustee of this Collateral, such exposure shall be subject to the 20% limitation as laid down in section 2.6 above.

4.8.5 During the duration of the agreement, non-cash Collateral cannot be sold, re-invested or pledged.

4.8.6 Cash received as Collateral may only be:

(a) placed on deposit with entities prescribed in Article 50(f) of Directive 2009/65/EC;

(b) invested in high quality government bonds;

(c) used for the purpose of reverse repurchase agreements provided the transactions are with credit institutions subject to prudential supervision and the Company can recall at any time the full amount of the cash on an accrued basis; and

(d) invested in short term money market funds as defined in the MMF Regulations.

Re-invested cash Collateral should be diversified in accordance with the diversification requirements applicable to non-cash Collateral.

4.8.7 The Company has implemented a haircut policy in respect of each class of assets received as Collateral in order to reduce exposure to trading counterparties for OTC Derivative, Securities Lending and Reverse Repurchase transactions. These transactions are executed under standardised legal documentation that include terms related to credit support and eligible collateral, including haircuts to be applied.

A haircut is a discount applied to the value of a Collateral asset to account for the fact that its valuation, or liquidity profile, may deteriorate over time. The haircut policy takes account of the characteristics of the relevant asset class, including the credit standing of the issuer of the Collateral, the price volatility of the Collateral and the results of any stress tests which may be performed in accordance with the collateral management policy. Subject to the framework of agreements in place with the relevant counterparty, which may or may not include minimum transfer amounts, it is the intention of the Company that any Collateral received shall have a value, adjusted in light of the haircut policy, which equals or exceeds the relevant counterparty exposure where appropriate.

The applicable haircuts for each of the relevant types of assets held as Collateral are specified below as a valuation percentage. Larger haircuts than those noted below may be applied at the sole discretion of the Company; larger haircuts may apply to certain counterparties, and/or to certain transactions (e.g. wrong way risk).

The Company reserves the right to vary this policy at any time in which case this Prospectus will be updated accordingly.

*OTC Derivative Transactions*

| Eligible Collateral | Minimum Haircut Applicable |
|---|---|
| Cash | 0% |
| Government Bonds having a remaining term to maturity of one year or less | 0.5% |
| Government Bonds having a remaining term to maturity of greater than one year but less than or equal to five years | 2% |
| Government Bonds having a remaining term to maturity of greater than five years | 4% |
| Non-Government Bonds having a remaining term to maturity of less than or equal to five years | 10% |
| Non-Government Bonds having a remaining term to maturity of greater than 5 years | 12% |

*Securities Lending Transactions*

| Eligible Collateral | Minimum Haircut Applicable |
|---|---|
| Cash | 2% |
| Money Market Funds | 2% |
| Government Bonds | 2.5% |
| Supranational / Agency Bonds | 2.5% |
| *Equities (including ADRs and ETFs)* | 5% |

*Reverse Repurchase Transactions*

| Eligible Collateral | Minimum Haircut Applicable |
|---|---|
| Government bonds | 0% |
| Corporate Bonds | 6% |

4.8.8 Risk and potential Conflicts of Interest associated with OTC derivatives and efficient portfolio management

(a) There are certain risks involved in OTC derivative transactions, efficient portfolio management activities and the management of Collateral in relation to such activities. Please refer to the sections of this Prospectus entitled “Conflicts of interest from relationships within the BlackRock Group” and “Risk Considerations” and, in particular but without limitation, the risk factors relating to derivatives, counterparty risk and counterparty risk to the Depositary. These risks may expose investors to an increased risk of loss.

(b) The combined counterparty risk on any transaction involving OTC derivative instruments or efficient portfolio management techniques may not exceed 10% of the assets of a Fund when the counterparty is a credit institution domiciled in the EU or in a country where the CSSF considers that supervisory regulations are equivalent to those prevailing on the EU. This limit is set at 5% in any other case.

(c) The Company’s delegates will continuously assess the credit or counterparty risk as well as the potential risk, which is for trading activities, the risk resulting from adverse movements in the level of volatility of market prices and will assess the hedging effectiveness on an ongoing basis. They will define specific internal limits applicable to these kinds of operations and monitor the counterparties accepted for these transactions.

## Appendix B – Summary of Certain Provisions of the Articles and of Company Practice

The below is a summary of the Articles. However, such summary does not purport to be complete. It is subject to and qualified in its entirety by reference to the contents of such Articles, the application forms and other documents and, accordingly, it should be reviewed for complete information concerning the rights, privileges and obligations of Shareholders in the Company. In the event that the description in or terms of this Prospectus are inconsistent with or contrary to the description in or terms of the Articles or the application forms, the Articles shall prevail and investors will be taken as having full knowledge of the Articles in applying for Shares.

**Articles of Association**

1. Terms used in this summary that are defined in the Articles have the same meaning below.

1.1 **Corporate Existence**
The Company is a company existing in the form of a société anonyme qualifying as a société d'investissement à capital variable (SICAV) under the name of BlackRock Global Funds with the status of a Part I Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS).

1.2 **Sole Object**
The sole object of the Company is to place the funds available to it in one or more portfolios of transferable securities or other assets referred to in Article 41(1) of the 2010 Law and in Regulation (EU) 2017/1131 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 on money market funds, where applicable, referred to as "Funds", with the purpose of spreading investment risks and affording to its shareholders the results of the management of the Company's Funds.

1.3 **Capital**
The capital is represented by fully paid Shares of no par value and will at any time be equal to the aggregate value of the net assets of the Funds of the Company. Any variation of the Company's capital has immediate effect.

1.4 **Fractions**
Fractions of Shares may be issued only as registered shares.

1.5 **Voting**
In addition to the right to one vote for each whole Share of which he is the holder at general meetings, a holder of Shares of any particular Class will be entitled at any separate meeting of the holders of Shares of that Class to one vote for each whole Share of that Class of which he is the holder. The board of directors may suspend the voting rights attached to all Shares held by a Shareholder who is in breach towards the Company of his obligations as specified in the Articles or under any subscription or commitment agreement.

A Shareholder may individually undertake not to exercise, permanently or temporarily, all or part of its voting rights. Such a waiver binds the relevant Shareholder and the Company as from its notification to the Company.

1.6 **Joint Holders**
The Company will register registered shares jointly in the names of not more than four holders should they so require. In such case the rights attaching to such a Share must be exercised jointly by all those parties in whose names it is registered except that verbal instructions will be accepted by the Company from any one joint holder in cases where verbal instructions are permitted pursuant to provisions of this Prospectus. Written instructions will be accepted by the Company from any one joint holder where all the holders have previously given written authority to the Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing team to accept those instructions. Instructions accepted on either of such bases will be binding on all the joint holders concerned.

1.7 **Allotment of Shares**
The Directors are authorised without limitation to allot and issue Shares at any time at the current price per Share without reserving preferential subscription rights to existing shareholders.

1.8 **Directors**
The Articles provide for the Company to be managed by a board of Directors composed of at least three persons. Directors are elected by the shareholders. The Directors are vested with all powers to perform all acts of administration and disposition in the Company's interest. In particular the Directors have power to appoint any person to act as a functionary to the Fund.

No transaction between the Company and any other party shall be affected or invalidated by the mere fact that a director (or, in case a director is a legal person, any one of its directors, managers, officers or employees), is a director, manager, associate, member, shareholder, officer or employee of that other party. Any person related as described above to any company or firm with which the Company shall contract or otherwise engage in business shall not, by reason of such affiliation, be prevented from considering, voting or acting upon any matters with respect to such contract or other business.

1.9 **Indemnity**
The Company may indemnify any Director or officer against expenses reasonably incurred by him in connection with any proceedings to which he may be made a party by reason of such position in the Company or in any other company of which the Company is a shareholder or creditor and from which he is not entitled to be indemnified, except where due to gross negligence or wilful misconduct on his part.

1.10 **Winding up and Liquidation**
The Company may be wound up at any time by a resolution adopted by a general meeting of shareholders in accordance with the provisions of the Articles. The Directors must submit the question of the winding up of the Company to a general meeting of shareholders if the corporate capital falls below two-thirds of the minimum capital prescribed by law (the minimum capital is currently the equivalent of EUR1,250,000).

On a winding up, assets available for distribution amongst the shareholders will be applied in the following priority:

1.10.1 first, in the payment of any balance then remaining in the relevant Fund to the holders of Shares of each Class linked to the Fund, such payment being made in accordance with any applicable rights attaching to those Shares, and otherwise in proportion to the total number of Shares of all the relevant Classes held; and

1.10.2 secondly, in the payment to the holders of Shares of any balance then remaining and not comprised in any of the Funds, such balance being apportioned as between the Funds pro rata to the Net Asset Value of each Fund immediately prior to any distribution to shareholders on a winding up, and payment being made of the amounts so apportioned to the holders of Shares of each Class linked to that Fund in such proportions as the liquidators in their absolute discretion think equitable, subject to the Articles and Luxembourg law.

Liquidation proceeds not claimed by shareholders at close of liquidation of a Fund will be deposited at the Caisse de Consignation in Luxembourg and shall be forfeited after thirty years.

1.11 **Unclaimed Dividends**
If a dividend has been declared but not paid, and no coupon has been tendered for such dividend within a period of five years, the Company is entitled under Luxembourg law to declare the dividend forfeited for the benefit of the Fund concerned. The Directors have, however, resolved as a matter of policy not to exercise this right for at least twelve years after the relevant dividend is declared. This policy will not be altered without the sanction of the shareholders in general meeting.

**Company Practice**

2. Shares will be divided into Classes each linked to a Fund. More than one Share Class may be linked to a Fund although, not all Share Classes are linked to each Fund. Currently, up to fifteen Share Classes (Class A, AI, B, C, D, DD, E, I, J, S, SI, SR, ZI, X and Z Shares) are available in Distributing and Non-Distributing format. They have no preferential or pre-emption rights and are freely transferable, save as referred to below. Non-Distributing Shares are referred to using the number 2. Distributing Shares are further referred to using the numbers 1 (distributing daily), 3 (distributing monthly), 4 (distributing annually), 5 (distributing quarterly), 6 (distributing monthly on the basis of expected gross income),8 (distributing monthly on the basis of expected gross income and any Interest Rate Differential arising from Share Class currency hedging) and 9 (distributing quarterly on the basis of expected gross income and at least equal to, or greater than, the Dividend Threshold Amount on an annual basis) (See the section entitled “Class and Form of Shares” for further details).

**Restrictions on Holding of Shares**

3. The Directors may impose or relax restrictions (including restrictions on transfer and/or the requirement that Shares be issued only in registered form) on any Shares or Share Classes (but not necessarily on all Shares within the same Class) as they may think necessary to ensure that Shares are neither acquired nor held by or on behalf of any person in circumstances giving rise to a breach of the laws or requirements of any country or governmental or regulatory authority on the part of that person or the Company, or listed on EU and/or United States sanctions lists, or resident and established in countries and territories listed on EU and/or United States sanctions lists, or which might have adverse taxation or other pecuniary consequences for the Company, including a requirement to register under any securities or investment or similar laws or requirements of any country or authority. The Directors may in this connection require a shareholder to provide such information as they may consider necessary to establish whether he is the beneficial owner of the Shares that he holds. In addition to the foregoing, the Directors may determine to restrict the issue of shares when it is in the interests of the Fund and/or its Shareholders to do so, including when the Company or any Fund reaches a size that could impact the ability to find suitable investments for the Company or Fund. The Directors may remove such restriction at their discretion.

   If the Company becomes aware that any Shares are owned directly or beneficially by any person in breach of any law or requirement of a country or governmental or regulatory authority, or otherwise in the circumstances referred to in this paragraph, the Directors may require the redemption of such Shares, decline to issue any Share and register any transfer of any Share or suspend the voting rights at any meeting of Shareholders of the Company of any person who is precluded from holding Shares at any meeting of the shareholders of the Company.

4. The Directors have resolved that no US Persons will be permitted to own Shares. The Directors have resolved that “US Person” means any US resident or other person specified in Regulation S under the US Securities Act of 1933 as amended from time to time and as may be further supplemented by resolution of the Directors.

   If a shareholder currently resident outside the US becomes resident in the US (and consequently comes within the definition of a US Person), that shareholder will be required to redeem its Shares.

5. Class I Shares, Class J Shares and Class X Shares are only available to Institutional Investors within the meaning of Article 174 of the 2010 Law. As at the date of this Prospectus, Institutional Investors shall include:

5.1 banks and other professionals of the financial sector, insurance and reinsurance companies, social security institutions and pension funds, industrial, charitable institutions, commercial and financial group companies, all subscribing on their own behalf, and the structures which such investors put into place for the management of their own assets;

5.2 credit institutions and other professionals of the financial sector established in or outside Luxembourg investing in their own name but on behalf of Institutional Investors as defined above;

5.3 credit institutions and other professionals of the financial sector established in or outside Luxembourg which invest in their own name but on behalf of their clients on the basis of a discretionary management mandate;

5.4 CIS established in or outside Luxembourg;

5.5 holding companies or similar entities, whether Luxembourg based or not, whose shareholders/beneficial owners are individual person(s) who are wealthy and may reasonably be regarded as sophisticated investors and where the purpose of the holding company is to hold important financial interests/investments for an individual or a family;

5.6 a holding company or similar entity, whether Luxembourg based or not, which as a result of its structure, activity and substance constitutes an Institutional Investor;

5.7 holding companies or similar entities, whether Luxembourg based or not, whose shareholders are Institutional Investors as described in the foregoing paragraphs; and/or

5.8 national and regional governments, central banks, international or a supranational institutions and other similar organisations.

**Funds and Share Classes**

6. The Company operates separate investment “Funds” and within each Fund separate Share Classes are linked to that Fund. Pursuant to Article 181 of the 2010 Law, each Fund is only liable for the liabilities attributable to it.

7. Shares may be issued with or have attached thereto such preferred, deferred or other special rights, or such restrictions whether in regard to dividend, return of capital, conversion, transfer, the price payable on allotment or otherwise as the Directors may from time to time determine and such rights or restrictions need not be attached to all Shares of the same Class.

8. The Directors are permitted to create more than one Share Class linked to a single Fund. This allows, for example, the creation of accumulation and distribution Shares, Shares with different dealing currencies or Share Classes with different features as regards participation in capital and/or income linked to the same Fund; and also permits different charging structures. The Directors are also permitted, at any time, to close a particular Share Class, or, subject to at least 30 days’ prior notice to the shareholders of the relevant Class, to decide to merge such Class with another Share Class of

the same Fund. The Articles provide that certain variations of the rights attached to a Share Class may only be made with the sanction of a Class meeting of holders of Shares of that Class.

9. The Directors may require redemption of all the Shares linked to a particular Fund if the Net Asset Value of the relevant Fund falls below USD50 million (or the equivalent in any relevant Dealing Currency). The Articles also permit the Directors to notify shareholders of the closure of any particular Fund where they deem it in the interests of the shareholders or appropriate because of changes in the economic or political situation affecting the Fund but in such circumstances the Directors intend as a matter of policy to offer holders of any Share Classes a free transfer into the same Share Class of other Funds. As described in more detail in the Company's Articles, the shareholders of a Fund may request the convening of a general meeting by a requisition of shareholders representing at least one tenth of the outstanding shares of such Fund to dissolve such Fund. As an alternative, the board of directors shall have the power, in accordance with the provisions of the 2010 Law, to merge a Fund, either as absorbing or as absorbed Fund, with another Fund of the Company or with another UCITS (or sub-fund thereof) (whether established in Luxembourg or another Member State and whether incorporated as a company or as a contractual type fund). The Company shall send a notice to the shareholders of the relevant Funds in accordance with the provisions of CSSF Regulation 10-5 as such regulation may be amended or replaced from time to time. Every shareholder of the relevant Funds shall have the opportunity of requesting the redemption or the conversion of his own shares without any cost (other than the cost of disinvestment) during a period of at least 30 days before the effective date of the merger, it being understood that the effective date of the merger takes place within five business days after the expiry of such notice period.

A Fund may be terminated in circumstances other than those mentioned above with the consent of a majority of the Shares present or represented at a meeting of all shareholders of the Share Classes of that Fund (at which no quorum requirement will apply). To the extent applicable, where a Fund is terminated the redemption price payable on termination will be calculated on a basis reflecting the realisation and liquidation costs on terminating the Fund.

The Directors have power to suspend dealings in the Shares linked to any Fund where it is to be terminated or merged in accordance with the above provisions. Such suspension may take effect at any time after the notice has been given by the Directors as mentioned above or, where the termination or merger requires the approval of a meeting of holders, after the passing of the relevant resolution. Where dealings in the Shares of the Fund are not suspended, the prices of Shares may be adjusted to reflect the anticipated realisation and liquidation costs or transaction costs mentioned above.

**Valuation Arrangements**

10. Under the Articles, for the purpose of determining the issue and redemption price per Share, the net asset value of Shares shall be determined as to the Shares of each Share Class by the Company from time to time, but in no instance less than twice monthly, as the Directors may direct.

11. The Directors' policy in respect of all Funds except the Multi-Theme Equity Fund, is normally to deal with requests received before 12 noon Luxembourg time on a Dealing Day (the "Cut-Off Point" for all Funds except the Multi-Theme Equity Fund) on that day; and other requests are normally dealt with on the next Dealing Day. The Directors' policy in respect of the Multi-Theme Equity Fund is normally that requests received before 12 noon Luxembourg time one Business Day before the relevant Dealing Day (the "Cut-Off Point" for the Multi-Theme Equity Fund) will be dealt with on such relevant Dealing Day; and requests received after this point will normally be dealt with on the next available Dealing Day. Forward dated requests will not be accepted and will be rejected or processed on the next Dealing Day at the discretion of the Directors.

**Net Asset Value and Price Determination**

12. All prices for transactions in Shares on a Dealing Day are based on the Net Asset Value per Share of the Share Classes concerned, as shown by a valuation made at a time or times determined by the Directors. The Directors currently operate "forward pricing" for all Funds and Share Classes, i.e., prices are calculated on the Dealing Day concerned after the closing time for acceptance of orders (see section "Dealing in Fund Shares, Daily Dealing"). Prices in respect of a Dealing Day are normally published on the next Business Day. Neither the Company nor the Depositary can accept any responsibility for any error in publication, or for non-publication of prices or for any inaccuracy of prices so published or quoted. Notwithstanding any price quoted by the Company, by the Depositary or by any distributor, all transactions are effected strictly on the basis of the prices calculated as described above. If for any reason such prices are required to be recalculated or amended, the terms of any transaction effected on the basis of them will be subject to correction and, where appropriate, the investor may be required to make good any underpayment or reimburse any overpayment as appropriate. Periodic valuations of holdings in any Fund or Share Class may be supplied by arrangement with the local Investor Servicing teams.

13. The Net Asset Value of each Fund, calculated in its Base Currency, is determined by aggregating the value of securities and other assets of the Company allocated to the relevant Fund and deducting the liabilities of the Company allocated to that Fund. The Net Asset Value per Share of the Share Classes of a particular Fund will reflect any adjustment to the Net Asset Value of the relevant Fund described in paragraph 17.3) below and will differ as a result of the allocation of different liabilities to those Classes (see section "Fees, Charges and Expenses" and as a result of dividends paid.

14. In general, securities and other assets are valued as follows:

Foreign securities or assets denominated in another currency than the base currency of the relevant Fund are valued at the applicable foreign exchange rate against the Base Currency of each Fund.

The value of any securities (including listed derivatives) and other assets is determined by the last known prices upon close of the stock exchange on which those securities or assets are traded or admitted for trading.

The value of any securities or assets traded on any other regulated market is determined in the same way. Where such securities or other assets are quoted or dealt in on or by more than one stock exchange or regulated market the Directors may in their discretion select one of such stock exchanges or regulated markets for such purposes.

For securities or assets traded on markets closing after the time of the valuation, last known prices as of this time or such other time may be used. If net transactions in Shares of the Fund on any Dealing Day exceed the threshold referred to in paragraph 17.3 below, then additional procedures apply. Shares or units in investment funds managed by the Management Company or any of its associates shall be valued using prices based on the current day's net asset value where these are calculated and available prior to the valuation point. Where the net asset value is calculated after the valuation point, or the current day's net asset value is not available, the latest available published price will be used. If bid and offer prices are published, the mid of the bid price and discounted offer price will be used (the "mid-price"). For these purposes, the discounted offer price is the offer price less any discounted sales charge. Shares or units in other investment funds shall be valued at the last published net asset value or (if bid and offer prices are

published) the mid-price. Where possible, swaps are marked to market based upon daily prices obtained from third party pricing agents and verified against the quotations of the actual market maker. Where third party prices are not available, swap prices are based upon daily quotations available from the market maker.

Cash, bills payable on demand and other debts and prepaid expenses are valued at their nominal amount, unless it appears unlikely that such nominal amount is obtainable.

Unlisted or over the counter derivatives prices are obtained from third party pricing vendors.

15. If a security is not traded on or admitted to any official stock exchange or any regulated market, or in the case of securities so traded or admitted the last known price is not considered to reflect their true value, the Directors will value the securities concerned with prudence and in good faith on the basis of their expected disposal or acquisition price.

16. If in any case a particular value is not ascertainable by the methods outlined above, or if the Directors consider that some other method of valuation more accurately reflects the fair value of the relevant security or other asset for the purpose concerned, the method of valuation of the security or asset will be such as the Directors in their absolute discretion decide. Discrepancies in the value of securities may result, for example, where the underlying markets are closed for business at the time of calculating the Net Asset Value of certain Funds or where governments chose to impose fiscal or transaction charges on foreign investment. The Directors may set specific thresholds that, where exceeded, result in adjustment to the value of these securities to their fair value by applying a specific index adjustment.

The Company makes use of the "BlackRock EMEA Pricing Committee" in the context of the performance and oversight of the pricing and valuation functions for the Funds. In the case of hard to price securities or assets, the process outlined above is used to determine the most appropriate fair values. The BlackRock EMEA Pricing Committee has safeguards in place to ensure the functional independence of the valuation task.

17.1 Under current procedures adopted by the Directors the price for all Share Classes of any Fund is the Net Asset Value per relevant Class of that Fund calculated to the nearest unit (rounded to up to four decimal places) of the relevant Dealing Currency.

17.2 For those Funds with more than one Dealing Currency, the additional Dealing Currency prices are calculated by converting the price at the relevant spot exchange rate at the time of valuation.

17.3 The Directors may adjust the Net Asset Value per Share for a Fund in order to reduce the effect of "dilution" on that Fund. Dilution occurs when the actual cost of purchasing or selling the underlying assets of a Fund deviates from the carrying value of these assets in the Fund's valuation, due to factors such as dealing and brokerage charges, taxes and duties, market movement and any spread between the buying and selling prices of the underlying assets. Dilution may have an adverse effect on the value of a Fund and therefore impact shareholders. By adjusting the Net Asset Value per Share this effect can be reduced or prevented and shareholders can be protected from the impact of dilution. The Directors may adjust the Net Asset Value of a Fund if on any Dealing Day the value of aggregated cash flows of all Share Classes of that Fund results in a net increase or decrease which exceeds one or more thresholds that are set by the Directors for that Fund. The amount by which the Net Asset Value of a Fund may be adjusted on any given Dealing Day is related to the anticipated cost of market dealing for that Fund. In such circumstances the Net Asset Value of the relevant Fund may be adjusted by an amount not exceeding 1.50%, or 3% in the case of fixed income Funds, of that Net Asset Value. Under exceptional circumstances the Directors may, in the interest of Shareholders, decide to temporarily increase the maximum swing factor indicated above and inform investors thereof. The adjustment will be an addition when the net movement results in an increase in the value of all Shares of the Fund and a deduction when it results in a decrease. As certain stock markets and jurisdictions may have different charging structures on the buy and sell sides, particularly in relation to duties and taxes, the resulting adjustment may be different for net inflows than for net outflows. In addition, the Directors may also agree to include extraordinary fiscal charges in the amount of the adjustment. These extraordinary fiscal charges vary from market to market and are currently expected not to exceed 2.5% of that Net Asset Value. Where a Fund invests primarily in certain asset types, such as government bonds or money market securities, the Directors may decide that it is not appropriate to make such an adjustment. Shareholders should note that due to adjustments being made to the Net Asset Value per Share, the volatility of a Fund's Net Asset Value per Share may not fully reflect the true performance of the Fund's underlying assets.

18. This section 18 applies to the funds which are categorised as Short Term VNAV Money Market Funds under the MMF Regulations only. In accordance with the requirements of the MMF Regulations, the following shall apply:

The Assets of the relevant Fund shall be valued on at least a daily basis using mark-to-market process whenever possible. When using mark-to-market:

1. the relevant asset shall be valued at the more prudent side of bid and offer unless the asset can be closed out at mid-market;

2. only good quality market data shall be used; such data shall be assessed on the basis of all of the following factors:

(a) the number and quality of the counterparties;

(b) the volume and turnover in the market of the relevant asset;

(c) the issue size and the portion of the issue that the Fund plans to buy or sell.

Where use of mark-to-market is not possible or the market data is not of sufficient quality, an asset of a MMF shall be valued conservatively by using mark-to-model.

The model shall accurately estimate the intrinsic value of the asset of a MMF, based on all of the following up-to-date key factors:

1. the volume and turnover in the market of that asset;

2. the issue size and the portion of the issue that the MMF plans to buy or sell;

3. market risk, interest rate risk, credit risk attached to the asset.

When using mark-to-model, the amortised cost method shall not be used.

The NAV per unit or share shall be calculated as the difference between the sum of all assets of the relevant Fund and the sum of all liabilities of that Fund valued in accordance with mark-to-market or mark-to-model, or both, divided by the number of outstanding units or shares of that Fund.

The NAV per unit or share shall be rounded to the nearest basis point or its equivalent when the NAV is published in a currency unit.

The NAV per unit or share of the relevant Fund shall be calculated and published at least daily on the product pages of www.blackrock.com.

Shares of the MMFs shall be issued and redeemed at a price that is equal to the relevant Fund's NAV per share, notwithstanding permitted fees or charges as specified in this Prospectus.

**Redemption and Deferred Sales Charges**

19.1 The Directors are entitled to levy a discretionary redemption charge on shareholders of all Share Classes where they believe that excessive trading is being practised.

19.2 On redemption of Class C Shares, the relevant CDSC rate is charged on the lower of (i) the price of the redeemed shares on the Dealing Day for redemption or (ii) the price paid by the shareholder for the original purchase of the redeemed shares or for the shares from which they were converted or exchanged, in either case calculated in the relevant Dealing Currency of the redeemed shares.

19.3 On redemption of Class B Shares, the relevant CDSC rate is charged on the price of the redeemed shares on the Dealing Day for redemption, calculated in the relevant Dealing Currency of the redeemed shares.

19.4 No CDSC will be levied on the redemption of (a) Class C Shares derived from reinvestment of dividends; or (b) Class C Shares in the Reserve Funds (provided they were not converted from Shares of a non-Reserve Fund).

19.5 The CDSC is levied by reference to the "Relevant Holding Period", which is an aggregate of the periods during which (a) the redeemed shares, and (b) the shares from which they were derived (if any) as a result of conversion or exchange, were held in any Fund except a Reserve Fund or any other exchangeable money market funds.

In cases where redeemed shares are only part of a larger holding of Class C Shares respectively, any Shares acquired by dividend reinvestment will be redeemed first; and where the holding consists of Class C Shares acquired at different times, it will be assumed that those acquired first are redeemed first (thus resulting in the lowest CDSC rate possible).

Where the redeemed shares have a different dealing currency to the Shares (or similar shares from which they were converted or exchanged) originally purchased, for purposes of determining the CDSC the price paid for the latter will be converted at the spot exchange rate on the Dealing Day for redemption.

The CDSC may be waived or reduced by the relevant distributor at its discretion or for shareholders who, after purchasing Class C Shares, become US Persons and are required to redeem their Shares as a result (see paragraph 4. above).

**Conversion**

20. The Articles allow the Directors on issuing new Share Classes to impose such rights of conversion as they determine, as described in paragraph 7. above. The basis of all conversions is related to the respective Net Asset Values per Share of the relevant Class of the two Funds concerned.

21. The Directors have determined that the number of Shares of the Class into which a shareholder wishes to convert his existing Shares will be calculated by dividing (a) the value of the number of Shares to be converted, calculated by reference to the Net Asset Value per Share by (b) the Net Asset Value per Share of the new Class. This calculation will be adjusted where appropriate by the inclusion of a conversion charge (see paragraph 22. below) or a delayed initial charge on Class A, Class D, Class DD or Class E Shares (see paragraph 22. below). No conversion charge will be made when a delayed initial charge is payable. If applicable, the relevant exchange rate between the relevant Dealing Currencies of the Shares of the two Funds will be applied to the calculation.

The Net Asset Value(s) per Share used in this calculation may reflect any adjustment(s) to the Net Asset Value(s) of the relevant Fund(s) described in paragraph 17.3 above.

22. Conversions are permitted between different Share Classes of the same Fund or of different Funds, subject to the limitations set out under the section "Switching Between Funds and Share Classes" and provided investors and/or the holding (as appropriate) meet the specific eligibility criteria for each Share Class set out above (see "Classes and Form of Shares").

Selected distributors may impose a charge on each conversion of those Shares acquired through it, which will be deducted at the time of conversion and paid to the relevant distributor. While other conversions between the same Share Class of two Funds are normally free of charge, the Management Company may, at its discretion (and without prior notice), make an additional conversion charge which would increase the amount paid to up to up to a maximum of 2% if excessively frequent conversions are made. Any such charges will be deducted at the time of conversion and paid to the relevant distributor or the Principal Distributor (as applicable).

When Class A, Class AI, Class D, Class DD or Class E Shares of a Reserve Fund resulting from a direct investment into that or any other Reserve Fund ("direct Shares") are converted for the first time into Class A, Class AI, Class D, Class DD or Class E Shares of a non-Reserve Fund, a delayed initial charge of up to 5% of the price of the new Class A Shares, Class AI, Class D or Class DD Shares or up to 3% of the price of the new Class E Shares (where applicable) may be payable to the Management Company. Where a Reserve Fund holding includes both direct Shares and Shares acquired as a result of a conversion from Shares in any Fund other than a Reserve Fund ("ordinary Shares") a partial conversion of the holding will be treated as a conversion of the direct Shares first and then of the ordinary Shares.

The Directors reserve the right to waive or vary these requirements and also to amend their policy if they consider it appropriate to do so, either generally or in particular circumstances.

**Settlement on Redemptions**

23. Payment of an amount to a single shareholder in excess of USD500,000 may be deferred for up to seven Business Days beyond the normal settlement date. The redemption price may be payable in specie as explained in paragraph 25. below. As a result of money laundering prevention requirements and fight against terrorism financing, concerns related to international sanctions adherence, or in relation to fraud prevention, redemption proceeds may be withheld. The Company reserves the right to extend the period of payment of redemption proceeds to such period, not exceeding eight Business Days, as shall be necessary to repatriate proceeds of the sale of investments in the event of impediments due to exchange control requirements or similar constraints in the markets in which a substantial part of the assets of the Company are invested or in exceptional circumstances where the liquidity of the Company is not sufficient to meet the redemption requests.

**In Specie Applications and Redemptions**

24. The Management Company may accept subscriptions in specie, or partly in cash and in specie, subject always to the minimum initial subscription amounts and the additional subscription amounts and provided further that the value of such subscription in specie (after deduction of any relevant charges and expenses) equals the subscription price of the Shares. Such securities will be valued on the relevant Dealing Day and, in accordance with Luxembourg law, may be subject to a special report of the Auditor.

25. The Management Company may, subject to the prior consent of a shareholder and to the minimum dealing and holding amounts, effect a payment of redemption proceeds in specie by allocating to the shareholder investments from the portfolio of the relevant Fund equal in value (calculated in the manner referred to in paragraphs 14. and 15. above) to the price of the relevant Shares to be redeemed (net of any applicable CDSC in the case of Class B and Class C Shares). The nature and type of asset to be transferred in such case will be determined on an equitable basis and without prejudicing the interests of the other holders of Shares of the same Class, and will be valued on the relevant Dealing Day. In accordance with Luxembourg law, such valuation may be subject to a special report of the Auditor. In specie applications and redemptions may attract transaction taxes depending on the assets in question. In the case of an in specie redemption these taxes will be at the charge of the investor. Investors should inform themselves of, and when appropriate consult their professional advisers on the possible tax consequences of redeeming their shareholding in this way, under the laws of their country of citizenship, residence or domicile. Investors should note that the levels and bases of, and relief from, taxation can change.

In specie applications and redemptions may not always be possible, practicable or cost efficient and may have an adverse impact on existing shareholders. The Management Company has sole discretion to refuse requests for in specie applications and redemptions.

**Dealings in Shares by the Principal Distributor**

26. The Principal Distributor, may as principal acquire and hold Shares and may at its sole discretion satisfy, in whole or in part, an application or request for the issue, redemption or conversion of such Shares by selling Shares to and/or buying them from the applicant, as appropriate, provided that the applicant consents to such transaction. Shareholders will be deemed to have consented to deal with the Principal Distributor unless they have expressly informed the Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing teams to the contrary. Any such transaction will be effected on the same terms as to price and settlement as would have applied in the case of a corresponding issue, redemption or conversion of Shares (as relevant) by the Company. The Principal Distributor is entitled to retain any benefit arising from these transactions.

**Default in Settlement**

27. Where an applicant for Shares fails to pay settlement monies on subscription or to provide a completed application form for an initial application by the due date, the Directors may, in accordance with the Company's Articles, cancel the allotment or, if applicable, redeem the Shares. Redemption or conversion instructions may be refused or treated as though they have been withdrawn if payment for the Shares has not been made or a completed initial application form has not been received by the Company. In addition, no dealings will be effected following a conversion instruction and no proceeds will be paid on a redemption until all documents required in relation to the transaction have been provided to the Company. **An applicant may be required to indemnify the Company or, as described below, the Principal Distributor against any losses, costs or expenses incurred directly or indirectly as a result of the applicant's failure to pay for Shares applied for or to lodge the required documents by the due date.**

In computing any losses covered under this paragraph 27., account shall be taken, where appropriate, of any movement in the price of the Shares concerned between the transaction date and cancellation of the transaction or redemption of the Shares, and of the costs incurred by the Company or, if applicable, the Principal Distributor in taking proceedings against the applicant.

The Principal Distributor has agreed to exercise its discretion to take steps to avoid the Company suffering losses as a result of late settlement by any applicant. In cases where payment for Shares is not made on a timely basis, the Principal Distributor may assume ownership of the Shares and it shall also have the right to give instructions to the Company to make any consequent alterations in its register of shareholders, delay the completion of the relevant transaction, redeem the Shares in question, claim indemnification from the applicant and/or take proceedings to enforce any applicable indemnity, all to the same extent that the Company itself may do so.

The Company has instructed the Depositary that any interest benefit that may arise as a result of the early settlement of Share subscriptions and late clearance of redemption proceeds may be set off against any interest obligation that the Principal Distributor may incur as a result of its arrangements to protect the Company from losses from the late settlement of Share subscriptions. The Principal Distributor will benefit from interest earned on any balances held in client money accounts. No interest is paid to shareholders by the Principal Distributor in respect of amounts relating to individual transactions.

**Compulsory Redemption**

28. If at any time the Net Asset Value of the Company is less than USD100 million (or equivalent), all Shares not previously redeemed may be redeemed by notice to all shareholders. There is a similar power to redeem Shares of any Class if the Net Asset Value of the Fund to which that Class is linked falls below USD50 million (or equivalent), or in the circumstances described in paragraphs 3., 4. and 9. above.

**Limits on Redemption and Conversion**

29. The Company will not be bound to redeem or convert on any one Dealing Day more than 10% of the value of Shares of all Classes of a Fund then in issue or deemed to be in issue, as described in paragraph 32. below.

**Suspension and Deferrals**

30. Valuations (and consequently issues, redemptions and conversions) of any Share Class of a Fund may be suspended in certain circumstances including:

- the closure (otherwise than for ordinary holidays) of or suspension or restriction of trading on any stock exchange or market on which are quoted a substantial proportion of the investments held in that Fund;
- the existence of any state of affairs which constitutes an emergency as a result of which disposals or valuation of assets owned by the Company attributable to Share Classes would be impracticable;
- any breakdown in the means of communication normally employed in determining the price or value of any of the investments of such Share Classes or the current price or values on any stock exchange or other market;
- any period when the Company is unable to repatriate funds for the purpose of making payments on the redemption of such Shares or during which any transfer of funds involved in the realisation or acquisition of investments or payments due on redemption of shares cannot in the opinion of the directors be effected at normal rates of exchange;
- any period when the net asset value per share of any subsidiary of the Company may not be accurately determined;
- where notice has been given or a resolution passed for the closure or merger of a Fund as explained in paragraph 9.;

- in respect of a suspension of the issuing of Shares only, any period when notice of winding up of the Company as a whole has been given;
- following a decision to merge a Fund or the Company, if justified with a view to protecting the interest of shareholders;
- in case a Fund is a Feeder of another UCITS (or a sub-fund thereof), if the net asset value calculation of the Master UCITS (or the sub-fund thereof) is suspended;
- in addition, in respect of Funds that invest a substantial amount of assets outside the European Union, the Management Company may also take into account whether local relevant local exchanges are open and may elect to treat such closures (including ordinary holidays) as non Business Days for those Funds. Please see definition of Business Day in the Glossary.

31. Each period of suspension shall be published, if appropriate, by the Company. Notice will also be given to any shareholder lodging a request for redemption or conversion of Shares.

32. The Company will also not be bound to accept instructions to subscribe for, and will be entitled to defer instructions to redeem or convert any Shares of a Fund on any one Dealing Day if there are redemption or outgoing conversion orders that day for all Share Classes of that Fund with an aggregate value exceeding a particular level (currently fixed at 10%) of the approximate value of that Fund. In addition, the Company may defer redemptions and conversions in exceptional circumstances that may, in the opinion of the Directors, adversely affect the interests of holders of any Class or Share Classes of that Fund. In either case, the Directors may declare that redemptions and conversions will be deferred until the Company has executed, as soon as possible, the necessary realisation of assets out of the Fund concerned or until the exceptional circumstances cease to apply. Redemptions and conversions so deferred will be done on a pro rata basis and will be dealt with in priority to later requests.

33. During a period of suspension or deferral a shareholder may withdraw his request, in respect of any transaction which is deferred or suspended, by notice in writing to the Company. Such notice will only be effective if received before the transaction is effected.

    Shareholders may not redeem a holding of the Company's Shares unless and until cleared funds have been received by the Company in respect of that holding.

**Transfers**

34. The transfer of registered shares may normally be effected by delivery to the Transfer Agent of an instrument of transfer in appropriate form. If a transfer or transmission of Shares results in a holding on the part of the transferor or the transferee having a value of less than a prescribed minimum the Directors may require the holding to be redeemed. The current minimum is USD5,000 or equivalent, and, for Class ZI Shares, USD 25 million, except for Class D Shares, Class DD Shares, Class I Shares, Class J Shares, Class S Shares, Class SI Shares, Class X Shares and Class Z Shares, where there is no prescribed minimum holding size once the initial subscription amount has been made.

**Probate**

35. Upon the death of a shareholder, the Directors reserve the right to require the provision of appropriate legal documentation to evidence the rights of the shareholder's legal successor. Upon the death of a shareholder whose investment is held jointly with another shareholder, where permitted by applicable law, ownership of the investment will be transferred to the name of the surviving shareholder.

**Dividends**

36. The Articles impose no restriction on dividends other than the requirement to maintain the statutory minimum level of capital (currently the equivalent of EUR1,250,000). The Directors have the power to pay interim dividends in respect of any Fund. The current dividend policy of the Directors is explained in the section "Dividends".

**Changes of Policy or Practice**

37. Except as otherwise provided in the Articles, and subject to any legal or regulatory requirements, the Directors reserve the right to amend any practice or policy stated in this Prospectus. The Management Company may, in the interests of shareholders and subject to the discretion of the Directors, vary or waive the operational procedures of the Company.

**Intermediary Arrangements**

38. Where Shares are issued by the Company to financial institutions (or their nominees) which act as intermediaries, the benefits and obligations described in this Prospectus may be applied by the Company to each of the intermediary's clients as if such client were a direct shareholder.

**Money Market Funds - Transparency**

39. With respect to any funds subject to the MMF Regulations. The Management Company shall, at least weekly, make all of the following information available to the MMF's investors:

    (a) the maturity breakdown of the portfolio of the MMF;

    (b) the credit profile of the MMF;

    (c) the WAM and WAL of the MMF;

    (d) details of the 10 largest holdings in the MMF, including the name, country, maturity and asset type, and the counterparty in the case of repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements;

    (e) the total value of the assets of the MMF;

    (f) the net yield of the MMF.

# Appendix C – Additional Information

**History of the Company**

1. The Company is registered under Number B.6317 at the Register of Commerce and Companies of Luxembourg where its Articles of Association are available for inspection and where copies thereof may be obtained upon request (and see also paragraph 27. below).

2. The Company's constitution is defined in the Articles. The original Articles were published in the Recueil des Sociétés et Associations du Mémorial of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg on 21st July 1962. The Articles have been amended and restated several times, most recently on 4 February 2019, with publication in the RESA on 25 February 2019.

3. The Company was incorporated as Selected Risk Investments S.A. on 14th June 1962.

4. With effect from 31st December 1985 the name of the Company was changed to Mercury Selected Trust, the Company adopted the legal status of a société d'investissement à capital variable (SICAV) and was reconstituted to enable it to issue different Share Classes. It qualifies as an Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities.

   With effect from 1 July 2002 the name of the Company changed to Merrill Lynch International Investment Funds.

   With effect from 28 April 2008 the name of the Company changed to BlackRock Global Funds.

   With effect from 16 September 2005 the Company was submitted to Part I of the 20 December 2002 law that implemented Directives 2001/107/EC and 2001/108/EC.

   With effect from 16 September 2005 the Company has appointed BlackRock (Luxembourg) S.A. (previously named Merrill Lynch Investment Managers(Luxembourg) S.A.) as its management company.

   With effect from 4 February 2019 the Company's articles were amended to account for the provisions of the MMFR Regulations.

5. As from the date of this Prospectus, Shares are offered solely on the basis of this Prospectus, which supersedes all previous versions.

**Directors' Remuneration and Other Benefits**

6. The Articles contain no express provision governing the remuneration (including pension or other benefits) of the Directors. The Directors receive fees and out-of-pocket expenses from the Company. For Directors who are not employees of the BlackRock Group, the annual fees received by them are from time to time disclosed in the annual report of the Company. The BlackRock Group employees serving as Directors of the Company are not entitled to receive fees.

**Auditor**

7. The Company's auditor is Ernst & Young S.A., 35E avenue John F. Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

**Administrative Organisation**

8. **The Investment Advisers and Sub-Investment Advisers**
   The Management Company is entitled to delegate its investment management functions to any of its subsidiaries or associates and any other person. The Management Company has delegated some functions to the Investment Advisers, BlackRock Financial Management, Inc., BlackRock Investment Management, LLC, BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited and BlackRock (Singapore) Limited as described in the section "Investment Management of the Funds", "Management".

   In the case of certain Funds, BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited has in turn sub-delegated some functions to BlackRock Japan Co., Ltd. whose registered office is at 1-8-3 Marunouchi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-8217, Japan, BAMNA whose registered office is at 16/F Champion Tower, 3 Garden Road, Central Hong Kong and to BlackRock Investment Management (Australia) Limited of Level 18, 120 Collins Street, Melbourne 3000, Australia.

   Information about the Investment Advisers and, if applicable, Sub-Advisers for a specific Fund is available upon request from the Company's registered office and the local Investor Servicing team.

9. **The Principal Distributor**
   BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited is the Principal Distributor and was incorporated with limited liability in England on 16th May 1986 for an unlimited period. The Management Company has entered into an agreement with the Principal Distributor for the provision of distribution, promotion and marketing services.

   The registered office of the Principal Distributor is at 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2N 2DL, UK. The Principal Distributor is regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

   [The Principal Distributor has appointed BlackRock (Channel Islands) Limited, a company incorporated with limited liability in Jersey on 10th August 1972 for an unlimited period ("BCI") to carry out certain administration services.

   The registered office of BCI is at Aztec Group House, 11-15 Seaton Place, St Helier, Jersey JE4 0QH, Channel Islands.]

10. **Investor Servicing**
    The Management Company has entered into an Agreement with various BlackRock Group companies for the provision of dealing facilities and related investor support functions.

11. **The Depositary**
    The Company has entered into a Depositary Agreement with the Depositary whereby the Depositary has agreed to act as custodian of the assets of the Company and to assume the functions and responsibilities of a custodian under the 2010 Law and other applicable law. The Depositary will also act as depositary of the Company for the purposes of the UCITS Directive. The Depositary and Fund Accountant (see paragraph 12. below) is The Bank of New York Mellon SA / NV, Luxembourg Branch, incorporated with limited liability in Belgium on 30 September 2008 with registered capital of EUR 1,723,485,526.21 as at 31 December 2017. Its office / correspondence address is 2-4, rue Eugène Ruppert, L-2453 Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and its registered office address is 2-4, rue Eugène Ruppert, L-2453 Luxembourg. Its ultimate holding company is The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation ("BNY") which is incorporated in the United States of America. The Depositary's and the Fund Accountant's principal business activity is the provision of custodial and investment administration services and treasury dealing.

    **The Duties of the Depositary**
    The Depositary shall act as the depositary of the Funds for the purposes of the UCITS Directive and, in doing so, will comply with the provisions of the UCITS Directive. In this capacity, the Depositary's duties shall include, amongst others, the following:

11.1 ensuring that each Fund's cash flows are properly monitored, and that all payments made by or on behalf of Shareholders upon the subscription of units of the Funds have been received;

11.2 safekeeping the assets of the Funds, which includes (a) holding in custody all financial instruments that may be registered in a financial instruments account opened in the Depositary's books and all financial instruments that can be physically delivered to the Depositary; and (b) for other assets, verifying the ownership of such assets and maintaining a record accordingly (the "Safekeeping Function");

11.3 ensuring that the sale, issue, re-purchase, redemption and cancellation of units of each Fund are carried out in accordance with the applicable national law and the Articles;

11.4 ensuring that the value of the units of each Fund is calculated in accordance with the applicable national law and the Articles;

11.5 carrying out the instructions of the Management Company, unless they conflict with the applicable national law or the Articles;

11.6 ensuring that in transactions involving each Fund's assets any consideration is remitted to the relevant Fund within the usual time limits; and

11.7 ensuring that the Funds' income is applied in accordance with the applicable national law;

11.8 The Depositary will allocate the safekeeping function in relation to certain financial instruments and/or cash of a Fund (as appropriate) to Bank of New York Mellon SA/NV.

The Depositary will further ensure, in accordance with the requirements of the UCITS Directive, that the assets of the Funds held in custody by the Depositary shall not be reused by the Depositary or by any third party to whom the custody function has been delegated for their own account. Reuse comprises any transaction of assets of the Funds held in custody including, but not limited to, transferring, pledging, selling and lending. Assets of the Funds held in custody are only allowed to be reused where:

(a) the reuse of the assets is executed for the account of the Funds;

(b) the Depositary is carrying out the instructions of the Management Company;

(c) the reuse is for the benefit of the Fund and in the interest of the Shareholders; and

(d) the transaction is covered by high quality and liquid collateral received by the Fund under a title transfer arrangement with a market value at all times at least equivalent to the market value of the reused assets plus a premium.

The Depositary has entered into written agreements delegating the performance of its Safekeeping Function in respect of certain investments to the delegates listed in Appendix F.

As part of the normal course of global custody business, the Depositary may from time to time have entered into arrangements with other clients, funds or other third parties, including affiliates for the provision of safekeeping and related services and as a result, potential conflict of interest situations may, from time to time, arise between the Depositary and its safekeeping delegates, for example, where an appointed delegate is an affiliated group company and is providing a product or service to a fund and has a financial or business interest in such product or service or where an appointed delegate is an affiliated group company which receives remuneration for other related custodial products or services it provides to the funds e.g. foreign exchange, securities lending, pricing or valuation services.

The Depositary also has in place policies and procedures in relation to the management of conflicts of interest between the Depositary, the Fund and the Management Company that may arise where a group link as defined in the applicable regulations exists between them. This may be the case where the Management Company has delegated certain administrative functions to an entity within the same corporate group as the Depositary.

In the event of any potential conflict of interest which may arise during the normal course of business, the Depositary will at all times have regard to its obligations under applicable laws. Additionally, in order to address any situations of conflicts of interest, the Depositary has implemented and maintains a management of conflicts of interest policy, with the aim of:

(a) identifying and analysing potential situations of conflicts of interest;

(b) recording, managing and monitoring the conflict of interest situations by:

- relying on permanent measures to address conflicts of interest such as maintaining separate legal entities, segregating duties, separating reporting lines and maintaining insider lists for staff members; or
- implementing appropriate procedures on a case-by-case basis, such as establishing new information barriers, ensuring that operations are carried out at arm's length and/or informing the concerned Shareholders of the Company.

The Depositary has established a functional and hierarchical separation between the performance of its UCITS depositary functions and the performance of other tasks on behalf of the Company.

Up-to-date information on the Depositary, its duties, any conflicts of interest that may arise, the safekeeping functions delegated by the Depositary, the list of delegates and sub-delegates and any conflicts of interest that may arise from such delegations will be made available to Shareholders on request.

12. **The Fund Accountant**
The Management Company has entered into an agreement with the Fund Accountant whereby the Fund Accountant has agreed to provide fund accounting, Net Asset Value determination and services related to these functions. Subject to Luxembourg law and regulation the Fund Accountant is entitled to delegate specific functions to any other person, firm or company (with the approval of the Management Company and the regulatory authority).

13. **The Transfer Agent**
The Management Company has entered into a Transfer Agency Agreement with the Transfer Agent whereby the Transfer Agent has agreed to provide all necessary transfer agency functions including application and transaction processing, maintaining the share register, and services related to these functions.

14. **Relationship of Depositary and Fund Accountant with BlackRock Group**
The Depositary's and Fund Accountant's associates provide custody and fund accounting services to BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited and some of its associates in respect of their investment management business generally. Under agreements between companies in the BNY group and some companies in the BlackRock Group relating to the provision of these services, payments due from the relevant companies in the BlackRock Group to BNY companies will be abated by the fees paid by the Company to the Depositary and Fund Accountant in respect of depositary and fund accounting services.

15. **The Paying Agents**

The Company has appointed the following as Paying Agents:

*Austria*
Raiffeisen Bank International AG
Am Stadtpark 9
1030 Vienna

*Belgium*
J.P. Morgan Chase Bank, Brussels Branch
Boulevard du Régent 35
1000 Brussels
Belgium

*Liechtenstein*
VP Bank AG
9490 Vaduz, LIECHTENSTEIN
(FL-0001.007.080-0)
represented by
VP Fund Solutions (Liechtenstein) AG
9490 Vaduz, LIECHTENSTEIN
(FL-0002.000.772-7)

VP Fund Solutions shall take receipt of investors' complaints relating to the Fund that are sent to the postal and/or e-mail addresses of VP Fund Solutions given above. Investors in the Principality of Liechtenstein wishing to receive Fund payments directly via the Paying Agent and to have Fund shares redeemed directly via the Paying Agent shall generally have the option of opening an account/ deposit for that purpose with the Paying Agent. This account/deposit shall be subject to the standard checks (e.g. for legal compliance) carried out on all potential bank clients (investors) and their assets. To that extent it shall be at the discretion of the Paying Agent whether to enter into such a client relationship.

*Luxembourg*
(Central Paying Agent)
J.P. Morgan SE, Luxembourg Branch
6c, route de Trèves, Building C
L-2633, Senningerberg

*Italy*
Allfunds Bank, S.A., Milan branch
Via Santa Margherita 7
20121 – Milan

State Street Bank International Gmbh – Succursale Italia
Via Ferrante Aporti, 10
20125 Milan

RBC Investor Service Bank S.A.
Succursale di Milano
Via Vittor Pisani, 26
I-20121 Milan

Banca Monte Dei Paschi di Siena S.p.A
Piazza Salimbeni 3
53100 Siena

Société Générale Securities Services S.p.A,
Via Benigno Crespi,
19/A, MAC II,
20159 Milan

BNP Paribas Securities Services
Succursale di Milano – Via Ansperto 5
20123 Milan

Banca Sella Holding S.p.A.
Piazza Gaudenzio Sella 1
13900 Biella

CACEIS Bank, Italy Branch
1-3 Place Valhubert
75206 Paris
Cedex 13 (France)
Operation address:
Piazza Cavour, 2
20121 Milan

ICCREA Banca S.p.A.
Via Lucrezia Romana 41/47
00178 Rome
Italy

*Poland*
Bank Handlowy w Warszawie S.A.
ul. Senatorska 16
00-923 Warsaw

*Switzerland*
State Street Bank International GmBH
Munich, Zurich branch,
Beethovenstrasse 19,
CH-8027 Zurich

*United Kingdom*
J.P. Morgan Trustee and Depositary Company Limited
Hampshire Building, 1st Floor
Chaseside
Bournemouth
BH7 7DA

**Fees, Charges and Expenses**

16. The Management Company is remunerated from the management fees based on the Net Asset Value of each Fund, at an annual rate as shown in Appendix E.

17. The Depositary receives annual fees, based on the value of securities, which accrue daily, plus transaction fees. The annual custody safekeeping fees range from 0.0024% to 0.45% per annum and the transaction fees range from USD5.5 to USD124 per transaction, all such fees to be subject to change without prior notice. The rates for both categories of fees will vary according to the country of investment and, in some cases, according to asset class. Investments in bonds and developed equity markets will be at the lower end of these ranges, while some investments in emerging or developing markets will be at the upper end. Thus the custody cost to each Fund will depend on its asset allocation at any time.

The Company pays an Annual Service Charge to the Management Company of up to 0.25% per annum. The level of Annual Service Charge may vary at the Directors' discretion, as agreed with the Management Company, across Funds and Share Classes. It is accrued daily, based on the Net Asset Value of the relevant Share Class and paid monthly. The Annual Service Charge is used by the Management Company to meet all fixed and variable operating and administrative costs and expenses incurred by the Company, with the exception of the Depositary fees, Distribution fees, Securities Lending fees, any fees arising from borrowings (including for the avoidance of doubt any commitment fee that may be due to the lender), and any legal costs relating to European Union and non-European withholding tax reclaims plus any taxes thereon and any taxes at an investment or Company level. In addition taxes payable by the Company such as subscription taxes remain payable by the Company. The Annual Service Charge shall not exceed 0.25% per annum and any costs and expenses in excess shall be borne by the Management Company or another BlackRock Group Company. For

further details, please refer to the "Annual Service Charge" section in the section entitled "Fees, Charges and Expenses" for further information.

18. The Principal Distributor is entitled to receive:

- the initial charge of up to 5% of the price of the Class A Shares, Class AI Shares, Class D Shares and Class DD Shares issued, where levied;
- the initial charge of up to 3% of the Net Asset Value of the Class E Shares issued, where applicable and levied;
- the CDSC on redemptions;
- any delayed initial charge on Class A, Class AI, Class D, Class DD or Class E Shares, respectively;
- (for the benefit of the relevant Fund) the Management Company's charge on excessively frequent conversions of any Share Class (see paragraph 22. of Appendix B); and
- any distribution fees.

19. Subject to the approval of the Directors, the combined management fee and Annual Service Charge for any Fund may be increased up to a maximum of 2.25% in total by giving Shareholders at least three months' prior notice. Any increase to the combined management fee and Annual Service Charge above this level would require approval of Shareholders at an extraordinary general meeting. At least one month's notice will be given to Shareholders of any increase in the rates of other fees and charges specified in this Prospectus, unless prior Shareholder consent is required under the Company's Articles when at least one month's notice will be given from the date of such consent.

20. The Principal Distributor is entitled, at its sole discretion and without recourse or cost to the Company, to waive any initial charge, in whole or in part, or determine to make a rebate payment in respect of the payment of any fees charged in respect of any holding of Shares to any investor (including discounts on charges to directors and employees of the Principal Distributor and its affiliates in the BlackRock Group) or its distributors, authorised intermediaries or other agents in respect of any subscriptions for, redemption or holdings of, Shares.

Rebates of any management fee or distribution fee will not exceed the amount of the management fee or distribution fee for each Fund as set out in Appendix E and will vary depending on the share class concerned, for instance, in respect of Class A Shares the average rebate will not exceed 45% of these fees although may be higher in respect of share classes which are available to certain distributors only. Rebates are not available for all share classes.

The terms of any rebate will be agreed between the Principal Distributor and the relevant investor from time to time. If so required by applicable rules, the investor shall disclose to any underlying clients the amount of any rebate on the management fee it receives from the Principal Distributor. The Management Company shall also disclose to Shareholders, upon request, details of any rebate paid by the Principal Distributor to an authorised intermediary in connection with a holding of Shares where the authorised intermediary has acted on behalf of that Shareholder. Payment of such rebates is subject to the Management Company and the Principal Distributor receiving their fees and charges from the Company.

As a result of the UK Regulator's Retail Distribution Review, neither the Management Company nor the Principal Distributor will be permitted to pay initial or renewal commission or rebate of the annual management charge to authorised intermediaries or to third party distributors or agents in respect of any subscriptions for, or holdings of, units for any UK retail investors in respect of investments made as a result of the investor having received a personal recommendation on or after 31 December 2012.

21. If a Fund is closed at a time when any expenses previously allocated to that Fund have not been amortised in full, the Directors shall determine how the outstanding expenses should be treated, and may, where appropriate, decide that the outstanding expenses should be met by the Fund as a liquidation expense.

22. Italian investors subscribing for Shares through Regular Savings Plans should refer to the subscription form for Italy for further details on the initial charge.

**Conflicts of Interest**

23. The Management Company and other BlackRock Group companies undertake business for other clients. BlackRock Group companies, their employees and their other clients face conflicts with the interests of the Management Company and its clients. BlackRock maintains a Conflicts of Interest Policy. It is not always possible for the risk of detriment to a client's interests to be entirely mitigated such that, on every transaction when acting for clients, a risk of detriment to their interests does not remain.

The types of conflict scenario giving rise to risks which BlackRock considers it cannot with reasonable confidence mitigate are disclosed below. This document, and the disclosable conflict scenarios, may be updated from time to time.

24. Conflicts of interest from relationships within the BlackRock Group

PA Dealing

BlackRock Group employees may be exposed to clients' investment information while also being able to trade through personal accounts. There is a risk that, if an employee could place a trade of sufficient size, this would affect the value of a client's transaction. BlackRock Group has implemented a Personal Trading Policy designed to ensure that employee trading is pre-approved.

Employee Relationships

BlackRock Group employees may have relationships with the employees of BlackRock's clients or with other individuals whose interests conflict with those of a client. Such an employee's relationship could influence the employee's decision-making at the expense of clients' interests. BlackRock Group has a Conflicts of Interest Policy under which employees must declare all potential conflicts.

25. Conflicts of interest of the Management Company

Provider Aladdin

BlackRock Group uses Aladdin software as a single technology platform across its investment management business. Custodial and fund administration service providers may use Provider Aladdin, a form of Aladdin software, to access data used by the Investment Adviser and Management Company. Each service provider remunerates BlackRock Group for the use of Provider Aladdin. A potential conflict arises whereby an agreement by a service provider to use Provider Aladdin incentivises the Management Company to appoint or renew appointment of such service provider. To mitigate the risk, such contracts are entered on an 'arm's length' basis.

Distribution Relationships

The Principal Distributer may pay third parties for distribution and related services. Such payments could incentivise third parties to promote the Company to investors against that client's best interests. BlackRock Group companies comply with all legal and regulatory requirements in the jurisdictions in which such payments are made.

Dealing Costs

Dealing costs are created when investors deal into and out of the Fund. There is a risk that other clients of the Fund bear the costs of those joining and leaving. BlackRock Group has policies and procedures in place to protect investors from the actions of others including anti-dilution controls.

26. Conflicts of interest of the Investment Adviser

Commissions & Research

Where permitted by applicable regulation (excluding, for the avoidance of doubt, any Funds which are in scope for MiFID II), certain BlackRock Group companies acting as investment adviser to the Funds may accept commissions generated when trading equities with certain brokers in certain jurisdictions. Commissions may be reallocated to purchase eligible research services. Such arrangements may benefit one Fund over another because research can be used for a broader range of clients than just those whose trading funded it. BlackRock Group has a Use of Commissions Policy designed to ensure only eligible services are purchased and excess commissions are reallocated to an eligible service provider where appropriate.

Timing of Competing Orders

When handling multiple orders for the same security in the same direction raised at or about the same time, the Investment Adviser seeks to achieve the best overall result for each order equitably on a consistent basis taking into account the characteristics of the orders, regulatory constraints or prevailing market conditions. Typically, this is achieved through the aggregation of competing orders. Conflicts of interest may appear if a trader does not aggregate competing orders that meet eligibility requirements, or does aggregate orders that do not meet eligibility requirements; it may appear as if one order received preferential execution over another. For a specific trade instruction of the Fund, there may be a risk that better execution terms will be achieved for a different client. For example, if the order was not included in an aggregation. BlackRock Group has Order Handling Procedures and an Investment Allocation Policy which govern sequencing and the aggregation of orders.

Concurrent Long and Short Positions

The Investment Adviser may establish, hold or unwind opposite positions (i.e. long and short) in the same security at the same time for different clients. This may prejudice the interests of the Investment Adviser's clients on one side or the other. Additionally, investment management teams across the BlackRock Group may have long only mandates and long-short mandates; they may short a security in some portfolios that are held long in other portfolios. Investment decisions to take short positions in one account may also impact the price, liquidity or valuation of long positions in another client account, or vice versa. BlackRock Group operates a Long Short (side by side) Policy with a view to treating accounts fairly.

Cross Trading - Pricing Conflict

When handling multiple orders for the same security, the Investment Adviser may execute a client's order to buy the security by matching it with another client's order to sell the same security, a practice known as 'crossing'. When crossing orders, there is a risk that the execution may not be performed in the best interests of each client; for example, in the event that the price at which a trade was executed did not constitute a fair and reasonable price. BlackRock manages this risk by implementing a Global Crossing Policy, which sets out – among other things – the methodology for pricing 'cross' trades.

MNPI

BlackRock Group companies receive Material Non-Public Information (MNPI) in relation to listed securities in which BlackRock Group companies invest on behalf of clients. To prevent wrongful trading, BlackRock Group erects Information Barriers and restricts trading by one or more investment team(s) concerned in the security concerned. Such restrictions may negatively impact the investment performance of client accounts. BlackRock has implemented a Material Non-Public Information Barrier Policy.

BlackRock's Investment Constraints or Limitations and its Related Parties

The Company may be restricted in its investment activities due to ownership threshold limits and reporting obligations in certain jurisdictions applying in aggregate to the accounts of clients of the BlackRock Group. Such restrictions may adversely impact clients through missed investment opportunities. BlackRock Group manages the conflict by following an Investment and Trading Allocation Policy, designed to allocate limited investment opportunities among affected accounts fairly and equitably over time.

Investment in Related Party Products

While providing investment management services for a client, the Investment Adviser may invest in products serviced by BlackRock Group companies on behalf of other clients. BlackRock may also recommend services provided by BlackRock or its affiliates. Such activities could increase BlackRock's revenue. In managing this conflict, BlackRock seeks to follow investment guidelines and has a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics.

The entire proportion of a Fund's scheme property that may be invested in units of UCITS and/or other CIS may be sponsored or managed by the Management Company, Investment Adviser or an affiliate.

For investments in the units of other UCITS and/or other UCIs that are managed, directly or by delegation, by the Management Company itself or by any other company with which the Management Company is linked by common management or control, or by a substantial direct or indirect holding of more than 10% of the capital or voting rights no management, subscription or redemption fees may be charged to the Company on its investment in the units of such other UCITS and/or other UCIs.

Companies of the BlackRock Group which provide investment advisory services to the Funds, other UCITS and/or other UCIs, may also cause the Funds through those investment services, other UCITS and/or other UCIs to seed other products (including the Funds) sponsored or managed by the BlackRock Group.

With reference to Paragraph 4.5 of Appendix A, the Company has appointed BlackRock Advisors (UK) Limited as securities lending agent which in turn may sub-delegate the provision of securities lending agency services to other BlackRock Group companies. BlackRock Advisors (UK) Limited has the discretion to arrange stock loans with highly rated specialist financial institutions (the "counterparties"). Such counterparties can include associates of BlackRock Advisors (UK) Limited. Collateral is marked to market on

a daily basis and stock loans are repayable upon demand. At the cost of the Company, BlackRock Advisors (UK) Limited receives remuneration in relation to its activities above. Such remuneration amounts to 37.5% of the gross revenue from the activities.

Investment Allocation and Order Priority

When executing a transaction in a security on behalf of a client, it can be aggregated and the aggregated transaction fulfilled with multiple trades. Trades executed with other client orders result in the need to allocate those trades. The ease with which the Investment Adviser can allocate trades to a certain client's account can be limited by the sizes and prices of those trades relative to the sizes of the clients' instructed transactions. A process of allocation can result in a client not receiving the whole benefit of the best priced trade. The Investment Adviser manages this conflict by following an Investment and Trading Allocation Policy, which is designed to ensure the fair treatment of all clients' accounts over time.

Fund Look Through

BlackRock Group companies may have an informational advantage when investing in proprietary BlackRock funds on behalf of client portfolios. Such an informational advantage may lead a BlackRock Group company to invest on behalf of its client earlier than the Investment Adviser invests for the Company. The risk of detriment is mitigated through BlackRock Group's pricing of units and anti-dilution mechanisms.

Side-by-Side Management: Performance fee

The Investment Adviser manages multiple client accounts with differing fee structures. There is a risk that such differences lead to inconsistent performances levels across client accounts with similar mandates by incentivising employees to favour accounts delivering performance fees over flat or non-fee accounts. BlackRock Group companies manage this risk through a commitment to a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics Policy.

**Statutory and Other Information**

27. Copies of the following documents (together with a certified translation thereof where relevant) are available for inspection during usual business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and Public Holidays excepted) at the registered office of the Company and at the offices of BlackRock (Luxembourg) S.A., 35A, avenue J. F. Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg:

27.1 the Articles of Association of the Company; and

27.2 the material contracts entered into between the Company and its functionaries (as varied or substituted from time to time).

A copy of the Articles of Association of the Company may be obtained free of charge at the above addresses.

28. Shares in the Company are and will continue to be made widely available. The intended categories of investor include both the general public as well as Institutional Investors. Shares in the Company will be marketed and made available sufficiently widely to reach the intended categories of investors and in a manner appropriate to attract these investors.

## Appendix D – Authorised Status

**This Prospectus does not constitute, and may not be used for the purposes of an offer or an invitation to apply for any Shares by any person: (i) in any jurisdiction in which such offer or invitation is not authorised; or (ii) in any jurisdiction in which the person making such offer or invitation is not qualified to do so; or (iii) to any person to whom it is unlawful to make such offer or invitation. The distribution of this Prospectus and the offering of Shares in certain jurisdictions not listed below may be restricted. Accordingly, persons into whose possession this Prospectus comes are required to inform themselves about and observe any restrictions as to the offer or sale of Shares and the distribution of this Prospectus under the laws and regulations of any jurisdiction not listed below in connection with any applications for Shares in the Company, including obtaining any requisite governmental or other consent and observing any other formality prescribed in such jurisdiction. In certain jurisdictions no action has been taken or will be taken by the Company that would permit a public offering of Shares where action for that purpose is required, nor has any such action been taken with respect to the possession or distribution of this Prospectus other than in any jurisdiction where action for that purpose is required. The information below is for general guidance only and it is the responsibility of any prospective investor to comply with applicable securities laws and regulations.**

**Australia**
Investors must read this Prospectus or any other disclosure document before making a decision to acquire Shares in the Company. The Company which is the issuer of this Prospectus is not licensed to provide financial product advice, within the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) in Australia.

The Company is not available for investment by retail clients within the meaning of the Corporations Act 2001 (Cth) and accordingly there is no product disclosure statement or cooling off regime for the Company.

Please note:

- investment in the Company can be subject to investment risk, including possible delays in repayment and loss of income and principal invested; and
- unless otherwise specified in this Prospectus, no guarantee is provided by the Company in relation to the success of the Company or the achievement of a particular rate or return on income or capital.

By investing in the Company, you acknowledge that you have read and understood the above disclosures.

**Austria**
The Company has notified the Financial Market Authority of its intention to distribute its Shares in Austria pursuant to Article 140 para 1 of the Investment Fund Act 2011 (InvFG 2011). This Prospectus is available in an English language version, which includes additional information for Austrian investors. The KIIDs are also available in German.

**Bahrain**
If you are in any doubt about the contents of this prospectus, you should seek independent professional financial advice. Remember that all investments carry varying levels of risk and that the value of your investment may go down as well as up. Investments in this collective investment undertaking are not considered deposits and are therefore not covered by the Kingdom of Bahrain's deposit protection scheme. The fact that this collective investment undertaking has been authorised by the Central Bank of Bahrain, does not mean that the CBB takes responsibility for the performance of these investments, nor for the correctness of any statements or representations made by the operator of this collective investment undertaking. The Central Bank of Bahrain and the Bahrain stock exchange assume no responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of the statements and information contained in this document and expressly disclaim any liability whatsoever for any loss howsoever arising from reliance upon the whole or any part of the contents of this document.

**Belgium**
The Company has been registered with the Financial Services and Markets Authority in accordance with Article 154 of the Law of 3 August 2012 relating to certain forms of collective management of investment portfolios. A copy of the Prospectus of BlackRock Global Funds (in English and French), the Key Investor Information Document (in English, French and Dutch), the Articles of Association (in English) and the latest periodical report (in English) can be obtained, free of charge, from the website www.blackrock.com/be, from Blackrock Luxembourg S.A. (35 A, avenue J.F. Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg) or from the Investor Services Team at: Investor.services@blackrock.com, telephone: 00 44 (0)207 743 3300.

**Brunei**
This Prospectus relates to a collective investment scheme which is not subject to any form of domestic regulation by the Brunei Darussalam Central Bank (the "Authority"). The Authority is not responsible for reviewing or verifying any prospectus or other documents in connection with this collective investment scheme. The Authority has not approved this Prospectus or any other associated documents nor taken any steps to verify the information set out in this Prospectus and is not responsible for it. The shares to which this Prospectus relates may be illiquid or subject to restrictions on their resale. Prospective purchasers should conduct their own due diligence on the shares. If you do not understand the contents of this Prospectus you should consult a licensed financial adviser.

The Principal Distributor has appointed local distributors for distribution of the Shares of the Company in Brunei. Such Brunei distributors hold Capital Market Services Licences to distribute Shares of the Company pursuant to Section 156 of the Securities Market Order 2013. Shares in the Company may only be publicly distributed in Brunei by a person or entity licensed to sell investments or offerings in accordance with the Securities Market Order, 2013. The Brunei Filing Agent of the Company is YC Lee & Lee, Advocates & Solicitors, at 6th Floor, Kompleks Jalan Sultan, 51-55 Jalan Sultan, Bandar Seri Begawan BS8811, Brunei Darussalam. The Brunei distributors the Shares of the Company are: (1) Standard Chartered Securities (B) Sdn Bhd; and (2) Baiduri Capital Sdn Bhd.

**Canada**
The Shares have not been, nor will they be, qualified for distribution to the public in Canada as no prospectus for the Fund has been filed with any securities commission or regulatory authority in Canada or any province or territory thereof. This Prospectus is not, and under no circumstances is to be construed, as an advertisement or any other step in furtherance of a public offering of Shares in Canada. No Canadian resident may purchase or accept a transfer of Shares unless it is eligible to do so under applicable Canadian or provincial laws.

**Denmark**
Approval has been granted to the Company by the Danish Financial Supervisory Authority (Finanstilsynet) in accordance with Section 18 of the Danish Act on Investment Associations Etc. (Consolidation Act no. 333 of 20 March 2013) to market its Shares to retail investors and professional investors in Denmark. The KIIDs for the Funds approved for marketing in Denmark are available in Danish.

**Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC)**
This Prospectus relates to a Fund which is not subject to any form of regulation or approval by the Dubai Financial Services Authority ("DFSA"). The DFSA has no responsibility for reviewing or verifying any Prospectus or other documents in connection with this Fund. Accordingly, the DFSA has not approved this Prospectus or any other associated documents nor taken any steps to verify the information set out in this Prospectus, and has no responsibility for it. The Units to which this Prospectus relates may be illiquid and/or subject to restrictions on their resale. Prospective purchasers should conduct their own due diligence on the Units. If you do

not understand the contents of this document you should consult an authorised financial adviser. This prospectus can be distributed to Professional Clients in and from the DIFC by BlackRock Advisors (UK) Limited -Dubai Branch which is regulated by the Dubai Financial Services Authority ("DFSA"). Where the prospectus or any fund within the prospectus is directed at 'Professional Clients', no other person should rely upon the information contained within it.

**Finland**
The Company has notified the Financial Supervision Authority in accordance with Section 127 of the Act on Common Funds (29.1.1999/48) as amended and by virtue of confirmation from the Financial Supervision Authority the Company may publicly distribute its Shares in Finland. Certain information and documents that the Company must publish in Luxembourg pursuant to applicable Luxembourg Law are translated into Finnish and are available for Finnish investors at the offices of the appointed distributors in Finland.

**France**
The Company has been authorised by the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (the "AMF") to market certain of its Funds in France. CACEIS Bank will perform the services of Centralising Correspondent in France. This Prospectus is available in a French language version that includes additional information for French investors. The additional information for French investors should be read in conjunction with this Prospectus. Documentation relating to the Company can be inspected at the offices of CACEIS Bank, the registered office of which is at 1/3, place Valhubert, F-75013 Paris, France, during normal business hours and copies of the documentation can be obtained from them if required.

The attention of investors is drawn to the fact that the Euro-Markets Fund is eligible to be held within the framework of a share savings plan ("plan d'épargne en actions" or "PEA") in France. In this context and subject to the risks described below, the Company has undertaken, pursuant to Article 91 quarter L of Annex II to the General Tax Code, that the above referenced Funds will invest on a permanent basis at least 75% of their assets in securities or rights listed in (a) or (b) of I, 1° of Article L.221-31 of the Monetary and Financial Code.

The PEA eligibility of this Fund results from, to the best knowledge of the Company, tax law and practices in force in France as at the date of this Appendix. Such tax law and practices may change from time to time and, therefore, the Funds which may currently be held within the framework of a PEA could lose their PEA eligibility.

Further, the Funds could lose their PEA eligibility due to changes impacting their investment universe or benchmark index.

If any Fund loses PEA eligibility, the Company will write to inform Shareholders and a notice will be published on the website of the Company. In such a case, the Shareholders should seek professional tax and financial advice.

**Germany**
The German Federal Financial Supervisory Authority has been notified of the intention to distribute certain Funds of the Company in the Federal Republic of Germany pursuant to § 310 German Capital Investment Act. The German language prospectus contains additional information for investors in the Federal Republic of Germany.

**Gibraltar**
The Company is a UCITS scheme which has been recognised by the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission in accordance with Section 34 & 35 of the Financial Services (Collective Investment Schemes) Act 2011 as a UCITS scheme which complies with the requirements of the Financial Services (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations 2011 for the recognition of such schemes in Gibraltar. By virtue of such recognition by the Gibraltar Financial Services Commission, the Company may market its Shares in Gibraltar.

**Greece**
Approval has been granted to the Company by the Hellenic Capital Markets Committee in accordance with the procedures provided by Law 4099/2012, to register and distribute its Shares in Greece. This Prospectus is available in a Greek language translation. It must be noted that the relevant regulations provide that "SICAV Funds do not have a guaranteed return and that previous performance does not secure future performance".

**Hong Kong**
The Company is authorised as a collective investment scheme by the SFC. The SFC's authorisation is not a recommendation or endorsement of the Company nor does it guarantee the commercial merits of the Company or its performance. It does not mean the Company is suitable for all investors nor is it an endorsement of its suitability for any particular investor or class of investors. This Prospectus is available for Hong Kong residents in both English and Chinese. Please note that not all of the Funds are available for distribution to the public in Hong Kong and investors should read this Prospectus in conjunction with the Information for Residents of Hong Kong ("IRHK") and the Funds' Product Key Facts Statements, which contain additional information for Hong Kong residents. The Company's representative in Hong Kong is BAMNA.

**Hungary**
The Hungarian Financial Supervisory Authority authorized the Hungarian distribution of the Company's Shares pursuant to Section 288 (1) of the Hungarian Act CXX of 2001 on the Capital Market on 16 April 2007.

The distribution of the Shares issued by the Funds of the Company that had been launched subsequent to 1 January 2012 was authorized by the Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier (CSSF) of Luxembourg and this license was passported to Hungary in accordance with Section 98 of the Hungarian Act CXCIII of 2011 on Investment Management Firms and the Collective Forms of Investment.

The distribution of the Shares issued by the Funds of the Company that had been launched subsequent to 15 March 2014 was authorized by the CSSF and this license was passported to Hungary in accordance with Section 119 of the Hungarian Act XVI of 2014 on the Collective Forms of Investments and Their Managers.

The KIIDs for all of the Company's Shares are also available to investors in a Hungarian language version.

**Iceland**
The Company has notified the Icelandic Financial Supervisory Authority (*Fjarmalaeftirlitid*) in accordance with the provisions of the Act No. 128/2011 on Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS) Investment Funds and Institutional Investment Funds regarding the offering of foreign UCITS-funds for sale in Iceland. By virtue of a confirmation from the Icelandic Financial Supervisory Authority, the following funds may be offered for sale in Iceland:

Asian Dragon Fund
Continental European Flexible Fund
Emerging Europe Fund
Emerging Markets Fund
Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund
Euro Bond Fund
Euro Short Duration Bond Fund
Euro-Markets Fund
European Fund
Global Allocation Fund
Global Government Bond Fund
Global High Yield Bond Fund
Global Long-Horizon Equity Fund
Japan Small and Midcap Opportunities Fund
Sustainable Energy Fund
Sustainable Global Dynamic Equity Fund
Sustainable World Bond Fund
US Dollar Reserve Fund

US Government Mortgage Impact Fund
US Growth Fund
World Financials Fund
World Gold Fund
World Healthscience Fund

According to Article 13 e in Act No. 87/1992, as amended with Act no. 127/2011, Icelandic investors are prohibited from investing in securities, unit shares of UCITS and/or investment funds, money market instruments or other transferable financial instruments denominated in other currencies than Icelandic krona (ISK). However, parties that have invested in such financial instruments prior to 28 November 2008 are permitted to reinvest. Investors can apply for an exemption from these provisions.

The Company's local distributor in Iceland is responsible for arranging for all necessary information to be available for Icelandic retail investors, in accordance with the Act No. 128/2011 on Undertakings for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS), Investment Funds and Institutional Investment Funds, as amended.

**India**
Neither of the Shares nor the Funds are registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India ("SEBI") or any other regulatory or governmental authority in India and no such authority has confirmed the accuracy or determined the adequacy of this Prospectus.

This Prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of an offer to buy the Shares from any person other than the Company or the Management Company and subscription of the Shares shall not be accepted from a person to whom this Prospectus has not been addressed or sent by the Company or the Management Company. The Shares are not being offered for sale or subscription directly or indirectly in India or to the public in India. This Prospectus is not, and should not be construed as, a public offering of the Shares. This Prospectus is not a "prospectus" as construed under the (Indian) Companies Act, 2013.

Prospective investors must seek legal advice as to whether they are entitled to subscribe for or purchase the Shares being offered and comply with all relevant Indian laws in this respect. Any offer or its acceptance is subject to compliance in India with applicable Indian laws.

None of the Company, the Funds, the Management Company, their officers, employees or affiliates are, or are expected to be, registered with any regulatory or governmental authority in India with respect to their respective roles or functions in relation to the Company.

**Indonesia**
The offering contained in this Prospectus does not constitute a public offering in Indonesia under Capital Markets Law No. 8 Year 1995. This Prospectus may not be distributed in Indonesia and the securities may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in Indonesia or to Indonesian citizens wherever they are domiciled, or to Indonesian residents, in a manner which constitutes a public offering under the laws and regulations of Indonesia.

**Ireland**
The Management Company has notified the Central Bank of Ireland of its intention to publicly distribute Shares in certain Funds in Ireland. Blackrock Asset Management (Ireland) Limited will perform the services of facilities agent in Ireland. Documentation relating to the Company can be inspected at 1st Floor, 2 Ballsbridge Park, Ballsbridge, Dublin 4, D04 YW83 during normal business hours and copies of the documentation can be obtained if required. Blackrock Asset Management (Ireland) Limited will also forward any redemption or dividend payment requests or any complaints relating to the Company to the Transfer Agent.

**Italy**
The Company has notified the intention to market in Italy certain Funds pursuant to article 42 of Legislative Decree no. 58 of 24 February 1998 and implementing regulations. The offering of the Funds can only be carried out by the appointed distributors indicated in the list referred to in the Italian wrapper (Subscription Form) in accordance with the procedures indicated therein. A Shareholder who makes a subscription or a redemption of Shares through the local Paying Agent or other entities responsible for processing Share transactions in Italy may be charged with the expenses linked to the activity carried out by such entities. In Italy, additional expenses incurred by the Italian Paying Agent(s) or other entities responsible for processing Share transactions for and on behalf of Italian Shareholders (for example for the cost of foreign exchange dealing and for intermediation in payments) may be charged to those Shareholders directly. Further details of any such additional charges will be provided in the Subscription Form for Italy. Investors in Italy may confer on the Italian Paying Agent a specific mandate empowering the latter to act in its own name and on behalf of the same investors. Under this mandate, the Italian Paying Agent in its own name and on behalf of the investors in Italy shall (i) transmit in aggregated form to the Company subscription /redemption/conversion orders; (ii) hold the Shares in the register of Shareholders of the Company and (iii) carry out any other administrative activity under the investment contract. Further details of such mandate will be provided in the subscription form for Italy.

In Italy investors may be able to subscribe for Shares through Regular Savings Plans. Under Regular Savings Plans may be also possible to periodically/regularly redeem and/or convert the Shares. Details of the Regular Savings Plans facilities offered will be provided in the subscription form for Italy.

**Jersey**
The consent of the Jersey Financial Services Commission (the "Commission") has been obtained pursuant to the Control of Borrowing (Jersey) Order 1958, as amended, to raise money in the Island by the issue of Shares of the Company and for the distribution of this Prospectus. The Commission is protected by the Control of Borrowing (Jersey) Law 1947, as amended, against liability arising from the discharge of its functions under that law.

**Korea**
For distribution and offering of the Shares in the Company to the public in South Korea. The Company has been registered with the Financial Services Commission (the "FSC") and the securities registration statement (as defined under the Financial Investment Services and Capital Market Act of Korea (the "FSCMA")) has been filed with the FSC in accordance with the FSCMA.

None of the Shares in the Company may be offered, sold or delivered, or offered or sold to any person for re-offering or resale, directly or indirectly, in South Korea or to any resident of South Korea except pursuant to applicable laws and regulations of South Korea. Furthermore, the Shares in the Company may not be re-sold to South Korean residents unless the purchaser of the Shares in the Company complies with all applicable regulatory requirements (including, but not limited to, governmental approval requirements under the Foreign Exchange Transaction Law and its subordinate decrees and regulations) in connection with purchase of the Shares in the Company.

Recipients of this Prospectus are advised to exercise caution in relation to the offer, and should seek independent professional advice in connection with any purchase and the risks associated with such investment.

**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA)**
This document may not be distributed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia except to such persons as are permitted under the Investment Funds Regulations issued by the Capital Market Authority. The Capital Market Authority does not make any representation as to the accuracy or completeness of this document, and expressly disclaims any liability whatsoever for any loss arising from, or incurred in reliance upon, any part of this document. Prospective purchasers of the securities offered hereby should conduct their own due diligence on the accuracy of the information relating to the securities. If you do not understand the contents of this document you should consult an authorised financial adviser.

**Kuwait**
This prospectus is not for general circulation to the public in Kuwait. The Company has not been licensed for offering in Kuwait by the Kuwait Capital Markets Authority or any other relevant Kuwaiti government agency. The offering of the Company in Kuwait on the basis of a private placement or public offering is, therefore, restricted in accordance with Law No. 7 of 2010 and the bylaws thereto (as amended). No private or public offering of the Company is being made in Kuwait, and no agreement relating to the sale of the Company will be concluded in Kuwait. No marketing or solicitation or inducement activities are being used to offer or market the Company in Kuwait.

**Macau**
Authorisation is given by the Autoridade Monetaria De Macau ("AMCM") for the advertising and marketing the Company and certain registered Funds in Macau in accordance with Article 61 and 62 of Decree Law No. 83/99/M of 22 November 1999. Such advertising and marketing is undertaken by distributors duly licensed and registered with AMCM. This Prospectus is available to Macau residents in both English and Chinese.

**Malaysia**
No action has been, or will be, taken to comply with Malaysian laws for making available, offering for subscription or purchase, or issuing any invitation to subscribe for or purchase or sale of, the Shares in Malaysia or to persons in Malaysia as the Shares are not intended by the Company to be made available, or made the subject of any offer or invitation to subscribe or purchase, in Malaysia.

Neither this Prospectus nor any document or other material in connection with the Shares should be distributed, caused to be distributed or circulated in Malaysia. No person should make available or make any invitation or offer or invite to sell or purchase the Shares in Malaysia unless such person takes the necessary action to comply with Malaysian laws.

**Netherlands**
The Company may offer its Shares to the public in the Netherlands in accordance with Directive 2009/65/EC on undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS), as implemented in the Netherlands Financial Markets Supervision Act (Wet op het financieel toezicht). Dutch translations of the KIIDs and all information and documents that the Company must publish in Luxembourg pursuant to applicable Luxembourg laws are available from BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited, Amsterdam Branch.

**New Zealand**
The information contained in this Prospectus, or in any other associated disclosure document, is under no circumstances to be construed as a regulated offer of financial products under the Financial Markets Conduct Act 2013 (the "FMCA"). Any offer of financial products will be made only in circumstances where there is no contravention of the FMCA.

Shares are only available for investment by a "wholesale investor" within the meaning of clause 3(2)(a), (c) or (d) of Schedule 1 of the FMCA, being a person who:

- is an "investment business"; or
- is "large"; or
- is a "government agency",

in each case, as defined in Schedule 1 of the FMCA.

The information contained in this Prospectus does not constitute the giving of financial advice for the purposes of New Zealand financial adviser legislation.

**Norway**
The Company has notified the Financial Supervisory Authority of Norway (Finanstilsynet) in accordance with applicable Norwegian Securities Funds legislation. By virtue of a confirmation letter from the Financial Supervisory Authority of Norway dated 5 March 2001 the Company may market and sell its Shares in Norway.

**Oman**
The information contained in this prospectus does not constitute a public offer of securities in the Sultanate of Oman as contemplated by the Commercial Companies Law of Oman (Royal Decree 4/74) or the Capital Market Law of Oman (Royal Decree 80/98). Due to legal restrictions, imposed by the Executive Regulations of the Capital Market Law issued by the Capital Market Authority of the Sultanate of Oman (the "CMA"), this prospectus is only available to individuals and corporate entities that fall within the description of "sophisticated investors" in Article 139 of the Executive Regulations to the Capital Market Law. The CMA is not liable for the correctness or adequacy of information provided in this prospectus or for identifying whether or not the security being offered pursuant to this prospectus is an appropriate investment for a potential investor. The CMA shall also not be liable for any damage or loss resulting from reliance placed on the prospectus.

**People's Republic of China (PRC)**
The Company's interests are not being offered or sold and may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly within the PRC (for such purposes, not including the Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions or Taiwan), except as permitted by applicable laws and regulations of the PRC.

**Peru**
The Shares of the Company will not be registered before the Superintendencia del Mercado de Valores (SMV) in Peru, nor under Decreto Legislativo 862: Texto Unico Ordenado de la Ley del Mercado de Valores, as amended. Moreover, the SMV has not reviewed the information provided to the Institutional Investor. The Shares may only be offered and sold to Institutional Investors pursuant to a private placement. The Company has obtained registration in Peru of certain Funds with the Superintendencia de Banca, Seguros y AFP pursuant to Decreto Supremo 054-97-EF Texto Unico Ordenado de la Ley del Sistema Privado del Fondo de Pensiones, as amended, and the rules and regulations enacted thereunder which will allow Peruvian Private Pension Fund Managers (AFP) to acquire shares of such registered Funds.

**Philippines**
For Funds not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Philippines

Under Republic Act No. 8799, known as the Securities Regulation Code of the Philippines (the "Code"), and its implementing rules, securities, such as the Funds, are not permitted to be sold or offered for sale or distribution within the Philippines unless such securities are approved for registration by the Securities and Exchange Commission of the Philippines ("SEC") or are otherwise exempt securities or sold pursuant to an exempt transaction.

The offer and sale of the Funds qualify as an exempt transaction pursuant to section 10.1(l) of the Code and by purchase of the Fund(s), the investor will be deemed to acknowledge that the issue of, offer for subscription or purchase of, or invitation to subscribe for or purchase of such Fund (s) was made outside the Philippines. A confirmation of exemption from the SEC that the offer and sale of the Funds in the Philippines qualify as an exempt transaction under the Code is not required to be, and will not be, obtained.

**THE SECURITIES BEING OFFERED OR SOLD HEREIN HAVE NOT BEEN REGISTERED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION UNDER THE SECURITIES REGULATION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES. ANY FUTURE OFFER OR SALE THEREOF IS SUBJECT TO REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE CODE**

**UNLESS SUCH OFFER OR SALE QUALIFIES AS AN EXEMPT TRANSACTION.**

**Poland**
The Company has notified the Polish Financial Supervision Authority (Komisja Nadzoru Finansowego) of its intention to distribute its Shares in Poland under article 253 of an Act on investment funds and on management of alternative investment funds dated May 27th 2004 (Dz. U.2016.1896, as amended). The Company has established its representative and payment agent in Poland. This Prospectus and the KIID are available in Polish as well as other documents and information required by the provisions of laws of the state where it maintains its head office. The Company distributes its Shares in Poland by authorised distributors only.

**Portugal**
In Portugal, notification has been made to the Comissão do Mercado dos Valores Mobiliários for marketing of certain Funds by several distributors with whom the Principal Distributor has entered into distribution agreements, pursuant to Directive 2009/65/EC on undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS), as implemented in Portugal by Decree-Law 63-A/2013, of 10 May (according to the list of Funds contained in the respective notification procedure).

**Qatar**
The shares are only being offered to a limited number of investors who are willing and able to conduct an independent investigation of the risks involved in an investment in such shares. The prospectus does not constitute an offer to the public and is for the use only of the named addressee and should not be given or shown to any other person (other than employees, agents or consultants in connection with the addressee's consideration thereof). The fund has not been and will not be registered with the Qatar Central Bank or under any laws of the State of Qatar. No transaction will be concluded in your jurisdiction and any inquiries regarding the shares should be made to the Company.

**Republic of South Africa**
This prospectus is not intended and does not constitute an offer, invitation, or solicitation by any person to members of the public to invest or acquire shares in the Company. This prospectus is not an offer in terms of Chapter 4 of the Companies Act, 2008. Accordingly this prospectus does not, nor is it intended to, constitute a prospectus prepared and registered under the Companies Act. The Fund is a foreign collective investment scheme as contemplated by section 65 of the Collective Investment Schemes Control Act, 2002 and is not approved in terms of that Act.

**Singapore**
Certain sub-funds of the Company (the "Restricted Sub-Funds") have been entered onto the list of restricted schemes maintained by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (the "MAS") for purpose of restricted offer in Singapore pursuant to section 305 of the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the "SFA") and the list of Restricted Sub-Funds may be accessed at:
https://masnetsvc2.mas.gov.sg/cisnetportal/jsp/list.jsp.

In addition, certain sub-funds of the Company (including some of the Restricted Sub-Funds), have also been recognised in Singapore for retail distribution (the "Recognised Sub-Funds"). Please refer to the Singapore prospectus (which has been registered by the MAS) relating to the retail offer of the Recognised Sub-Funds for the list of sub-funds which are Recognised Sub-Funds. The registered Singapore prospectus may be obtained from the relevant appointed distributors.

A restricted offer or invitation of the shares (the "Shares") of each Restricted Sub-Fund is the subject of this Prospectus. Save for the Restricted Sub-Funds which are also Recognised Sub-Funds, the Restricted Sub-Funds are not authorised or recognised by the MAS and the Shares are not allowed to be offered to the retail public in Singapore. A concurrent restricted offer of Shares of each Recognised Sub-Fund is made under and in reliance of Sections 304 and/or 305 (including sub-section 305(3)(c)) of the SFA. The Shares of the Restricted Sub-Funds are capital markets products other than prescribed capital markets products (as defined in the Securities and Futures (Capital Markets Products) Regulations 2018) and Specified Investment Products (as defined in MAS Notice SFA 04-N12: Notice on the Sale of Investment Products and MAS Notice FAA-N16: Notice on Recommendations on Investment Products).

The offer or invitation of the Shares of the Restricted Sub-Funds is regulated by the CSSF under the Luxembourg law of 17 December 2010 on undertakings for collective investment, as amended, modified or supplemented from time to time. The contact details of the CSSF are as follows: Telephone: +352 26-251-1 (switchboard) Fax: +352 26-251-601. The Bank of New York Mellon SA/NV, Luxembourg Branch, being the custodian of the Restricted Sub-Funds, is regulated by the CSSF. The policy of each Restricted Sub-Fund and the Management Company is not to enter into any side letter arrangements that may result in differentiated or preferential treatment for certain classes of investors except as otherwise disclosed in this Prospectus. Investors in Singapore should note that if they wish to obtain information on the past performance of the Restricted Sub-Funds, they should contact BlackRock (Singapore) Limited at +65 6411-3000 to obtain such information. Other information required by the Monetary Authority of Singapore is contained elsewhere in the Prospectus of BlackRock Global Funds.

This Prospectus and any other document or material issued in connection with this restricted offer or sale of the Restricted Sub-Funds is not a prospectus as defined in the SFA and has not been registered as a prospectus with the MAS. Accordingly, statutory liability under the SFA in relation to the content of prospectuses would not apply. You should consider carefully whether the investment is suitable for you.

This Prospectus and any other document or material in connection with the restricted offer or sale, or invitation for subscription or purchase, of Shares may not be circulated or distributed, nor may Shares be offered or sold, or be made the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, pursuant to this Prospectus whether directly or indirectly, to persons in Singapore other than (i) to an Institutional Investor under Section 304 of the SFA, (ii) to a relevant person pursuant to Section 305(1), or any person pursuant to Section 305(2), and in accordance with the conditions specified in Section 305, of the SFA, or (iii) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other applicable provision of the SFA.

Where Shares are subscribed or purchased under Section 305 of the SFA by a relevant person which is:

(a) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor (as defined in Section 4A of the SFA)) the sole business of which is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by one or more individuals, each of whom is an accredited investor; or

(b) a trust (where the trustee is not an accredited investor) whose sole purpose is to hold investments and each beneficiary of the trust is an individual who is an accredited investor,

securities (as defined in Section 2(1) of the SFA) of that corporation or the beneficiaries' rights and interest (howsoever described) in that trust shall not be transferred within six months after that corporation or that trust has acquired the Shares pursuant to an offer made under Section 305 of the SFA except:

1. to an Institutional Investor or to a relevant person defined in Section 305(5) of the SFA, or to any person arising from an offer referred to in Section 275(1A) or Section 305A(3)(i)(B) of the SFA;

2. where no consideration is or will be given for the transfer;

3. where the transfer is by operation of law;

4. as specified in Section 305A(5) of the SFA; or

5. as specified in Regulation 36 of the Securities and Futures (Offers of Investments) (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations 2005 of Singapore.

Investors should note further that the other sub-funds of the Company referred to in this Prospectus other than the Restricted Sub-Funds and/or the Recognised Sub-Funds, are not available to Singapore investors and references to such other Funds is not and should not be construed as an offer of shares of such other sub-funds in Singapore.

**Spain**
The Company is duly registered with the Comisión Nacional de Mercado de Valores in Spain under number 140.

**Sweden**
The Company has notified the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority in accordance with Chapter 1, Section 7 of the Swedish Securities Funds Act 2004 (Sw. *lag (2004:46) om värdepappersfonder)* and by virtue of a confirmation from the Swedish Financial Supervisory Authority the Company may publicly distribute its Shares in Sweden.

**Switzerland**
The Swiss Financial Market Authority FINMA has authorised BlackRock Asset Management Switzerland Limited, as the Company's Swiss representative, to distribute the Shares of each of the Company's Funds in or from Switzerland in accordance with Article 123 of the Collective Investment Schemes Act of 23 June 2006. A German language version of this Prospectus is available which also includes the additional information for Swiss investors.

**Taiwan**
Certain Funds have been approved by the Financial Supervisory Commission (the "FSC"), or effectively registered with the FSC, for public offering and sale through the master agent and/or sales agents in Taiwan in accordance with the Securities Investment Trust and Consulting Act, Regulations Governing the Offshore Funds, and other applicable laws and regulations. Funds approved/registered in Taiwan will, subject to certain investment restrictions such as, among other things, the following: (1) no gold, real estate and commodities in the portfolio are allowed; (2) unless the derivatives waiver by FSC is otherwise granted, the total value of the open positions on derivatives for increasing investment efficiency held by each Fund shall not exceed 40% of its net asset value; and (3) total value of open short positions on derivatives for hedging purpose held by each Fund shall not exceed the total market value of the corresponding securities held by the Fund. Investors should read this Prospectus in conjunction with the investor brochure, which contains additional information for Taiwan residents. On December 31 2015, FSC granted the derivatives waivers to fourteen (14) BGF funds registered in Taiwan, which are: (1) Asian Tiger Bond Fund; (2) ESG Multi-Asset Fund; (3) Global High Yield Bond Fund; (4) Emerging Markets Bond Fund; (5) Global Allocation Fund; (6) Global Corporate Bond Fund; (7) Euro Bond Fund; (8) Global Government Bond Fund; (9) Global Inflation Linked Bond Fund; (10) Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund; (11) Sustainable World Bond Fund; (12) US Dollar High Yield Bond Fund; (13) US Dollar Core Bond Fund; and (14) US Government Mortgage Impact Fund. In the derivatives waivers, FSC expressly indicated that each of the above fourteen (14) BGF funds' VaR shall not exceed two times of the reference portfolio's VaR of each fund. Investors should refer to Appendix A under the Investor Brochure which is prepared in accordance with the Taiwan laws and regulations for more details on the derivatives waivers of the above fourteen (14) funds. The FSC issued a letter ruling on January 29 2014 which permitted sales and consultation of unregistered offshore funds through the Taiwan offshore banking unit of a bank (including a foreign bank having branch in Taiwan) ("OBU") and the Taiwan offshore securities unit of a securities firm (including a foreign securities firm having branch in Taiwan) ("OSU"); provided that: (1) the clients of the Taiwan OBU/OSU are limited to offshore clients, including individuals holding foreign passport without domicile in Taiwan and legal entities registered offshore without any registration or branch in Taiwan; and (2) any offshore fund distributed through an Taiwan OBU or OSU cannot invest more than 30% of its net asset value in the Taiwan securities markets ("Taiwan OBU/ OSU Fund Offering"). BlackRock Investment Management (Taiwan) Limited has obtained the FSC's approval to provide agent services, the scope of which is subject to the regulator's approval and rulings which may be amended from time to time, to Taiwan OBU/OSU on behalf of BlackRock (Luxembourg) S.A. for the Taiwan OBU/OSU Fund Offering."

**Thailand**
The Company's Shares have not been granted permission by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of Thailand to be publicly offered in Thailand. No interests in the Shares may be advertised or offered for sale to the general public in Thailand or marketed to the public in Thailand through any means of communication to any resident of Thailand to whom it is not addressed.

All the Shares' materials were prepared by the Company for informational purposes, and the contents of this Prospectus have not been reviewed by the SEC. The contents contained in these materials should not be construed as a public offer of the Shares in Thailand, and shall not be used as part of any prospectus, offering memorandum or other disclosure attributable to the Company.

This Prospectus is distributed on a confidential basis to the person to whom it is addressed. This Prospectus may not be reproduced in any form or transmitted to any person other than the person to whom it is addressed. Transmission of this Prospectus to the person to whom it is addressed shall not constitute solicitation in Thailand by the Company or any of its representatives or agents to invest in the Shares.

**United Arab Emirates (UAE)**
(excluding the Dubai International Financial Centre and the Abu Dhabi Global Market)

For Funds registered with the Securities and Commodities Authority in the United Arab Emirates (for use where the Fund is registered for public offer)

A copy of this Prospectus has been submitted to the United Arab Emirates (the "UAE") Securities and Commodities Authority (the "SCA"). The SCA assumes no liability for the accuracy of the information set out in this Prospectus, nor for the failure of any persons engaged in the investment fund in performing their duties and responsibilities. The relevant parties whose names are listed in this Prospectus shall assume such liability, each according to their respective roles and duties.

For Funds not registered with the Securities and Commodities Authority in the United Arab Emirates (for use in respect of unsolicited requests only)

This Prospectus, and the information contained herein, does not constitute, and is not intended to constitute, a public offer of securities in the UAE and accordingly should not be construed as such. The Shares are only being offered to a limited number of investors in the UAE who (a) are willing and able to conduct an independent investigation of the risks involved in an investment in such Shares, and (b) upon their specific request. The Shares have not been approved by or licensed or registered with the UAE Central Bank, the SCA or any other relevant licensing authorities or governmental agencies in the UAE. The Prospectus is for the use of the named addressee only, who has specifically requested it on a cross-border basis, without a promotion effected by BlackRock, its promoters or the distributors of its Shares, and should not be given or shown to any other person (other than employees, agents or consultants in connection with the addressee's consideration thereof). No transaction will be concluded in the UAE and any enquiries regarding the Shares should be made to the local Investor Servicing Team, telephone: +44 (0) 207 743 3300.

For Funds not registered with the Securities and Commodities Authority in the United Arab Emirates (for use in respect of Qualified Investor Exemption only)

This Prospectus, and the information contained herein, does not constitute, and is not intended to constitute, a public offer of securities in

the UAE and accordingly should not be construed as such. The marketing of any funds in the UAE requires the prior approval of the Securities and Commodities Authority ("SCA") unless the exemptions to the regulations relating to promotion or offering of units in foreign funds or foreign shares (SCA Board of Directors Decision no 3/RM of 2017 concerning the organization of promotion and introduction, as further revised and updated) apply. Consequently, based on the mentioned exemption, the offering of Shares in the UAE will only be available to a limited number of exempt persons in the UAE who fall under one of the following categories of Exempt Qualified Investors: Corporate persons that are: (a) the federal government, local governments, and governmental entities, institutions and authorities, or companies wholly-owned by any of the aforementioned; (b) foreign governments, their respective entities, institutions and authorities or companies wholly owned by any such entities; (c) international entities and organisations; (d) entities licensed by the SCA or a similar regulator (i.e. a regulatory authority that is an ordinary or associate member of IOSCO) (a "Counterpart Authority"); or (e) a corporate person that meets, as at the date of its most recent financial statements, at least two of the following conditions: (i) it has a total assets of AED 75 million; (ii) it has a net annual income of AED 150 million; (iii) it has net equity or paid-up capital at the minimum of AED 7 million, or alternatively, a natural person licensed by the SCA or a Counterpart Authority to carry out any of the functions related to financial activities or services (each an "Exempt Qualified Investor").

The Shares have not been approved by or licensed or registered with the UAE Central Bank, the SCA, the Dubai Financial Services Authority, the Financial Services Regulatory Authority or any other relevant licensing authorities or governmental agencies in the UAE (the "Authorities"). The Authorities assume no liability for any investment that the named addressee makes as an Exempt Qualified Investor. The Prospectus is for the use of the named addressee only and should not be given or shown to any other person (other than employees, agents or consultants in connection with the addressee's consideration thereof).

**United Kingdom**

The contents of this Prospectus have been approved solely for the purposes of section 21 of the UK Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (the "Act") by the Company's UK Distributor, BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited, 12 Throgmorton Avenue, London EC2N 2DL (which is regulated by the FCA in the conduct of investment business in the UK). The Company has obtained the status of "recognised scheme" for the purposes of the Act. Some or all of the protections provided by the UK regulatory system will not apply to investments in the Company. Compensation under the UK Investors Compensation Scheme will generally not be available. The Company provides the facilities required by the regulations governing such schemes at the offices of BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited, which acts as the UK facilities agent. UK investors can contact the UK facilities agent at the above address to obtain details regarding the prices of units, to redeem or arrange for the redemption of Shares, to obtain payment and to make a complaint. Details on the procedure to be followed in connection with the subscription, redemption and switching of Shares are set out in this Prospectus. Copies of the following documents will be available (in English) for inspection and can be obtained at any time during normal business hours on any day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays) free of charge at the above address of the UK Facilities Agent:

1. the Articles of Association;

2. the Prospectus, KIID(s) and any supplement or addendum to the Prospectus; and

3. the most recently published annual and half yearly reports relating to the Company;

An applicant for Shares will not have the right to cancel his application under the UK FCA's Conduct of Business Rules. Further details on BlackRock Global Funds can be obtained from the local Investor Servicing Team, telephone: +44 (0)207 743 3300.

**USA**

The Shares will not be registered under the US Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act") and may not be directly or indirectly offered or sold in the USA or any of its territories or possessions or areas subject to its jurisdiction or to or for the benefit of a US Person. The Company will not be registered under the US Investment Company Act of 1940. US Persons are not permitted to own Shares. Attention is drawn to paragraphs 3. and 4. of Appendix B which specify certain compulsory redemption powers and define "US Person".

**Generally**

The distribution of this Prospectus and the offering of the Shares may be authorised or restricted in certain other jurisdictions. The above information is for general guidance only and it is the responsibility of any persons in possession of this Prospectus and of any persons wishing to make application for Shares to inform themselves of, and to observe, all applicable laws and regulations of any relevant jurisdictions.

## Appendix E – Summary of Charges and Expenses

All Share Classes are also subject to an Annual Service Charge, which may be charged at a rate of up to 0.25% per annum.

*A single fee is charged on Class SR Shares (which comprises the management fee and the Annual Service Charge). Please refer to the applicable KIID for the ongoing charges figure. Please note that this figure may vary from year to year. It excludes portfolio trade-related costs, except costs paid to the custodian and any entry/exit charge paid to an underlying CIS (if any).

| Asian Dragon Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Asian Growth Leaders Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Asian High Yield Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.00% [1] | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.50%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Asian Multi-Asset Income Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

[1] The Management Fee is discounted by 0.30% between the date of this prospectus and 31 December 2021. The discount is subject to variation or removal at any time at the discretion of the Management Company, provided that prior written notice is given to shareholders. For the current charges applied to Class A Shares on the Fund from time to time please refer to the relevant KIID and/or the product pages of the BlackRock website.

| Asian Sustainable Equity Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.69% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.69% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.69% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.69% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.69%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.69% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.69% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Asian Tiger Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.50%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Brown To Green Materials Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.68%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| China Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.75% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| China Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| China Impact Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| China Innovation Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.68%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| China Multi-Asset Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| China Onshore Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.50%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Circular Economy Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.68%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Climate Action Equity Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.68%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.63% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Climate Action Multi-Asset Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.20% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.20% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.20% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.20% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.20% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.65%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Climate Global Corporate Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.80% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.80% | 0.00% | 0.00%. |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.80% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.80% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.80% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Continental European Flexible Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Developed Markets Sustainable Equity Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.63% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.63% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.63% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.63% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.63%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.63% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.63% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Dynamic High Income Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Emerging Europe Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.75% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.75% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.75% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 1.00%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Emerging Markets Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.25% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.25% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.25% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.65%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.40% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.40% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.40% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.70%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Emerging Markets Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class CI | 0.00% | 0.30% | 0.60% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.30% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.60% | 0.40% | 0.00% |
| Class EI | 3.00% | 0.30% | 0.40% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.30% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Emerging Markets Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SI | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Emerging Markets Impact Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.80% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.80% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.80% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.80% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.80% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.50%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.69% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.69% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.69% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.69% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.69%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.69% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.69% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| ESG Flex Choice Cautious Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.84% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.84% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.84% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.84% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.84% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| ESG Flex Choice Growth Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.84% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.84% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.84% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.84% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.84% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| ESG Flex Choice Moderate Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.84% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.84% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.84% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.84% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.84% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| ESG Global Conservative Income Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.50%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| ESG Global Multi-Asset Income Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.60%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| ESG Multi-Asset Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.20% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.20% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.20% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.20% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.20% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.65%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Euro Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.75% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Euro Corporate Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.80% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.80% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.80% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.80% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.80% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Euro High Yield Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class CI | 0.00% | 0.30% | 0.60% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.30% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.60% | 0.40% | 0.00% |
| Class EI | 3.00% | 0.30% | 0.40% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.30% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (1) | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class CI | 0.00% | 0.25% | 0.60% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.50% | 0.40% | 0.00% |
| Class EI | 3.00% | 0.25% | 0.40% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (2) | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class CI | 0.00% | 0.25% | 0.60% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.50% | 0.40% | 0.00% |
| Class EI | 3.00% | 0.25% | 0.40% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2029 | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class CI | 0.00% | 0.25% | 0.60% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.50% | 0.40% | 0.00% |
| Class EI | 3.00% | 0.25% | 0.40% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Euro Reserve Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 0.00% | 0.45% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 0.00% | 0.45% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.45% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.45% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 0.00% | 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 0.00% | 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 0.00% | 0.45% | 0.25% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.25%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Euro Short Duration Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.75% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SI | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Euro-Markets Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| European Equity Income Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| European Focus Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| European Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| European High Yield Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.55%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| European Special Situations Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| European Sustainable Equity Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.68%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| European Value Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| FinTech Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.68%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.50%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Future Consumer Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | Up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.68%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Future Of Transport Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.68%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Global Allocation Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Global Corporate Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.80% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.80% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.80% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.80% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.80% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Global Equity Income Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Global Government Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.75% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Global High Yield Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.25% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.25% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.25% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.55%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Global Inflation Linked Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.75% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Global Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class CI | 0.00% | 0.35% | 0.60% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.35% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.70% | 0.40% | 0.00% |
| Class EI | 3.00% | 0.35% | 0.40% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.35% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Global Listed Infrastructure Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | 0.30% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Global Long-Horizon Equity Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Global Multi-Asset Income Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.60%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Global Unconstrained Equity Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.50% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SI | 0.00% | up to 1,50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Impact Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.35% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.35% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.75% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.35% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.35% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.35%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.35% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.35% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| India Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Japan Flexible Equity Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Japan Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Latin American Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.75% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.75% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.75% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 1.00%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Multi-Theme Equity Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.25% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.25% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.25% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.55%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Natural Resources Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Next Generation Health Care Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.68%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Next Generation Technology Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.68%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Nutrition Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 1.00%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Social Action Equity Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.68%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.63% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.63% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Sustainable Asian Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.50%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Sustainable World Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.80% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.80% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.80% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.80% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.80% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Sustainable Emerging Markets Blended Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Sustainable Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.40% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.40% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.40% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.70%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Sustainable Emerging Markets Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.25% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.25% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.25% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.65%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Sustainable Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.50%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Sustainable Energy Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.65% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.65% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.65% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.90% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.90% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.65% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.90% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 1.00%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Sustainable Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.50%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Sustainable Global Allocation Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.35% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.35% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.35% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.35% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.35% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.70%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.70% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Sustainable Global Bond Income Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.50%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Sustainable Global Dynamic Equity Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Sustainable Global Infrastructure Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.20% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.20% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.20% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.20% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.20% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.60%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Swiss Small & Mid Cap Opportunities Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Systematic China A-Share Opportunities Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Systematic China Environmental Tech Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.68%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Systematic ESG Multi Allocation Credit Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.20% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.20% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.20% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.20% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.20%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.20% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Systematic Global Equity High Income Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.60% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.60%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Systematic Global Sustainable Income & Growth Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00%. |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| Systematic Sustainable Global SmallCap Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| United Kingdom Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| US Basic Value Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| US Dollar Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.85% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.85% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.85% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.85% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.45% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.45% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.85% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.45% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.45% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.45%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| US Dollar High Yield Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.25% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.25% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.25% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.55% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.55%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| US Dollar Reserve Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 0.00% | 0.45% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 0.00% | 0.45% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.45% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.45% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 0.00% | 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 0.00% | 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 0.00% | 0.45% | 0.25% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.25%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| US Dollar Short Duration Bond Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.75% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| US Flexible Equity Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| US Government Mortgage Impact Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.75% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.75% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.40%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.40% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| US Growth Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| US Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 0.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class CI | 0.00% | 0.25% | 0.60% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 0.50% | 0.40% | 0.00% |
| Class EI | 3.00% | 0.25% | 0.40% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.25% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| US Mid-Cap Value Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| US Sustainable Equity Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.68%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.68% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| World Energy Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.75% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.75% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.75% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 1.00%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| World Financials Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| World Gold Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.75% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.75% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.75% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 1.00%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| World Healthscience Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| World Mining Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.75% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.75% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.75% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 1.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 1.00%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| World Real Estate Securities Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

| World Technology Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class B | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.00% | up to 3.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

Note: Subject to the approval of the Directors, the combined Management Fee and Annual Service Charge for any Fund may be increased up to a maximum of 2.25% in total by giving Shareholders three months' prior notice in accordance with paragraph 19. of Appendix C. Any increase above this level would require approval of Shareholders at a general meeting.

## Appendix F – List of Depositary Delegates

The Depositary has entered into written agreements delegating the performance of its Safekeeping Function in respect of certain investments to the delegates listed below. The list is subject to change and a current list is available upon request from the Company's registered office and the local Investor Servicing team.

| Country | Delegate |
|---|---|
| Argentina | Citibank N.A., Argentina |
| Australia | National Australia Bank Limited |
| Austria | UniCredit Bank Austria AG |
| Bahrain | HSBC Bank Middle East Limited |
| Bangladesh | The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited |
| Belgium | Citibank Europe Plc, UK branch/ The Bank of New York Mellon |
| Bermuda | HSBC Bank Bermuda Limited |
| Botswana | Stanbic Bank Botswana Limited |
| Brazil | Citibank N.A., Brazil |
| Bulgaria | Citibank Europe plc, Bulgaria Branch |
| Canada | CIBC Mellon Trust Company (CIBC Mellon) |
| Cayman Islands | The Bank of New York Mellon |
| Channel Islands | The Bank of New York Mellon |
| Chile | Banco de Chile |
| China | HSBC Bank (China) Company Limited |
| Colombia | Cititrust Colombia S.A. Sociedad Fiduciaria |
| Costa Rica | Banco Nacional de Costa Rica |
| Croatia | Privredna banka Zagreb d.d. |
| Cyprus | BNP Paribas Securities Services S.C.A., Athens |
| Czech Republic | Citibank Europe plc, organizacni slozka |
| Denmark | Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB (Publ) |
| Egypt | HSBC Bank Egypt S.A.E. |
| Estonia | SEB Pank AS |
| Finland | Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB (Publ) |
| France | BNP Paribas Securities Services S.C.A. |
| Germany | The Bank of New York Mellon SA/NV |
| Ghana | Stanbic Bank Ghana Limited |
| Greece | BNP Paribas Securities Services S.C.A., Athens |
| Hong Kong | The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited |
| Hungary | Citibank Europe plc. Hungarian Branch Office |
| Iceland | Landsbankinn hf. |
| India | Deutsche Bank AG |
| Indonesia | Deutsche Bank AG |
| Ireland | The Bank of New York Mellon |
| Israel | Bank Hapoalim B.M. |
| Italy | Intesa Sanpaolo S.p.A. |
| Japan | Mizuho Bank, Ltd. |
| Japan | MUFG Bank, Ltd. |
| Jordan | Standard Chartered Bank, Jordan branch |
| Kenya | CFC Stanbic Bank Limited |
| Kuwait | HSBC Bank Middle East Limited |
| Latvia | AS SEB banka |
| Lebanon | HSBC Bank Middle East Limited |
| Lithuania | SEB Bankas |
| Malawi | Standard Bank Limited |
| Malaysia | Deutsche Bank (Malaysia) Berhad |
| Malta | The Bank of New York Mellon SA/NV |
| Mauritius | The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited |
| Mexico | Banco Nacional de México S.A. |
| Morocco | Citibank Maghreb |
| Namibia | Standard Bank Namibia Limited |
| Netherlands | The Bank of New York Mellon SA/NV |
| New Zealand | National Australia Bank Limited |
| Nigeria | Stanbic IBTC Bank Plc. |
| Norway | Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB (Publ) |
| Oman | HSBC Bank Oman S.A.O.G. |
| Pakistan | Deutsche Bank AG |
| Panama | Citibank N.A., Panama Branch |
| Peru | Citibank del Peru S.A. |
| Philippines | Deutsche Bank AG |
| Poland | Bank Polska Kasa Opieki S.A. |
| Portugal | Citibank Europe Plc, Sucursal em Portugal |
| Qatar | HSBC Bank Middle East Limited, Doha |
| Romania | Citibank Europe plc, Romania Branch |
| Russia | Deutsche Bank Ltd |
| Saudi Arabia | HSBC Saudi Arabia Limited |
| Serbia | UniCredit Bank Serbia JSC |
| Singapore | DBS Bank Ltd |
| Slovak Republic | Citibank Europe plc, pobocka zahranicnej banky |
| Slovenia | UniCredit Banka Slovenia d.d. |
| South Africa | The Standard Bank of South Africa Limited |
| South Korea | Deutsche Bank AG |
| Spain | Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria, S.A. |
| Spain | Santander Securities Services, S.A. |
| Sri Lanka | The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited |
| Swaziland | Standard Bank Swaziland Limited |
| Sweden | Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB (Publ) |
| Switzerland | Credit Suisse AG |
| Taiwan | HSBC Bank (Taiwan) Limited |
| Tanzania | Stanbic Bank Tanzania Limited |
| Thailand | The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited |
| Tunisia | Banque Internationale Arabe de Tunisie |
| Turkey | Deutsche Bank A.S. |
| U.A.E. | HSBC Bank Middle East Limited, Dubai |
| U.K. | The Bank of New York Mellon |

| Country | Delegate |
|---|---|
| U.S.A. | The Bank of New York Mellon |
| Uganda | Stanbic Bank Uganda Limited |
| Ukraine | Public Joint Stock Company "Citibank" |
| Uruguay | Banco Itaú Uruguay S.A. |
| Venezuela | Citibank N.A., Sucursal Venezuela |
| Vietnam | HSBC Bank (Vietnam) Ltd |
| Zambia | Stanbic Bank Zambia Limited |
| Zimbabwe | Stanbic Bank Zimbabwe Limited |

## Appendix G – Securities Financing Transaction Disclosures

**General**

Securities Financing Transactions (SFTs) such as securities lending, repurchase transactions, and total return swaps (TRS) will be used by the Funds at the discretion of the Investment Adviser (subject to their investment objective and policy) either to help meet the investment objective of a Fund and/or as part of efficient portfolio management.

TRSs involve the exchange of the right to receive the total return, coupons plus capital gains or losses, of a specified reference asset, index or basket of assets against the right to make fixed or floating payments. Where relevant, the Funds will enter into swaps as either the payer or receiver of payments under such swaps.

SFTs are defined as:

(a) a repurchase transaction (which means a transaction governed by an agreement by which a counterparty transfers securities, commodities, or guaranteed rights relating to title to securities or commodities where that guarantee is issued by a recognised exchange which holds the rights to the securities or commodities and the agreement does not allow a counterparty to transfer or pledge a particular security or commodity to more than one counterparty at a time, subject to a commitment to repurchase them, or substituted securities or commodities of the same description at a specified price on a future date specified, or to be specified, by the transferor, being a repurchase agreement for the counterparty selling the securities or commodities and a reverse repurchase agreement for the counterparty buying them);

(b) securities lending and securities borrowing (which means transactions governed by an agreement by which a counterparty transfers securities, or guaranteed rights relating to title to securities where that guarantee is issued by a recognised exchange which holds the rights to the securities and the agreement does not allow a counterparty to transfer or pledge a particular security to more than one counterparty at a time, subject to a commitment to repurchase them, or substituted securities of the same description at a specified price on a future date specified, or to be specified, by the transferor, being a repurchase agreement for the counterparty selling the securities and a reverse repurchase agreement for the counterparty buying them;

(c) a buy-sell back transaction or sell-buy back transaction (which means transactions by which a counterparty buys or sells securities, commodities, or guaranteed rights relating to title to securities or commodities, agreeing, respectively, to sell or to buy back securities, commodities or such guaranteed rights of the same description at a specified price on a future date, that transaction being a buy-sell back transaction for the counterparty buying the securities, commodities or guaranteed rights, and a sell-buy back transaction for the counterparty selling them, such buy-sell back transaction or sell-buy back transaction not being governed by a repurchase agreement or by a reverse-repurchase agreement; and

(d) a margin lending transaction (which means a transaction in which a counterparty extends credit in connection with the purchase, sale, carrying or trading of securities, but not including other loans that are secured by collateral in the form of securities).

Save as indicated in the paragraph below, the Funds do not currently use SFTs described in paragraphs (a), (c) and (d) above.

At the discretion of the Investment Adviser, the Euro Reserve Fund and the US Dollar Reserve Fund will invest in eligible reverse repurchase agreements for both liquidity management purposes and for permitted investment purposes. In accordance with Article 15 of MMFR, the assets received as part of a reverse repurchase agreement shall be sufficiently diversified with a maximum exposure to a given issuer of 15% of the MMF's NAV, except where those assets take the form of money market instruments that fulfil the requirements of Article 17(7) of MMFR.

All the Funds, except the Euro Reserve Fund and the US Dollar Reserve Fund, will use securities lending, depending on market conditions as further described below.

The Funds will use the securities lending market to generate additional returns. A Fund seeks to generate additional income through the rate that it charges for lending securities.

The securities lending on-loan percentage of a fund can vary over time due to changes in borrowing demand for different securities, sectors, and asset classes. Changing market dynamics over time results in demand that cannot be forecasted precisely and requires maximum flexibility with respect to the allowed maximum disclosed in the table below in order to anticipate and answer positively to the need of market participants to enter into securities lending transactions with a Fund. These maxima are established by BlackRock's analyses of the borrowing demand of the underlying assets needed over time by the market, which can be lent by the Funds in compliance with local tax regulations. Where there is a borrowing demand for a certain type of security and a Fund does not have sufficient securities of said required type to lend, the demand will then be satisfied by another Fund of the same investment universe and so utilisation differences in similar funds can be observed across fund ranges due to their size. Although it is not anticipated that the permitted maximum will be reached in most of the cases, the Investment Adviser does not wish to prevent investors from benefitting from additional revenue by setting unduly low maximum figures.

The expected proportion of Net Asset Value indicated in the table below is based on historical data and hence indicates the expected range of securities lent that is likely to occur in future. However, past performance is not a guarantee of future results and should not be the sole factor of consideration when selecting a product or strategy. The expected proportion of the NAV of a Fund subject to securities lending may consist in a range rather than a bespoke figure because of the fluctuating demand of the market, it being understood that such a demand cannot be forecasted precisely and is not constant but highly dependent on market conditions as further described below.

**Market Conditions**

Investors' attention is drawn to the fact that borrowing demand fluctuates over time and depends to a large extent on market factors that cannot be forecasted precisely. Therefore, due to fluctuations in borrowing demand in the market, future lending volumes could fall outside of the range indicated in the expected proportion of the Net Asset Value in the table below. For the avoidance of doubt, the maximum proportion of the Net Asset Value of the Funds that can be subject to securities lending is a strict limit.

Demand is driven primarily by large banks and broker-dealers on behalf of their clients, including other banking institutions or hedge funds (all together "**Market Players**").

Securities lending can benefit investors in a number of ways:

(a) Additional revenue;

(b) Increased market liquidity, which can reduce trading costs;

(c) Provide a mechanism for efficient price discovery reducing price volatility.

Market Players and end-clients may need to borrow securities and therefore engage into securities lending agreements with a Fund for various reasons such as, but not limited to:

(a) Take active positions or hedge against market risk vis-à-vis a short sale;

(b) Collateral management;

(c) Using borrowed securities to raise short-term finance;

(d) Facilitating the settlement of financial contracts requiring the delivery of a security that could fail otherwise;

(e) Market making.

Changes in a, b, c, d or e over time may trigger higher or lower borrowing demand and therefore lead to an increase or decrease in the exposure of a Fund to securities lending activities. Changes in demand for a, b, c, d or e may be cumulative or independent of each other.

The types of assets that may be subject to SFTs, total return swaps and include equity securities, fixed income securities, collective investment schemes, money market instruments and cash. Use of such assets is subject to a Fund's investment objective and policy.

**Counterparty Selection & Review**

**Repurchase transactions**
The Investment Advisers select from an extensive list of full service and execution-only brokers and counterparties. All prospective and existing counterparties require the approval of the Counterparty Risk Group ("CRG"), which is part of BlackRock's independent Risk & Quantitative Analysis department ("RQA").

In order for a new counterparty to be approved, a requesting portfolio manager or trader is required to submit a request to the CRG. The CRG will review relevant information to assess the credit-worthiness of the proposed counterparty in combination with the type and settlement and delivery mechanism of the proposed security transactions. The counterparties to these transactions must be subject to prudential supervision rules considered by the CSSF to be equivalent to those prescribed by EU law. The counterparties will be entities with legal personality typically located in the EEA or in a country belonging to the Group of Ten or have at least an investment grade rating. The counterparties should be subject to ongoing supervision by a regulated authority. If the counterparty does not fulfil any of these criteria, equivalence to EU law will be demonstrated. A list of approved trading counterparties is maintained by the CRG and reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Counterparty reviews also require the Credit Research group to evaluate the capacity of each repurchase agreement counterparty or each security's issuer, to meet its financial obligations, and in doing so, generally considers, to the extent appropriate, the following factors: (1) financial condition (including an examination of recent financial statements, which should include consideration of trends relating to cash flow, revenue, expenses, profitability, short-term debt and total debt service coverage, and leverage, including financial and operating leverage); (2) sources of liquidity (including consideration of bank lines of credit and alternative sources of liquidity); (3) ability to react to future market-wide and issuer- or guarantor-specific events, including ability to repay debt in a highly adverse situation (which should in turn contain analysis of risk from various scenarios, including changes to the yield curve or spreads, especially in a changing interest rate environment); and (4) strength of the issuer or guarantor's competitive position within its industry (including the general consideration of diversification of sources of revenue, if applicable).

Counterparties are monitored on an ongoing basis through the receipt of audited and interim financial statements, via alert portfolios with market data service providers, and where applicable, as part of BlackRock's internal research process. Formal renewal assessments are performed on a cyclical basis.

The Investment Advisers select brokers based upon their ability to provide good execution quality (i.e. trading), whether on an agency or a principal basis; their execution capabilities in a particular market segment; and their operational quality and efficiency; and we expect them to adhere to regulatory reporting obligations.

Once a counterparty is approved by the CRG, broker selection for an individual trade is then made by the relevant dealer at the point of trade, based upon the relative importance of the relevant execution factors. For some trades, it is appropriate to enter into a competitive tender amongst a shortlist of brokers.

The Investment Advisers perform pre-trade analysis to forecast transaction cost and to guide the formation of trading strategies including selection of techniques, division between points of liquidity, timing and selection of broker. In addition, the Investment Advisers monitor trade results on a continuous basis.

Broker selection will be based on a number of factors including, but not limited to the following:

- Ability to execute and execution quality;
- Ability to provide liquidity/capital;
- Price and quote speed;
- Operational quality and efficiency; and
- Adherence to regulatory reporting obligations.

The Securities Financing Transaction Regulation 2015 (2015/2365) ("SFTR") contains requirements in relation to the selection of counterparties and the eligibility, safekeeping and reuse of collateral. These requirements are set out in Appendix A.

**Securities Lending**
The securities lending agent is authorised to lend to counterparties who have been approved by the CRG. The list of approved counterparties is maintained by the CRG and reviewed on an ongoing basis. The counterparties to these transactions must be subject to prudential supervision rules considered by the CSSF to be equivalent to those prescribed by EU law. The counterparties will be entities with legal personality typically located in the EEA or in a country belonging to the Group of Ten or have at least an investment grade rating. The counterparties should be subject to ongoing supervision by a regulated authority. If the counterparty does not fulfil any of these criteria, equivalence to EU law should be demonstrated. A list of approved trading counterparties is maintained by the CRG and reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Counterparty reviews take into account the fundamental creditworthiness (ownership structure, financial strength, regulatory oversight) and commercial reputation of specific legal entities in conjunction with the nature and structure of proposed trading activities. Counterparties are monitored on an ongoing basis through the receipt of audited and interim financial statements, via alert portfolios with market data service providers, and where applicable, as part of BlackRock's internal research process.

As securities lending does not involve the execution of orders to trade but rather the allocation of loan requests submitted by brokers, BlackRock agrees and settles a requested trade provided the broker has been approved, the value of the proposed transaction does not exceed the aggregate value of loans permitted, and any other execution factor considerations have been met.

**Returns generated by SFTs**
All returns generated from the use of repurchase transactions and total return swaps will be paid to the relevant Fund.

In relation to securities lending only, the securities lending agent, BlackRock Advisors (UK) Limited, receives remuneration in relation to its

activities. Such remuneration amounts to 37.5% of the gross revenue from the securities lending activities, with all direct and indirect costs borne out of BlackRock's share. The relevant Funds receive 62.5% of the gross revenue from the securities lending activities. The securities lending agent is a related party to the Management Company.

**Proportions of Fund property subject to SFTs**

The table below specifies the maximum and expected proportion of the Net Asset Value of a Fund that can be subject to securities financing transactions for the purposes of the SFTR and is set at the discretion of the Investment Adviser. Investors should note that a limitation of maximum securities lending levels by a Fund, at a time when demand exceeds those maximum levels, may reduce potential income to a Fund that is attributable to securities lending. The expected proportion is not a limit and the actual percentage may vary over time depending on factors including, but not limited to, market conditions. The maximum figure is a limit.

| No. | FUND | TRS (in aggregate*) Maximum/Expected proportion of the NAV (%) | Securities Lending** Maximum****/Expected proportion of the NAV (%) | Repurchase Transactions Maximum/Expected proportion of the NAV (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Asian Dragon Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 11 | 0/0 |
| 2. | Asian Growth Leaders Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 7 | 0/0 |
| 3. | Asian High Yield Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 4. | Asian Multi-Asset Income Fund | 70/30 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 5. | Asian Sustainable Equity Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 6. | Asian Tiger Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 7. | Brown To Green Materials Fund | 0/0 | 49/up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 8. | China Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 9. | China Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 12 | 0/0 |
| 10. | China Impact Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 10 | 0/0 |
| 11. | China Innovation Fund | 40/0-15 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 12. | China Multi-Asset Fund | 10/0 | 0/0 | 0/0 |
| 13. | China Onshore Bond Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 14. | Circular Economy Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 15. | Climate Action Equity Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 29 | 0/0 |
| 16. | Climate Action Multi-Asset Fund | 25/0-10 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 17. | Climate Global Corporate Bond Fund | 40/0 | 49/up to 25 | 0/0 |
| 18. | Continental European Flexible Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 14 | 0/0 |
| 19. | Developed Markets Sustainable Equity Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 20. | Dynamic High Income Fund | 10/0 | 49/ up to 49 | 0/0 |
| 21. | Emerging Europe Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 22. | Emerging Markets Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 23. | Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 24. | Emerging Markets Equity Income Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 10 | 0/0 |
| 25. | Emerging Markets Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | N/A | 49/up to 40 | N/A |
| 26. | Emerging Markets Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 15 | 0/0 |
| 27. | Emerging Markets Impact Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 28. | Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 29. | Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 10 | 0/0 |
| 30. | ESG Flex Choice Cautious Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 31. | ESG Flex Choice Growth Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 32. | ESG Flex Choice Moderate Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 33. | ESG Global Conservative Income Fund | 10/0 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 34. | ESG Global Multi-Asset Income Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 49 | 0/0 |
| 35. | ESG Multi-Asset Fund | 140/100 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 36. | Euro Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 37. | Euro Corporate Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |

| No. | FUND | TRS (in aggregate*) Maximum/Expected proportion of the NAV (%) | Securities Lending** Maximum****/Expected proportion of the NAV (%) | Repurchase Transactions Maximum/Expected proportion of the NAV (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 38. | Euro High Yield Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | N/A | 49/ up to 40 | N/A |
| 39. | Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (1) | N/A | 49/ up to 40 | N/A |
| 40. | Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (2) | N/A | 49/ up to 40 | N/A |
| 41. | Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2029 | N/A | 49/ up to 40 | N/A |
| 42. | Euro Reserve Fund | 0/0 | 0/0 | 10***/0 |
| 43. | Euro Short Duration Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 44. | Euro-Markets Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 24 | 0/0 |
| 45. | European Equity Income Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 16 | 0/0 |
| 46. | European Focus Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 10 | 0/0 |
| 47. | European Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 11 | 0/0 |
| 48. | European High Yield Bond Fund | 10/0 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 49. | European Special Situations Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 15 | 0/0 |
| 50. | European Sustainable Equity Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 51. | European Value Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 12 | 0/0 |
| 52. | FinTech Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 53. | Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund | 25/0-10 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 54. | Future Consumer Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 55. | Future Of Transport Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 56. | Global Allocation Fund | 25/15 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 57. | Global Corporate Bond Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 58. | Global Equity Income Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 14 | 0/0 |
| 59. | Global Government Bond Fund | 10/0-2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 60. | Global High Yield Bond Fund | 10/3 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 61. | Global Inflation Linked Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 62. | Global Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | N/A | 49/ up to 40 | N/A |
| 63. | Global Listed Infrastructure Fund | 40/ up to 10 | 49/ up to 39 | N/A |
| 64. | Global Long-Horizon Equity Fund | 10/0 | 49/ up to 17 | 0/0 |
| 65. | Global Multi-Asset Income Fund | 10/0 | 49/ up to 49 | 0/0 |
| 66. | Global Unconstrained Equity Fund | 50/0 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 67. | Impact Bond Fund | 10/0-2 | 49/ up to 22 | 0/0 |
| 68. | India Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 69. | Japan Flexible Equity Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 35 | 0/0 |
| 70. | Japan Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 27 | 0/0 |
| 71. | Latin American Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 72. | Multi-Theme Equity Fund | 10/0 | 0/0 | 0/0 |
| 73. | Natural Resources Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 22 | 0/0 |
| 74. | Next Generation Health Care Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 75. | Next Generation Technology Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 76. | Nutrition Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 77. | Social Action Equity Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 78. | Sustainable Asian Bond Fund | 25/ 0-5 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 79. | Sustainable Emerging Markets Blended Bond Fund | 30/15 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 80. | Sustainable Emerging Markets Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |

| No. | FUND | TRS (in aggregate*) Maximum/Expected proportion of the NAV (%) | Securities Lending** Maximum****/Expected proportion of the NAV (%) | Repurchase Transactions Maximum/Expected proportion of the NAV (%) |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 81. | Sustainable Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 82. | Sustainable Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 83. | Sustainable Energy Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 84. | Sustainable Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund | 25/0-10 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 85. | Sustainable Global Allocation Fund | 25/15 | 49/up to 24 | 0/0 |
| 86. | Sustainable Global Bond Income Fund | 25/0-10 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 87. | Sustainable Global Dynamic Equity Fund | 25/15 | 49/ up to 15 | 0/0 |
| 88. | Sustainable Global Infrastructure Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 20 | 0/0 |
| 89. | Sustainable World Bond Fund | 10/0-2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 90. | Swiss Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 20 | 0/0 |
| 91. | Systematic China A-Share Opportunities Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 10 | 0/0 |
| 92. | Systematic China Environmental Tech Fund | 10/0 | 49/up to 10 | 0/0 |
| 93. | Systematic ESG Multi Allocation Credit Fund | 25/0-10 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 94. | Systematic Global Equity High Income Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 16 | 0/0 |
| 95. | Systematic Global Sustainable Income & Growth Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 25 | 0/0 |
| 96. | Systematic Sustainable Global SmallCap Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 29 | 0/0 |
| 97. | United Kingdom Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 17 | 0/0 |
| 98. | US Basic Value Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 14 | 0/0 |
| 99. | US Dollar Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 100. | US Dollar High Yield Bond Fund | 10/3 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 101. | US Dollar Reserve Fund | 0/0 | 0/0 | 40***/20 |
| 102. | US Dollar Short Duration Bond Fund | 10/2 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 103. | US Flexible Equity Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 10 | 0/0 |
| 104. | US Government Mortgage Impact Fund | 10/3-5 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 105. | US Growth Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 17 | 0/0 |
| 106. | US Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 | N/A | 49/ up to 40 | N/A |
| 107. | US Mid-Cap Value Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 23 | 0/0 |
| 108. | US Sustainable Equity Fund | 40/0-10 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |
| 109. | World Energy Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 25 | 0/0 |
| 110. | World Financials Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 20 | 0/0 |
| 111. | World Gold Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 12 | 0/0 |
| 112. | World Healthscience Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 16 | 0/0 |
| 113. | World Mining Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 10 | 0/0 |
| 114. | World Real Estate Securities Fund | 10/10 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |
| 115. | World Technology Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 19 | 0/0 |

*Within the total ranges noted above, the Funds' exposure TRS will vary. Further details of exposures to TRS can be obtained from the Company's registered office.

**The maximum proportion of the Net Asset Value of the Funds that can be subject to securities lending is indicated in the table above. The demand to borrow securities is a significant driver for the amount that is actually lent from a Fund at a given time. Borrowing demand fluctuates over time and depends to a large extent on market factors that cannot be forecasted precisely. Due to fluctuations in borrowing demand in the market, future lending volumes could fall outside of the range indicated as the expected proportion of the Net Asset Value in the table above. For the avoidance of doubt, the maximum proportion of the Net Asset Value of the Funds that can be subject to securities lending is a strict limit.

*** In accordance with Article 15 of MMFR, the assets received as part of a reverse repurchase agreement shall be sufficiently diversified with a maximum exposure to a given issuer of 15% of the MMF's NAV, except where those assets take the form of money market instruments that fulfil the requirements of Article 17(7) of MMFR.

**** It is the intention of the Investment Adviser that maxima are strict limits. It should be noted that such maxima are based on past performances and such past performances can never guarantee future results. In this respect, these maxima may be temporally exceeded should the demand drastically and unpredictably shift to an upward trend in the conditions set forth in the section "Market Conditions" of this Appendix G.

## Summary of Subscription Procedure and Payment Instructions

1. **Application Form**
For initial subscriptions for Shares you must complete the Application Form which may be obtained from the Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing teams and the form must be signed by all joint applicants. Subsequent subscriptions may be made electronically via 'straight through process' (STP), or if this option is unavailable then by fax (followed by original via post) and the Management Company may, at its sole discretion, accept individual dealing orders submitted via other forms of electronic communication at, stating your registration details and the amount to be invested. If your application is being submitted by your professional adviser, section 5 of the Application Form should be completed. Completed application forms must be sent to the Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing teams.

2. **Money Laundering Prevention**
Please read the notes on the application form regarding the identification documents required and ensure that you provide these to the Transfer Agent or the local Investor Servicing teams together with your application form.

3. **Payment**
A copy of your telegraphic transfer instructions should be supplied with your application (see sections 4 and 5 below).

4. **Payment by Telegraphic Transfer**
Payment by SWIFT/bank transfer in the relevant currency should be made to one of the accounts opposite. The SWIFT/bank transfer instruction should contain the following information:

(i) Bank Name
(ii) SWIFT Code or Bank Identifier
(iii) Account (IBAN)
(iv) Account Number
(v) Account Reference – "BGF – Fund name subscribed into and BGF account number / contract reference number"
(vi) By order of Shareholder name/agent name & Shareholder number/agent number

An applicant's obligation to pay for Shares is fulfilled once the amount due has been paid in cleared funds into this account.

5. **Foreign Exchange**
If you wish to make payment in a currency other than that in the Dealing Currency (or one of the Dealing Currencies) of your chosen Fund, this must be made clear at the time of application.

6. **Bank Details**
All information regarding bank details and settlement instructions can be found under the following links:

https://www.blackrock.com/uk/intermediaries/literature/investor-education/bgf-bsf-bgif-standard-settlement-instructions-emea.pdf

https://www.blackrock.com/uk/individual/literature/investor-education/bgf-bsf-bgif-standard-settlement-instructions-emea.pdf

https://www.blackrock.com/institutions/en-gb/literature/investor-education/bgf-bsf-bgif-standard-settlement-instructions-insti-en.pdf

## Appendix H – SFDR Pre-Contractual Disclosure

This Appendix comprises the pre-contractual disclosure "PCDs" for those Funds classified as Article 8 or Article 9 products pursuant to the SFDR. These PCDs are intended to ensure that all sustainability claims of relevant Funds are supported with information and that this is done in a way that enables investors to compare funds. The form of disclosure is mandated by the European Commission and the Management Company is not permitted to amend or deviate from the template.

The PCDs introduce some new terms to the prospectus (some are described below) which should be read alongside the section of this prospectus entitled "Investment Objectives and Policies" and information available on the product pages of the BlackRock website, www.blackrock.com/lu.

Sustainable Investment means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices. It is a term that is strictly defined by the SFDR and so even though an investment might, in everyday terms, be reasonably considered to be in sustainable asset it may not qualify as a Sustainable Investment under the technical definition in the SFDR. Investors should therefore make a personal assessment of the sustainable and ESG characteristics of a Fund prior to investing.

Sustainability indicators measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

Principal adverse impacts are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

Good governance practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

The EU Taxonomy is a classification system, establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities. For the time being, it does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

The following Funds are covered in this Appendix:

Article 8 Funds: Asian Sustainable Equity Fund, Brown To Green Materials Fund, China Fund, China Impact Fund, China Innovation Fund, China Multi-Asset Fund, China Onshore Bond Fund, Climate Global Corporate Bond Fund, Continental European Flexible Fund, Developed Markets Sustainable Equity Fund, Emerging Markets Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027, Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund, ESG Flex Choice Cautious Fund, ESG Flex Choice Growth Fund, ESG Flex Choice Moderate Fund, ESG Global Conservative Income Fund, ESG Global Multi-Asset Income Fund, ESG Multi-Asset Fund, Euro High Yield Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027, Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (1), Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (2), Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2029, Euro Bond Fund, Euro Corporate Bond Fund, Euro Short Duration Bond Fund, Euro-Markets Fund, European Equity Income Fund, European Focus Fund, European Fund, European High Yield Bond Fund, European Special Situations Fund, European Sustainable Equity Fund, European Value Fund, FinTech Fund, Future Consumer Fund, Global Equity income Fund, Global Government Bond Fund, Global High Yield Bond Fund, Global Listed Infrastructure Fund, Global Long-Horizon Equity Fund, Global Unconstrained Equity Fund, Japan Flexible Equity Fund, Japan Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund, Multi-Theme Equity Fund, Next Generation Health Care Fund, Next Generation Technology Fund, Social Action Equity Fund, Sustainable Asian Bond Fund, Sustainable Emerging Markets Blended Bond Fund, Sustainable Emerging Markets Bond Fund, Sustainable Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund, Sustainable Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund, Sustainable Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund, Sustainable Global Allocation Fund, Sustainable Global Bond Income Fund, Sustainable Global Dynamic Equity Fund, Sustainable World Bond Fund, Swiss Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund, Systematic China A-Share Opportunities Fund, Systematic ESG Multi Allocation Credit Fund, Systematic Global Sustainable Income & Growth Fund, Systematic Sustainable Global SmallCap Fund, Systematic China Environmental Tech Fund, United Kingdom Fund, US Dollar High Yield Bond Fund, US Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027, US Sustainable Equity Fund, US Growth Fund, US Flexible Equity Fund, World Financials Fund, World Healthscience Fund and World Technology Fund

Article 9 Funds: Circular Economy Fund, Climate Action Equity Fund, Climate Action Multi-Asset Fund, Emerging Markets Impact Bond Fund, Future Of Transport Fund, Impact Bond Fund, Nutrition Fund, Sustainable Energy Fund, Sustainable Global Infrastructure Fund, and US Government Mortgage Impact Fund.

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Asian Sustainable Equity Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 5493001IS0X9SBX98411

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

*__Sustainable investment__ means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The __EU Taxonomy__ is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of __environmentally sustainable economic activities__. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

This Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3



NM0324U-3453640-220/808

includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity relative to the Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions based on the enterprise value including cash (EVIC) across the Fund's holding of capital invested in a company across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in: the production and retail sales of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; the mining, production and supply activities related to nuclear power, the production of adult entertainment materials, unconventional oil and gas production, and, the production of conventional weapons. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The ESG criteria also consists of a rating of B or higher as defined by MSCI's ESG Intangible Value Assessment Ratings or another equivalent third party ESG data provider.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  This Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights . Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies.
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled, or whose main business is, in Asia (excluding Japan) in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable investing.

The Investment Adviser applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and other exclusionary criteria to the investable universe.

The Investment Adviser uses fundamental analysis to map companies' revenues and activities to environmental and social objectives to identify Sustainable Investments.

The investment decisions are based on the Investment Adviser's fundamental research focusing on bottom up (i.e. company-specific) analysis, inclusive of financial and non-financial metrics. This approach aims to identify and select equity and equity-related securities that can, through a concentrated portfolio, reflect the Investment Adviser's conviction to deliver the Fund's investment objective.

Companies in the portfolio are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their sustainability characteristics and their ability to manage ESG risks and opportunities. The Investment Adviser engages with companies to support improvement in their environmental, social and governance ("ESG") credentials.

The Investment Adviser uses its analysis to create a portfolio that seeks to deliver:
- a superior ESG outcome versus the Index
- a carbon emissions intensity score 20 % lower than the Index; and
- an allocation to Sustainable Investments

More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes

The Investment Adviser ensures that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the Index.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

  2. Maintain the Fund's carbon emissions intensity as 20% lower than that of the Fund's Index.

  3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens.

  4. Maintain that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the Index.

  5. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

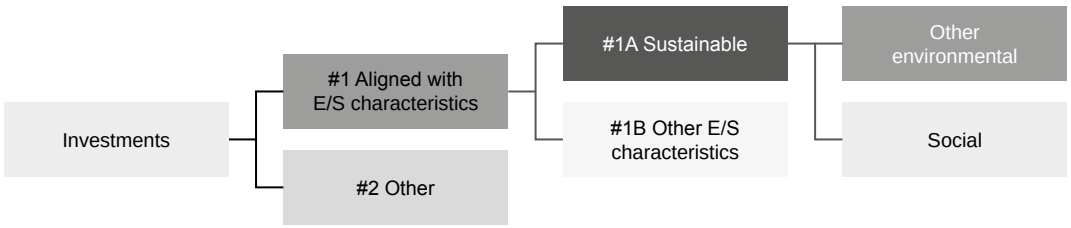
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

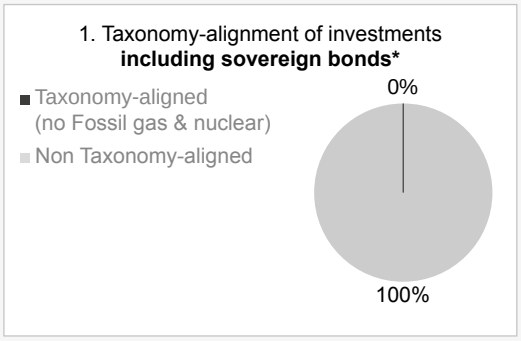
☐ Yes

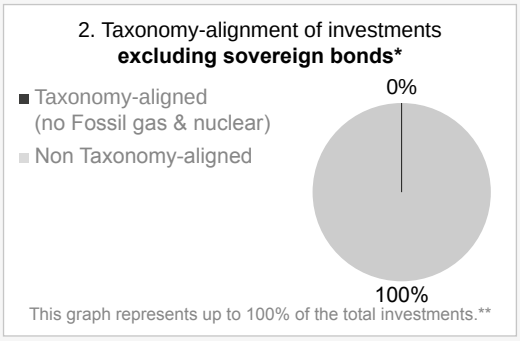
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI AC Asia ex Japan Index is to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

**Product name: Brown To Green Materials Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 529900LYRM65RB7W2C49**

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

*__Sustainable investment__ means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The __EU Taxonomy__ is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of __environmentally sustainable economic activities__. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally that directly contribute to the transitioning materials theme. The transitioning materials theme covers the need for materials to build lower carbon technologies and efforts to reduce the emissions intensity of the materials sector.

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's holdings in investments aligned to the transitioning materials theme, as described above.
2. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
3. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
4. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

This Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

BlackRock makes use of internal analysis and third-party data sources to measure how issuers negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights

at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through its alignment to the transitioning materials theme and the application of its exclusionary policy.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies.
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally that directly contribute to the transitioning materials theme. The transitioning materials theme covers the need for materials to build lower carbon technologies and efforts to reduce the emissions intensity of the materials sector.

The Fund will aim to invest in line with the principles of the transition theme as determined by the Investment Adviser (having regard to specialist third party information sources as appropriate). In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation, across all industry sectors, that contribute to the advancement of the transition theme across three categories: (i) Emission Reducers: Companies supplying materials that have a plan to reduce their carbon emissions intensity over a defined period; (ii) Enablers: Producers of materials that enable the world to transition to a lower carbon global economy (e.g. lithium) and companies providing solutions that enable materials companies to reduce their emissions intensity. Materials that enable the transition may be assessed based on end market use at a company level (i.e. percentage of the materials produced by that company used to build lower carbon technologies) where such data is available or it may be based on end market use at a global industry level that is not specific to individual producers (e.g. the percentage of total global lithium supply that is used to build lower carbon technologies); (iii) Green Leaders: Companies producing materials with below average carbon emissions intensity for their particular industry (e.g. within the steel industry).

References to materials above include materials that enable transition to a lower carbon economy and also materials for which lower carbon technologies are not a key demand driver.

The assessment of a company's benefit from and/or contribution to the advancement of transition theme in each of the above categories may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to the transition theme regardless of the amount of revenue received. The companies are rated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the

risks and opportunities associated with the transition theme and on their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials. The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying securities of derivatives used by the Fund.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 80% in investments aligned to the transitioning materials theme.
  2. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  3. Apply the exclusionary screens.
  4. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

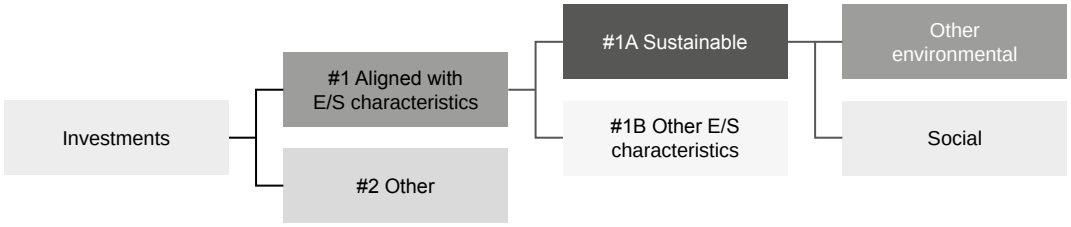
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

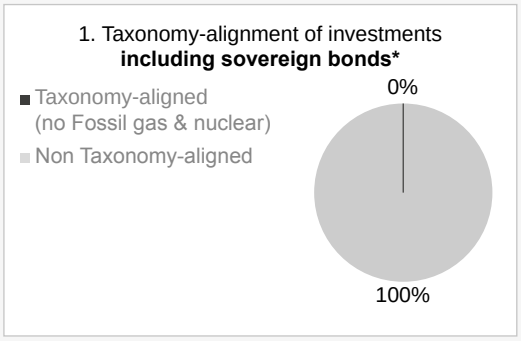
☐ Yes

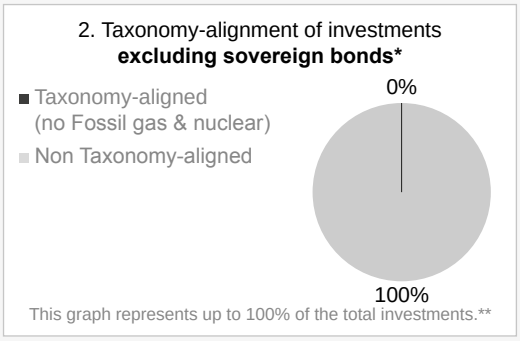
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: China Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300835EE70C7CKG16

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

  *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

  The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

  *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, the People's Republic of China. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

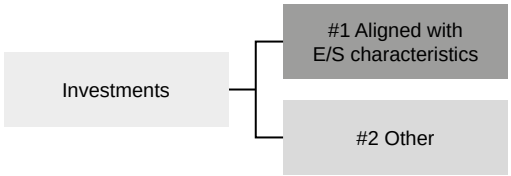
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

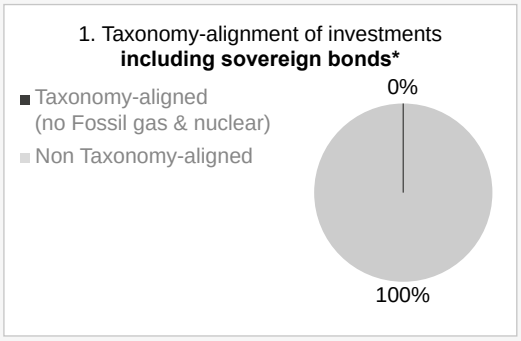
☐ Yes

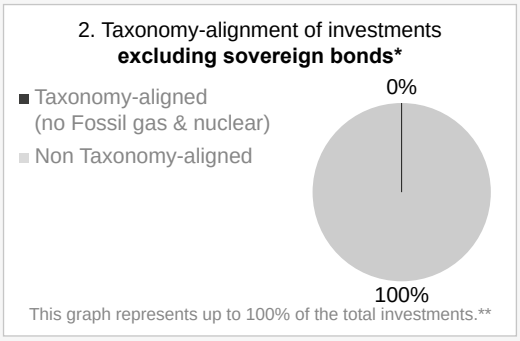
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: China Impact Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 5493007HPC5SZWZ17R10

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 80% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 80% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to lower the greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative its benchmark, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions based on emissions based on the enterprise value including cash (EVIC) across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and

distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.

The Investment Adviser will not invest directly in securities of issuers involved in: the production and retail sales of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; the production of adult entertainment materials; the production of conventional weapons; companies with any reserves in oil, oil shale, oil sands, coal, thermal coal or tar sands; and companies with thermal coal-based power generation.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI China 10/40 Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  3. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  4. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  This Fund invests at least 80% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights . Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies.
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in a portfolio of equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their activity in, or from, the People's Republic of China (PRC) and whose goods and services seek to address China's social and environmental problems.

The Fund invests in "impact" investments which are those made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and/or environmental impact alongside a financial return.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. Whilst not applying a specific exclusionary investment screen, the Investment Adviser will look to avoid direct investment in companies that are

the highest carbon emitters as measured by emission intensity and the Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a lower carbon emissions intensity score than its benchmark. The Investment Adviser will not invest directly in securities of issuers involved in: the production and retail sales of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; the production of adult entertainment materials; the production of conventional weapons; companies with any reserves in oil, oil shale, oil sands, coal, thermal coal or tar sands; and companies with thermal coal-based power generation.

Investment decisions will be based on company-specific research (such as relative valuation, strength of earnings, quality of balance sheet and cashflow trends) to identify and select the equity and equity related securities described above that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, have the potential to produce attractive long term returns across "Impact Themes" which are mapped to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("UN SDGs"). The UN SDGs are a series of goals published by the United Nations who recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with improvements in health, education, and economic growth, reduction in inequalities, all whilst tackling climate change and working to preserve the planet's oceans and forests, as set out in more detail on the UN website: https://sdgs.un.org/goals. The Fund will aim to diversify its investments across companies that have an impact on people and the planet (the "Impact Categories") across themes including, but not limited to, affordable housing, education and skilling, financial and digital inclusion, public health, safety and security, efficiency, electrification and digitalisation, green energy, pollution remediation and prevention, sustainable food and water. The Investment Adviser considers such companies to be Sustainable Investments. The Fund may hold concentrated positions within one or more of the Impact Themes and is expected to invest in companies across all market capitalisations.

More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes. The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a lower carbon emissions intensity score 20% lower than its Index. This was chosen as it most fairly represents the Fund's investible universe breadth across both the onshore and offshore China equity markets.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 80% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Maintain the Fund's carbon emissions intensity as 20% lower than that of the Fund's Benchmark.
  3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens.
  4. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

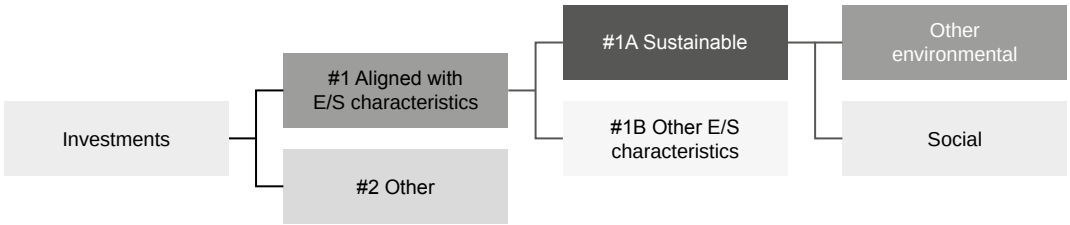
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

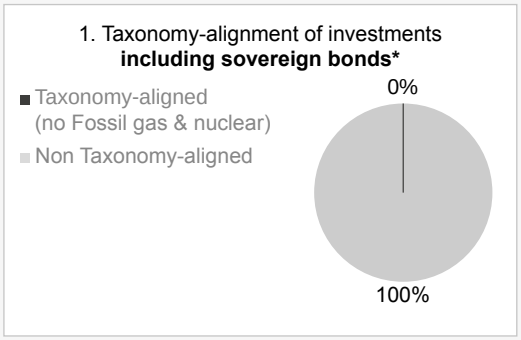
☐ Yes

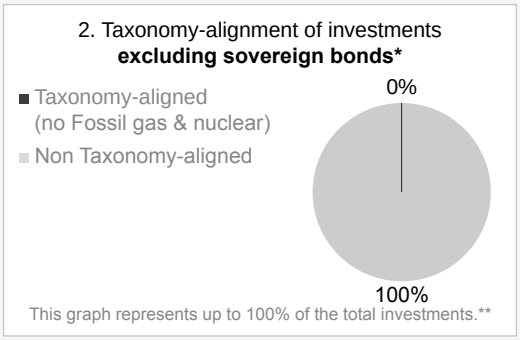
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI China 10/40 Index is to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: China Innovation Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300LRPLM6J4CVQV44**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

  *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

  The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

  *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to achieve long-term capital growth and invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in a portfolio of equity securities or equity-related securities (including derivatives) of, or giving exposure to companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their activity in, or from, Greater China and whose goods and services are contributing to Greater China's competitive advantage through technology innovation, with a focus on companies that generate revenues from innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence, computing, automation, robotics, technological analytics, e- commerce, payment systems, electric and autonomous vehicles, communications technology and generative design. Greater China refers to the People's Republic of China (PRC) and the Republic of China (Taiwan). In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation. The companies are rated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with Greater China innovation and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials. The assessment of the level of engagement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received. The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models. The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf ) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements. The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

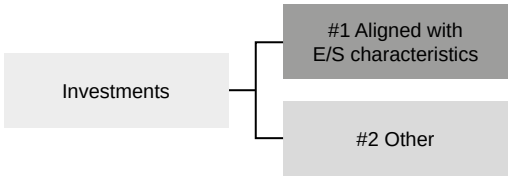
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

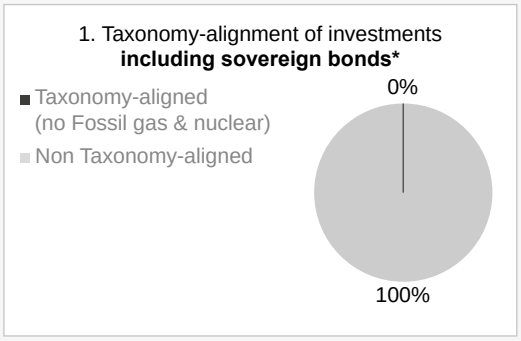
☐ Yes

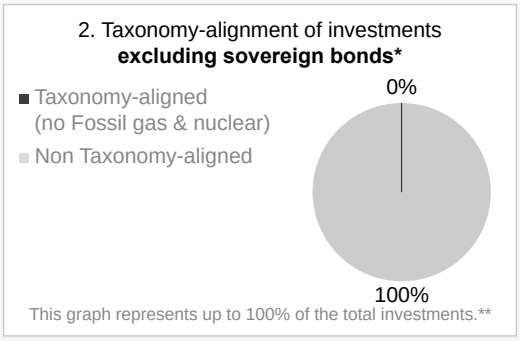
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: China Multi-Asset Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 529900OA8MFVQWXPHV58**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests in Collective Investment Schemes ("CIS") qualifying as Article 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation and investment strategies which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome and do not adopt ESG exclusionary screens solely as their ESG policy, or, in the case of government bond exposures, track benchmark indices incorporating ESG requirements.

Where the Fund holds securities directly, it applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screensin-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's holdings of underlying Collective Investment Schemes and investment strategies meeting the above criteria
2. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
3. For directly held securities, the Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund will invest at least 80% of total assets excluding cash and derivatives in CIS qualifying as Article 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation and investment strategies which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome and do not adopt ESG exclusionary screens solely as their ESG policy, or, in the case of government bond exposures, track benchmark indices incorporating ESG requirements. Where determined appropriate, the Fund may invest directly in derivatives, cash and near-cash instruments.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining companies (i.e. those companies which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the ESG related risks and opportunities associated with their business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits. The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of Collective Investment Schemes and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

Where the Fund holds securities directly, the Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 80% of its holdings, excluding cash and derivatives, in Collective Investment Schemes and investment strategies meeting the above criteria.
  2. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens to directly held securities.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

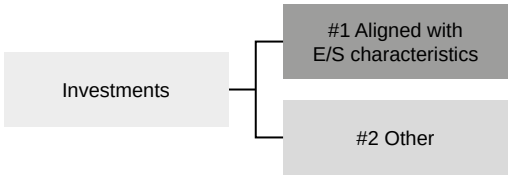
  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Manager, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Manager agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Manager is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Manager's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Manager may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 70% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 30% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

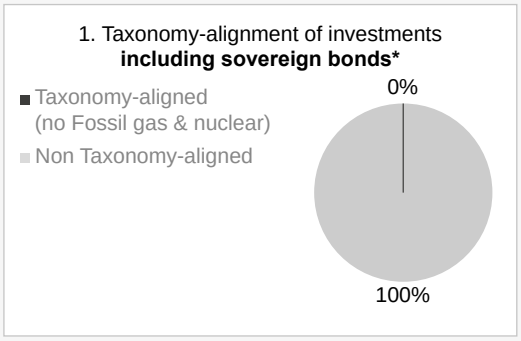
☐ Yes

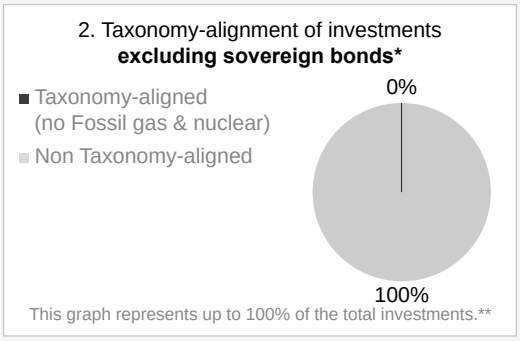
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 30% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: China Onshore Bond Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300Q3DMBDT56WEZ03

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Investors should please note in relation to the screen which covers the UN Global Compact Principles (which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption) that at the time of the launch of this Fund coverage of the investable universe is limited but is expected to improve over time. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The investment strategy reduces the investable universe of the Fund by at least 20%. For the purposes of measuring this reduction only, the RMB credit universe is represented by the China

Bond Credit Bond Index modified to include certificate of deposits and exclude issuers with total outstanding bonds and certificates of deposits of less than RMB 2bn. The Investment Adviser believes this modification fairly represents the asset class' liquid investable universe. For the purposes of measuring this reduction only, the USD Chinese credit universe is represented by the JP Morgan Asia Credit Index – China.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, China Bond Credit Bond Index (modified) and JP Morgan Asia Credit Index – China (modified) are used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in use-of-proceeds bonds, including "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by BlackRock's corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.
  3. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  4. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

  c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

  d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return, integrating environmental, social and governance (ESG) principles in the capital allocation process. At least 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes (excluding MMFs).

The Investment Adviser will reduce the investable universe of the Fund by at least 20%. For the purposes of measuring this reduction only, the RMB credit universe is represented by the China Bond Credit Bond Index modified to include certificate of deposits and exclude issuers with total outstanding bonds and certificates of deposits of less than RMB 2bn. The Investment Adviser believes this modification fairly represents the asset class's liquid investable universe. For the purposes of measuring this reduction only, the USD Chinese credit universe is represented by the JP Morgan Asia Credit Index – China.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. Investors should please note in relation to the screen which covers the UN Global Compact Principles (which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption) that at the time of the launch of this Fund coverage of the investable universe is limited but is expected to improve over time.

The remaining companies (i.e. those companies which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the ESG related risks and opportunities associated with their business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials.

The Investment Adviser also intends to invest at least 20% of the Fund's total assets in "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by its corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively).

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.
  3. Reduce the investable universe of the Fund by at least 20%.
  4. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  The ESG policy (as described above) reduces the investment universe of the Fund by at least 20%.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

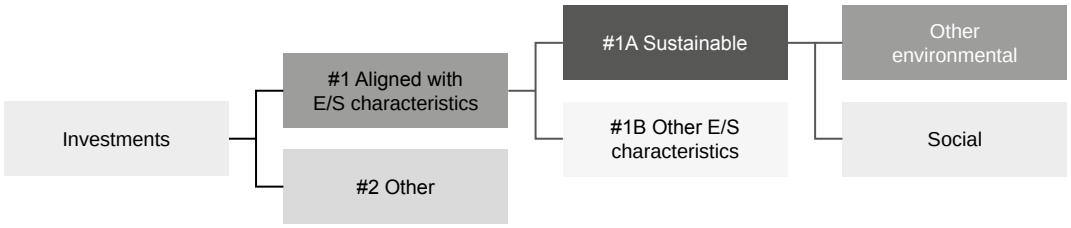
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

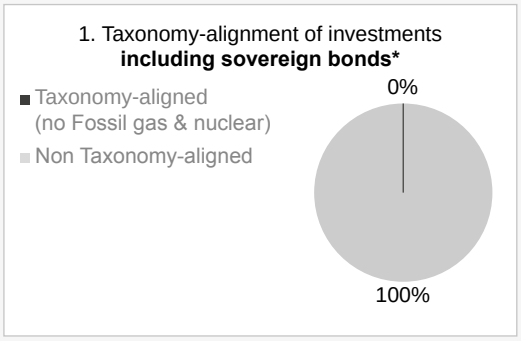
☐ Yes

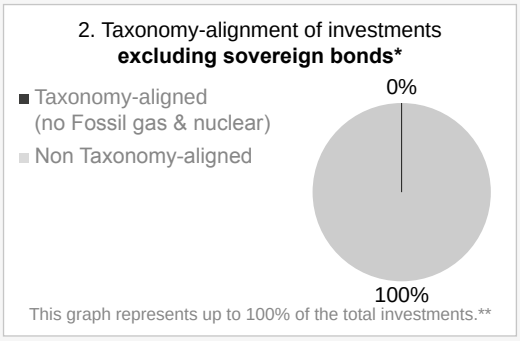
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the China Bond Credit Bond Index (modified) and JP Morgan Asia Credit Index – China (modified) are used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 9, paragraphs 1 to 4a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 5, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Circular Economy Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300DE2JONQNRY6N75**

## Sustainable investment objective

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

| **Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?** | |
|---|---|
| ●● ✔ **Yes** | ●○ ☐ **No** |
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: 15%**<br>☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>✔ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ____% of sustainable investments<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with a social objective |
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: 1%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What is the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?**

The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally that benefit from, or contribute to, the advancement of the “Circular Economy”.

The Circular Economy concept recognises the importance of a sustainable economic system and represents an alternative economic model to the default “make-use-throw away” approach of consumption, which is believed to be unsustainable given scarce resources and the rising cost of managing waste. The Circular Economy concept promotes the redesign of products and systems to minimise waste and to enable greater recycling and reuse of materials.

The Fund invests a minimum of 80% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. The minimum for each Sustainable Investment objective is set out in the box above. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (“Environmental and Social Objectives”).

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) a minimum proportion of the issuer’s business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer’s business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

The Fund considers key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI All Countries World Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the sustainable objectives of this financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?***

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***How do sustainable investments not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

  - *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

    The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

  - *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?*

    Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

This Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund will aim to invest in line with the principles of the Circular Economy as determined by the Investment Adviser (having regard to specialist third party information sources as appropriate). In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation, across all industry sectors, that benefit from the Circular Economy and/or contribute to the advancement of the Circular Economy across three categories:

Adopters: Companies that are adopting 'circularity' in their business operations (e.g. companies involved in sustainable fashion or companies that have made a commitment to use recycled plastics in production processes).

Enablers: Companies that provide new, innovative solutions directly aimed at solving inefficient material use and pollution (e.g. companies involved in recycling of products, companies involved in reducing inputs such as water and energy and companies enabling sustainable transportation).

Beneficiaries: Companies that provide alternatives to materials that cannot be recycled or supply these to the extended value chain (e.g. companies that will see an increase in demand for their products from shifts towards more easily recyclable products and companies that offer natural or plant-based circular alternatives to non-recyclable and non-biodegradable products).

The assessment of a company's benefit from and/or contribution to the advancement of the Circular Economy in each of the above categories may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to the Circular Economy regardless of the amount of revenue received. The companies are rated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the Circular Economy and on their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials. The Investment Adviser considers such companies to be Sustainable Investments.

The Fund adopts a "best in class" approach to sustainable investing. This means that the Fund selects the best issuers (from an ESG perspective) for each relevant sector of activities (without excluding any sector of activities). More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The Investment Adviser uses its analysis to create a portfolio that has a higher ESG rating than the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the Index.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain the sustainable investment objective?***

  The binding elements of the strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that all of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments (save for instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging, which will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets). In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Maintain that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the index.
  3. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation and the minimum share of sustainable investments?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

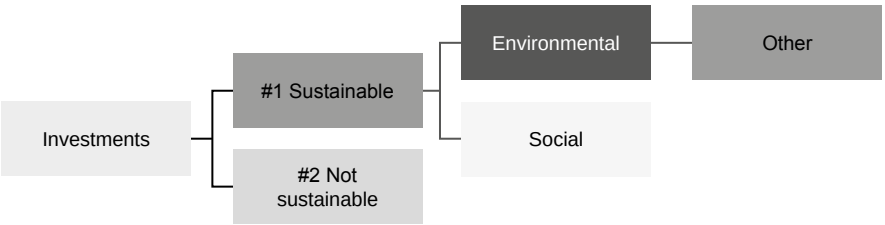
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

All of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments or instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging. Investments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets.

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1 Sustainable). In relation to these Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Not sustainable).




**#1 Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.

**#2 Not sustainable** includes investments which do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the sustainable investment objective?***

Where derivatives are used for investment purposes, they are assessed against the criteria for Sustainable Investments. Derivatives may also be used for limited other purposes such as liquidity and hedging, and any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment in respect of such derivatives.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to invest more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

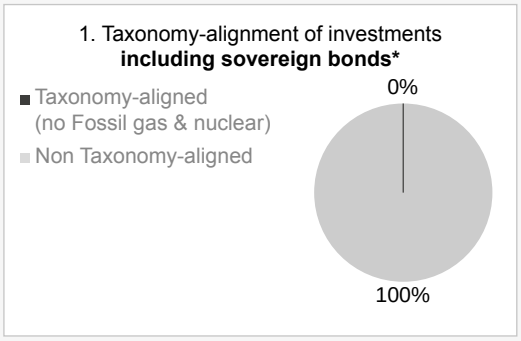
☐ Yes

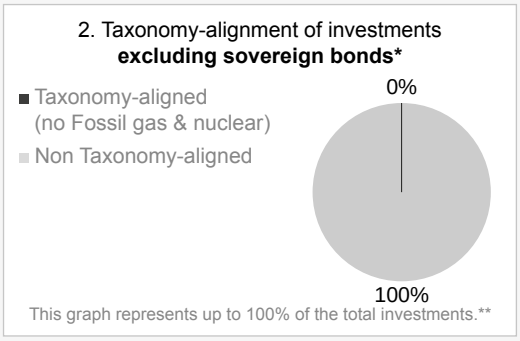
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are environmentally sustainable investments that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with a social objective?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Not sustainable", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

The use of such investments does not affect the delivery of the sustainable investment objective, as these investments are used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the sustainable investment objective.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to meet the sustainable investment objective?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI All Countries World Index is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How does the reference benchmark take into account sustainability factors in a way that is continuously aligned with the sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 9, paragraphs 1 to 4a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 5, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Climate Action Equity Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300CC6UVDVS2UA106

### Sustainable investment objective

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ✔ **Yes** | ●○ ☐ **No** |
|---|---|
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: 15%**<br>☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>✔ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ____% of sustainable investments<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with a social objective |
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: 1%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What is the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally that are expected to enable, and/or benefit from, the transition to a lower greenhouse gas emissions economy and to net zero carbon emissions.

The Fund will focus on companies that are driving the reduction of greenhouse gases across all segments of the market and that provide solutions for the mitigation and/or adaptation of climate change, climate change risk or which are in the process of making their business models more resilient to the long-term risks presented by climate change and resource depletion. In normal market conditions the Fund will seek to invest in a relatively concentrated portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation across multiple sub-themes driven by the climate action theme, including (without limitation) the following: clean power, resource efficiency, sustainable nutrition, biodiversity and clean transport.

The Fund invests a minimum of 80% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. The minimum for each Sustainable Investment objective is set out in the box above. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (“Environmental and Social Objectives”).

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) a minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

The Fund considers key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

The Fund applies a set of exclusionary screens.

The Fund will not invest in companies that are classified in the following sectors (as defined by Global Industry Classification Standard): coal and consumables; oil and gas exploration and production; integrated oil and gas; and tobacco.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI All Countries World Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the sustainable objectives of this financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?***

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  4. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***How do sustainable investments not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

  - *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

    The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

*How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

This Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities (i.e. shares) of companies globally that that are expected to enable, and/or benefit from, the transition to a lower greenhouse gas emissions economy and to net zero carbon emissions.

The Fund will focus on companies that are driving the reduction of greenhouse gases across all segments of the market and that provide solutions for the mitigation and/or adaptation of climate change, change risk or which are in the process of making their business models more resilient to the long-term risks presented by climate change and resource depletion. In normal market conditions the Fund will seek to invest in a relatively concentrated portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation across multiple sub-themes driven by the climate action theme, including (without limitation) the following: clean power, resource efficiency, sustainable nutrition, biodiversity and clean transport. The companies are rated by the Investment Adviser (IA) based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the future climate theme and their environmental, social and governance (ESG) risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials and their alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Investment Adviser considers such companies to be Sustainable Investments.

The Fund adopts a "best in class" approach to sustainable investing. This means that the Fund selects the best issuers (including from an ESG perspective) for each relevant sector of activities (without excluding any sector of activities). More than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The Investment Adviser uses its analysis to create a portfolio that has a higher ESG rating than the MSCI ACWI after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the index.

***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain the sustainable investment objective?***

The binding elements of the strategy are as follows:

1. Maintain that all of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments (save for instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging, which will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets). In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

2. Apply the exclusionary screens.

3. Maintain that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the index.

4. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation and the minimum share of sustainable investments?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

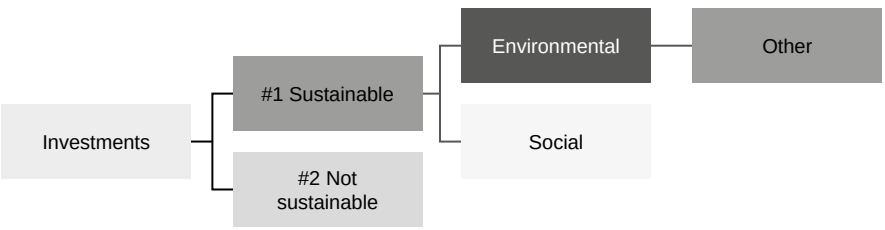
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

All of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments or instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging. Investments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets.

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1 Sustainable). In relation to these Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Not sustainable).




**#1 Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.

**#2 Not sustainable** includes investments which do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the sustainable investment objective?***

Where derivatives are used for investment purposes, they are assessed against the criteria for Sustainable Investments. Derivatives may also be used for limited other purposes such as liquidity and hedging, and any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment in respect of such derivatives.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to invest more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

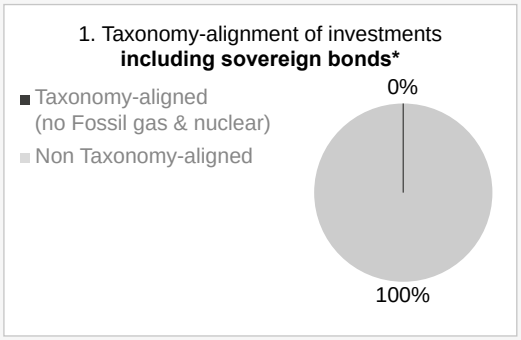
☐ Yes

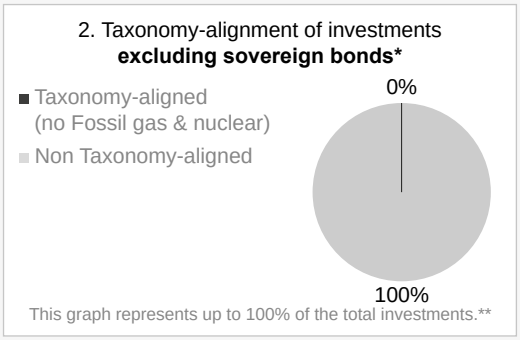
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are environmentally sustainable investments that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with a social objective?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Not sustainable", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

The use of such investments does not affect the delivery of the sustainable investment objective, as these investments are used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the sustainable investment objective.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to meet the sustainable investment objective?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI All Countries World Index is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How does the reference benchmark take into account sustainability factors in a way that is continuously aligned with the sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 9, paragraphs 1 to 4a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 5, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Climate Action Multi-Asset Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300WXHUWHCE8DHR77

### Sustainable investment objective

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ✔ **Yes** | ●○ ☐ **No** |
|---|---|
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: 15%**<br>☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>✔ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ____% of sustainable investments<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with a social objective |
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: 1%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What is the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return by investing in issuers globally that are expected to enable, and/or benefit from, the transition to a lower greenhouse gas emissions economy and to net zero carbon emissions. The Fund will focus on issuers that are driving the reduction of greenhouse gases across all segments of the market and that provide solutions for the mitigation and/or adaptation of climate change, change risk or which are in the process of making their business models more resilient to the long-term risks presented by climate change and resource depletion across multiple sub-themes driven by the climate action theme, including (without limitation) the following: clean power, resource efficiency, sustainable nutrition, biodiversity and clean transport.

The Fund invests a minimum of 80% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. The minimum for each Sustainable Investment objective is set out in the box above. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (“Environmental and Social Objectives”).

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer’s business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer’s business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

This Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

The issuers are rated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the future climate theme and their environmental, social and governance (ESG) risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials and their alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("UN SDGs"). The UN SDGs are a series of goals published by the United Nations which recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with improvements in health, education and economic growth, and a reduction in inequalities, all whilst tackling climate change and working to preserve the planet's oceans and forests. The assessment of the level of engagement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative to benchmark, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions based on the enterprise value including cash (EVIC) across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti- corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI All Country World Index 65% and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index (Hedged to EUR) 35% (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the sustainable objectives of this financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?***

1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.

2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.

3. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.

4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***How do sustainable investments not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

This Fund takes into account all mandatory PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund will focus on issuers that are driving the reduction of greenhouse gases across all segments of the market and that provide solutions for the mitigation and/or adaptation of climate change, change risk or which are in the process of making their business models more resilient to the long-term risks presented by climate change and resource depletion across multiple sub-themes driven by the climate action theme, including (without limitation) the following: clean power, resource efficiency, sustainable nutrition, biodiversity and clean transport.

The issuers are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the future climate theme and their environmental, social and governance (ESG) risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials and their alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("UN SDGs").

The assessment of the level of engagement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The ESG score of the relevant benchmark will be calculated using the ESG scores of the relevant asset class indices weighted to reflect the benchmark allocations. These scores may be quoted for individual asset classes or allocation weighted in marketing material. The benchmark in this instance will be MSCI All Country World Index 65% / Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index (Hedged to EUR) 35% as the appropriate benchmark.

The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the Index. The weighted average ESG rating excludes certain asset classes, such as funds, that are not supported by ESG rating providers. In such cases, the Investment Adviser will assess these holdings to ensure they are in line with the Environmental objective of the Fund. The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a lower carbon emissions intensity score than its benchmark and also intends the Fund to incorporate a year on year decarbonisation rate.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain the sustainable investment objective?***

  The binding elements of the strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that all of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments (save for instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging, which will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets). In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.
  3. Maintain that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the Index.
  4. Maintain the Fund's carbon emissions intensity score is lower than that of the Fund's benchmark and the Fund also intends to incorporate a year on year decarbonisation rate.
  5. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

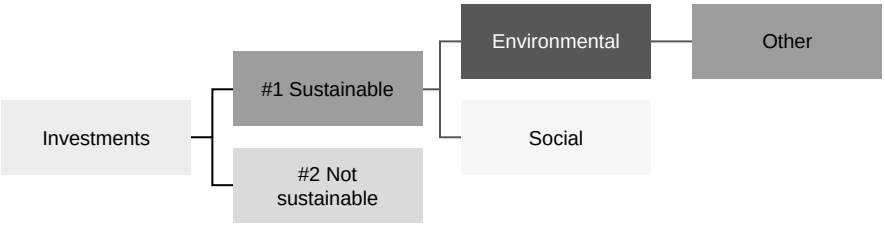
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation and the minimum share of sustainable investments?**

All of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments or instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging. Investments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets.

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1 Sustainable). In relation to these Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Not sustainable).




**#1 Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.

**#2 Not sustainable** includes investments which do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the sustainable investment objective?***

Where derivatives are used for investment purposes, they are assessed against the criteria for Sustainable Investments. Derivatives may also be used for limited other purposes such as liquidity and hedging, and any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment in respect of such derivatives.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to invest more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

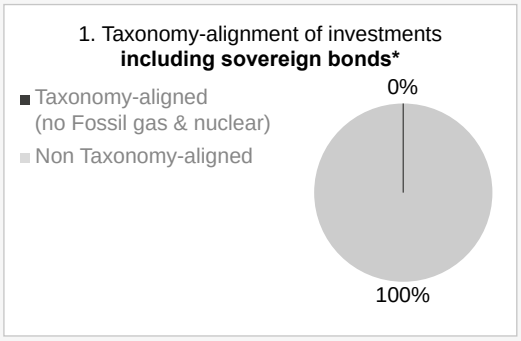
☐ Yes

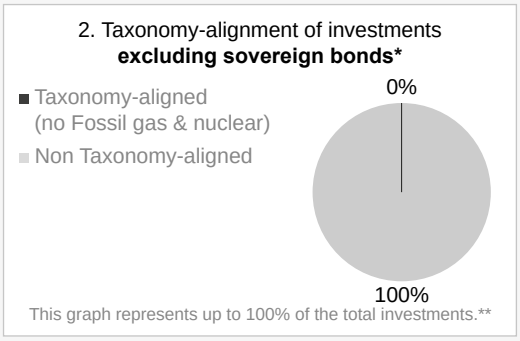
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are environmentally sustainable investments that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with a social objective?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Not sustainable", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

The use of such investments does not affect the delivery of the sustainable investment objective, as these investments are used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the sustainable investment objective.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to meet the sustainable investment objective?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI All Country World Index 65% and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index (Hedged to EUR) 35% is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How does the reference benchmark take into account sustainability factors in a way that is continuously aligned with the sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Climate Global Corporate Bond Fund
## Legal entity identifier: CAGCBF12345671996

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

*__Sustainable investment__ means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The __EU Taxonomy__ is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of __environmentally sustainable economic activities__. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 40% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 40% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or “scopes” by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3

includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative to the Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate USD Hedged Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in use-of-proceeds bonds, including "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by BlackRock's corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.
  3. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund invests at least 40% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, its exclusionary policy and its holdings in green bonds.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- Carbon Footprint
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG" focused investing.

The Fund seeks to reduce its carbon emissions profile by allocating to green bonds, lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers committed to decarbonisation. The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments including but not limited to "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond "Principles" and 90% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (i.e. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities including limiting direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the ownership or operation of gambling related activities or facilities and production of adult entertainment materials. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

The Fund will also apply the following ESG criteria consisting of for corporate issues a score of one or above as defined by MSCI's ESG Controversies score, or their equivalents as determined by the Investment Adviser from time to time (further details regarding MSCI's rating criteria is available on MSCI's website at www.msci.com). The Investment Adviser may use other data providers and criteria to assess the ESG credentials and suitability of securitised assets such as ABS and MBS.

The Fund adopts a "best in class" approach to sustainable investing. This means that the Fund selects the best issuers (from an ESG perspective) for each relevant sector of activities (without excluding any sector of activities). More than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities)) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 40% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the

EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

2. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities compared to the Fund's benchmark while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities.

3. The Investment Adviser intends to achieve a decarbonisation of the Fund's portfolio that aligns with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement through (i) a lower portfolio carbon emission intensity for the Fund relative to the benchmark and (ii) a year-on-year reduction in the carbon emissions intensity of the Fund's portfolio.

4. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

5. Maintain that the Fund's carbon emissions intensity score is lower than the Index.

6. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

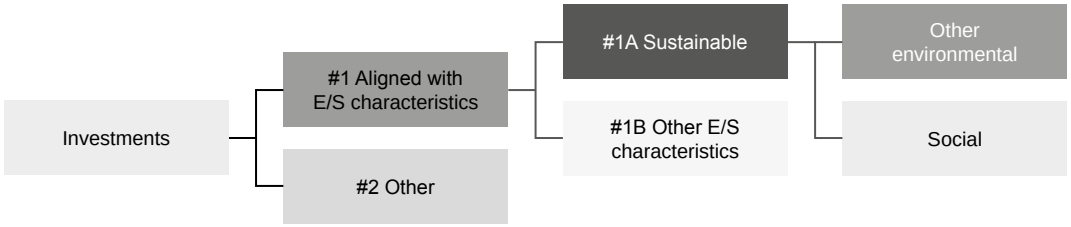
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 90% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 40% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 10% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.


NM0324U-3453640-297808

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

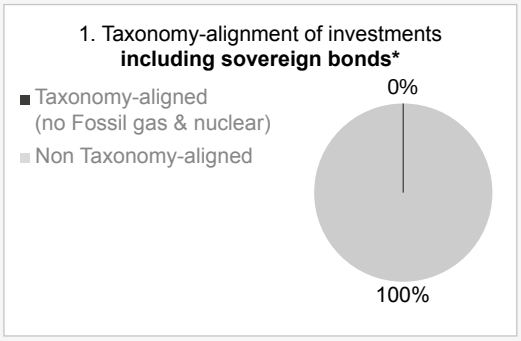
☐ Yes

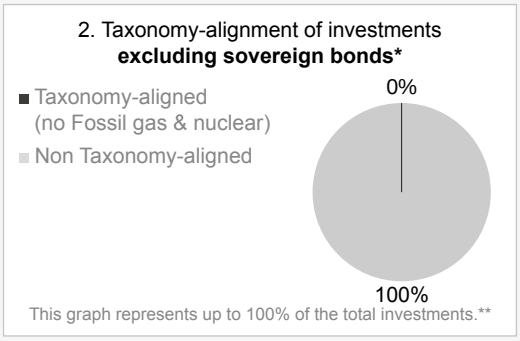
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 10% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate USD Hedged Index is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Continental European Flexible Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300EK4APWIQOV3Y73

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

3. The Fund's holdings of underlying MMFs meeting the above criteria

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to invest in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Europe excluding the UK. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

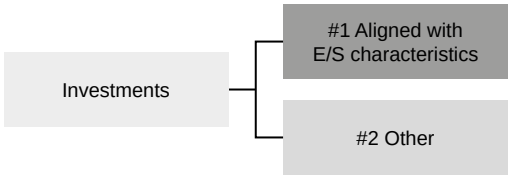
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

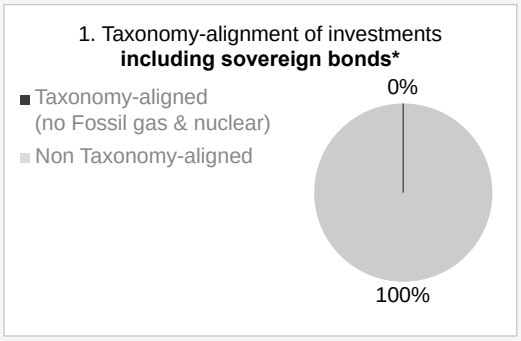
☐ Yes

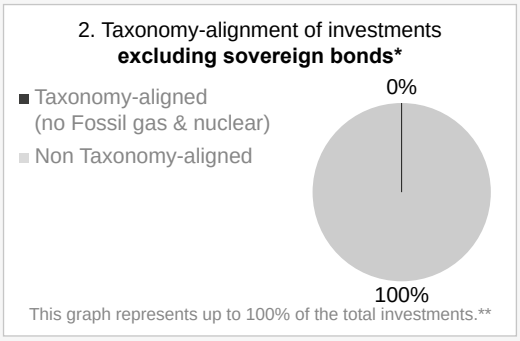
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Developed Markets Sustainable Equity Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300RZN20CR9GE2N37

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

*__Sustainable investment__ means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The __EU Taxonomy__ is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of __environmentally sustainable economic activities__. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 50% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 50% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity relative to the Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions based on the enterprise value including cash (EVIC) across the Fund's holding of capital invested in a company across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production

and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in: the production and retail sales of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; the mining, production and supply activities related to nuclear power, the production of adult entertainment materials, unconventional oil and gas production, and, the production of conventional weapons. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The ESG criteria also consists of a rating of B or higher as defined by MSCI's ESG Intangible Value Assessment Ratings or another equivalent third party ESG data provider.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI World Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  3. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  4. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  This Fund invests at least 50% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights . Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies.
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in, global developed markets in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable investing.

The Investment Adviser applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and other exclusionary criteria to the investable universe.

The Investment Adviser uses fundamental analysis to map companies' revenues and activities to environmental and social objectives to identify Sustainable Investments.

The investment decisions are based on the Investment Adviser's fundamental research focusing on bottom up (i.e. company-specific) analysis, inclusive of financial and non-financial metrics. This approach aims to identify and select equity and equity-related securities that can, through a concentrated portfolio, reflect the Investment Adviser's conviction to deliver the Fund's investment objective.

Companies in the portfolio are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their sustainability characteristics and their ability to manage ESG risks and opportunities. The Investment Adviser engages with companies to support improvement in their environmental, social and governance ("ESG") credentials.

The Investment Adviser uses its analysis to create a portfolio that seeks to deliver:
- a lower carbon emissions intensity score at least 20% lower than the Index; and
- an allocation to Sustainable Investments

More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 50% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
2. Maintain the Fund's carbon emissions intensity as 20% lower than that of the Fund's Index.
3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens.
4. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation

actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

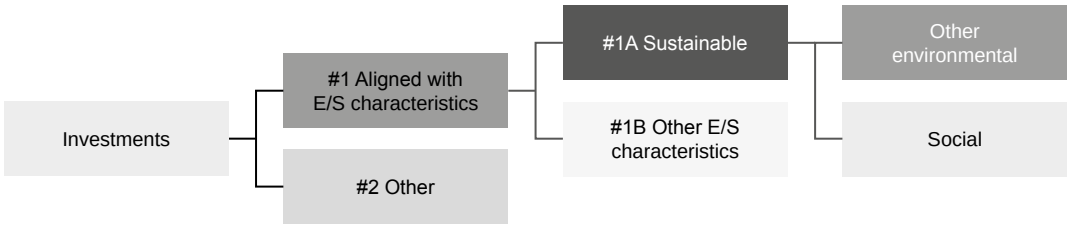
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 50% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

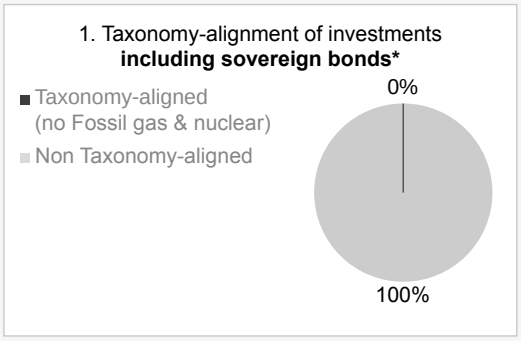
☐ Yes

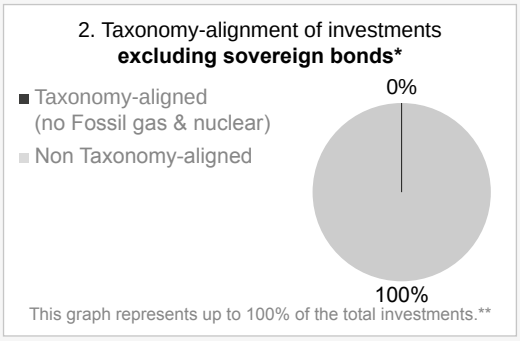
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI World Index is to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Emerging Markets Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027**
**Legal entity identifier: 5299002WE7WDBUUFKW20**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. In addition, the Fund will seek to limit all exposure to issuers involved with the manufacturing and/or sale of conventional weapons. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities, as described above.
  2. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  3. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to provide income, whilst also aiming to preserve the original amount of capital invested and investing in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG"-focused investing. The Fund uses a "buy and maintain" strategy whereby fixed income securities will be held until their fixed maturity dates as part of a low turnover strategy, (subject, among other factors, to ongoing monitoring of credit risk), when their capital will become repayable to the Fund.

In order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund will gradually look to build up its portfolio so that following the Ramp-up Period:

- at least 50% of its Net Asset Value is invested in emerging markets corporate fixed income securities issued by companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in, emerging markets.

- up to 50% of the Fund's Net Asset Value can be invested in bonds and money market instruments (i.e. debt securities with short term maturities) that may be issued by governments and government agencies of, and supranationals domiciled in, or the main business of which is in, emerging markets.; and

- up to 50% of the Fund's Net Asset Value is invested in emerging markets fixed income securities which, at the time of purchase, are rated non-investment grade.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

1. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities during the Investment Period while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities throughout the fixed term.
2. Application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens described above.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

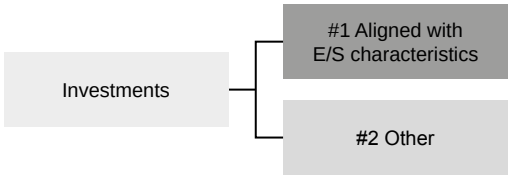
A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

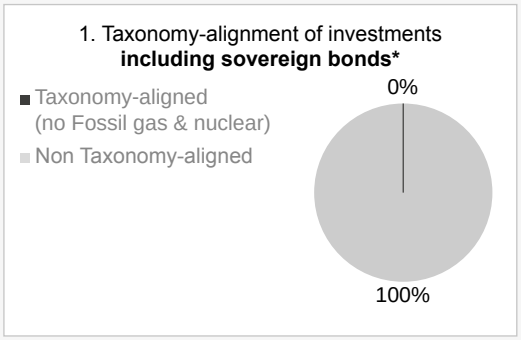
☐ Yes

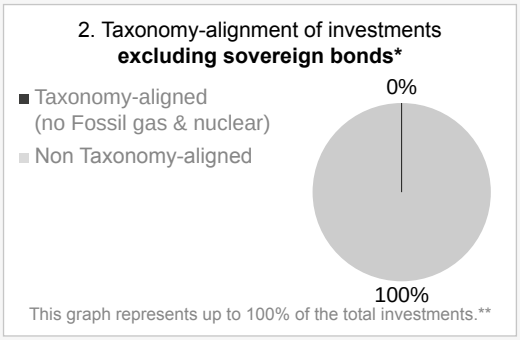
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.


NM0324U-3453640-319/808

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 9, paragraphs 1 to 4a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 5, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Emerging Markets Impact Bond Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 54930082CEG4U885EN40

### Sustainable investment objective

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ✔ **Yes** | ●○ ☐ **No** |
|---|---|
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: 15%**<br>☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>✔ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ____% of sustainable investments<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with a social objective |
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: 1%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What is the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?**

The Fund seeks to invest at least 80% of its total assets in a relatively concentrated global portfolio of “Green, Social and Sustainability” (GSS) bonds issued by governments and agencies of, and companies domiciled or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets, where the proceeds of such GSS bonds are tied to green and socially responsible projects.

The Fund invests in “impact” investments which are those made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and/or environmental impact alongside a financial return.

The Fund invests a minimum of 80% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. The minimum for each Sustainable Investment objective is set out in the box above. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (“Environmental and Social Objectives”).

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer’s business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer’s business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

The Fund applies a set of exclusionary screens.

The Investment Adviser intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers which, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser: have any exposure to, or ties with, controversial weapons; derive more than five per cent of their revenue from the production, distribution, licensing, retail or supply of tobacco or tobacco-related products; the production or distribution of firearms or small arms ammunitions intended for retail civilians; are deemed to have failed to comply with one or more of the ten United Nation Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the sustainable objectives of this financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?***

1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
2. The Fund's holdings in use-of-proceeds bonds, including "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by BlackRock's corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.
3. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
4. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***How do sustainable investments not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments.

Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

This Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund invests in a relatively concentrated global portfolio of "Green, Social and Sustainability" (GSS) bonds issued by governments and agencies of, and companies domiciled or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets, where the proceeds of such GSS bonds are tied to green and socially responsible projects.

The Fund invests in "impact" investments which are those made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and/or environmental impact alongside a financial return. More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

For the selection of GSS bonds, the Investment Adviser will analyse the use of proceeds of the issues and the issuer framework for alignment of the bonds with the Green Bond Principles (GBP), Social Bond Principles (SBP), and Sustainability Bond Guidelines (SBG) of the International Capital Markets Association to determine suitability within the investment universe.

For the entire portfolio, the Investment Adviser will base investment decisions on issuer specific research (such as sovereign and credit analysis comprising a multi factor framework assessing global, country and issuer specific risk to determine issuers' ability and willingness to pay over the long term) to identify and select the GSS bonds and other fixed income securities that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, have the potential to produce attractive long-term returns whilst also being consistent with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("UN SDGs"). The UN SDGs are a series of goals published by the United Nations which recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with improvements in health, education, and economic growth, and a reduction in inequalities, all whilst tackling climate change and working to preserve the planet's oceans and forests. For further details see the UN website: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals).

For the selection of non-GSS bonds, including emerging market corporate bonds and sovereign bonds, the Investment Adviser will only invest in highly rated ESG bonds.

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers which, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser: have any exposure to, or ties with, controversial weapons; derive more than five per cent of their revenue from the production, distribution, licensing, retail or supply of tobacco or tobacco-related products; the production or distribution of firearms or small arms ammunitions intended for retail civilians; are deemed to have failed to comply with one or more of the ten United Nation Global Compact Principles ("UNGC"), which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption.

***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain the sustainable investment objective?***

The binding elements of the strategy are as follows:

1. Maintain that all of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments (save for instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging, which will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets). In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

2. Apply the exclusionary screens.

3. Maintain that the investment strategy reduces the investment universe of the Fund by at least 20%. For the purposes of measuring this reduction only, a combination of the JP Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Index and JPMorgan Corporate Emerging Markets Bond Index is used to define the investment universe.

4. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation and the minimum share of sustainable investments?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

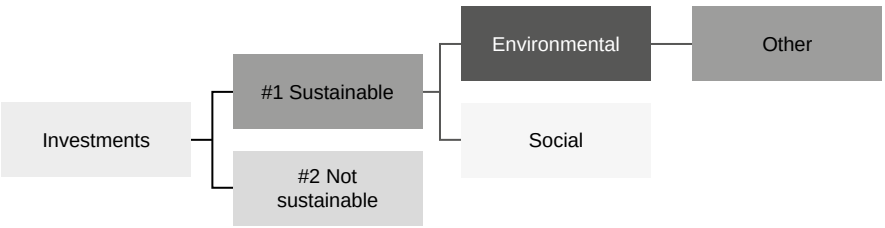
All of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments or instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging. Investments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets.

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1 Sustainable). In relation to these Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Not sustainable).

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.




**#1 Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.

**#2 Not sustainable** includes investments which do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the sustainable investment objective?***

Where derivatives are used for investment purposes, they are assessed against the criteria for Sustainable Investments. Derivatives may also be used for limited other purposes such as liquidity and hedging, and any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment in respect of such derivatives.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

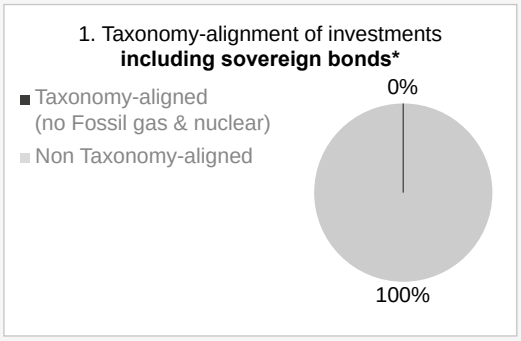
☐ Yes

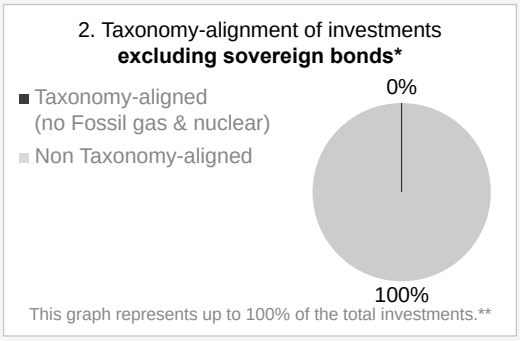
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are environmentally sustainable investments that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with a social objective?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Not sustainable", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

The use of such investments does not affect the delivery of the sustainable investment objective, as these investments are used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the sustainable investment objective.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to meet the sustainable investment objective?**

No.

- ***How does the reference benchmark take into account sustainability factors in a way that is continuously aligned with the sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300LB6Q9I4FRKNM72

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

*__Sustainable investment__ means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The __EU Taxonomy__ is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of __environmentally sustainable economic activities__. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

This Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3

includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity relative to the Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions based on the enterprise value including cash (EVIC) across the Fund's holding of capital invested in a company across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in: the production and retail sales of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; the mining, production and supply activities related to nuclear power, the production of adult entertainment materials, unconventional oil and gas production, and, the production of conventional weapons. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The ESG criteria also consists of a rating of B or higher as defined by MSCI's ESG Intangible Value Assessment Ratings or another equivalent third party ESG data provider.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI Emerging Markets Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  This Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies.
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in, emerging markets in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable investing.

The Investment Adviser applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and other exclusionary criteria to the investable universe.

The Investment Adviser uses fundamental analysis to map companies' revenues and activities to environmental and social objectives to identify Sustainable Investments.

The investment decisions are based on the Investment Adviser's fundamental research focusing on bottom up (i.e. company-specific) analysis, inclusive of financial and non-financial metrics. This approach aims to identify and select equity and equity-related securities that can, through a concentrated portfolio, reflect the Investment Adviser's conviction to deliver the Fund's investment objective.

Companies in the portfolio are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their sustainability characteristics and their ability to manage ESG risks and opportunities. The Investment Adviser engages with companies to support improvement in their environmental, social and governance ("ESG") credentials.

The Investment Adviser uses its analysis to create a portfolio that seeks to deliver:
- a superior ESG outcome versus the Index
- a lower carbon emissions intensity score at least 20% lower than the Index; and
- an allocation to Sustainable Investments

More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes

The Investment Adviser ensures that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the Index.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

  2. Maintain the Fund's carbon emissions intensity as 20% lower than that of the Fund's Index.

  3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens.

  4. Maintain that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the Index.

  5. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

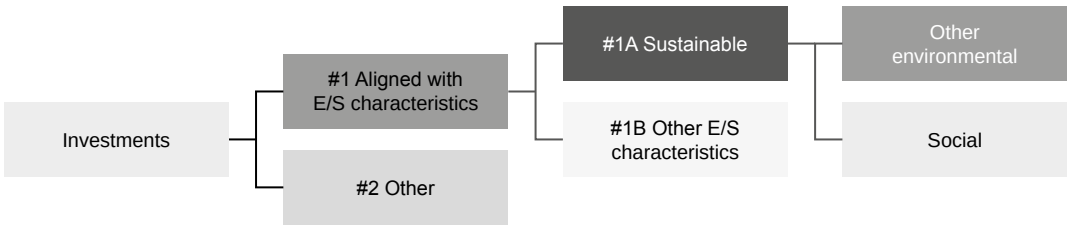
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

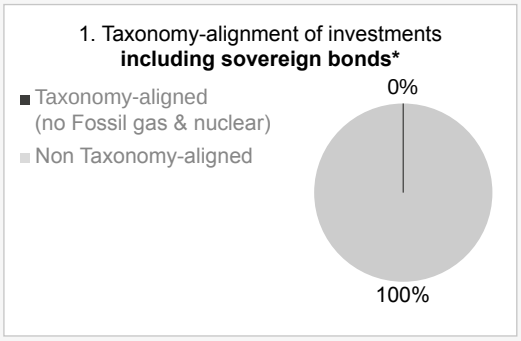
☐ Yes

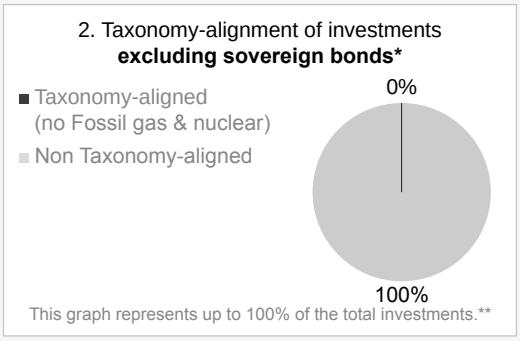
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI Emerging Markets Index is to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: ESG Flex Choice Cautious Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300GIK6JDPSSL3Y45**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests in Collective Investment Schemes ("CIS") qualifying as 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome and do not adopt ESG exclusionary screens solely as their ESG policy, or, in the case of government bond exposures, track benchmark indices incorporating ESG requirements.

This Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative to the Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI All Country World Index (20%) and Bloomberg US Universal Index (80%) (the "Benchmark Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings of underlying Collective Investment Schemes meeting the above criteria
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

  *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

  The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

  *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund will invest at least 80% of total assets in CIS qualifying as Article 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome and do not adopt ESG exclusionary screens solely as their ESG policy, or, in the case of government bond exposures, track benchmark indices incorporating ESG requirements or comprised of bonds issued by governments that have an ESG sovereign rating of at least BB (as defined by third party ESG data vendors).

Furthermore, in order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund incorporates sustainability considerations into the overall investment process. This process is characterised by 3 key aspects: 1) obtain exposure to companies with ESG characteristics by utilising sustainable building blocks (e.g. CIS that align with SFDR Regulation in particular with the requirements set out under Article 8 or 9); 2) construct the Strategic Asset Allocation using BlackRock's climate-aware Capital Market Assumptions; and 3) incorporate dynamic tilts with our proprietary signals developed for sustainable investments.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 80% of its holdings in Collective Investment Schemes meeting the above criteria.
  2. Maintain the Fund's ESG rating as higher than that of the Benchmark Index.
  3. Maintain the Fund's carbon emissions intensity as 20% lower than that of the Fund's Benchmark Index.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  There is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

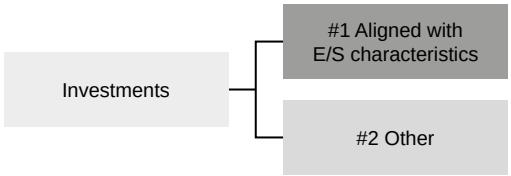
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

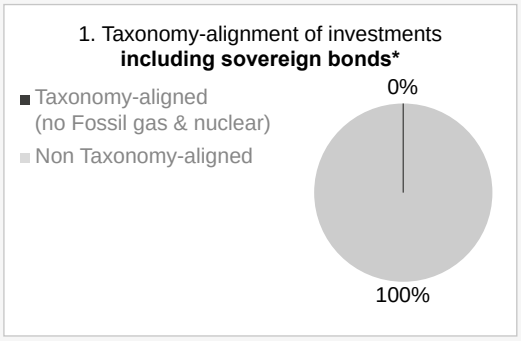
☐ Yes

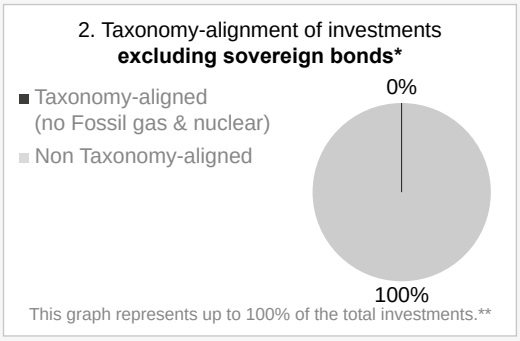
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI All Country World Index (20%) and Bloomberg US Universal Index (80%) is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com.

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: ESG Flex Choice Growth Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300JAHFIHHVLDNH65**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests in Collective Investment Schemes ("CIS") qualifying as 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome and do not adopt ESG exclusionary screens solely as their ESG policy, or, in the case of government bond exposures, track benchmark indices incorporating ESG requirements.

This Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative to the Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI All Country World Index (80%) and Bloomberg US Universal Index (20%) (the "Benchmark Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings of underlying Collective Investment Schemes meeting the above criteria
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

  - *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

    Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

  - *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

    Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

    *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

    The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

    *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund will invest at least 80% of total assets in CIS qualifying as Article 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome and do not adopt ESG exclusionary screens solely as their ESG policy, or, in the case of government bond exposures, track benchmark indices incorporating ESG requirements or comprised of bonds issued by governments that have an ESG sovereign rating of at least BB (as defined by third party ESG data vendors).

Furthermore, in order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund incorporates sustainability considerations into the overall investment process. This process is characterized by 3 key aspects: 1) obtain exposure to companies with ESG characteristics by utilizing sustainable building blocks (e.g. ETFs and Mutual Funds that align with SFDR Regulation in particular with the requirements set out under Article 8 or 9); 2) construct the Strategic Asset Allocation using BlackRock's climate-aware Capital Market Assumptions; and 3) incorporate dynamic tilts with our proprietary signals developed for sustainable investments.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 80% of its holdings in Collective Investment Schemes meeting the above criteria.
  2. Maintain the Fund's ESG rating as higher than that of the Benchmark Index.
  3. Maintain the Fund's carbon emissions intensity as 20% lower than that of the Fund's Benchmark Index.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  There is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

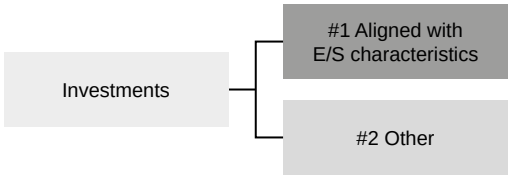
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

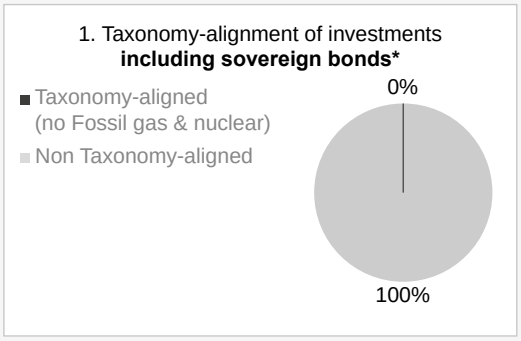
☐ Yes

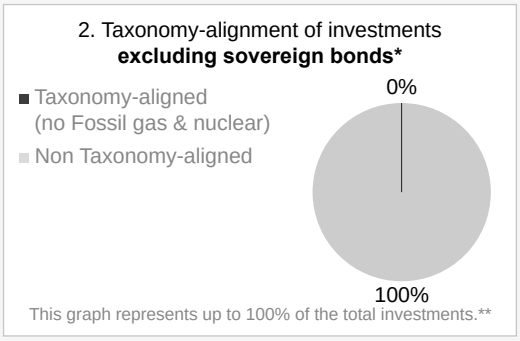
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI All Country World Index (80%) and Bloomberg US Universal Index (20%) is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com.

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: ESG Flex Choice Moderate Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300RNM9YKGQ6BT311**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests in Collective Investment Schemes ("CIS") qualifying as 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome and do not adopt ESG exclusionary screens solely as their ESG policy, or, in the case of government bond exposures, track benchmark indices incorporating ESG requirements.

This Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative to the Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.



NM0324U-3453640-348/808

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI All Country World Index (60%) and Bloomberg US Universal Index (40%) (the "Benchmark Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings of underlying Collective Investment Schemes meeting the above criteria
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

  - *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

    Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

  - *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

    Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

    *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

    The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

    *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund will invest at least 80% of total assets in CIS qualifying as Article 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome and do not adopt ESG exclusionary screens solely as their ESG policy, or, in the case of government bond exposures, track benchmark indices incorporating ESG requirements or comprised of bonds issued by governments that have an ESG sovereign rating of at least BB (as defined by third party ESG data vendors).

Furthermore, in order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund incorporates sustainability considerations into the overall investment process. This process is characterized by 3 key aspects: 1) obtain exposure to companies with ESG characteristics by utilizing sustainable building blocks (e.g. ETFs and Mutual Funds that align with SFDR Regulation in particular with the requirements set out under Article 8 or 9); 2) construct the Strategic Asset Allocation using BlackRock's climate-aware Capital Market Assumptions; and 3) incorporate dynamic tilts with our proprietary signals developed for sustainable investments.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 80% of its holdings in Collective Investment Schemes meeting the above criteria.
  2. Maintain the Fund's ESG rating as higher than that of the Benchmark Index.
  3. Maintain the Fund's carbon emissions intensity as 20% lower than that of the Fund's Benchmark Index.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  There is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

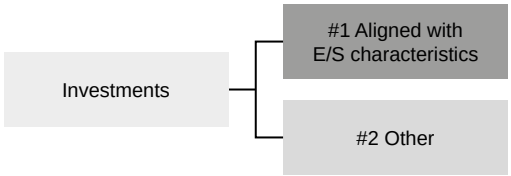
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

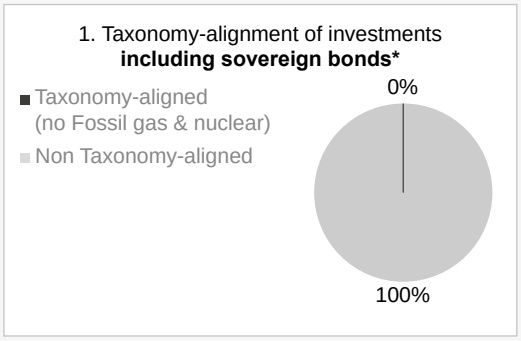
☐ Yes

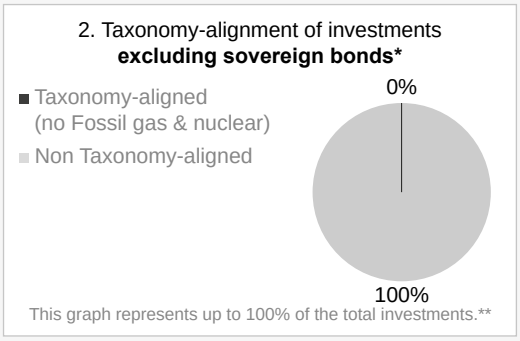
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI All Country World Index (60%) and Bloomberg US Universal Index (40%) is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com.

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: ESG Global Conservative Income Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300EH1PC6M8ZB0B86

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

*__Sustainable investment__ means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The __EU Taxonomy__ is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of __environmentally sustainable economic activities__. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

This Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3

includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative to investable universe, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

This Fund applies a set of exclusionary screens.

The Investment Adviser will limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the production, distribution or licensing of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; production, supply and mining activities related to nuclear power and production of adult entertainment materials. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Investment Adviser will minimise exposure to issuers with lower ESG ratings within each applicable asset class universe.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, the investable universe is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  This Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights . Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies.
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund invests globally in the full spectrum of permitted investments including (but not limited to) equities, fixed income, cash, deposits and money market instruments. The Fund follows a flexible asset allocation policy that seeks to provide a conservative level of income with a focus on capital stability in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG" focused investing. The Investment Adviser seeks to allocate to Sustainable Investments.

The Investment Adviser applies exclusionary screens to the portfolio. These encompass the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens in addition to limits on direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the production, distribution or licensing of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; production, supply and mining activities related to nuclear power and production of adult entertainment materials. The Investment Adviser will also minimise exposure to issuers with lower ESG ratings within each applicable asset class universe.

The Investment Adviser will create a portfolio that seeks to deliver a higher ESG score and a lower carbon emissions intensity score than the investable universe. The Fund's ESG and carbon emission intensity score will be calculated as the total of each security's score (where applicable), weighted by its market value. As the Fund has the ability to adjust its exposure over time in order to seek to achieve its investment objectives, the Fund's asset allocation and therefore weight of each asset class index in the investible universe may change over time.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens.
  3. Maintain that the Fund's ESG score is higher than that of the Fund's investable universe.
  4. Maintain that the Fund's carbon emissions intensity score is lower than that of the Fund's investable universe.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

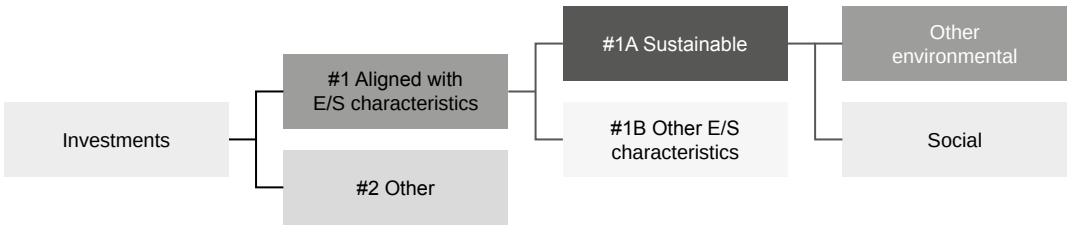
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

A minimum of 70% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 30% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

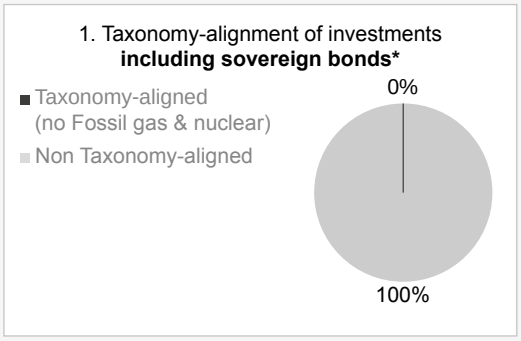
☐ Yes

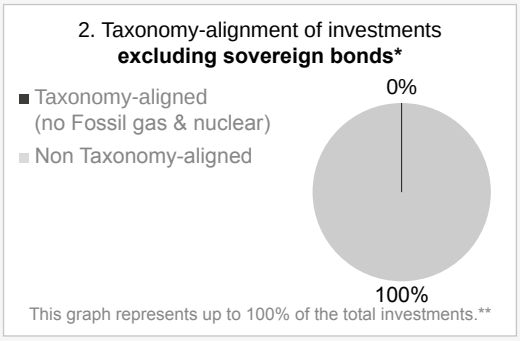
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 30% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: ESG Global Multi-Asset Income Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300T4SANEU2BBDZ18

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ● ○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

This Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3

includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative to investable universe, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

This Fund applies a set of exclusionary screens.

The Investment Adviser will limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the production, distribution or licensing of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; production, supply and mining activities related to nuclear power and production of adult entertainment materials. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Investment Adviser will minimise exposure to issuers with lower ESG ratings within each applicable asset class universe.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, the investable universe is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  This Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights . Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies.
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund invests globally in the full spectrum of permitted investments including (but not limited to) equities, fixed income, cash, deposits and money market instruments. The Fund follows a flexible asset allocation policy that seeks to provide income without sacrificing long term capital growth in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG" focused investing. The Investment Adviser seeks to allocate to Sustainable Investments.

The Investment Adviser applies exclusionary screens to the portfolio. These encompass the BlackRock EMEA Baseline screens in addition to limits on direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the production, distribution or licensing of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; production, supply and mining activities related to nuclear power and production of adult entertainment materials. The Investment Adviser will also minimise exposure to issuers with lower ESG ratings within each applicable asset class universe.

The Fund is actively managed with multiple asset classes and the extent to which the Fund is invested in these may vary without limit depending on the market conditions and other factors at the Investment Adviser's discretion. In order to generate income, the Fund will take a level of risk commensurate with its risk benchmark. The Investment Adviser may refer to a composite benchmark compromising 50% MSCI World Index and 50% Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond USD Hedged Index (the "Index") for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the Index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components and weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. The Fund's portfolio is expected to deviate materially from the Index.

The Investment Adviser will create a portfolio that seeks to deliver a higher ESG score and a lower carbon emissions intensity score than the investable universe. The Fund's ESG and carbon emission intensity score will be calculated as the total of each security's score (where applicable), weighted by its market value. As the Fund has the ability to adjust its exposure over time in order to seek to achieve its investment objectives, the Fund's asset allocation and therefore weight of each asset class index in the investible universe may change over time.

***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
2. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens.
3. Maintain that the Fund's ESG score is higher than that of the Fund's investable universe.
4. Maintain that the Fund's carbon emissions intensity score is lower than that of the Fund's investable universe.

***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

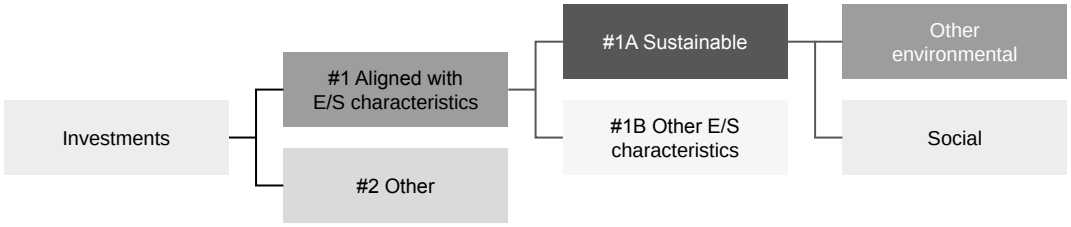
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

A minimum of 70% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 30% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

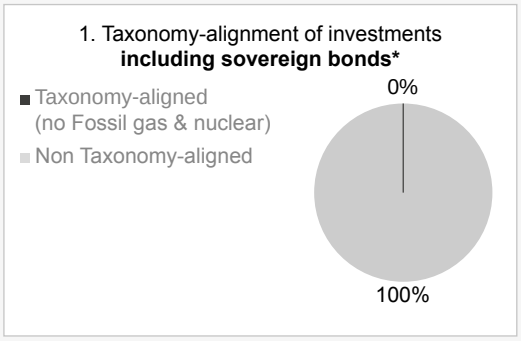
☐ Yes

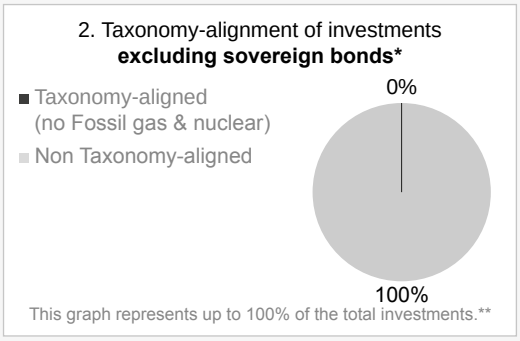
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 30% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: ESG Multi-Asset Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 54930062W9V3JFFCZF32

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

This Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3

includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative to the Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

This Fund applies a set of exclusionary screens.

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the production, distribution or licensing of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; production, supply and mining activities related to nuclear power and production of adult entertainment materials. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received. The Investment Adviser will exclude any issuer with a MSCI ESG rating below BBB. The Investment Adviser also intends to limit investments in companies within the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) Oil & Gas Exploration & Production sector and companies within the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) Integrated Oil & Gas sector to below 5% of its total assets.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, 50% MSCI World Index and 50% Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index hedged to EUR (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  This Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights . Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies.
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund invests globally in the full spectrum of permitted investments including equities, fixed income transferable securities (which may include some high yield fixed income transferable securities), units of CIS, cash, deposits and money market instruments. The Fund follows an asset allocation policy that seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of ESG focused investing. The Investment Adviser seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments.

The Investment Adviser applies exclusionary screens to the portfolio. These encompass the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens in addition to limits on direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the production, distribution or licensing of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; production, supply and mining activities related to nuclear power and production of adult entertainment materials.

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit investments in companies within the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) Oil & Gas Exploration & Production sector and companies within the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) Integrated Oil & Gas sector to below 5% of its total assets.

More than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes

The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the risk Index after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the Index. The Investment Adviser also intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score that is lower than the Index.

***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
2. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens.
3. Maintain that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the Index.
4. Maintain that the Fund's carbon emissions intensity score is lower than the Index.
5. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.
6. Limit investments in companies within the Global Industry Classification Standard (GICS) Integrated Oil & Gas sector to below 5% of its total assests.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

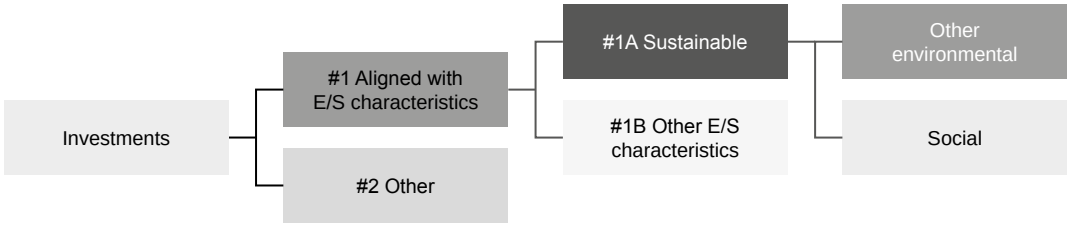
A minimum of 70% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 30% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

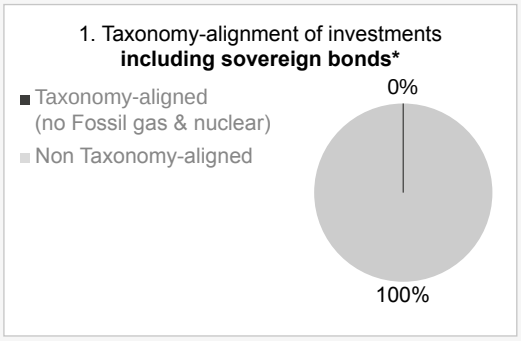
☐ Yes

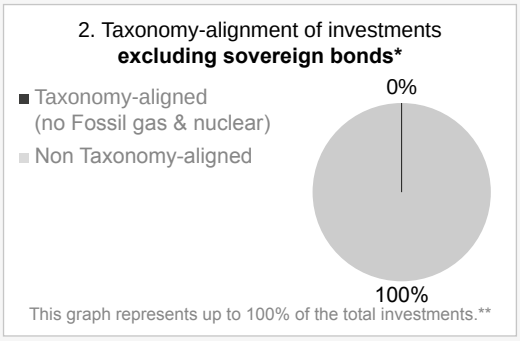
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 30% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the 50% MSCI World Index and 50% Bloomberg Global Aggregate Bond Index hedged to EUR is to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Euro High Yield Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027**
**Legal entity identifier: 529900M7BKCCZ7Z11H58**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. In addition, the Fund will seek to limit all exposure to issuers involved with the manufacturing and/or sale of conventional weapons. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities, as described above.
  2. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  3. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

  - *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

    Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

  - *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

    Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to provide income, whilst also aiming to preserve the original amount of capital invested and investing in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG"-focused investing. The Fund uses a "buy and maintain" strategy whereby fixed income securities will be held until their fixed maturity dates as part of a low turnover strategy, (subject, among other factors, to ongoing monitoring of credit risk), when their capital will become repayable to the Fund.

In order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund will gradually look to build up its portfolio so that following the Ramp-up Period, at least 50% of its Net Asset Value is invested in high yield fixed income transferable securities, denominated in various currencies, issued by governments and agencies of, and companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in Europe. Such fixed income securities shall, at the time of purchase, shall be rated B or BB or equivalent rating.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities during the Investment Period while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities throughout the fixed term.
  2. Application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens described above.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

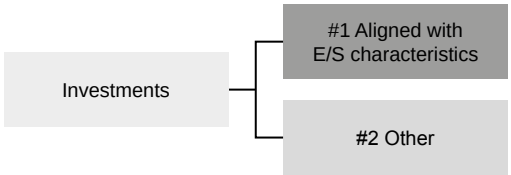
A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

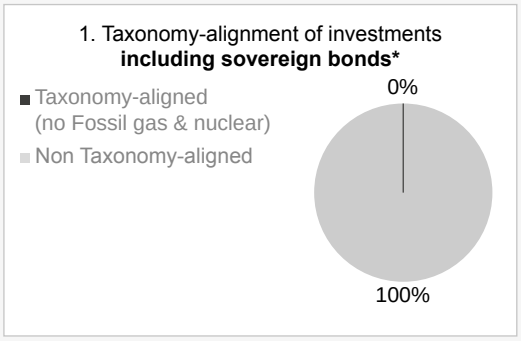
☐ Yes

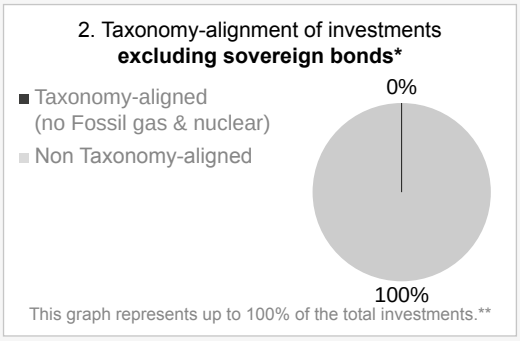
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (1)**
**Legal entity identifier: 529900Z45JL1GNIFQM17**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. In addition, the Fund will seek to limit all exposure to issuers involved with the manufacturing and/or sale of conventional weapons. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities, as described above.
  2. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  3. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

> *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*
>
> The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.
>
> *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to provide income, whilst also aiming to preserve the original amount of capital invested and investing in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG"-focused investing. The Fund uses a "buy and maintain" strategy whereby fixed income securities will be held until their fixed maturity dates as part of a low turnover strategy, (subject, among other factors, to ongoing monitoring of credit risk), when their capital will become repayable to the Fund.

In order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund will gradually look to build up its portfolio so that following the Ramp-up Period:

- at least 75% of its Net Asset Value is invested in corporate fixed income securities issued by companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in, global developed markets and denominated in Euro. Such fixed income securities shall, at the time of purchase, be rated investment grade; and

- up to 25% of the Fund's Net Asset Value is invested in global fixed income securities which, at the time of purchase, are rated non-investment grade.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including, but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities during the Investment Period while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities throughout the fixed term.
  2. Application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens described above.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

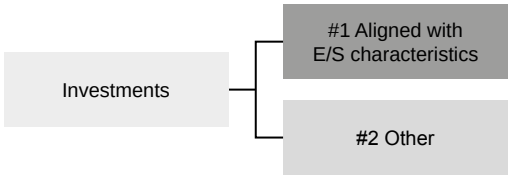
A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

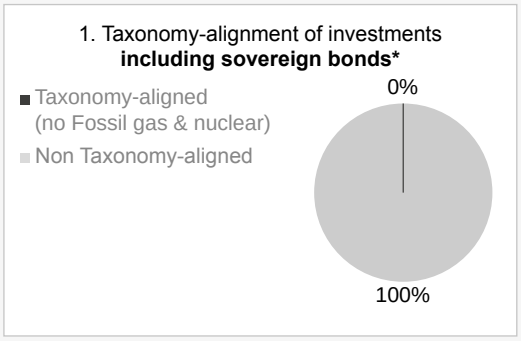
☐ Yes

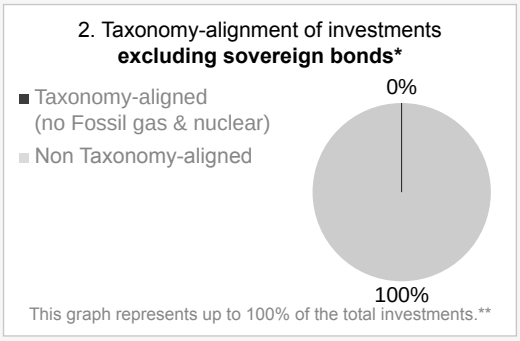
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027 (2)**
**Legal entity identifier: 5299006EU22UIT1KBY07**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. In addition, the Fund will seek to limit all exposure to issuers involved with the manufacturing and/or sale of conventional weapons. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities, as described above.
  2. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  3. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

> *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*
>
> The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.
>
> *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to provide income, whilst also aiming to preserve the original amount of capital invested and investing in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG"-focused investing. The Fund uses a "buy and maintain" strategy whereby fixed income securities will be held until their fixed maturity dates as part of a low turnover strategy, (subject, among other factors, to ongoing monitoring of credit risk), when their capital will become repayable to the Fund.

In order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund will gradually look to build up its portfolio so that following the Ramp-up Period:

- at least 75% of its Net Asset Value is invested in corporate fixed income securities issued by companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in, global developed markets and denominated in Euro. Such fixed income securities shall, at the time of purchase, be rated investment grade; and

- up to 25% of the Fund's Net Asset Value is invested in global fixed income securities which, at the time of purchase, are rated non-investment grade.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities during the Investment Period while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities throughout the fixed term.
  2. Application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens described above.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

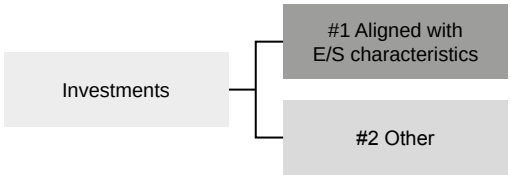
A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

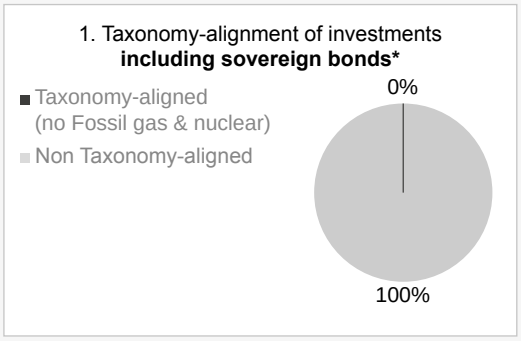
☐ Yes

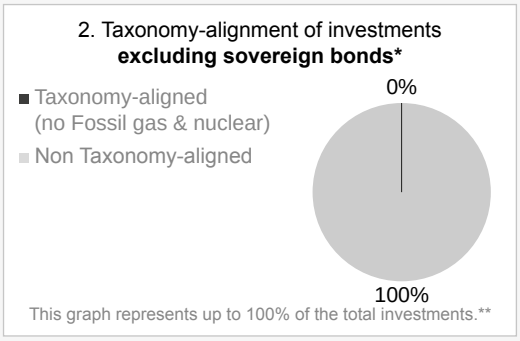
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Euro Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2029**
**Legal entity identifier: 529900YGNZO8R2O7EO45**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. In addition, the Fund will seek to limit all exposure to issuers involved with the manufacturing and/or sale of conventional weapons. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities, as described above.
  2. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  3. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to provide income, whilst also aiming to preserve the original amount of capital invested and investing in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG"-focused investing. The Fund uses a "buy and maintain" strategy whereby fixed income securities will be held until their fixed maturity dates as part of a low turnover strategy, (subject, among other factors, to ongoing monitoring of credit risk), when their capital will become repayable to the Fund.

In order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund will gradually look to build up its portfolio so that following the Ramp-up Period:

- at least 75% of its Net Asset Value is invested in corporate fixed income securities issued by companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in, global developed markets and denominated in Euro. Such fixed income securities shall, at the time of purchase, be rated investment grade; and

- up to 25% of the Fund's Net Asset Value is invested in global fixed income securities which, at the time of purchase, are rated non-investment grade.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities during the Investment Period while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities throughout the fixed term.
  2. Application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens described above.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

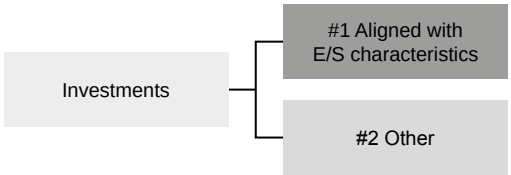
A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

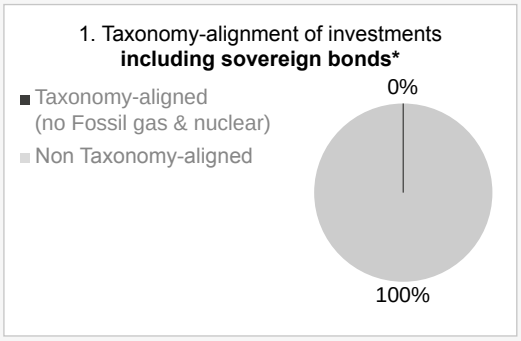
☐ Yes

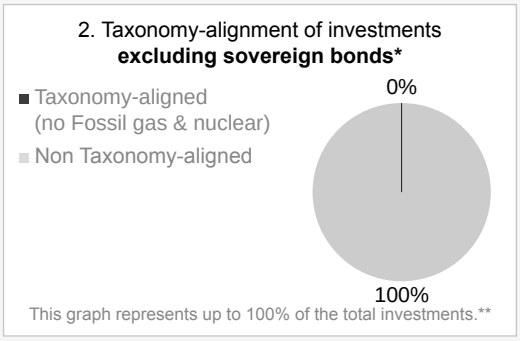
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Euro Bond Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300KZI1OJWARMMP28**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

*__Sustainable investment__ means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The __EU Taxonomy__ is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of __environmentally sustainable economic activities__. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers



NM0324U-3453640-402/808

involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, Bloomberg Euro-Aggregate Index (80%) and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index (20%) (the "ESG Reporting Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities as described above.
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

  - *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

    Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

  - *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

    Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its exclusionary policy.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) compared to the ESG Reporting Index and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

At least 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities)) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

The weighted average ESG rating of the corporate portion of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the corporate portion of the ESG Reporting Index.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities, compared to the Fund's ESG Reporting Index while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities.
  2. Maintain weighted average ESG rating of the corporate portion of the Fund higher than the ESG rating of the corporate portion of the ESG Reporting Index.
  3. Application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens described above.
  4. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  There is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

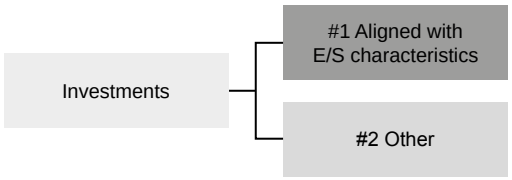
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

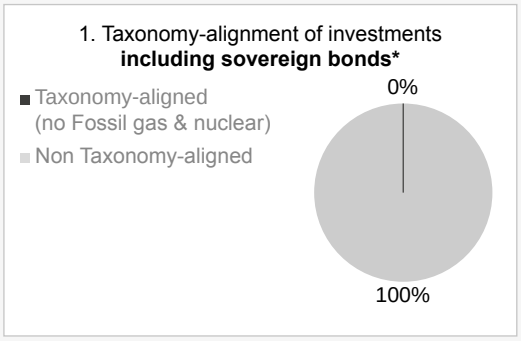
☐ Yes

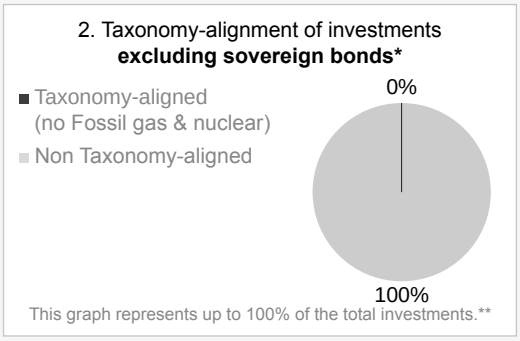
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.


NM0324U-3453640-407/808

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the Bloomberg Euro-Aggregate Index (80%) and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index (20%) are used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Euro Corporate Bond Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300T3ILGNB1VTBN33**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers



NM0324U-3453640-410/808

involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, Bloomberg Euro Corporate Index (80%) and Bloomberg Global Corporate Index (20%) (the "ESG Reporting Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities as described above.
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

  - *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

    Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

  - *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

    Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its exclusionary policy.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) compared to the ESG Reporting Index and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

At least 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities)) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the ESG Reporting Index.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  - Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities, compared to the Fund's ESG Reporting Index while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities.
  - Maintain that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG Reporting Index.
  - Application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens described above.
  - Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  There is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

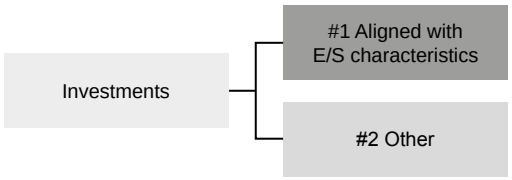
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

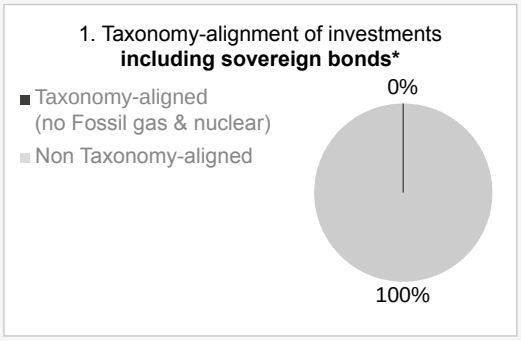
☐ Yes

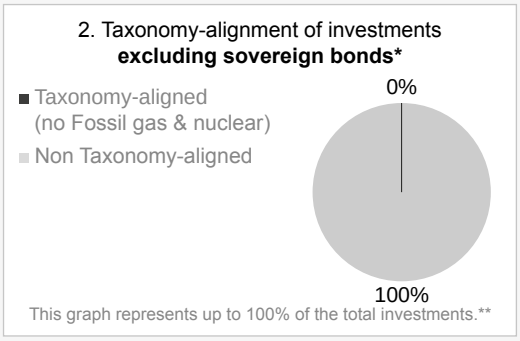
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the Bloomberg Euro Corporate Index (80%) and Bloomberg Global Corporate Index (20%) are used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

**Product name: Euro Short Duration Bond Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300JYR6VTF0DCD019**

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

*__Sustainable investment__ means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The __EU Taxonomy__ is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of __environmentally sustainable economic activities__. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers

involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, Bloomberg Euro-Aggregate Index (1-3 Years) (80%) and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index (1-3 Years) (20%) (the "ESG Reporting Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities as described above.
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

  - *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

    Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

  - *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

    Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its exclusionary policy.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) compared to the ESG Reporting Index and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

At least 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities)) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

The weighted average ESG rating of the corporate portion of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the corporate portion of the ESG Reporting Index.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities, compared to the Fund's ESG Reporting Index while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities.
  2. Maintain weighted average ESG rating of the corporate portion of the Fund higher than the ESG rating of the corporate portion of the ESG Reporting Index.
  3. Application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens described above.
  4. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  There is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

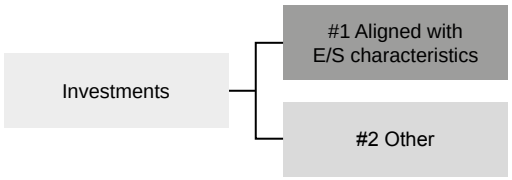
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

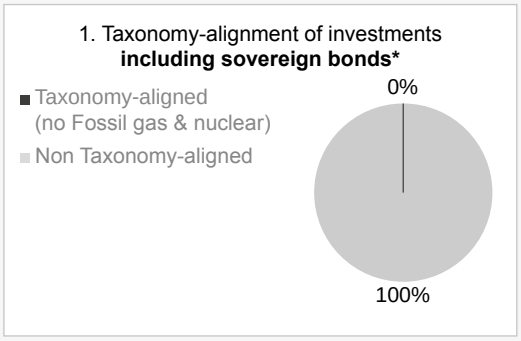
☐ Yes

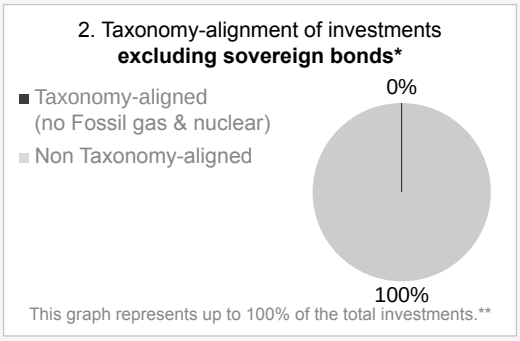
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the Bloomberg Euro-Aggregate Index (1-3 Years) (80%) and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index (1-3 Years) (20%) are used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Euro-Markets Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300GXUXRC34JGKL97

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in those EU Member States participating in EMU. Other exposure may include, without limitation, investments in those EU Member States that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, are likely to join EMU in the foreseeable future and companies based elsewhere that exercise the predominant part of their economic activity in EMU-participating countries. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

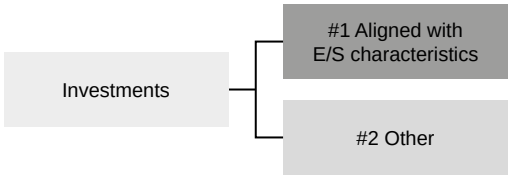
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

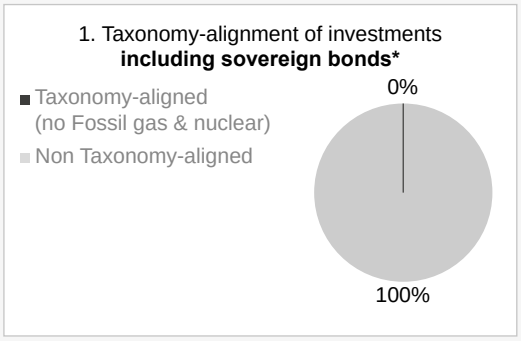
☐ Yes

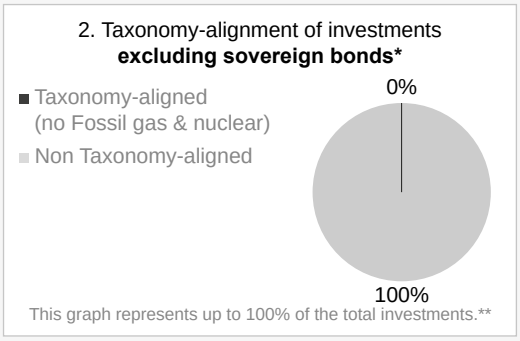
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: European Equity Income Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300EO4UBXXE7L7Y87

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

  *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

  The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

  *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in Europe. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

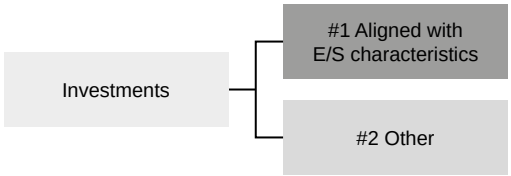
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

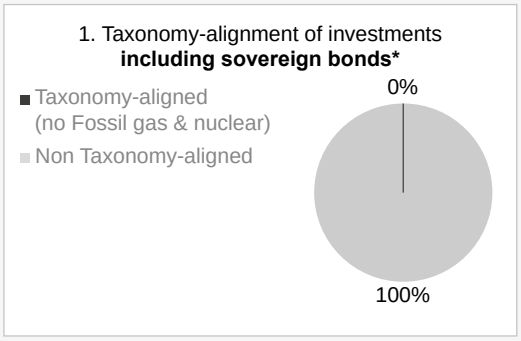
☐ Yes

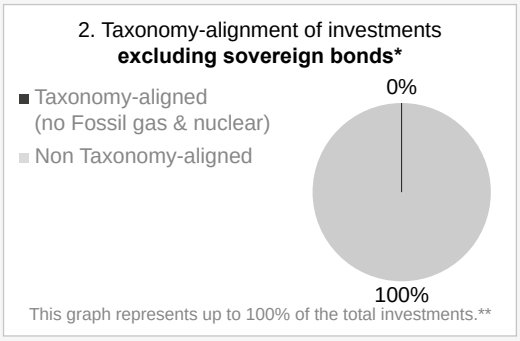
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: European Focus Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300G4IU6YIF26IE36**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

  *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

  The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

  *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in a concentrated portfolio of equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Europe. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

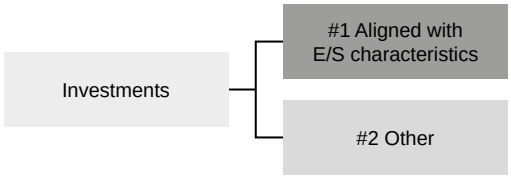
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

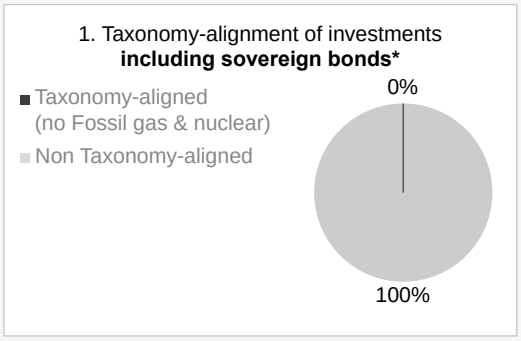
☐ Yes

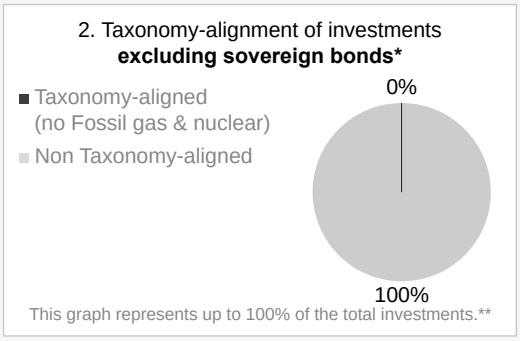
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: European Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300NNK67YCMW4S660**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

  *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

  The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

  *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Europe. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

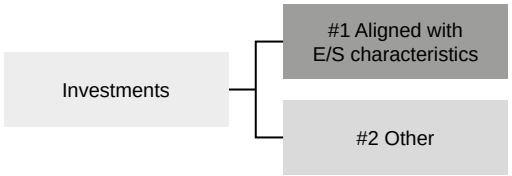
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

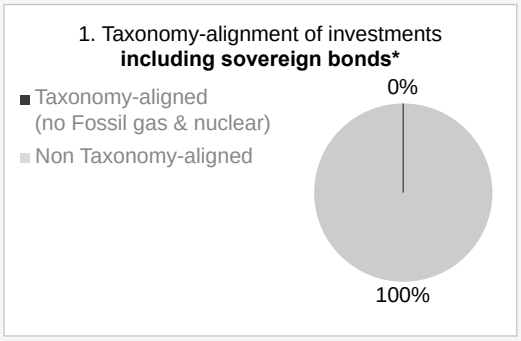
☐ Yes

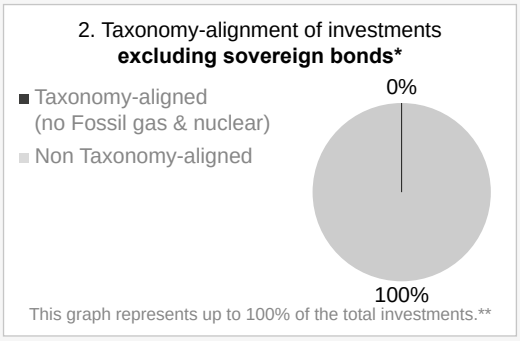
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: European High Yield Bond Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300IZEHZ1BN5OFU72

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.



NM0324U-3453640-450/808

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, “Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?”, which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a “do not significant harm” principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The “do no significant harm” principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in high yield fixed income transferable securities, denominated in various currencies, issued by governments and agencies of, and companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in Europe. The Fund may invest in the full spectrum of available fixed income transferable securities, including non-investment grade. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

Issuers are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG consistent business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

The Investment Adviser monitors issuers with lower ESG ratings and flagged controversies according to third party data providers. The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on such issuers through a 'watchlist' to identify relevant ESG related information that is not reflected in the third party data analysis and may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those issuers in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG data providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

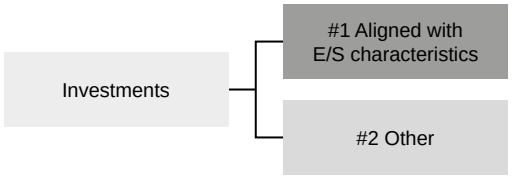
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

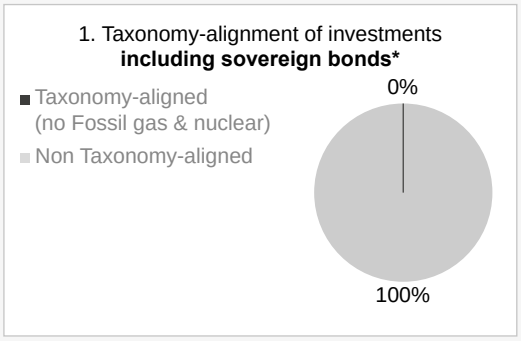
☐ Yes

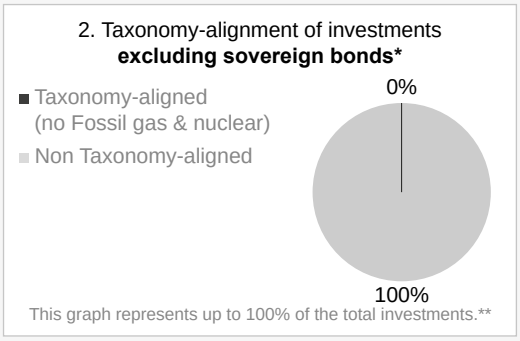
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

**Product name: European Special Situations Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300HWH5C0EBD7MS76**

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

  *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

  The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

  *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activities in, Europe. The Fund places particular emphasis on "special situations" companies that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, are companies with potential for improvement that the market has failed to appreciate. Such companies generally take the form of small, mid or large capitalisation companies that are undervalued and exhibit growth investment characteristics, such as above average growth rates in earnings or sales and high or improving returns on capital. In some cases such companies can also benefit from changes in corporate strategy and business restructuring. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

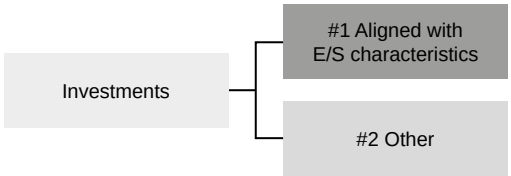
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

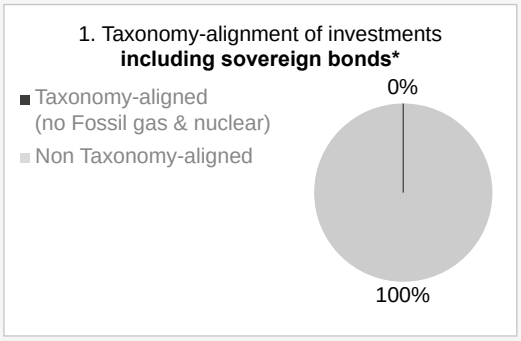
☐ Yes

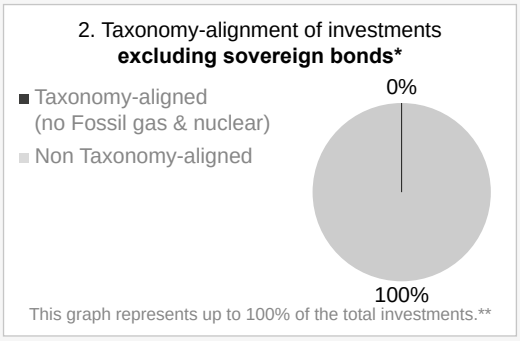
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

**Product name: European Sustainable Equity Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300FPZK8Q36WIPB73**

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

*__Sustainable investment__ means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The __EU Taxonomy__ is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of __environmentally sustainable economic activities__. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 50% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 50% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity relative to the Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions based on the enterprise value including cash (EVIC) across the Fund's holding of capital invested in a company across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production

and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in: the production and retail sales of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; the mining, production and supply activities related to nuclear power, the production of adult entertainment materials, unconventional oil and gas production, and, the production of conventional weapons. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The ESG criteria also consists of a rating of B or higher as defined by MSCI's ESG Intangible Value Assessment Ratings or another equivalent third party ESG data provider.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI Europe Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  3. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  4. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  This Fund invests at least 50% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights . Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies.
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in Europe, in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable investing.

The Investment Adviser applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and other exclusionary criteria to the investable universe.

The Investment Adviser uses fundamental analysis to map companies' revenues and activities to environmental and social objectives to identify Sustainable Investments.

The investment decisions are based on the Investment Adviser's fundamental research focusing on bottom up (i.e. company-specific) analysis, inclusive of financial and non-financial metrics. This approach aims to identify and select equity and equity-related securities that can, through a concentrated portfolio, reflect the Investment Adviser's conviction to deliver the Fund's investment objective.

Companies in the portfolio are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their sustainability characteristics and their ability to manage ESG risks and opportunities. The Investment Adviser engages with companies to support improvement in their environmental, social and governance ("ESG") credentials.

The Investment Adviser uses its analysis to create a portfolio that seeks to deliver:
- a lower carbon emissions intensity score at least 20% lower than the Index; and
- an allocation to Sustainable Investments

More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 50% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Maintain the Fund's carbon emissions intensity as 20% lower than that of the Fund's Index.
  3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens.
  4. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

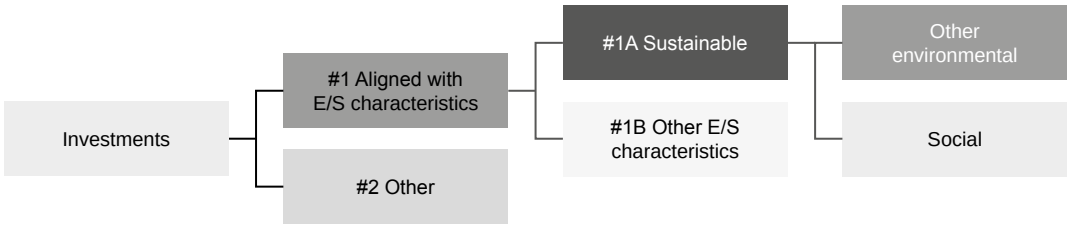
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 50% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

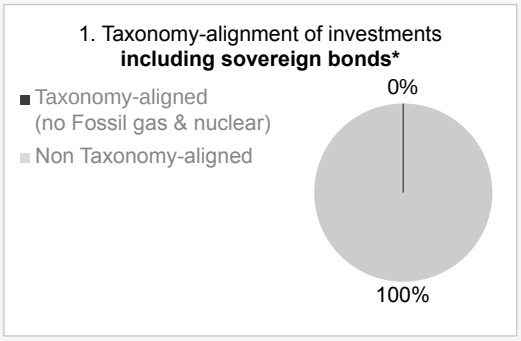
☐ Yes

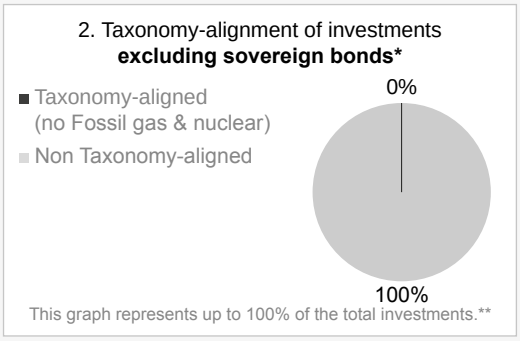
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI Europe Index is to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: European Value Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300VTJEFQIEUK4533**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

  *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

  The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

  *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Europe. The Fund places particular emphasis on companies that are, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, undervalued and therefore represent intrinsic investment value.

Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

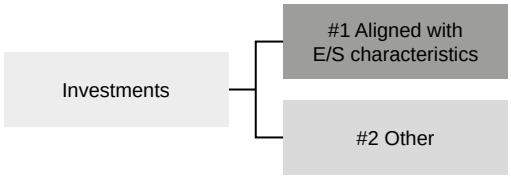
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

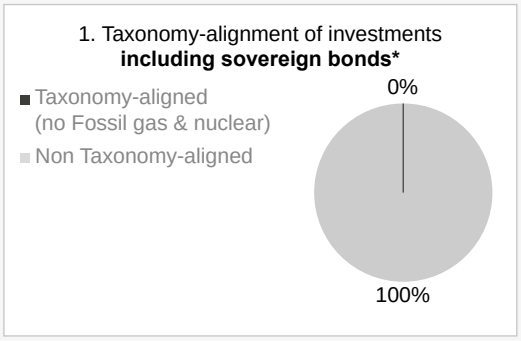
☐ Yes

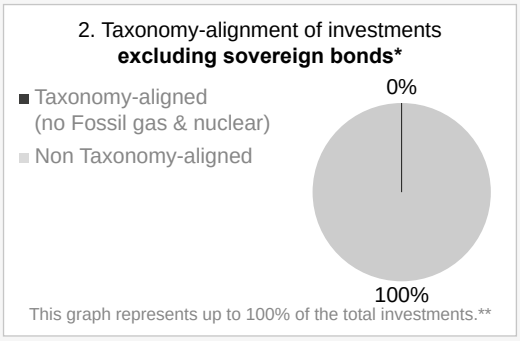
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: FinTech Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300QETL4YMSWPEO04

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

  *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

  The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

  *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally whose predominant economic activity comprises the research, development, production and/or distribution of technologies used and applied in financial services. The Fund will focus on companies that generate revenues from the application of technology in the financial services industry sector and/or which aim to compete with traditional methods in the operation and distribution of financial products and services. In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation that are involved in activities including the following: payment systems, banking, investments, lending, insurance and software. Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

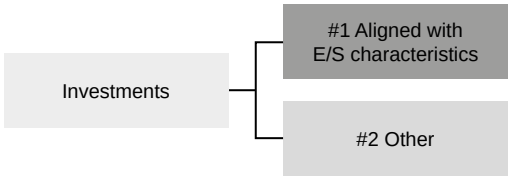
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

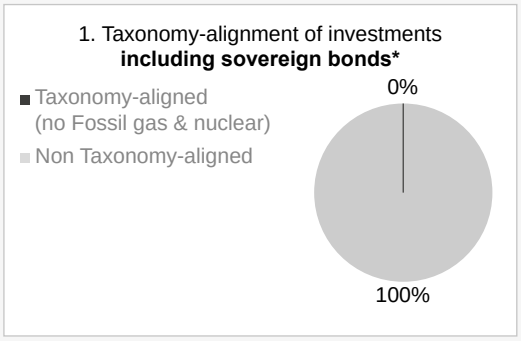
☐ Yes

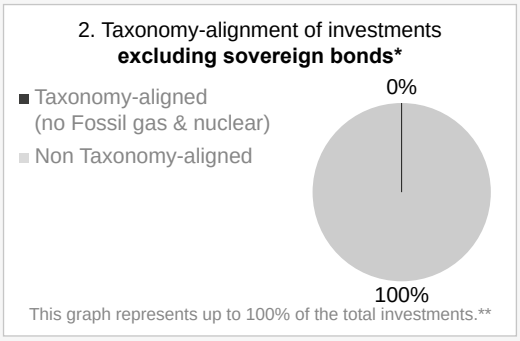
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Future Consumer Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 5493004TGOBEAE3VS848**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

  *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

  The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

  *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") investing. The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally that are expected to benefit from changes in the way people consume goods and services globally. The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models. The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf ) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements. The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

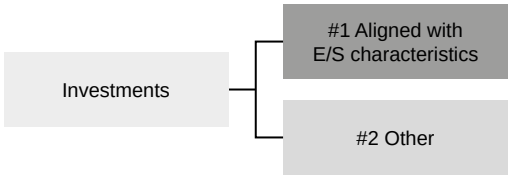
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

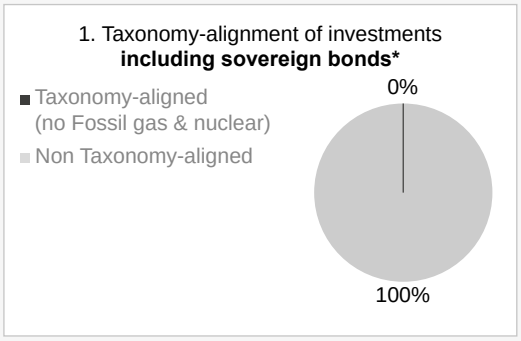
☐ Yes

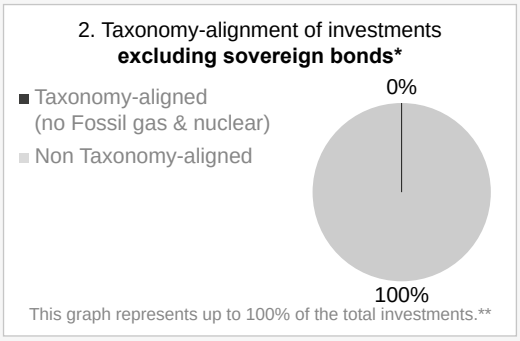
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 9, paragraphs 1 to 4a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 5, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Future Of Transport Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300Y7OU6TK8YJHB08

### Sustainable investment objective

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ✔ **Yes** | ●○ ☐ **No** |
|---|---|
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: 15%**<br>☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>✔ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ____% of sustainable investments<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with a social objective |
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: 1%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What is the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally whose predominant economic activity comprises the research, development, production and/or distribution of technologies used and applied to transport.

The Fund will focus on companies that generate revenues from the transition to a lower carbon transportation system such as electric, autonomous and/or digitally connected vehicles.

The Fund invests a minimum of 80% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. The minimum for each Sustainable Investment objective is set out in the box above. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (“Environmental and Social Objectives”).

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) a minimum proportion of the issuer’s business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer’s business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

The Fund considers key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI AII Countries World Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the sustainable objectives of this financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?***

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***How do sustainable investments not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

  - *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

    The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

  - *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?*

    Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

This Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally whose predominant economic activity comprises the research, development, production and/or distribution of technologies used and applied to transport.

The Fund will focus on companies that generate revenues from the transition to a lower carbon transportation system such as electric, autonomous and/or digitally connected vehicles.

In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation that are involved in activities including the following: raw materials (e.g. metals and battery materials), components and computer systems (e.g. batteries and cabling), technology (e.g. vehicle sensor technology) and infrastructure (e.g. vehicle battery charging stations). The companies are rated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with renewable energy and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials. The Investment Adviser considers such companies to be Sustainable Investments.

The assessment of the level of engagement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund adopts a "best in class" approach to sustainable investing. This means that the Fund selects the best issuers (from an ESG perspective) for each relevant sector of activities (without excluding any sector of activities). More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The Investment Adviser uses its analysis to create a portfolio that has a higher ESG rating than the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the Index.

***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain the sustainable investment objective?***

The binding elements of the strategy are as follows:

1. Maintain that all of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments (save for instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging, which will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets). In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

2. Maintain that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the index.

3. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser , with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser 's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

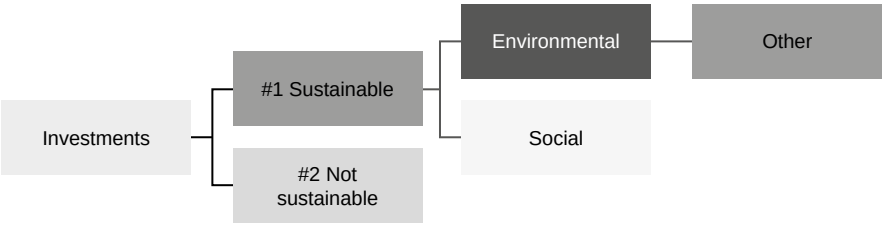
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation and the minimum share of sustainable investments?**

All of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments or instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging. Investments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets.

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1 Sustainable). In relation to these Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Not sustainable).




**#1 Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.

**#2 Not sustainable** includes investments which do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the sustainable investment objective?***

Where derivatives are used for investment purposes, they are assessed against the criteria for Sustainable Investments. Derivatives may also be used for limited other purposes such as liquidity and hedging, and any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment in respect of such derivatives.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to invest more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

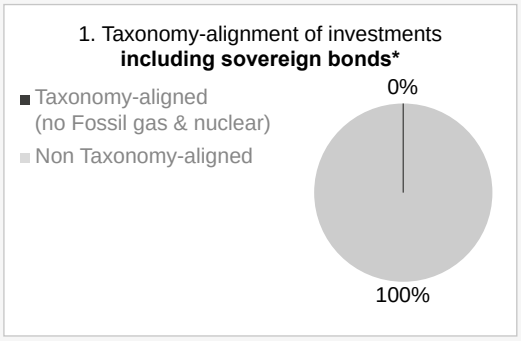
☐ Yes

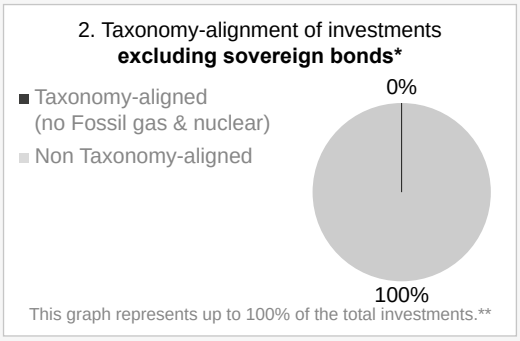
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are environmentally sustainable investments that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with a social objective?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Not sustainable", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

The use of such investments does not affect the delivery of the sustainable investment objective, as these investments are used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the sustainable investment objective.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to meet the sustainable investment objective?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI AII Countries World Index is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How does the reference benchmark take into account sustainability factors in a way that is continuously aligned with the sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Global Equity Income Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 5493003EIFVTQB3EDS83

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

3. The Fund's holdings of underlying MMFs meeting the above criteria.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to invest in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, developed markets.

Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

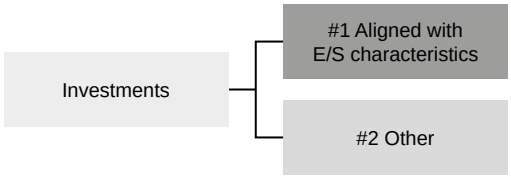
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 70% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 30% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

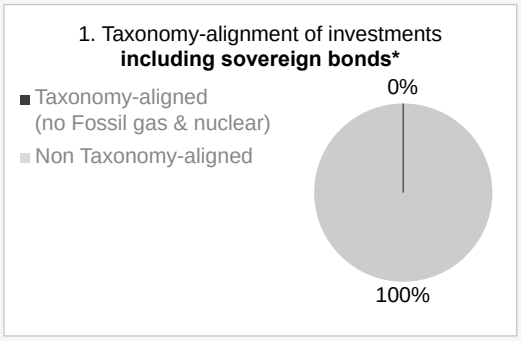
☐ Yes

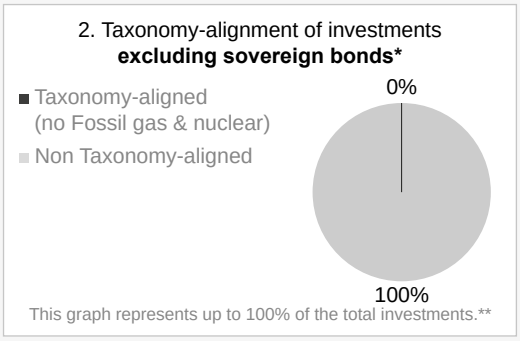
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 30% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Global Government Bond Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300ZROVR8S4X5V054**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 10% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 10% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment

in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, FTSE World Government Bond USD Hedged Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in use-of-proceeds bonds, including "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by BlackRock's corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.
  3. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  This Fund invests at least 10% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

  c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

  d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights . Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, its exclusionary policy and its holdings in green bonds.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments, including, but not limited to, "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond principles) and "Green, Social and Sustainability" (GSS) bonds issued by governments and agencies of, and companies, where the proceeds of such GSS bonds are tied to green and socially responsible projects.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials).

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 10% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities, compared to the Fund's investment universe.
  3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

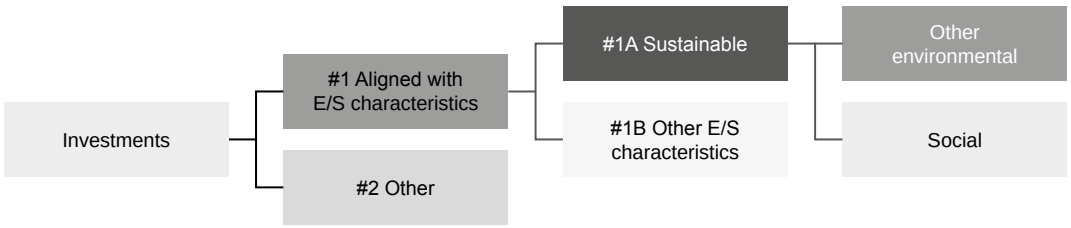
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

A minimum of 70% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 10% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 30% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

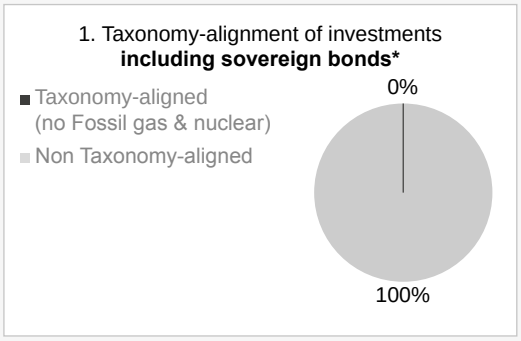
☐ Yes

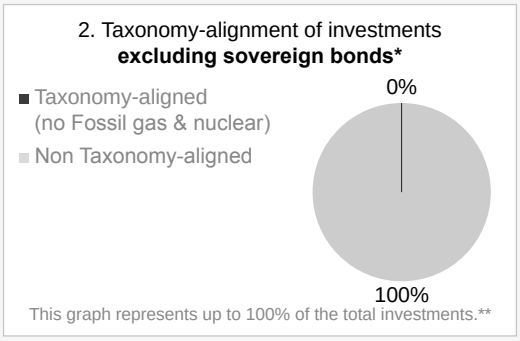
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 30% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the FTSE World Government Bond USD Hedged Index is to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Global High Yield Bond Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300FVQG82AXR0U687**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%**<br>☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in high yield fixed income transferable securities. The Fund may invest in the full spectrum of available fixed income transferable securities, including non-investment grade. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

Issuers are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG consistent business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

The Investment Adviser monitors issuers with lower ESG ratings and flagged controversies according to third party data providers. The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on such issuers through a 'watchlist' to identify relevant ESG related information that is not reflected in the third party data analysis and may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those issuers in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG data providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

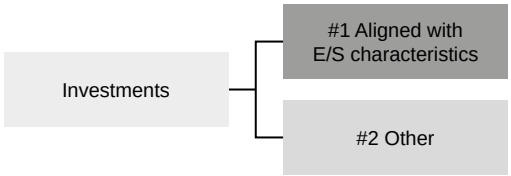
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

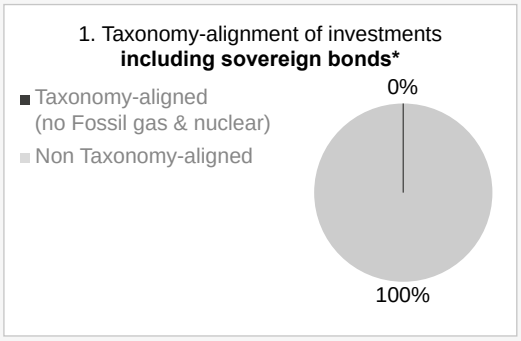
☐ Yes

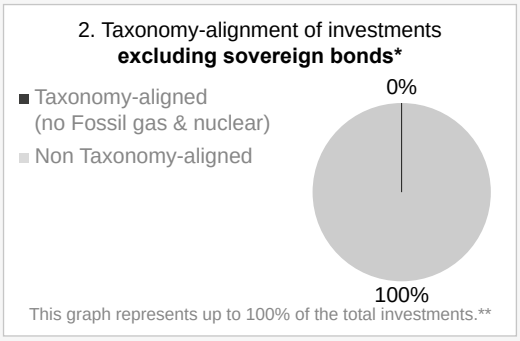
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Global Listed Infrastructure Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300Z77LHX2F6VSI95

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in infrastructure companies globally that are facilitating and enabling the transition to a low carbon economy.

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

Further, the Fund will apply a custom ESG screen which incorporates multiple components. First, a screen is used to limit or exclude direct investment (as applicable) in corporate issuers which, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser: have any exposure to, or ties with, controversial weapons or conventional weapons; the production, distribution, licensing, retail or supply of tobacco or tobacco-related products; the production or distribution of firearms or small arms ammunitions intended for retail civilians; are deemed to have failed to comply with one or more of the ten United Nation Global Compact Principles ("UNGC"), which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption.

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the extraction of, or the generation of power using, thermal coal or tar sands (also known as oil sands). The Investment Adviser may invest in the securities of issuers with higher levels of revenue from

these activities if the issuer has committed to a net zero transition plan and forward-looking capital expenditure plans do not include investment in new coal- powered generation assets.

The Fund applies a set of exclusionary screens.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in investments aligned to the transitioning infrastructure theme, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  3. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the exclusionary screens, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Manager to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments.

  —— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of its carbon reduction target and its exclusionary policy.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund will aim to invest in line with the principles of the transition theme as determined by the Investment Adviser (having regard to specialist third party information sources as appropriate). In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalization, across the Infrastructure sectors, that contribute to the advancement of the transition theme across three categories:

Improvers: companies demonstrating positive progress in reducing the carbon emissions intensity of their operations.

Solution Providers: companies that enable and facilitate countries and societies transition towards net zero. These companies may be assessed on how they facilitate the reduction of carbon (e.g. electricity grids that provide the transmission and distribution of renewable energy) or enable the transition to net zero.

Peer Group Leaders: companies that are already considered within their respective sectors as carbon operations leaders.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 70% in investments aligned to the transitioning infrastructure theme.
  3. Application of the exclusionary screens described above.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Manager, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Manager agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Manager is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Manager's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Manager may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

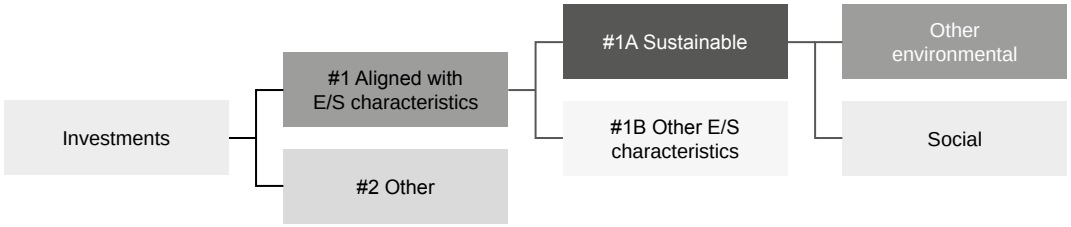
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 70% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 30% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

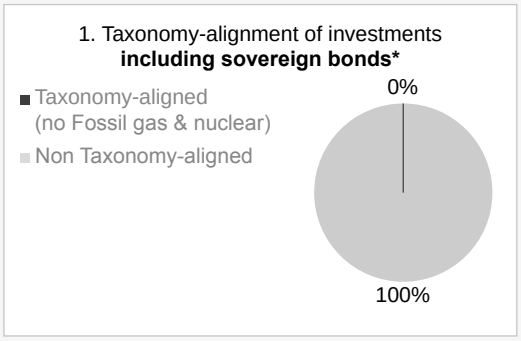
☐ Yes

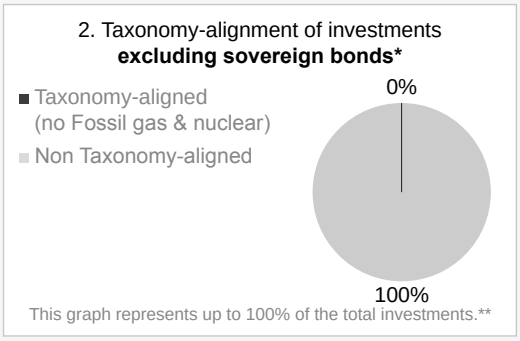
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 30% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com.

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Global Unconstrained Equity Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 529900C4B6X8NH3O3X24**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ● ○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

2. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in equity securities and equity-related securities (namely American Depositary Receipts (ADRs) and Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs)) of companies domiciled in, or exercising a significant part of their economic activity in, global developed markets. ADRs and GDRs are investments issued by financial institutions which give exposure to underlying equity securities. These instruments will be listed or traded on regulated markets. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance. The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements. The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology described above.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Manager, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Manager agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Manager is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Manager's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Manager may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

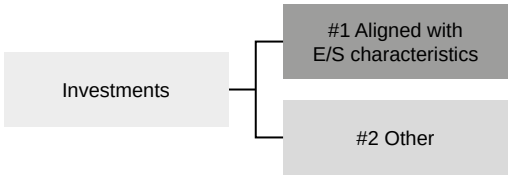
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments ("#2 Other").




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

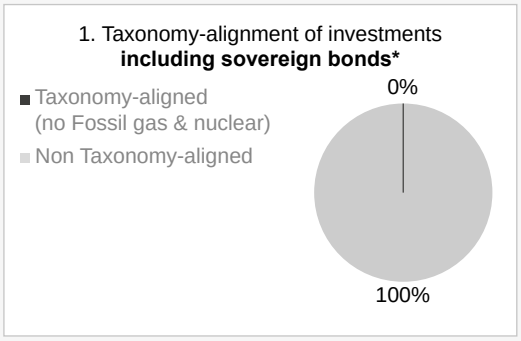
☐ Yes

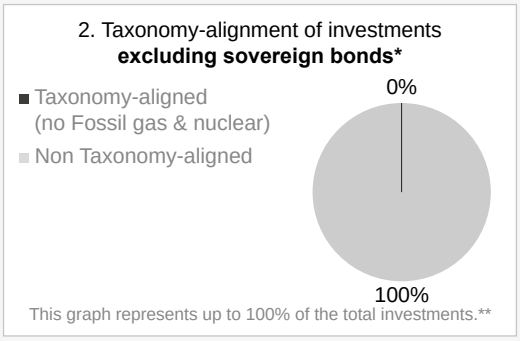
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Global Long-Horizon Equity Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300UI1W5KUOTB6B84**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

  *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

  The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

  *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests globally, with no prescribed country, regional or capitalisation limits, at least 70% of its total assets in equity securities. The Fund may invest in equity securities that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, have a sustained competitive advantage and will typically be held over a long-term horizon. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

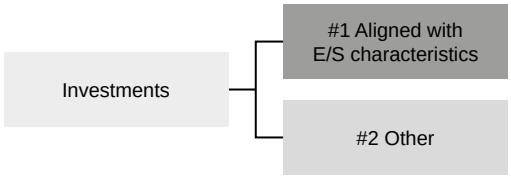
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

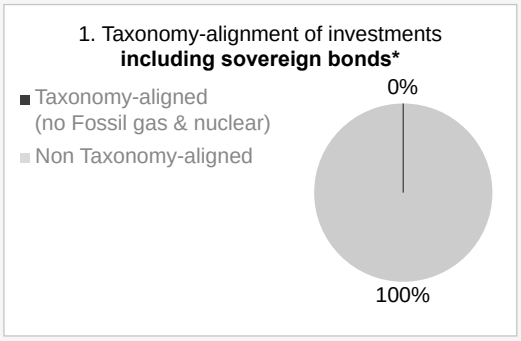
☐ Yes

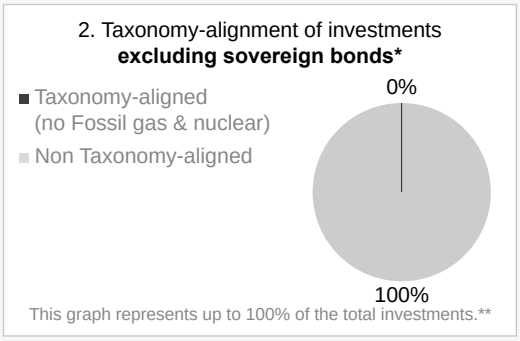
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 9, paragraphs 1 to 4a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 5, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Impact Bond Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 5493000ECOD9JNFIPS55

### Sustainable investment objective

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ✔ **Yes** | ●○ ☐ **No** |
|---|---|
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: 15%**<br>☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>✔ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ____% of sustainable investments<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with a social objective |
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: 1%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What is the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?**

The Fund invests globally at least 80% of its total assets in “impact” investments which are those made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and/or environmental impact alongside a financial return.

The Fund will aim to diversify its investments across issuers that have an impact on people and the planet (the “Impact Categories”) across themes including, but not limited to, affordable housing, education and skilling, financial and digital inclusion, public health, safety and security, efficiency, electrification and digitalisation, green energy, pollution remediation and prevention, sustainable food, water and waste.

The Fund invests a minimum of 80% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. The minimum for each Sustainable Investment objective is set out in the box above. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (“Environmental and Social Objectives”).

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer’s business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti- corruption.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the sustainable objectives of this financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?***

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in use-of-proceeds bonds, including "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by BlackRock's corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.
  3. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and negative externalities as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***How do sustainable investments not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments.

  Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

This Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund invests globally at least 80% of its total assets in "impact" investments which are those made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and/or environmental impact alongside a financial return. This includes, but is not limited to, "Green, Social and Sustainability" (GSS) bonds where the proceeds of such GSS bonds are tied to green and socially responsible projects. More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes including, but not limited to, bonds from companies which have social and/or environmental impact characteristics that the Investment Adviser has at its discretion deemed to be impactful and bespoke impact MBS pools. The Fund may invest in the full spectrum of available fixed income securities, including non-investment grade. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

For the selection of GSS bonds, the Investment Adviser will analyse the use of proceeds of the issues and the issuer framework for alignment of the bonds with the Green Bond Principles (GBP), Social Bond Principles (SBP), and Sustainability Bond Guidelines (SBG) of the International Capital Markets Association to determine suitability within the investment universe.

Investment decisions will be based on issuer specific research (such as sovereign and credit analysis comprising a multi factor framework assessing global, country and issuer specific risk to determine issuers' ability and willingness to pay over the long term) to identify and select the GSS bonds and other fixed income securities that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, have the potential to produce attractive long-term returns whilst also being consistent with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("UN SDGs"). The UN SDGs are a series of goals published by the United Nations which recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with improvements in health, education, and economic growth, reduction in inequalities, all whilst tackling climate change and working to preserve the planet's oceans and forests, as set out in more detail on the UN website: https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals).

The Fund will aim to diversify its investments across issuers that have an impact on people and the planet (the "Impact Categories") across themes including, but not limited to, affordable housing, education and skilling, financial and digital inclusion, public health, safety and security, efficiency, electrification and digitalisation, green energy, pollution remediation and prevention, sustainable food, water and waste.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain the sustainable investment objective?***

  The binding elements of the strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that all of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments (save for instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging, which will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets). In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities.
  3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and other exclusionary screens.
  4. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

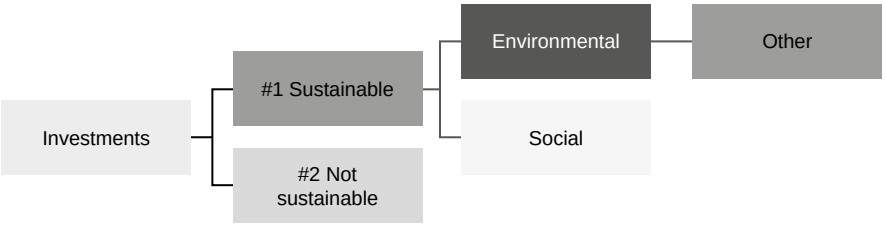
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation and the minimum share of sustainable investments?**

All of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments or instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging. Investments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets.

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1 Sustainable). In relation to these Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Not sustainable).




**#1 Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.

**#2 Not sustainable** includes investments which do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the sustainable investment objective?***

Where derivatives are used for investment purposes, they are assessed against the criteria for Sustainable Investments. Derivatives may also be used for limited other purposes such as liquidity and hedging, and any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment in respect of such derivatives.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

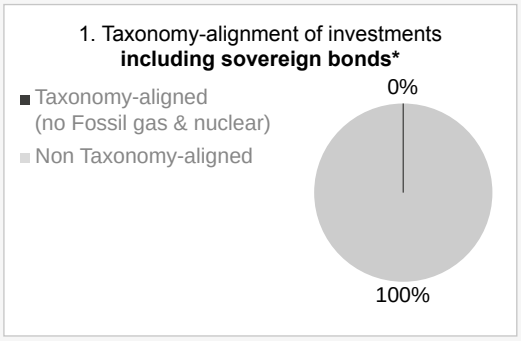
☐ Yes

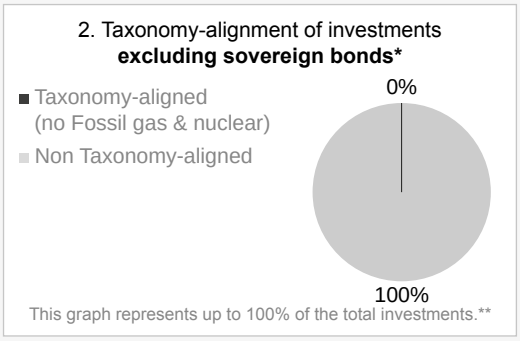
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are environmentally sustainable investments that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with a social objective?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Not sustainable", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

The use of such investments does not affect the delivery of the sustainable investment objective, as these investments are used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the sustainable investment objective.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to meet the sustainable investment objective?**

No.

- ***How does the reference benchmark take into account sustainability factors in a way that is continuously aligned with the sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Japan Flexible Equity Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300UJ9NZRIU24W956**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI Developed Japan (the “Index”) is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

2. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Japan. The Fund normally invests in securities that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, exhibit either growth or value investment characteristics, placing an emphasis as the market outlook warrants. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology described above.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Manager, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Manager agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Manager is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Manager's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Manager may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

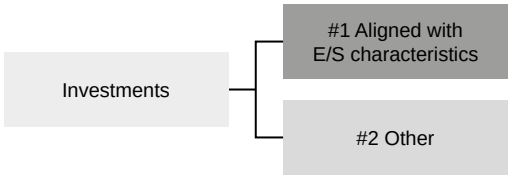
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

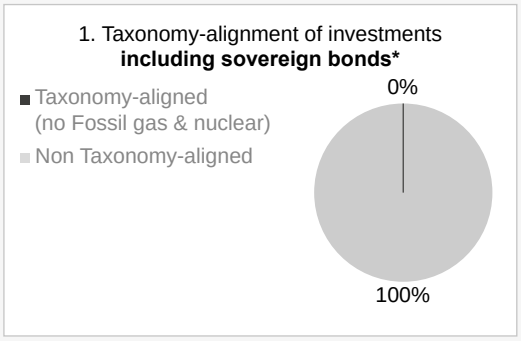
☐ Yes

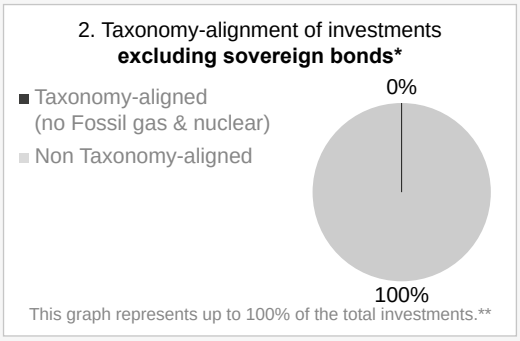
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI Developed Japan is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Japan Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300HZ21BD9CBK5N76**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, S&P Japan Small & MidCap Index (the “Index”) is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

2. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of small and mid capitalisation companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Japan. Small and mid capitalisation companies are considered companies which, at the time of purchase, form the bottom 30% by market capitalisation of Japanese stock markets. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology described above.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Manager, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Manager agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Manager is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Manager's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Manager may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

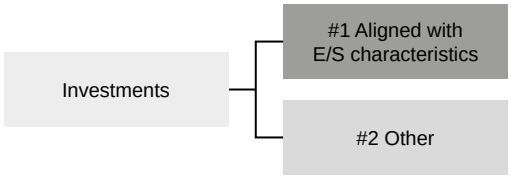
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

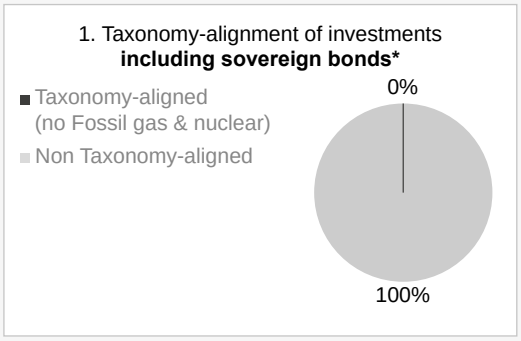
☐ Yes

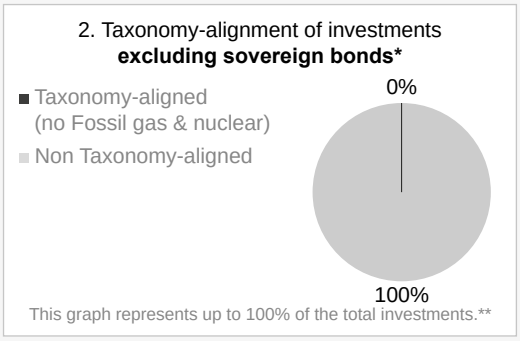
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the S&P Japan Small & MidCap Index is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Multi-Theme Equity Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300Q710S0IUIPBZ60**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Fund invests in Collective Investment Schemes ("CIS") qualifying as Article 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome or comprised of bonds issued by governments that have an ESG sovereign rating of at least BB (as defined by third party ESG data vendors).

The Fund will maintain a minimum exposure to investments that specifically support climate objectives.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
2. The Fund's holdings of underlying Collective Investment Schemes meeting the above criteria
3. The Fund's holdings in investments that specifically support climate objectives.
4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

This Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments on a look through basis. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights . Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through exposure to investments that specifically support climate objectives.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to achieve capital growth over the long term (at least five consecutive years) in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance (ESG) investing.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund will invest at least 80% of total assets in CIS qualifying as Article 8 or 9 of the SFDR Regulation which pursue a positive ESG objective or outcome or comprised of bonds issued by governments that have an ESG sovereign rating of at least BB (as defined by third party ESG data vendors).

The Investment Adviser will analyse all the securities in the underlying investment universe to assess their contribution to environmental and social objectives. The assessment of the level of alignment in each activity is based on percentage of revenue and a defined total revenue threshold.

The Investment Adviser will refer to qualitative (i.e. judgement-based) and quantitative (i.e. mathematical or statistical) research analysing a wide range of economic data and market behaviour, with a focus on the five Megatrends and a range of other "thematic trends". The research may be produced by the Investment Adviser or another member of the BlackRock Group, or by a third party.

The Investment Adviser uses its analysis to construct a portfolio that invests in Sustainable Investments and investments that specifically support climate objectives

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

  2. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 80% of its holdings in Collective Investment Schemes meeting the above criteria.

3. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 10% of its holdings in investments that specifically support climate objectives.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  There is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

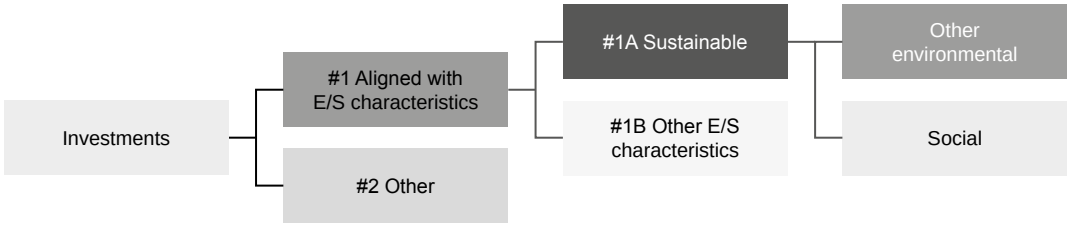
A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

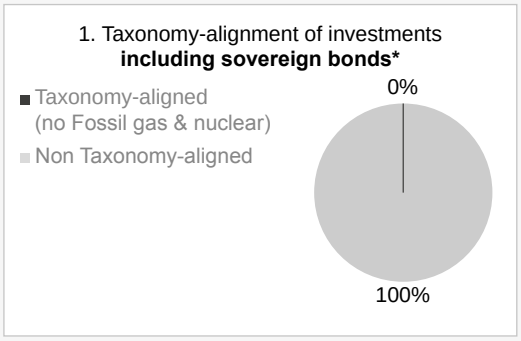
☐ Yes

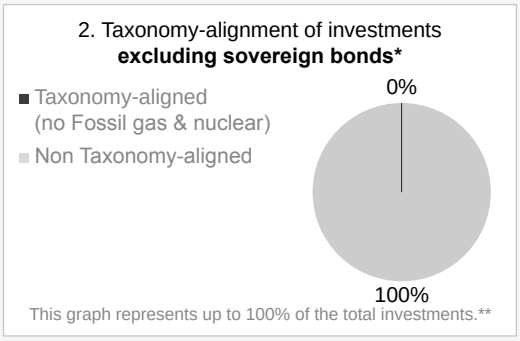
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Next Generation Health Care Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 5493002ZMKARYN5J9X36**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative to the Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti- corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI All Countries World Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
2. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
3. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally that are involved with new and emerging themes in health care. In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation across multiple industries including (without limitation) biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, life sciences tools and services, health care technology, health care equipment, medical devices and digital health care, and across multiple sub-themes including (without limitation) the following: genetic medicine, next generation diagnostics, immunotherapy, robotic-assisted surgery, biosensors and trackers, medical artificial intelligence applications and telehealth. The companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the next generation health care theme and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials. Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.
  2. Maintain that the Fund's carbon emissions intensity score is lower than that of the Index.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

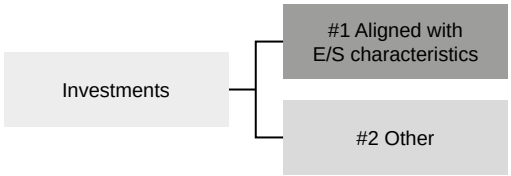
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

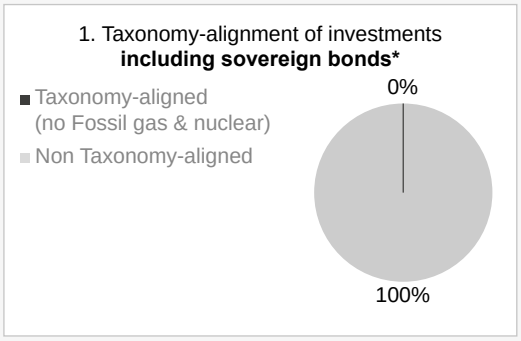
☐ Yes

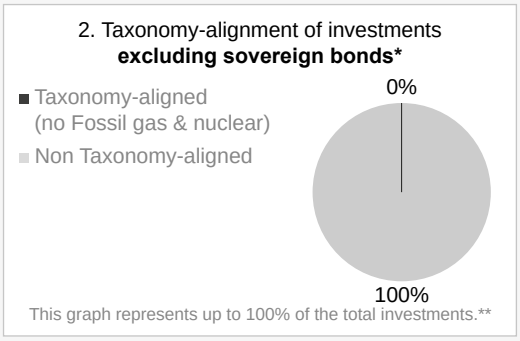
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI All Countries World Index is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Next Generation Technology Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300WSSL4Z83Z2VF84**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

  *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

  The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

  *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally whose predominant economic activity comprises the research, development, production and/or distribution of new and emerging technology. The Fund will focus on next generation technology themes including artificial intelligence, computing, automation, robotics, technological analytics, e-commerce, payment systems, communications technology and generative design. In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation. Although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

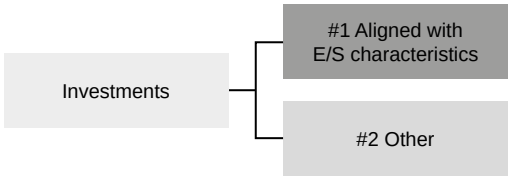
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

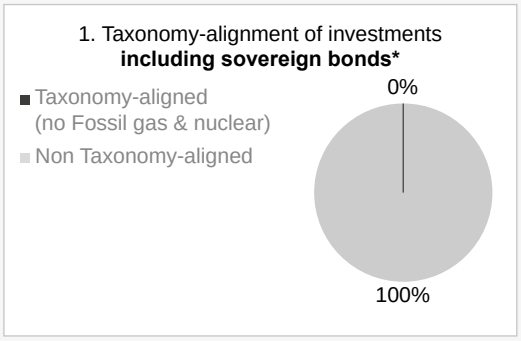
☐ Yes

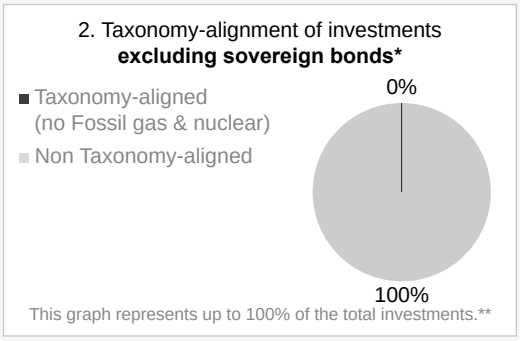
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 9, paragraphs 1 to 4a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 5, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Nutrition Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300JF9YVE3CKHH246

### Sustainable investment objective

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

| **Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?** | |
|---|---|
| ●● ✔ **Yes** | ●○ ☐ **No** |
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: 1%**<br>☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>✔ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ____% of sustainable investments<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with a social objective |
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: 15%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What is the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return by investing globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies engaged in any activity forming part of the food and agriculture value chain, including packaging, processing, distribution, technology, food and agriculture related services, seeds, agricultural or food-grade chemicals and food producers.

The Fund invests in companies which are actively combatting global sustainability challenges within the nutrition theme. The three major sustainable nutrition trends in focus are: the promotion of healthy and sustainable eating choices, delivering efficiencies across global food supply chains, and enabling less resource intensive farming.

The Fund invests a minimum of 80% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. The minimum for each Sustainable Investment objective is set out in the box above. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (“Environmental and Social Objectives”).

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) a minimum proportion of the issuer’s business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

The Fund considers key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, the Factset Nutrition Universe is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the sustainable objectives of this financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?***

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***How do sustainable investments not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

  - *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

    The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

  - *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?*

    Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

This Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund seeks to maximise total return by investing globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies engaged in any activity forming part of the food and agriculture value chain, including packaging, processing, distribution, technology, food and agriculture related services, seeds, agricultural or food-grade chemicals and food producers. As part of this, the Fund invests in companies which are actively combatting global sustainability challenges within the nutrition theme. The three major sustainable nutrition trends in focus are: the promotion of healthy and sustainable eating choices, delivering efficiencies across global food supply chains, and enabling less resource intensive farming. The companies are rated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the nutrition theme and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials. The assessment of the level of engagement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received. The Investment Adviser considers such companies to be Sustainable Investments.

The Fund adopts a "best in class" approach to sustainable investing. This means that the Fund selects the best issuers (from an ESG perspective) for each relevant sector of activities (without excluding any sector of activities). More than 90% of the issuers the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The investment universe of the Fund is represented by any company worldwide which, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, prioritises changing consumer preferences towards nutrition as a key strategic driver of its business ("Factset Nutrition Universe"). The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Factset Nutrition Universe after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the Factset Nutrition Universe.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain the sustainable investment objective?***

  The binding elements of the strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that all of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments (save for instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging, which will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets). In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

  2. Maintain that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Factset Nutrition Universe after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the Factset Nutrition Universe.

  3. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation and the minimum share of sustainable investments?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

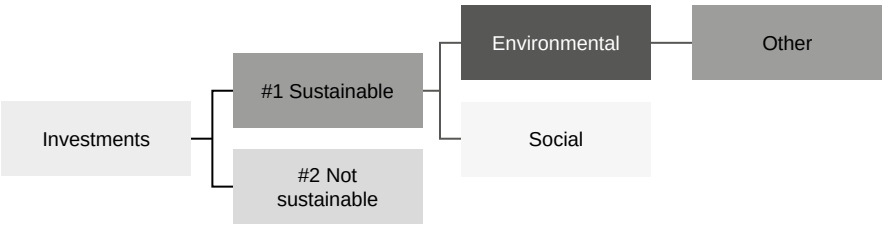
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

All of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments or instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging. Investments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets.

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1 Sustainable). In relation to these Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Not sustainable).




**#1 Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.

**#2 Not sustainable** includes investments which do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the sustainable investment objective?***

Where derivatives are used for investment purposes, they are assessed against the criteria for Sustainable Investments. Derivatives may also be used for limited other purposes such as liquidity and hedging, and any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment in respect of such derivatives.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to invest more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

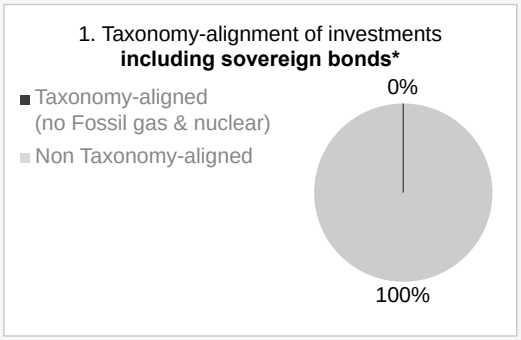
☐ Yes

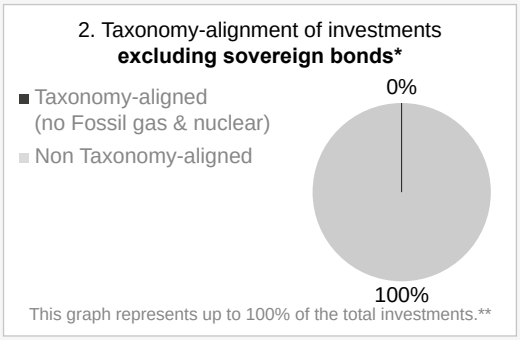
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are environmentally sustainable investments that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with a social objective?**

A minimum of 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Not sustainable", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

The use of such investments does not affect the delivery of the sustainable investment objective, as these investments are used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the sustainable investment objective.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to meet the sustainable investment objective?**

No.

Please note that the Factset Nutrition Universe is used as an investable universe for the purpose of measuring certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How does the reference benchmark take into account sustainability factors in a way that is continuously aligned with the sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

**Product name: Social Action Equity Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300OMBYG2BHJEGI79**

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

*__Sustainable investment__ means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The __EU Taxonomy__ is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of __environmentally sustainable economic activities__. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 50% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund focuses on investing in companies that offer mutual value creation whereby social progress is achieved, alongside shared prosperity. The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally whose products, services and /or behaviours enable improved social outcomes (having regard to specialist third party information sources as appropriate).

The Fund invests a minimum of 50% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental

Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund will apply custom social screens and will seek to limit or exclude direct investment in corporate issuers whose products, services and /or behaviours, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser impair social outcomes and / or affect social progress, mutual value creation and shared prosperity. These social screens include but are not limited to alcohol and gambling.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI All Countries World Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  The Fund's holdings in investments enabling improved social outcomes, as described above.

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  3. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology and exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  This Fund invests at least 50% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights . Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Share of investments in companies active in the fossil fuel sector.
- Share of investments in investee companies that have been involved in violations of the UNGC principles or OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.
- Share of investments in investee companies involved in the manufacture or selling of controversial weapons.

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance (ESG) investing.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund focuses on investing in companies that offer mutual value creation whereby social progress is achieved, alongside shared prosperity. The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies globally whose products, services and /or behaviours enable improved social outcomes. (having regard to specialist third party information sources as appropriate).

The companies are rated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the social action theme and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential

impact this may have on a company's financials and their alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals ("UN SDGs").

More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The Fund will apply a custom ESG screen which incorporates multiple components. First, The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and will seek to limit or exclude direct investment in corporate issuers which, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser have any exposure to, or ties with, controversial weapons or conventional weapons; the production, distribution, licensing, retail or supply of tobacco or tobacco-related products; the production or distribution of firearms or small arms ammunitions intended for retail civilians; are deemed to have failed to comply with one or more of the ten United Nation Global Compact Principles ("UNGC"), which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption. The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the extraction of, or the generation of power using, thermal coal or tar sands (also known as oil sands). The Investment Adviser may invest in the securities of issuers with higher levels of revenue from these activities if the issuer has committed to a net zero transition plan.

Additionally, the Fund will apply custom social screens and will seek to limit or exclude direct investment in corporate issuers whose products, services and /or behaviours, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser impair social outcomes and / or affect social progress, mutual value creation and shared prosperity. These social screens include but are not limited to alcohol and gambling.

The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments.

The ESG Policy reduces the investment universe of the Fund compared to the Index by at least 20%.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 80% in investments enabling improved social outcomes, as described above.

  2. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 50% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

  3. Maintain that the ESG policy (as described above) reduces the investment universe of the Fund compared to the Index by at least 20%

  4. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology and exclusionary screens.

  5. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  The ESG Policy reduces the investment universe of the Fund compared to the Index by at least 20%.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

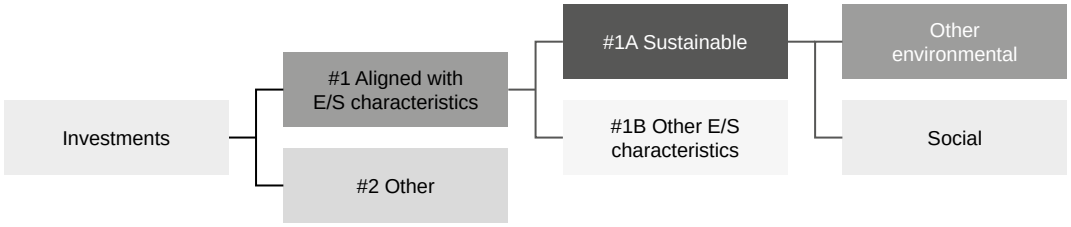
A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 50% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

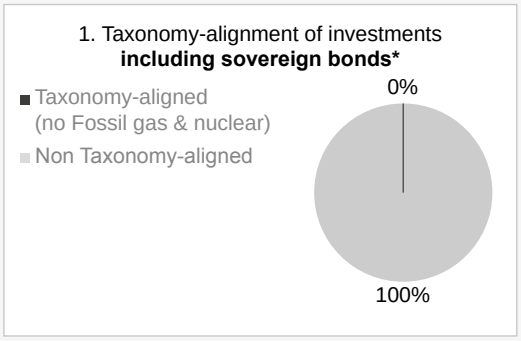
☐ Yes

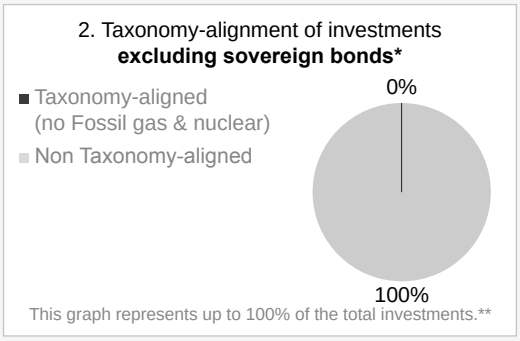
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI All Countries World Index is to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

**Product name: Sustainable Asian Bond Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300JZ0LV6GHH1FT27**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3

includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative to the ESG Reporting Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

In addition, the Fund will seek to limit or exclude direct investment in corporate issuers which, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, (i) derive more than 5% of revenue from the production or distribution of palm oil, (ii) derive more than 5% of revenue from the ownership or operation of gambling related activities or facilities, or (iii) involved in the production of adult entertainment materials.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, J.P. Morgan Asia Credit Index (the "ESG Reporting Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in use-of-proceeds bonds, including "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by BlackRock's corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.
  3. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  4. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  5. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  6. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, other exclusionary screens, its carbon reduction target and its holdings in green bonds.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund seeks to invest in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focused investing. The Fund seeks to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by allocating to green and sustainable bonds, lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers positioned to benefit from the low carbon transition.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments, including, but not limited to, "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond Principles) and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and will seek to limit or exclude direct investment in corporate issuers which, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, (i) derive more than 5% of revenue from the production or distribution of palm oil, (ii) derive more than 5% of revenue from the ownership or operation of gambling related activities or facilities, or (iii) involved in the production of adult entertainment materials (the "Screens"). Should existing holdings, compliant at the time of investment subsequently become ineligible with the Screens they will be divested within a reasonable period.

The Fund invests at least 20% in "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by its corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.

In selecting investments, the Investment Adviser will, in addition to other investment criteria, take into account the ESG characteristics of the relevant issuer. At least 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The ESG Policy reduces the investment universe of the Fund compared to the ESG Reporting Index by at least 20%.

The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be calculated as the total of each issuer's ESG rating (excluding cash and issuers not supported by the index provider), weighted by its market value. The weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG Reporting Index after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the ESG Reporting Index.

The Investment Adviser intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score that is 30% lower than the ESG Reporting Index.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the investment strategy reduces the investment universe of the Fund by at least 20%.
  2. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens.
  4. Maintain that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG Reporting Index after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the ESG Reporting Index.
  5. Maintain the Fund's carbon emissions intensity as 30% lower than that of the ESG Reporting Index.
  6. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  The ESG policy (as described above) reduces the investment universe of the Fund compared to the ESG Reporting Index by at least 20%.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

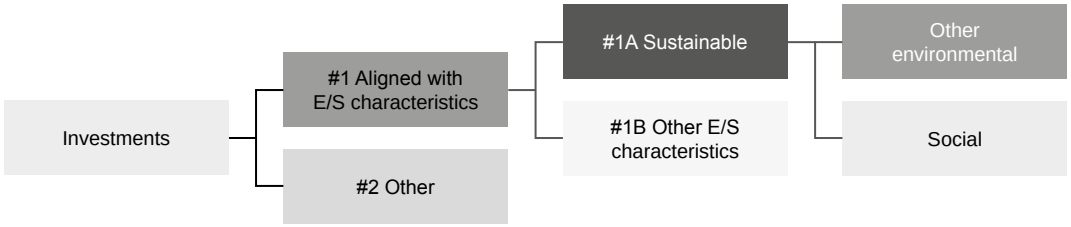
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.


NM0324U-3453640-597808

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

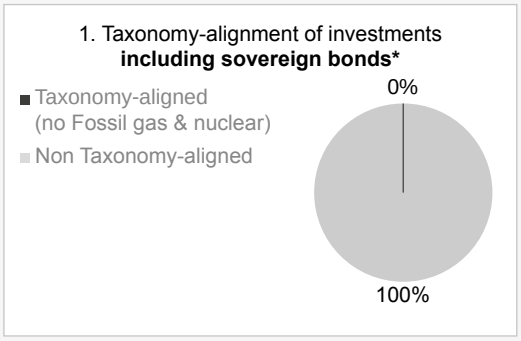
☐ Yes

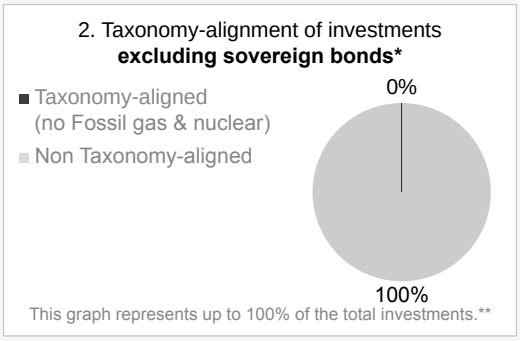
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the J.P. Morgan Asia Credit Index is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Sustainable Emerging Markets Blended Bond Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300QOEVAPNM75H450**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

*__Sustainable investment__ means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The __EU Taxonomy__ is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of __environmentally sustainable economic activities__. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ● ○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) compared to J.P. Morgan Blended Emerging Market Bond Index (Sovereign) (the ESG Reporting Index) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power


NM0324U-3453640-601/608

generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

At least 70% of the Fund's total assets are invested in the investable universe as defined by the Index. The Index uses JP Morgan's ESG ("JESG") methodology. Normalised JESG Index Scores for issuers are calculated daily, using data from RepRisk, Sustainalytics, and Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) as inputs. JESG construction takes into account the environmental and socio-ethical factors by excluding issuers operating in certain sectors, namely thermal coal, tobacco and weapons and any issuers in violation of the UN Global Compact principles. Issuers with JESG scores less than 20 are excluded from the benchmark. The methodology assigns an overweight to green bonds to incentivise sustainable financing aligned with climate change solutions.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, J.P. Morgan Blended Emerging Market Bond Index (Sovereign) (the "ESG Reporting Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in use-of-proceeds bonds, including "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by BlackRock's corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.
  3. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, its exclusionary policy and its holdings in green bonds.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focused investing.

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in fixed income transferable securities issued by governments and government agencies of, and companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets, denominated in both emerging market and non-emerging market currencies, and included within the J.P. Morgan ESG Blended Emerging Market Bond Index (Sovereign) (the "Index", and the securities comprised within it being the "Index Securities").

In selecting Index Securities, the Investment Adviser will, in addition to other investment criteria, take into account the ESG characteristics of the relevant issuer. The Investment Adviser will analyse which ESG factors drive an issuer's ESG credentials within the Index and its broader ESG performance.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments, including, but not limited to, "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond Principles) and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described in the prospectus.

ESG research is ingrained in research and in the security selection process. The Investment Adviser employs a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser seeks to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seeks to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. issuers involved in controversial activities and issuers subject to UN sanctions).

To limit exposure to investments deemed to have associated negative externalities, the Investment Adviser applies exclusionary screens to the Fund's universe via the use of the JESG benchmark and EMEA baseline screens. The Investment Advisor also looks at a large number of ESG indicators and their direction, and uses proprietary frameworks comprised of qualitative and qualitative analysis to actively limit exposures to those investments.

To determine sovereign issuers deemed to have associated positive externalities, the Investment Adviser employs a framework specific to EM to assess sovereign issuers. Net-zero and governance-leading EM sovereigns are deemed to have positive externalities. Use of proceeds instruments with positive environmental and/or social impact such as green, social, and sustainable bonds are also deemed to have positive externalities.

All investable issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers including MSCI, Verisk Maplecroft, Sustainalytics, JP Morgan (JESG), BSSI, the UN and the World Bank, among others.

The Investment Advisor seeks to utilise the most relevant metrics, based on their expected materiality (i.e. the relevance that the metric can have on the issuer). Those indicators are analysed in parallel to fundamental qualitative analysis.

Analysis specific to EM sovereigns is incorporated to address biases, which can often be seen in traditional ESG Sovereign scoring. The Team focusses on (i) assessing countries vs. rating/income

peers and (ii) looking for ESG improvers within peer groups. By focusing on peer groups and trends, the Investment Advisor seeks to reduce the bias that certain ESG metrics have in favour of countries with higher GDP per capita.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities, compared to the Fund's ESG Reporting Index while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities.
  3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

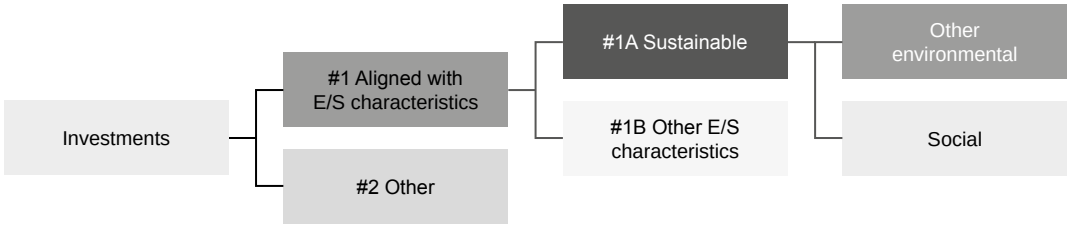
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

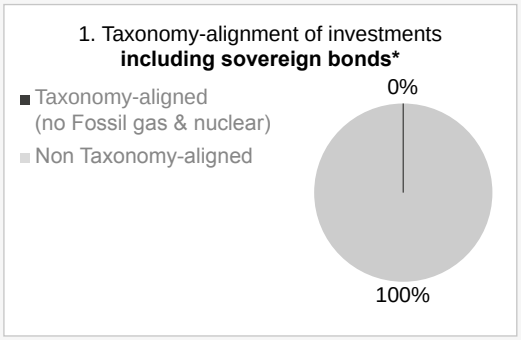
☐ Yes

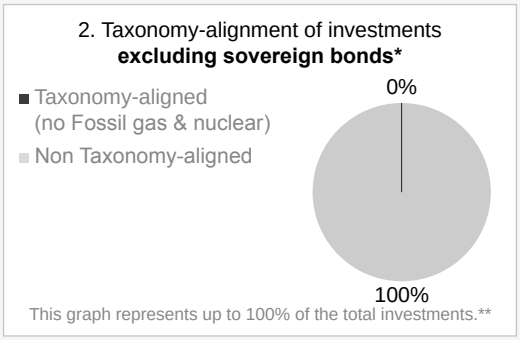
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the J.P. Morgan Blended Emerging Market Bond Index (Sovereign) is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Sustainable Emerging Markets Bond Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300EJQVU7N2R7YO52

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

*__Sustainable investment__ means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The __EU Taxonomy__ is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of __environmentally sustainable economic activities__. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ● ○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) compared to J.P. Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Index Global Diversified (the ESG Reporting Index) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power



NM0324U-3453640-610/808

generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

At least 70% of the Fund's total assets are invested in the investable universe as defined by the Index. The Index uses JP Morgan's ESG ("JESG") methodology. Normalised JESG Index Scores for issuers are calculated daily, using data from RepRisk, Sustainalytics, and Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) as inputs. JESG construction takes into account the environmental and socio-ethical factors by excluding issuers operating in certain sectors, namely thermal coal, tobacco and weapons and any issuers in violation of the UN Global Compact principles. Issuers with JESG scores less than 20 are excluded from the benchmark. The methodology assigns an overweight to green bonds to incentivise sustainable financing aligned with climate change solutions.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, J.P. Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Index Global Diversified (the "ESG Reporting Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in use-of-proceeds bonds, including "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by BlackRock's corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.
  3. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, its exclusionary policy and its holdings in green bonds.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the fixed income transferable securities of governments and government agencies of, and companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets, and included within the J.P. Morgan ESG Emerging Market Bond Index Global Diversified (the "Index" and the securities comprised within it being "Index Securities") in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focused investing.

In selecting Index Securities, the Investment Adviser will, in addition to other investment criteria, take into account the ESG characteristics of the relevant issuer. The Investment Adviser will analyse which ESG factors drive an issuer's ESG credentials within the Index and its broader ESG performance.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments, including, but not limited to, "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond Principles) and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described in the prospectus.

The Investment Adviser employs a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser seeks to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seeks to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. issuers involved in controversial activities and issuers subject to UN sanctions).

To limit exposure to investments deemed to have associated negative externalities, the Investment Adviser applies exclusionary screens to the Fund's universe via the use of the JESG benchmark and EMEA baseline screens. The Investment Advisor also looks at a large number of ESG indicators and their direction, and uses proprietary frameworks comprised of qualitative and qualitative analysis to actively limit exposures to those investments.

To determine sovereign issuers deemed to have associated positive externalities, the Investment Adviser employs a framework specific to EM to assess sovereign issuers. Net-zero and governance-leading EM sovereigns are deemed to have positive externalities. Use of proceeds instruments with positive environmental and/or social impact such as green, social, and sustainable bonds are also deemed to have positive externalities.

All investable issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG data providers.

The Investment Adviser seeks to utilise the most relevant metrics, based on their expected materiality (i.e. the relevance that the metric can have on the issuer). Those indicators analysed in parallel to fundamental qualitative analysis.

Analysis specific to EM sovereigns is incorporated to address biases, which can often be seen in traditional ESG Sovereign scoring. The Team focusses on (i) assessing countries vs. rating/income peers and (ii) looking for ESG improvers within peer groups. By focusing on peer groups and trends, the Investment Adviser seeks to reduce the bias that certain ESG metrics have in favour of countries with higher GDP per capita.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities, compared to the Fund's ESG Reporting Index while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities.
  3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

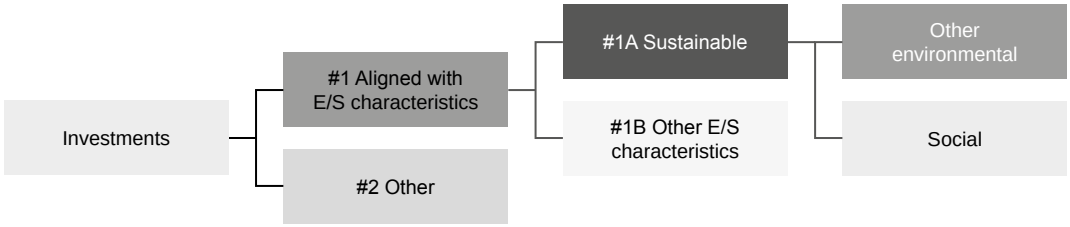
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

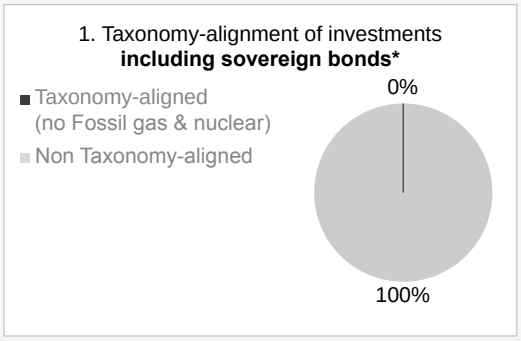
☐ Yes

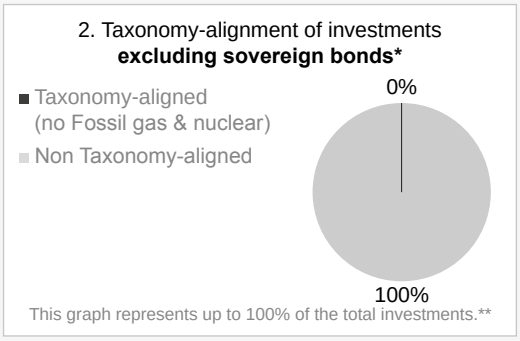
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the J.P. Morgan Emerging Markets Bond Index Global Diversified is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Sustainable Emerging Markets Corporate Bond Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300RP1XQIVCL46L82**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3


NM0324U-3453640-619/808

includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative to the ESG Reporting Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

At least 70% of the Fund's total assets are invested in the investable universe as defined by the Index. The Index uses JP Morgan's ESG ("JESG") methodology. Normalised JESG Index Scores for issuers are calculated daily, using data from RepRisk, Sustainalytics, and Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) as inputs. JESG construction takes into account the environmental and socio-ethical factors by excluding issuers operating in certain sectors, namely thermal coal, tobacco and weapons and any issuers in violation of the UN Global Compact principles. Issuers with JESG scores less than 20 are excluded from the benchmark. The methodology assigns an overweight to green bonds to incentivise sustainable financing aligned with climate change solutions.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, J.P. Morgan Corporate Emerging Market Bond Index Broad Diversified (the "ESG Reporting Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in use-of-proceeds bonds, including "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by BlackRock's corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.
  3. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities as described above.
  4. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  5. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  6. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy,

energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, its exclusionary policy, its carbon reduction target and its holdings in green bonds.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the fixed income transferable securities issued by companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets and included within the J.P. Morgan ESG Corporate Emerging Market Bond Index Broad Diversified (the "Index" and the securities comprised within it being the "Index Securities") in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focused investing.

In selecting Index Securities, the Investment Adviser will, in addition to other investment criteria, take into account the ESG characteristics of the relevant issuer. The Investment Adviser will analyse which ESG factors drive an issuer's ESG credentials within the Index and its broader ESG performance.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments, including, but not limited to, "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond Principles) and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described in the prospectus.

The Investment Adviser uses ESG analysis to help uncover material risks otherwise not frequently uncovered by conventional fundamental analysis. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser leverages ESG insights from external providers such as MSCI and Sustainalytics, in conjunction with internal research that can involve issuer engagement to produce an internal ESG view and an ESG credit impact view that can be incorporated with credit fundamental assessments.

The Investment Adviser employs a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser seeks to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seeks to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. issuers involved in controversial activities and issuers subject to UN sanctions).

To limit exposure to investments deemed to have associated negative externalities, the Investment Adviser applies exclusionary screens to the Fund's universe via the use of the JESG benchmark and EMEA baseline screens. The Investment Adviser also employs an ESG-focused qualitative and quantitative analysis to actively limit exposure to those investments.

To determine corporate issuers to have associated positive externalities, the Investment Adviser analyses issuers' s SDG revenue alignment. Use of proceeds instruments with positive environmental and/or social impact such as green, social, and sustainable bonds are also deemed to have positive externalities.

All investable issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

The Investment Advisor seeks to utilise the most relevant metrics, based on their expected materiality (i.e. the relevance that the metric can have on the issuer). Those indicators are analysed in parallel to fundamental qualitative analysis.

Analysis specific to EM sovereigns is incorporated to address biases, which can often be seen in traditional ESG Sovereign scoring. The Team focusses on (i) assessing countries vs. rating/income peers and (ii) looking for ESG improvers within peer groups. By focusing on peer groups and trends, the Investment Advisor seeks to reduce the bias that certain ESG metrics have in favour of countries with higher GDP per capita.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities, compared to the Fund's ESG Reporting Index while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities.
  3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.
  4. Maintain that the Fund's carbon emissions intensity score is lower than that of the ESG Reporting Index.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

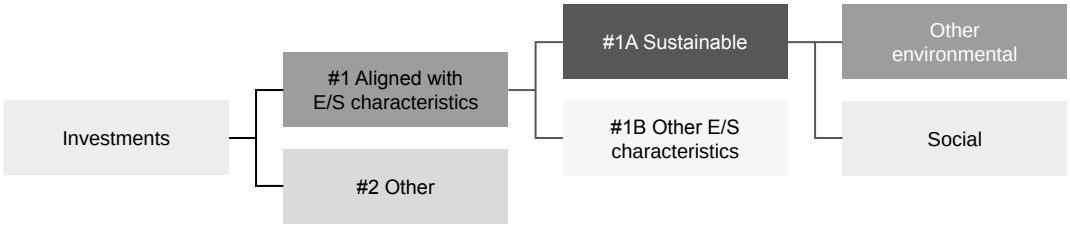
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

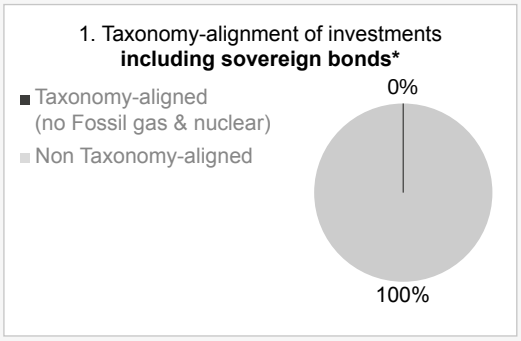
☐ Yes

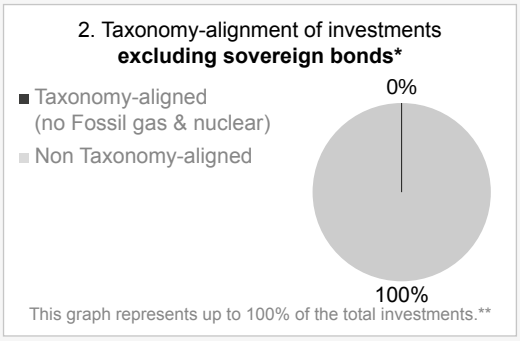
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the J.P. Morgan Corporate Emerging Market Bond Index Broad Diversified is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Sustainable Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300T218NWJ8CPIT42**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) compared to J.P. Morgan -Government Bond Index Emerging Markets – Emerging Market Global Diversified (the ESG Reporting Index) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power

generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

At least 70% of the Fund's total assets are invested in the investable universe as defined by the Index. The Index uses JP Morgan's ESG ("JESG") methodology. Normalised JESG Index Scores for issuers are calculated daily, using data from RepRisk, Sustainalytics, and Climate Bonds Initiative (CBI) as inputs. JESG construction takes into account the environmental and socio-ethical factors by excluding issuers operating in certain sectors, namely thermal coal, tobacco and weapons and any issuers in violation of the UN Global Compact principles. Issuers with JESG scores less than 20 are excluded from the benchmark. The methodology assigns an overweight to green bonds to incentivise sustainable financing aligned with climate change solutions.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, J.P. Morgan -Government Bond Index Emerging Markets – Emerging Market Global Diversified (the "ESG Reporting Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in use-of-proceeds bonds, including "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by BlackRock's corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.
  3. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, its exclusionary policy and its holdings in green bonds.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focused investing.

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the fixed income transferable securities issued by governments of emerging markets, denominated in the local currency of such emerging markets countries and included within the J.P. Morgan ESG Government Bond Index – Emerging Market Global Diversified (the "Index"), and the securities comprised within it being the "Index Securities").

In selecting Index Securities, the Investment Adviser will, in addition to other investment criteria, take into account the ESG characteristics of the relevant issuer. The Investment Adviser will analyse which ESG factors drive an issuer's ESG credentials within the Index and its broader ESG performance.

The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments, including, but not limited to, "green bonds" (as defined by its proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond Principles) and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described in the prospectus.

ESG research is ingrained in research and in the security selection process. The Investment Adviser employs a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser seeks to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seeks to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. issuers involved in controversial activities and issuers subject to UN sanctions).

To limit exposure to investments deemed to have associated negative externalities, the Investment Adviser applies exclusionary screens to the Fund's universe via the use of the JESG benchmark and EMEA baseline screens. The Investment Advisor also looks at a large number of ESG indicators and their direction, and uses proprietary frameworks comprised of qualitative and qualitative analysis to actively limit exposures to those investments.

To determine sovereign issuers deemed to have associated positive externalities, the Investment Adviser employs a framework specific to EM to assess sovereign issuers. Net-zero and governance-leading EM sovereigns are deemed to have positive externalities. Use of proceeds instruments with positive environmental and/or social impact such as green, social, and sustainable bonds are also deemed to have positive externalities.

All investable issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers including MSCI, Verisk Maplecroft, Sustainalytics, JP Morgan (JESG), BSSI, the UN and the World Bank, among others.

The Investment Advisor seeks to utilise the most relevant metrics, based on their expected materiality (i.e. the relevance that the metric can have on the issuer). Those indicators are analysed in parallel to fundamental qualitative analysis.

Analysis specific to EM sovereigns is incorporated to address biases, which can often be seen in traditional ESG Sovereign scoring. The Team focusses on (i) assessing countries vs. rating/income peers and (ii) looking for ESG improvers within peer groups. By focusing on peer groups and trends,

the Investment Advisor seeks to reduce the bias that certain ESG metrics have in favour of countries with higher GDP per capita.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities, compared to the Fund's ESG Reporting Index while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities.
  3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

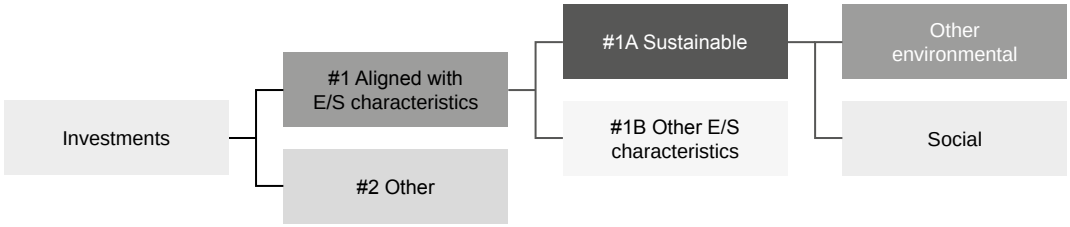
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

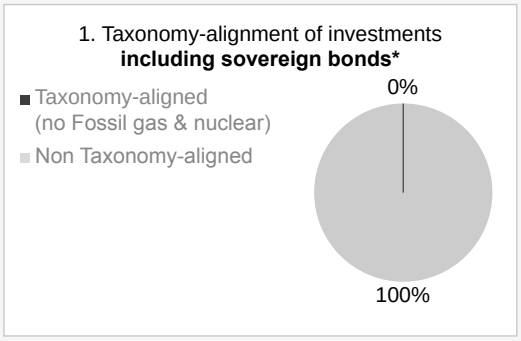
☐ Yes

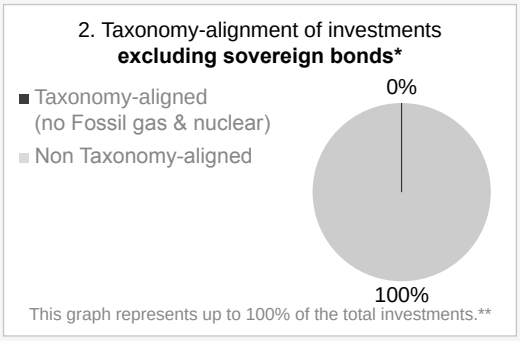
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the J.P. Morgan -Government Bond Index Emerging Markets – Emerging Market Global Diversified is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 9, paragraphs 1 to 4a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 5, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Sustainable Energy Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 5493009Z1H3ONBJRQQ80**

## Sustainable investment objective

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

| **Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?** | |
|---|---|
| ●● ✔ **Yes** | ●○ ☐ **No** |
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: 15%**<br>☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>✔ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ____% of sustainable investments<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with a social objective |
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: 1%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What is the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?**

The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of sustainable energy companies. Sustainable energy companies are those which are engaged in alternative energy and energy technologies including: renewable energy technology; renewable energy developers; alternative fuels; energy efficiency; enabling energy and infrastructure.

The Fund invests a minimum of 80% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. The minimum for each Sustainable Investment objective is set out in the box above. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) a minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

The Fund considers key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental

and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

The Fund will not invest in companies that are classified in the following sectors (as defined by Global Industry Classification Standard): coal and consumables; oil and gas exploration and production; integrated oil and gas.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI AII Countries World Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the sustainable objectives of this financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?***

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  4. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***How do sustainable investments not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

  - *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

    The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

  - *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?*

    Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

This Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund invests globally at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of sustainable energy companies. Sustainable energy companies are those which are engaged in alternative energy and energy technologies including: renewable energy technology; renewable energy developers; alternative fuels; energy efficiency; enabling energy and infrastructure. The companies are rated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with alternative energy and energy technologies and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials.

The Fund will not invest in companies that are classified in the following sectors (as defined by Global Industry Classification Standard): coal and consumables; oil and gas exploration and production; and integrated oil and gas. The assessment of the level of engagement in each activity or sector may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund adopts a "best in class" approach to sustainable investing. This means that the Fund selects the best issuers (from an ESG perspective) for each relevant sector of activities (without excluding any sector of activities). More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The Investment Adviser uses its analysis to create a portfolio that has a higher ESG rating than the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the Index.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain the sustainable investment objective?***

  The binding elements of the strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that all of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments (save for instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging, which will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets). In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Apply the exclusionary screens.
  3. Maintain that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the index.
  4. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

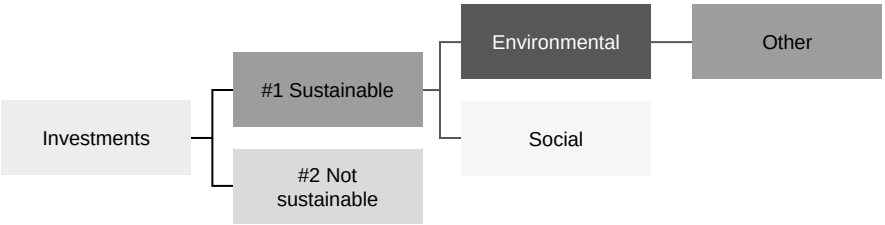
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation and the minimum share of sustainable investments?**

All of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments or instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging. Investments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets.

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1 Sustainable). In relation to these Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Not sustainable).




**#1 Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.

**#2 Not sustainable** includes investments which do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the sustainable investment objective?***

Where derivatives are used for investment purposes, they are assessed against the criteria for Sustainable Investments. Derivatives may also be used for limited other purposes such as liquidity and hedging, and any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment in respect of such derivatives.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to invest more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

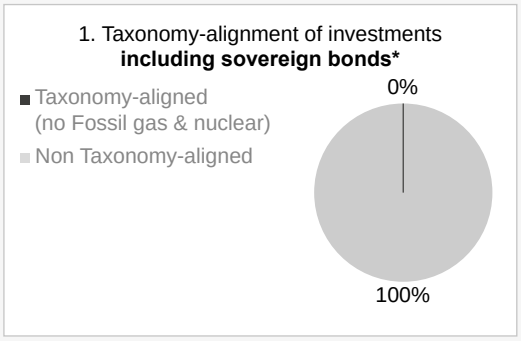
☐ Yes

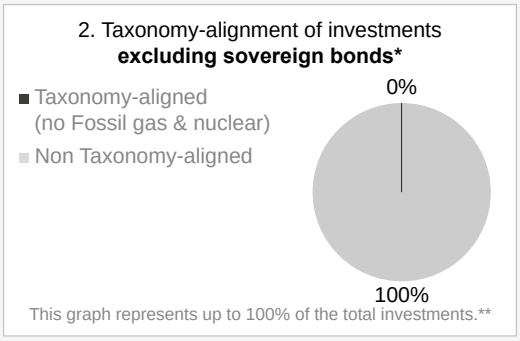
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are environmentally sustainable investments that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with a social objective?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Not sustainable", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

The use of such investments does not affect the delivery of the sustainable investment objective, as these investments are used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the sustainable investment objective.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to meet the sustainable investment objective?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI AII Countries World Index is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How does the reference benchmark take into account sustainability factors in a way that is continuously aligned with the sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Sustainable Fixed Income Global Opportunities Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300WDKF3XK5N3KS37**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers

involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in use-of-proceeds bonds, including "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by BlackRock's corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.
  3. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

  c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

  d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, its exclusionary policy and its holdings in green bonds.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The investment objective of the Fund is to maximize total returns in a manner that is consistent with the principles of ESG investing. The Fund is actively managed and the Investment Adviser has full discretion to select the Fund's investments.

To achieve this objective, the Fund's currency exposure will be flexibly managed, and the Fund will invest at least 70% of its total assets in fixed income transferable securities, denominated in various currencies and issued by governments, agencies and companies worldwide. The Fund may invest in non-investment grade securities and may allocate up to 100% of its total assets in Asset-Backed securities (ABS) and Mortgage-Backed securities (MBS). The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for efficient portfolio management.

The Fund's investment process relies on four key themes in its ESG investment approach. Firstly, BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens are applied. Secondly, the Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities including limiting direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the ownership or operation of gambling related activities or facilities, production, supply and mining activities related to nuclear power and production of adult entertainment materials. The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials. Lastly, the Fund will maintain an allocation to green bonds as defined by the Investment Adviser's proprietary green bond methodology, which is guided by the ICMA Green Bond Principles. the Fund will maintain an allocation to green bonds as defined by the Investment Adviser's proprietary green bond methodology, which is guided by the ICMA Green Bond Principles.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities.
  3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

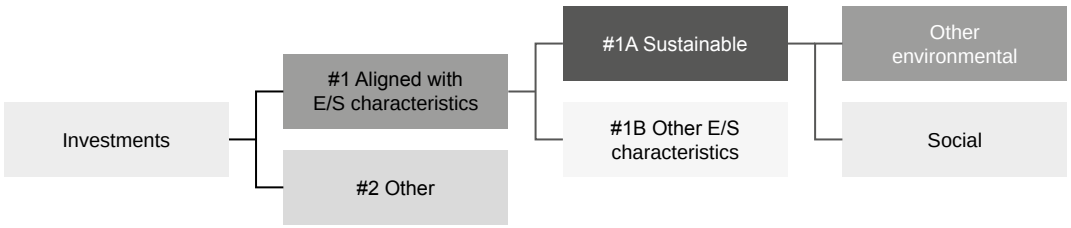
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

A minimum of 70% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 30% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

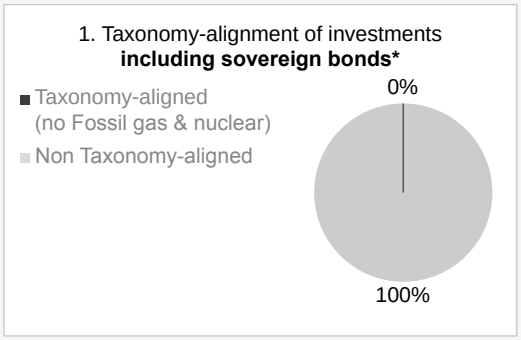
☐ Yes

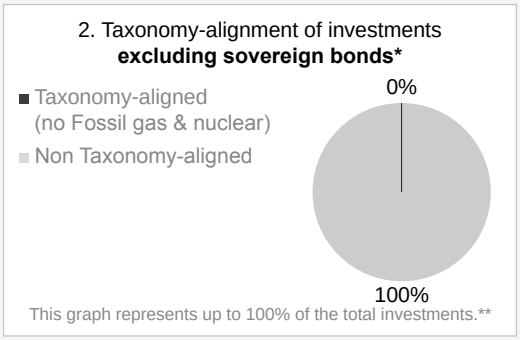
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.


NM0324U-3453640-649/808

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 30% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Sustainable Global Allocation Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300TYWZPHTEVJ5C72

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or “scopes” by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3



NM0324U-3453640-652/808

includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative to the Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The ESG policy reduces the investment universe of the Fund by 20%. For the purposes of measuring this reduction only, MSCI All Country World Index and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index are used to define the investment universe and are reduced separately.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI All Country World Index (60%) and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index (40%) (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in use-of-proceeds bonds, including "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by BlackRock's corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.
  3. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities as described above.
  4. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  5. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  6. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, its exclusionary policy, its carbon reduction target and its holdings in green bonds.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies

- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focused investing. The Fund invests globally in equity, debt and short term securities, of both corporate and governmental issuers, with no prescribed limits. In normal market conditions the Fund will invest at least 70% of its total assets in the securities of corporate and governmental issuers. The Fund generally will seek to invest in securities that are, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, undervalued. The Fund may also invest in the equity securities of small and emerging growth companies. The Fund may also invest a portion of its debt portfolio in high yield fixed income transferable securities. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs relative to the holding's sector as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to restrict exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities ("NEXT") while enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities ("PEXT"), compared to the Fund's investable universe. The Fund seeks to reduce its corporate carbon emissions profile compared to that of the benchmark by investing in lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers committed to decarbonization.

After applying exclusionary policies, the Investment Advisor evaluates the risks and opportunities of the remaining issuers, combining ESG principles with top-down macro asset allocation and bottom-up security analysis.

***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

2. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities compared to the Fund's benchmark while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities.

3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

4. Reduce the investable universe of the Fund by at least 20%.

5. Maintain that the Fund's carbon emissions intensity score is lower than the Index.

6. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  The ESG policy (as described above) reduces the investment universe of the Fund by at least 20%.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

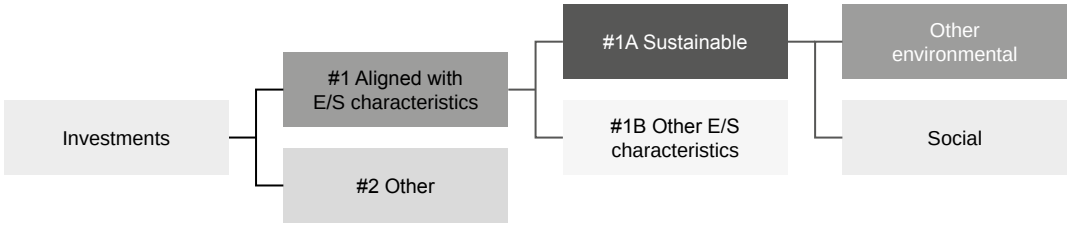
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

A minimum of 70% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 30% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

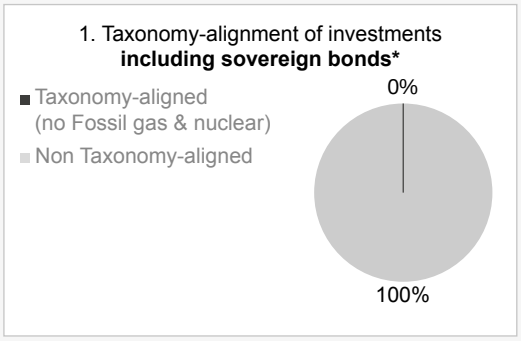
☐ Yes

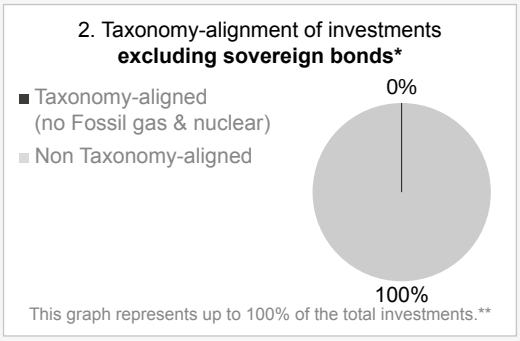
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 30% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI All Country World Index (60%) and Bloomberg Global Aggregate Index (40%) is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Sustainable Global Bond Income Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300ZEXZCUT4KV2424**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers

involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in use-of-proceeds bonds, including "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by BlackRock's corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.
  3. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

  c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

  d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, its exclusionary policy and its holdings in green bonds.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The investment objective of the fund is to maximize income across the global fixed income universe without sacrificing long-term capital growth in a manner that is consistent with the principles of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investing. The fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has full discretion to select the fund's investments.

The fund's investment process is consistent with ESG investing such that it relies on these key themes in relation to an ESG investment approach. Firstly, the Investment Adviser's investment research analyses risk and reward opportunities from an ESG lens and actively seeks to integrate environmental, social and governance issues. Secondly, screening criteria such as the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens are applied to restrict direct investments in ESG-negative sectors with direct or related ties to gambling, mining, nuclear power, adult entertainment, and nuclear power amongst others.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities.
  3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

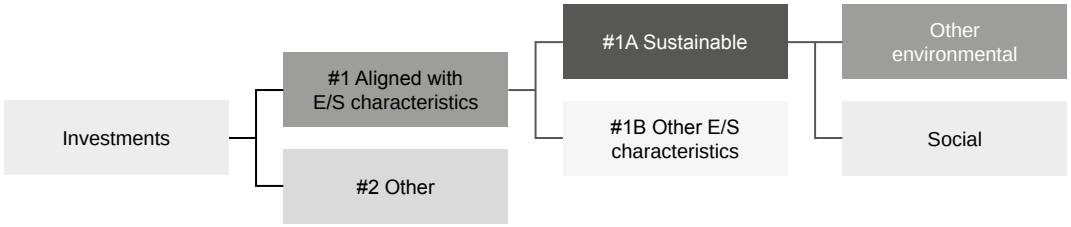
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 70% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 30% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

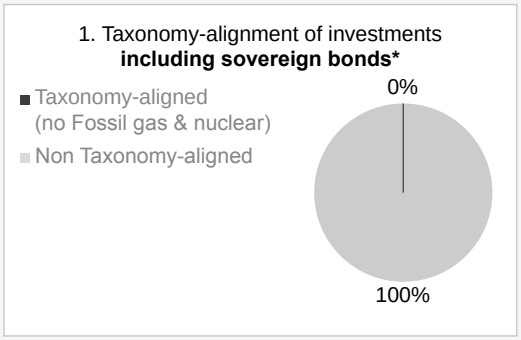
☐ Yes

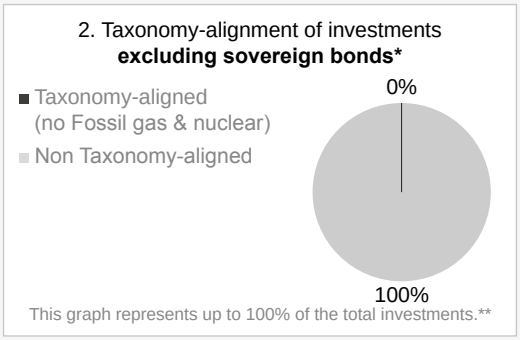
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 30% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Sustainable Global Dynamic Equity Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 5493000X5HT2OV7FWP57

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or “scopes” by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3



NM0324U-3453640-668/808

includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative to the Index (as defined below), which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf.

The ESG policy reduces the investment universe of the Fund by 20%. For the purposes of measuring this reduction only, MSCI All Country World Index is used to define the investment universe and are reduced separately.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI All Country World Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities as described above.
  3. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  4. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.
  5. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance ("ESG") focused investing. The Fund invests globally, with no prescribed country or regional limits, at least 70% of its total assets in equity securities. The Fund will generally seek to invest in securities that are, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, undervalued. The Fund may also invest in the equity securities of small and emerging growth companies. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs relative to the holding's sector as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to restrict exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities ("NEXT") while enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities ("PEXT"), compared to the Fund's investable universe. The Fund seeks to reduce its corporate carbon emissions profile compared to that of the benchmark by investing in lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers committed to decarbonization. After applying exclusionary policies, the Investment Advisor evaluates the risks and opportunities of the remaining issuers, combining ESG principles with top-down macro asset allocation and bottom-up security analysis.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities compared to the Fund's benchmark while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities.
  3. Reduce the investable universe of the Fund by at least 20%.
  4. Maintain that the Fund's carbon emissions intensity score is lower than the Index.
  5. Application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens described above.
  6. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  The ESG policy (as described above) reduces the investment universe of the Fund by at least 20%.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external

assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

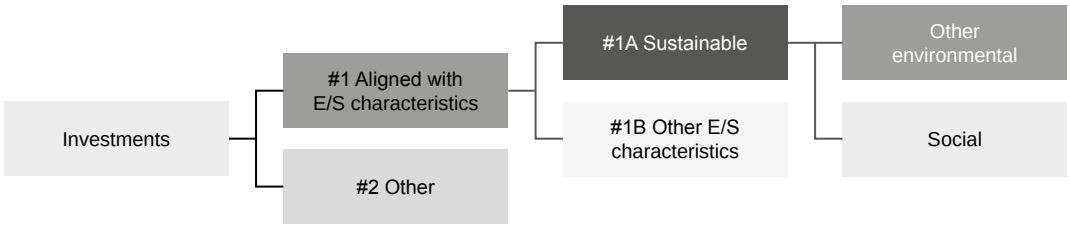
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). Of these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

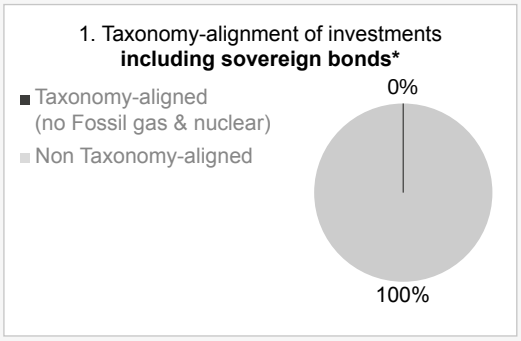
☐ Yes

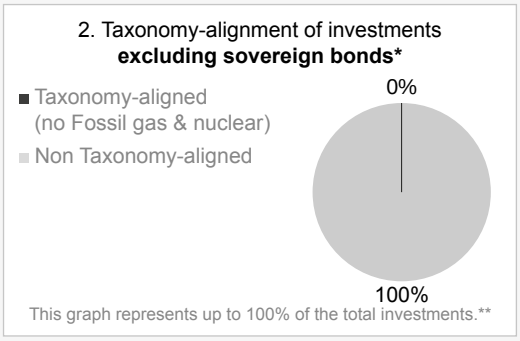
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI All Country World Index is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 9, paragraphs 1 to 4a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 5, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Sustainable Global Infrastructure Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300MW34RL70JW4V90

### Sustainable investment objective

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ✔ **Yes** | ●○ ☐ **No** |
|---|---|
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: 15%**<br>☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>✔ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ____% of sustainable investments<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with a social objective |
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: 1%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What is the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?**

The Fund seeks to invest at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies whose predominant economic activity is in the infrastructure sector and with a particular focus on companies aligned with and supporting the objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (“UN SDGs”).

The Fund invests a minimum of 80% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. The minimum for each Sustainable Investment objective is set out in the box above. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (“Environmental and Social Objectives”).

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer’s business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or the issuer’s business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

b) or the issuer’s business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

This Fund applies a set of exclusionary screens.

The Fund will apply a custom ESG screen which incorporates multiple components. First, a screen is used to limit or exclude direct investment (as applicable) in corporate issuers which, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser: have any exposure to, or ties with, controversial weapons or conventional weapons; the production, distribution, licensing, retail or supply of tobacco or tobacco-related products; the production or distribution of firearms or small arms ammunitions intended for retail civilians; are deemed to have failed to comply with one or more of the ten United Nation Global Compact Principles ("UNGC"), which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment and anti-corruption. The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in the extraction of, or the generation of power using, thermal coal or tar sands (also known as oil sands). The Investment Adviser may invest in the securities of issuers with higher levels of revenue from these activities if the issuer has committed to a net zero transition plan.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the sustainable objectives of this financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?***

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  3. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***How do sustainable investments not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

  - *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

    The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

  - *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?*

    Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

This Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests in companies whose predominant economic activity is in the infrastructure sector and with a particular focus on companies aligned with and supporting the objectives of the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("UN SDGs").

The Fund focuses on infrastructure investments serving the needs of societies and economies. Investment themes include low emissions forms of transport, hospitals and medical centres, digital infrastructure. In normal market conditions the Fund will invest in a relatively concentrated portfolio of equity securities of companies with large, medium and small market capitalisation across a broad range of infrastructure sub-sectors including (without limitation) regulated utilities, renewables, transportation, social infrastructure and communications, that contribute to the advancement of at least one of the 6 SDGs below:

- SDG 3 (Good Health & Well-Being)
- SDG 6 (Clean Water & Sanitation)
- SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy)
- SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation &Infrastructure)
- SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities & Communities)
- SDG 13 (Climate Action)

After applying the exclusionary policy, the remaining companies (i.e. those companies which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are assessed by the Investment Adviser based on their alignment to each of the SDGs above. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Investment Adviser evaluates companies on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with the infrastructure theme and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financials.

More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes. The investment strategy reduces the investable universe of the Fund by at least 20%.

***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain the sustainable investment objective?***

The binding elements of the strategy are as follows:

1. Maintain that all of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments (save for instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging, which will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets). In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
2. Apply the exclusionary screens.
3. Maintain that the investment strategy reduces the investment universe of the Fund by at least 20%.
4. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation and the minimum share of sustainable investments?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

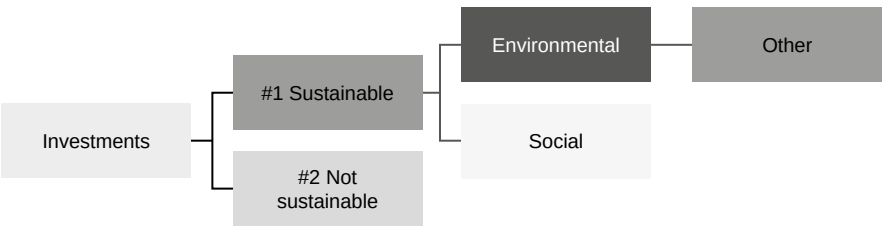
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

All of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments or instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging. Investments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets.

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1 Sustainable). At least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Not sustainable).




**#1 Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.

**#2 Not sustainable** includes investments which do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the sustainable investment objective?***

Where derivatives are used for investment purposes, they are assessed against the criteria for Sustainable Investments. Derivatives may also be used for limited other purposes such as liquidity and hedging, and any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment in respect of such derivatives.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to invest more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

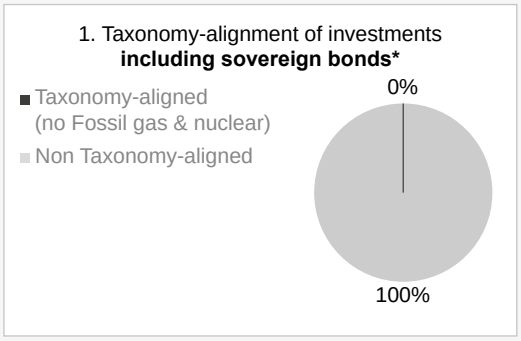
☐ Yes

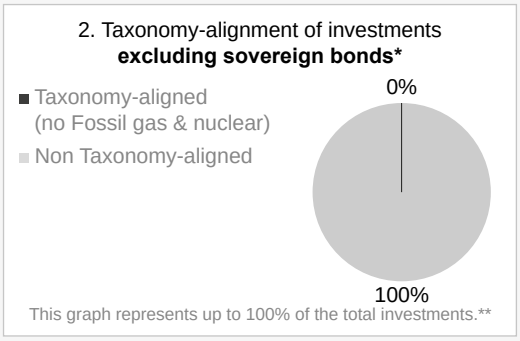
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are environmentally sustainable investments that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with a social objective?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Not sustainable", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

The use of such investments does not affect the delivery of the sustainable investment objective, as these investments are used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to meet the sustainable investment objective?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the sustainable investment objective.

- ***How does the reference benchmark take into account sustainability factors in a way that is continuously aligned with the sustainable investment objective?***

Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Sustainable World Bond Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300GIUUQLJYFN4I12**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. The Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials) and seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials). The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers

involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index (USD hedged) (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in use-of-proceeds bonds, including "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by BlackRock's corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.
  3. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

  c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

  d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, its exclusionary policy and its holdings in green bonds.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The investment objective of the fund is to maximize total return in a manner that is consistent with the principles of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) investing. The fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser will refer to the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate USD hedged index when constructing the fund and analyzing risks for the fund.

The fund's investment process is consistent with ESG investing such that it will assess investments based on the extent to which they have positive or negative externalities that have environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser's proprietary methodology. The Investment Adviser will actively tilt the fund towards investments with positive externalities and limit investments with negative externalities. Additionally, the Investment Adviser considers ESG considerations as it relates to an issuer's creditworthiness and seeks to engage with global entities to address environmental, social and governance concerns.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities compared to the Fund's benchmark while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities.
  3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

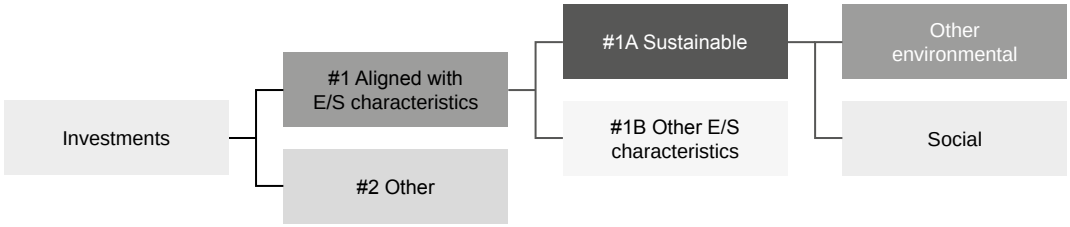
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 70% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 30% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

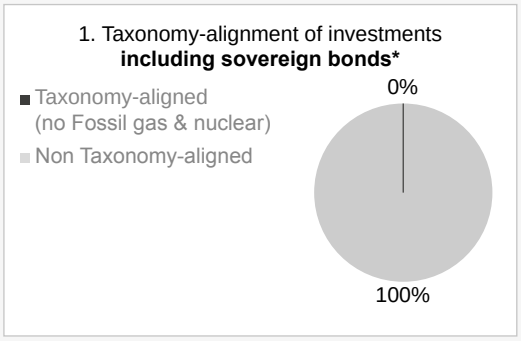
☐ Yes

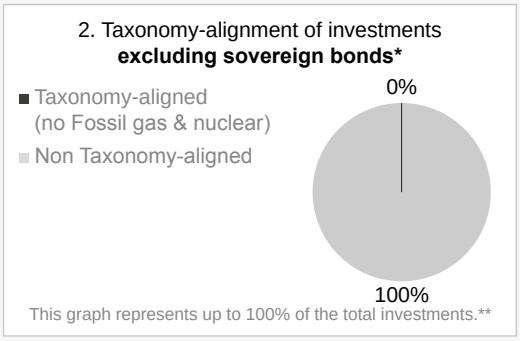
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 30% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the Bloomberg Barclays Global Aggregate Index (USD hedged) is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Swiss Small & MidCap Opportunities Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300YOB1KZTW27BE02**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of small and mid capitalisation companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, Switzerland in a manner consistent with environmental, social and governance "ESG" investing.

Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

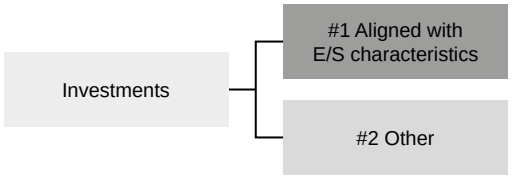
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

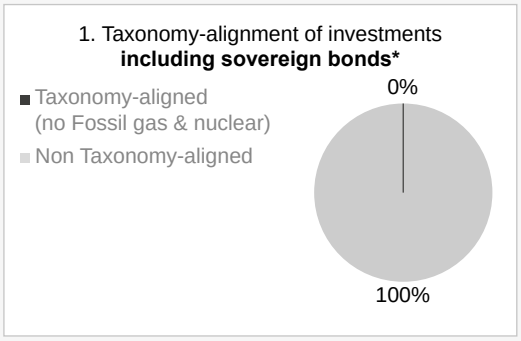
☐ Yes

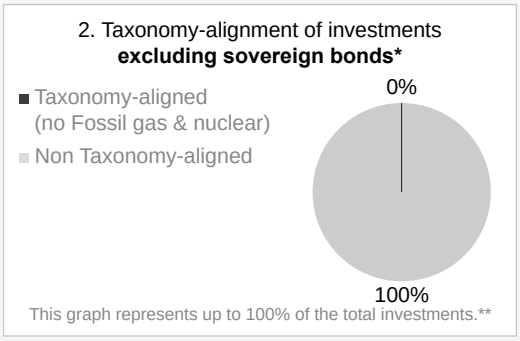
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: Systematic China A-Share Opportunities Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300HIK3R2NF85QQ13**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in a portfolio of equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their activity in the People's Republic of China (PRC). The Fund is a RQFII Access Fund and a Stock Connect Fund and may invest without limit in the PRC via the RQFII regime and/or via the Stock Connects. For the purpose of the investment objective, the PRC excludes Hong Kong and Macau Special Administrative Regions and Taiwan and accordingly the Fund will invest only in onshore Chinese equity markets (A-Shares).

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens in order to create the universe of investible equities to which it applies its quantitative models.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

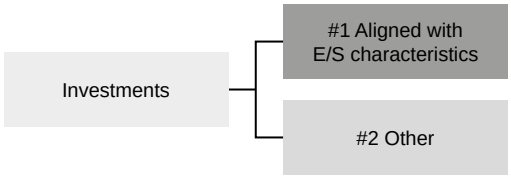
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 70% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 30% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

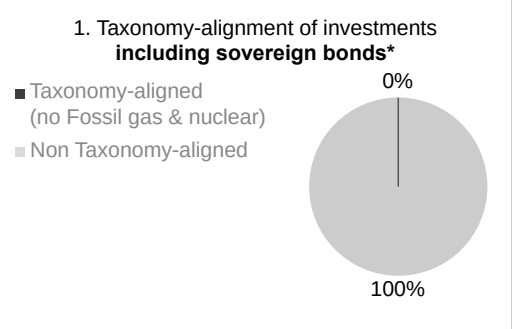
☐ Yes

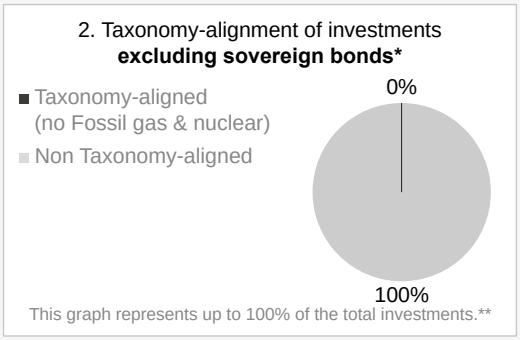
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 30% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Systematic ESG Multi Allocation Credit Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300UUWNQOH7ZDYR32

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3 includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity for the investment grade securities portion of the portfolio relative to the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate USD Hedged Index, which are the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the relevant holdings. The Fund also seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity for the high yield securities portion of the portfolio relative to the Bloomberg Global High Yield Index Excl CMBS & EMG 2% Capped USD Hedged Index, which are the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the relevant holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for these calculations.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate USD Hedged Index, Bloomberg Global High Yield Index Excl CMBS & EMG 2% Capped USD Hedged Index and J.P. Morgan EMBI ESG Global Diversified USD Hedged Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  2. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  3. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  4. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

  - *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

    Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

  - *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

    Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund seeks to provide a positive return (net of fees) over a composite benchmark comprising (in equal proportion) Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate USD Hedged Index, Bloomberg Global High Yield Index Excl CMBS & EMG 2% Capped USD Hedged Index and J.P. Morgan EMBI ESG Global Diversified USD Hedged Index (the Index), by investing at least 70% of its total assets in a globally diversified range of investment grade and non-investment grade (i.e. securities which have a relatively low credit rating or which are unrated) fixed income securities (i.e. both government and corporate bonds).

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

With respect to the investment grade and high yield corporate debt securities portion of the Fund's portfolio, the Investment Adviser will also apply additional ESG criteria when selecting the investments to be held by the Fund.

In relation with investment grade corporate debt securities, the ESG criteria applied by the Fund consists of (i) achieving a carbon emission intensity score lower and (ii) an ESG score higher than the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate USD Hedged Index. The Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate USD Hedged Index represents the investment grade corporate debt securities portion of the Fund's index composite benchmark. In relation with high yield corporate debt securities, the criteria applied by the Fund consists of (i) achieving a carbon emission intensity score lower and (ii) an ESG score higher than the Bloomberg Global High Yield Index Excl CMBS & EMG 2% Capped USD Hedged Index. The Bloomberg Global High Yield Index Excl CMBS & EMG 2% Capped USD Hedged Index represents the high yield corporate debt securities portion of the Fund's index composite benchmark.

In relation to the emerging debt issuers, the Fund will invest in issuers that consists of the component securities of the J.P. Morgan ESG-Emerging Markets Bond Index Global Diversified Index (the Index). It is expected that this portion of the Fund's assets will be invested in either issuers within the Index or in issuers that meet the ESG selection criteria of the Index.

By investing in the constituents of the Index, the Fund's investment strategy enables it to comply with the ESG requirements of its Index as determined by the index provider. In the event that any investments cease to comply, the Fund may continue to hold such investments only until such time as the relevant issuers cease to form part of the Index and it is possible and practicable to liquidate the position.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. In relation with investment grade corporate debt securities, the ESG criteria applied by the Fund consists of (i) achieving a carbon emission intensity score lower and (ii) an ESG score higher than the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate USD Hedged Index.
  2. In relation with high yield corporate debt securities, the criteria applied by the Fund consists of (i) achieving a carbon emission intensity score lower and (ii) an ESG score higher than the Bloomberg Global High Yield Index Excl CMBS & EMG 2% Capped USD Hedged Index.
  3. In relation to the emerging debt issuers, the Fund will invest in issuers that consists of the component securities of the J.P. Morgan ESG-Emerging Markets Bond Index Global Diversified Index.
  4. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

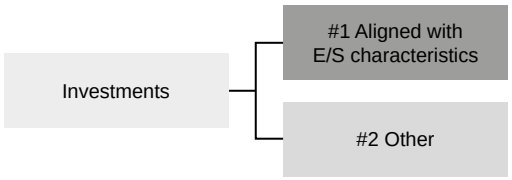
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

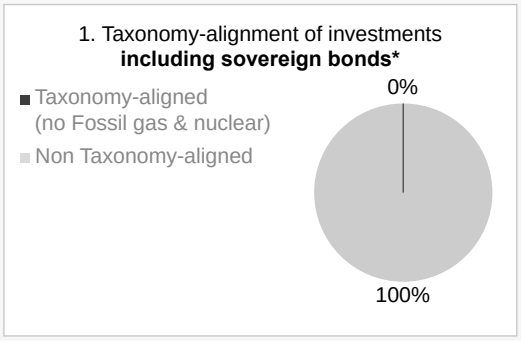
☐ Yes

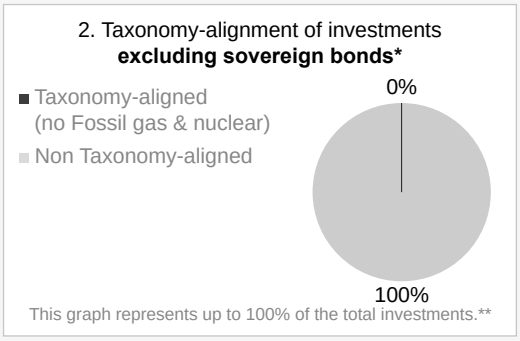
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

No. Please note that the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate USD Hedged Index, Bloomberg Global High Yield Index Excl CMBS & EMG 2% Capped USD Hedged Index and J.P. Morgan EMBI ESG Global Diversified USD Hedged Index is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Systematic Global Sustainable Income & Growth Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300VKXVTNB9CQJ249

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

This Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3

includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative to the Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, 33.3% MSCI World Minimum Volatility Index, 33.3% MSCI All Country World Index, 16.7% BBG Global Aggregate Corporate Index and 16.7% BBG Global High Yield Corp ex Emerging Markets Index Hedged in USD (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's holdings in use-of-proceeds bonds, including "green bonds", "sustainable bonds" and "social bonds" (each as defined by BlackRock's corresponding proprietary methodology which is guided by the International Capital Markets Association Green Bond, Sustainable Bond and Social Bond Principles, respectively). The Fund's holdings of green, sustainable and social bonds may cause the Fund to gain exposure to issuers which, in turn, have exposures that are inconsistent with the exclusions described above.
  3. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  4. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  5. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  6. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  This Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights . Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies.
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Systematic Global Sustainable Income & Growth Fund seeks to provide income and capital growth from its investments in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG" focused investing. In order to achieve its investment objective the Fund will invest globally, directly and indirectly, in the full spectrum of permitted investments including under normal circumstances up to two thirds of its total assets in equities and up to one third of its total assets in fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities which may include the Fund investing up to 20% of its total assets in some high yield fixed income transferable securities), as well as investing in units of CIS, cash, deposits and money market instruments. The Fund will not be subject to prescribed country or regional limits and although it is likely that most of the Fund's investments will be in companies located in developed markets globally, the Fund may also invest in emerging markets. The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments and its total assets will be invested in accordance with the ESG Policy described below. The Fund is a Stock Connect Fund and may invest directly up to 20% of its total assets in the PRC by investing via the Stock Connects. The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach First Addendum 192

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. To evaluate a company at the time of purchase using the Fund's ESG methodology, multiple areas are focused on: environmental, social and governance outcomes, expected returns (including ESG return drivers), risk and transaction costs, as determined through proprietary research. In order to achieve its investment objective and policy, the Fund will invest in a variety of investment strategies and instruments. In particular, the Fund will use quantitative (i.e. mathematical or statistical) models in order to achieve a systematic approach to stock selection. This means that stocks will be selected and weightings allocated based on their ESG attributes and on forecasts of return, risk and transaction costs. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits. The Investment Adviser may also consider additional factors relating to good governance in its assessment of the sustainability related characteristics of underlying issuers depending on the particular ESG strategy applicable to the Fund.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above. Please refer to the SFDR disclosures on page 47 for further details of the ESG commitments made by the Fund. Benchmark use The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser may take into consideration a composite benchmark comprising 33.3% MSCI World Minimum Volatility Index, 33.3% MSCI All Country World Index, 16.7% BBG Global Aggregate Corporate Index and 16.7% BBG Global High Yield Corp ex Emerging Markets Index Hedged in USD (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components and weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. The Fund's portfolio holdings are expected to deviate materially from the Index.

The Investment Adviser will create a portfolio that seeks to deliver a superior ESG outcome versus the Index and the weighted average ESG score of the Fund will be higher than the ESG score of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the Index. The Investment Adviser also intends the Fund to have a carbon emissions intensity score that is lower than the Index.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.
  3. Maintain that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the Index.
  4. Maintain that the Fund's carbon emissions intensity score is lower than the Index.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

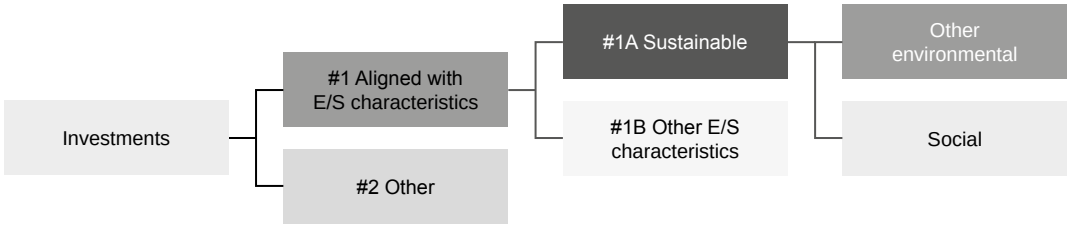
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

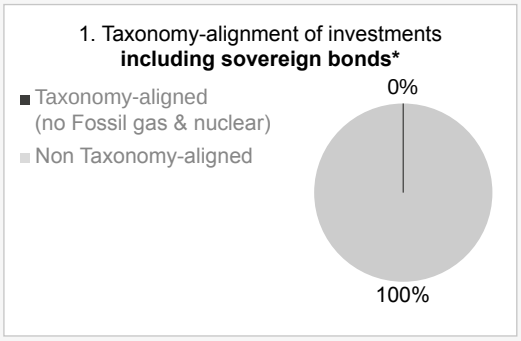
☐ Yes

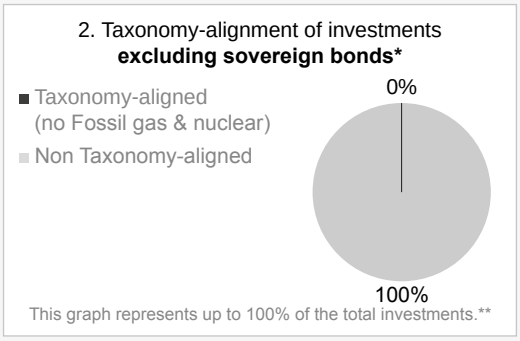
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the 33.3% MSCI World Minimum Volatility Index, 33.3% MSCI All Country World Index, 16.7% BBG Global Aggregate Corporate Index and 16.7% BBG Global High Yield Corp ex Emerging Markets Index Hedged in USD is to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Systematic Sustainable Global SmallCap Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300HBMGWEEZN5BI34

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

*__Sustainable investment__ means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The __EU Taxonomy__ is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of __environmentally sustainable economic activities__. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

The Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3



NM0324U-3453640-720/808

includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio relative to the Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions per $1 million of sales revenue across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI ACWI Small Cap Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.
  6. The Fund's holdings of underlying MMFs meeting the above criteria

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  This Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights . Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund aims to achieve long-term capital growth on your investment. The Fund seeks to gain at least 70% of its investment exposure to equity securities (e.g. shares) of companies domiciled in, listed in, or the main business of which is in, global developed markets.

In order to achieve its investment objective and policy, the Fund will invest in a variety of investment strategies and instruments. In particular, the Fund will use quantitative (i.e. mathematical or statistical) models in order to achieve a systematic (i.e. rule based) approach to stock selection. This means that stocks will be selected based on their expected contribution to portfolio returns when risk and transaction cost forecasts are taken into account.

The Investment Adviser will take into account principles of sustainable investing when selecting the Fund's investments through a combination of exclusionary ESG screens, the use of ESG data in the quantitative models described above and the optimisation of the portfolio using sustainable and ESG characteristics. The Fund will seek where possible and to the extent consistent with its investment objective and strategy, to invest in sustainable investments (i.e. investments which the Investment Manager considers to be sustainable investments having regard to applicable law and regulation).

The Investment Manager will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens to the Index in order to create the universe of investible equities to which it applies its quantitative models. As described more fully above, the quantitative models incorporate ESG data across the various characteristics used to score companies. The portfolio construction tool is also subject to investment constraints which optimise the portfolio so that:

(a) the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the Index; and

(b) the Fund to has a lower carbon emissions intensity score than its Index.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Maintain that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the least well-rated securities from the Index.
  3. Maintain that the Fund's carbon emissions intensity score is lower than the Index.
  4. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

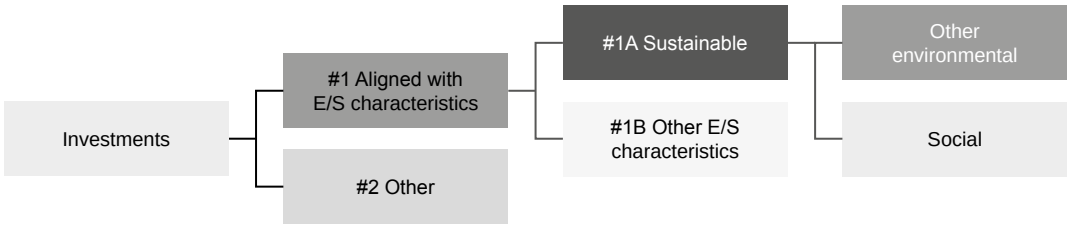
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

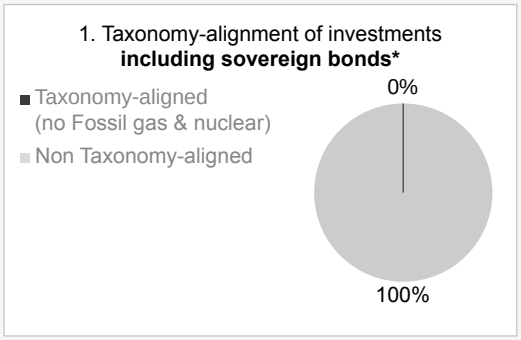
☐ Yes

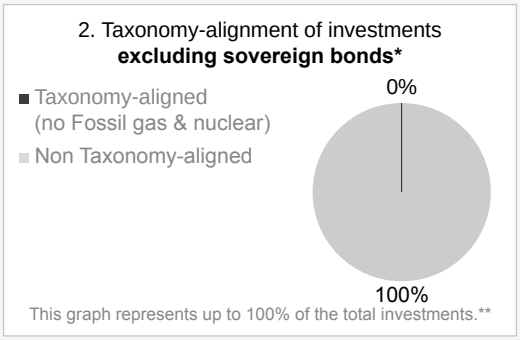
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the MSCI ACWI Small Cap Index is to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: Systematic China Environmental Tech Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 529900A0JA146KNY9O73

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

*__Sustainable investment__ means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The __EU Taxonomy__ is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of __environmentally sustainable economic activities__. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or the main business of which is in, the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the industries and supply chain of new energy, carbon neutral, green energy, energy conservation and emissions reduction themes.

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

This Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, MSCI China All Share IMI Environmental 10/40 Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in investments in companies in the industries and supply chain of new energy, carbon neutral, green energy, energy conservation and emissions reduction themes.
  2. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  3. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  This Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

  a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/ or Social Objective; or

  b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

BlackRock makes use of internal analysis and third-party data sources to measure how issuers negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in a portfolio of equity securities of companies domiciled in, or the main business of which is in, the People's Republic of China (PRC) in the industries and supply chain of new energy, carbon neutral, green energy, energy conservation and emission reduction themes. The Fund seeks to invest in Sustainable Investments. The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

The Fund may gain limited exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide) to issuers with exposures that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

The Investment Adviser will create a portfolio that seeks to deliver a superior ESG score versus the Index.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 70% in investments in companies in the industries and supply chain of new energy, carbon neutral, green energy, energy conservation and emissions reduction themes.
  2. Maintain the Fund's weighted average ESG score will be greater than that of the Fund's Index.
  3. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  4. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation

actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

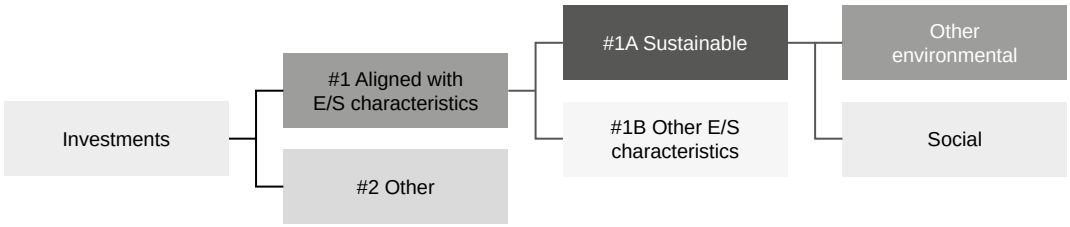
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

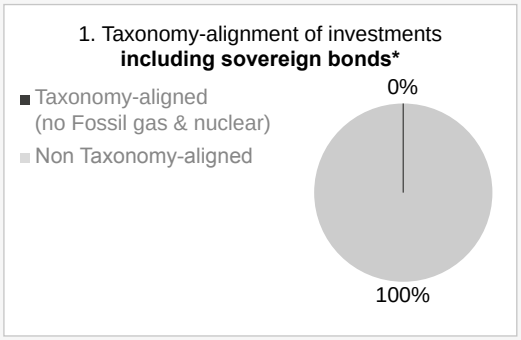
☐ Yes

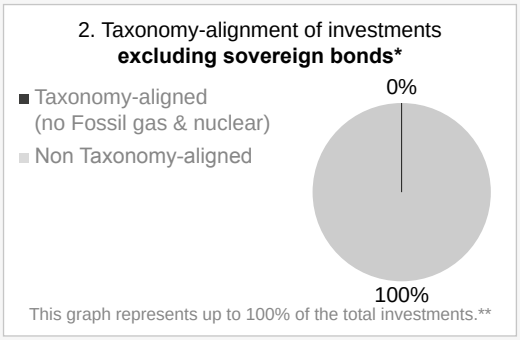
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

Please note that the MSCI China All Share IMI Environmental 10/40 Index is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com.Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: United Kingdom Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300CZ01EMON5C7Z93**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, FTSE All Share Index (the “Index”) is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

2. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies incorporated or listed in the UK. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology described above.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Manager, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Manager agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Manager is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Manager's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Manager may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

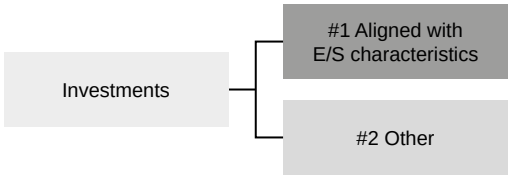
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

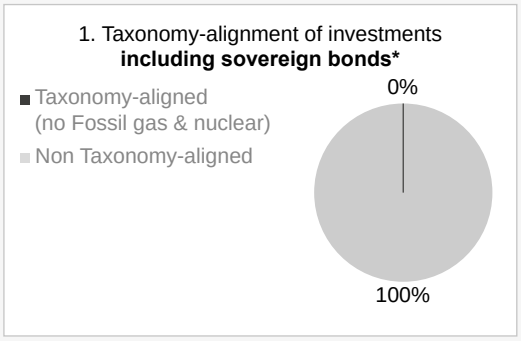
☐ Yes

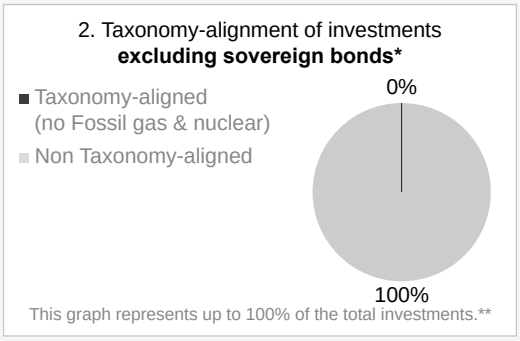
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the FTSE All Share Index is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: US Dollar High Yield Bond Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 5493002GUOE4D10RFV09**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%**<br>☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in high yield fixed income transferable securities denominated in US dollars. The Fund may invest in the full spectrum of available fixed income transferable securities, including non-investment grade. Currency exposure is flexibly managed.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

Issuers are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG consistent business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

The Investment Adviser monitors issuers with lower ESG ratings and flagged controversies according to third party data providers. The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on such issuers through a 'watchlist' to identify relevant ESG related information that is not reflected in the third party data analysis and may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those issuers in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG data providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

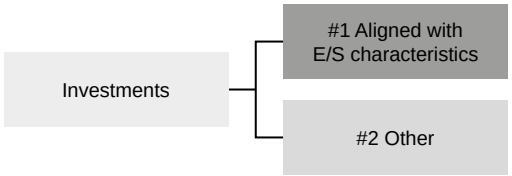
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

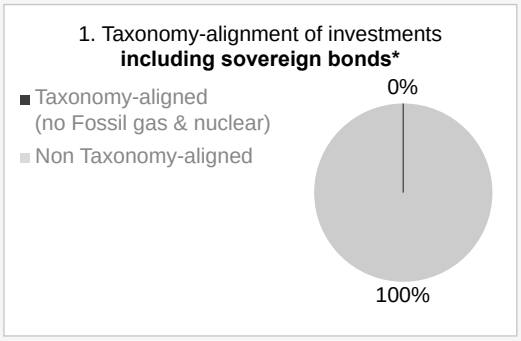
☐ Yes

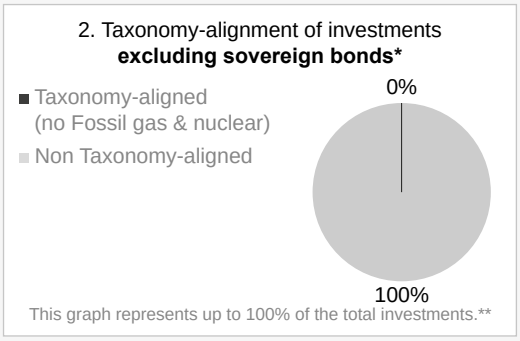
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: US Investment Grade Fixed Maturity Bond Fund 2027**
**Legal entity identifier: 5299005KV5BLKFQOT812**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The* ***EU Taxonomy*** *is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of* ***environmentally sustainable economic activities****. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Investment Adviser will employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. In addition, the Fund will seek to limit all exposure to issuers involved with the manufacturing and/or sale of conventional weapons. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities and avoidance of negative externalities, as described above.
  2. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  3. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below, "Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?", which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:

- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)
- Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to provide income, whilst also aiming to preserve the original amount of capital invested and investing in a manner consistent with the principles of environmental, social and governance "ESG"-focused investing. The Fund uses a "buy and maintain" strategy whereby fixed income securities will be held until their fixed maturity dates as part of a low turnover strategy, (subject, among other factors, to ongoing monitoring of credit risk), when their capital will become repayable to the Fund.

In order to achieve its investment objective, the Fund will gradually look to build up its portfolio so that following the Ramp-up Period:

- at least 80% of its Net Asset Value is invested in corporate fixed income securities issued by companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in, global developed markets and denominated in US Dollar. Such fixed income securities shall, at the time of purchase, be rated investment grade; and

- up to 20% of the Fund's Net Asset Value is invested in global fixed income securities which, at the time of purchase, are rated non-investment grade.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Investment Adviser will also employ a proprietary methodology to assess investments based on the extent to which they are associated with positive or negative externalities, that is environmental and social benefits or costs as defined by the Investment Adviser. During the Investment Period, the Investment Adviser will seek to enhance exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities (e.g. lower carbon emitting issuers and issuers with positive ESG credentials). The Investment Adviser will seek to limit exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities (e.g. higher carbon emitters, issuers with certain controversial business practices, and issuers with negative ESG credentials) throughout the fixed term.

The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The remaining issuers (i.e. those issuers which have not yet been excluded from investment by the Fund) are then evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on, among other factors, their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG compliant business practices and their ESG risk and opportunity credentials, such as their leadership and governance framework, which is considered essential for sustainable growth, their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on an issuer's financials.

To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser may use data provided by external ESG Providers, proprietary models and local intelligence and may undertake site visits.

The Fund may gain limited indirect exposure (through, including but not limited to, derivatives and shares or units of CIS) to issuers that do not meet the ESG criteria described above.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

1. Enhancing exposure to investments that are deemed to have associated positive externalities during the Investment Period while limiting investments that are deemed to have associated negative externalities throughout the fixed term.
2. Application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens described above.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

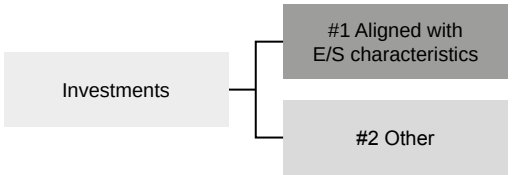
A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

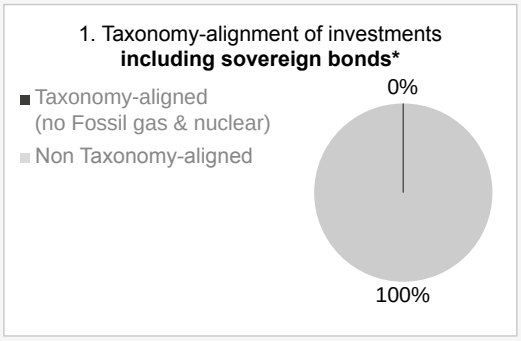
☐ Yes

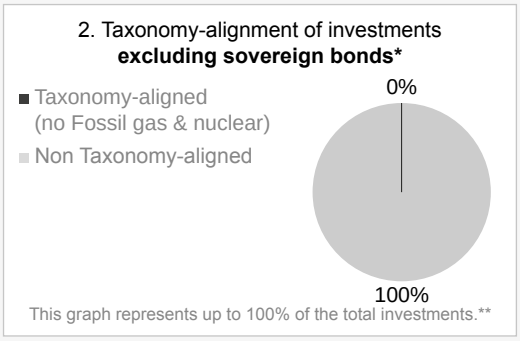
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com.

Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

## Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

## Product name: US Sustainable Equity Fund
## Legal entity identifier: 549300KZU3AFC0XHX480

### Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ✔ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 20% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ✔ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ✔ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Fund invests a minimum of 20% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

Sustainable Investments should also meet the do no significant harm (DNSH) requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm.

This Fund seeks to address key environmental and social issues that are deemed to be relevant to the issuers' businesses using ESG scores as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of those risks and opportunities. The ESG scores recognise that certain environmental and social issues are more material based on the type of activity that the issuer is involved in by weighting the issues differently in the scoring methodology. The following environmental themes are captured in the environmental component of the ESG score: climate change, natural capital, pollution and waste and environmental opportunities. The following social themes are captured in the social component of the ESG score: human capital, product liability, stakeholder opposition and social opportunities. Corporate issuers that have better ESG scores are perceived to have more sustainable business practices.

Greenhouse gas emissions are categorised into three groups or 'scopes' by the most widely-used international accounting tool, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Protocol. Scope 1 covers direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling consumed by the reporting issuer. Scope 3

includes all other indirect emissions that occur in an issuer's value chain. The Fund seeks to have a lower greenhouse gas emissions intensity relative to the Index, which is the estimated greenhouse gas (Scope 1 and Scope 2) emissions based on the enterprise value including cash (EVIC) across the Fund's holding of capital invested in a company across the Fund's holdings. For the avoidance of doubt, Scope 3 is not currently considered for this calculation.

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Investment Adviser also intends to limit direct investment in securities of issuers involved in: the production and retail sales of alcoholic products; the ownership or operation of gambling-related activities or facilities; the mining, production and supply activities related to nuclear power, the production of adult entertainment materials, unconventional oil and gas production, and, the production of conventional weapons. The assessment of the level of involvement in each activity may be based on percentage of revenue, a defined total revenue threshold, or any connection to a restricted activity regardless of the amount of revenue received.

The ESG criteria also consists of a rating of B or higher as defined by MSCI's ESG Intangible Value Assessment Ratings or another equivalent third party ESG data provider.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes, however, Russell 1000 Index (the "Index") is used to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's ESG rating, which is the weighted average of ESG scores of the Fund's holdings, as described above.
  3. The Fund's carbon emissions intensity, as described above.
  4. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  5. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  This Fund invests at least 20% of its holdings in Sustainable Investments in pursuit of its investment objective. All Sustainable Investments will be assessed by the Investment Adviser to comply with BlackRock's DNSH standard outlined above.

  BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives").

  An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights . Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and its carbon reduction target.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- GHG emissions
- GHG intensity of investee companies.
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

In addition, this Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund seeks to maximise total return by investing at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or whose main business is in the United States, in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable investing.

The Investment Adviser applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and other exclusionary criteria to the investable universe.

The Investment Adviser uses fundamental analysis to map companies' revenues and activities to environmental and social objectives to identify Sustainable Investments.

The investment decisions are based on the Investment Adviser's fundamental research focusing on bottom up (i.e. company-specific) analysis, inclusive of financial and non-financial metrics. This approach aims to identify and select equity and equity-related securities that can, through a concentrated portfolio, reflect the Investment Adviser's conviction to deliver the Fund's investment objective.

Companies in the portfolio are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their sustainability characteristics and their ability to manage ESG risks and opportunities. The Investment Adviser engages with companies to support improvement in their environmental, social and governance ("ESG") credentials.

The Investment Adviser uses its analysis to create a portfolio that seeks to deliver:

- a superior ESG outcome versus the Index
- a lower carbon emissions intensity score at least 20% lower than the Index; and
- an allocation to Sustainable Investments.

More than 90% of the issuers of securities (excluding MMFs) the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The Investment Adviser ensures that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the Index.

***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

1. Maintain that the Fund holds at least 20% in Sustainable Investments. In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
2. Maintain the Fund's carbon emissions intensity as 20% lower than that of the Fund's Index.
3. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens and exclusionary screens.
4. Maintain that the weighted average ESG rating of the Fund will be higher than the ESG rating of the Index after eliminating at least 20% of the lowest rated securities from the Index.
5. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

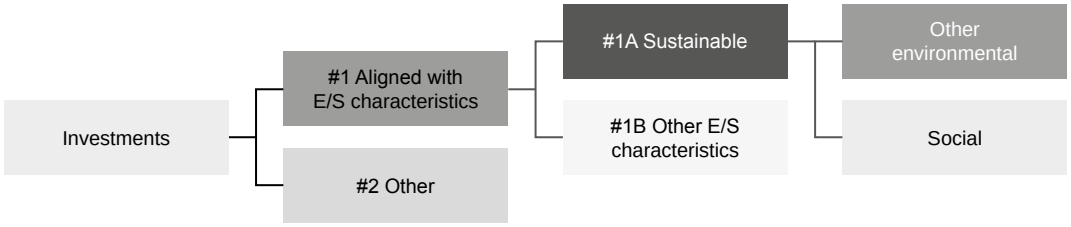
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). In relation to these investments, a minimum of 20% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), and the remainder will be invested in investments aligned with other environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1B Other E/S characteristics).

In relation to the Sustainable Investments (#1A Sustainable), at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these two types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

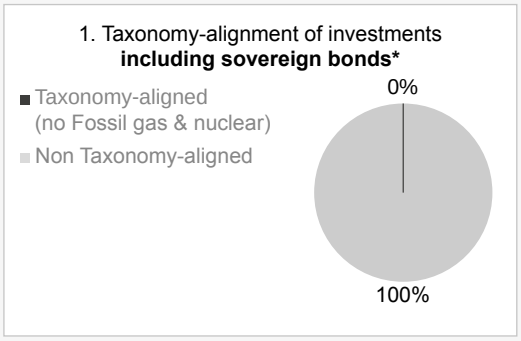
☐ Yes

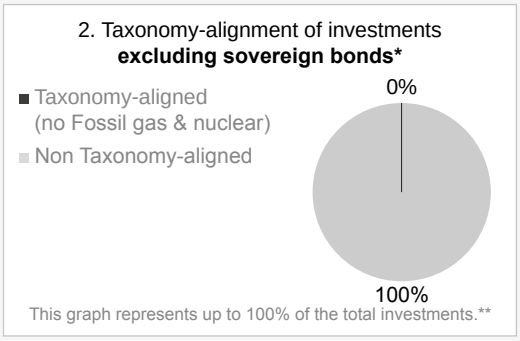
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

Please note that the Russell 1000 Index is to compare certain ESG characteristics promoted by the Fund.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: US Growth Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 5493000VBLDY9YB8P237**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.


NM0324U-3453640-763/808

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

3. The Fund's holdings of underlying MMFs meeting the above criteria

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to invest in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, the US. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

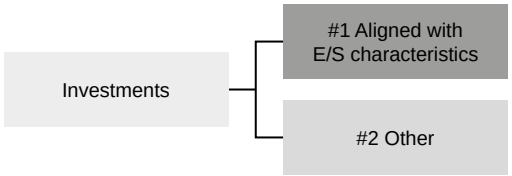
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

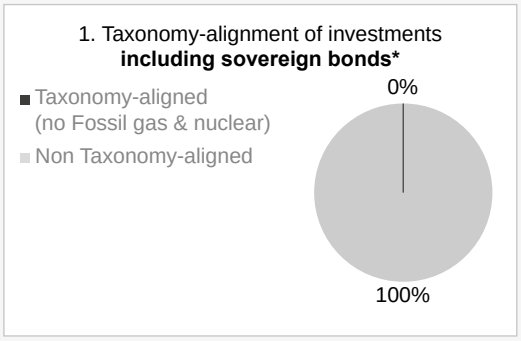
☐ Yes

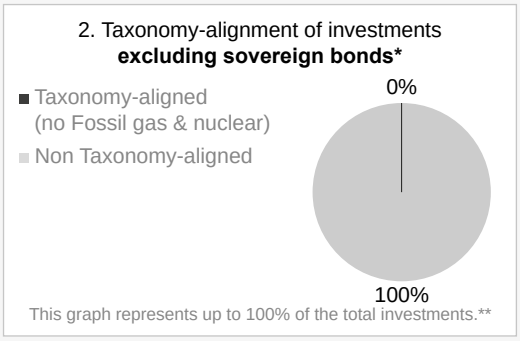
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: US Flexible Equity Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 5493000VBLDY9YB8P237**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

3. The Fund's holdings of underlying MMFs meeting the above criteria

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to invest in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, the US. Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

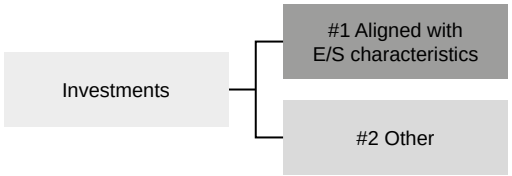
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

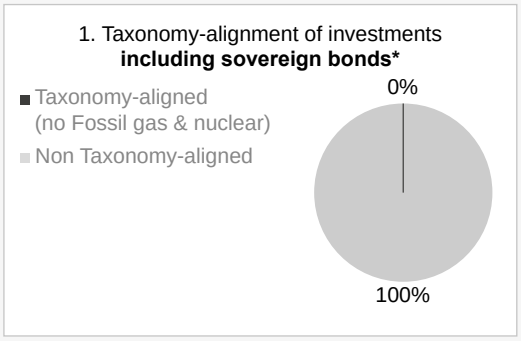
☐ Yes

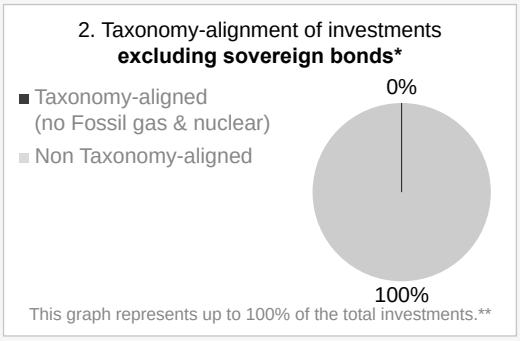
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 9, paragraphs 1 to 4a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 5, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: US Government Mortgage Impact Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300SQECI78I3LC791**

## Sustainable investment objective

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ✔ **Yes** | ●○ ☐ **No** |
|---|---|
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: 15%**<br>☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>✔ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ____% of sustainable investments<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy<br>☐ with a social objective |
| ✔ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: 1%** | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What is the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?**

The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in fixed income transferable securities issued or guaranteed by the United States Government which have a positive social and/or environmental impact.

“Impact” investments are those which are made with the intention to generate positive, measurable social and/or environmental impact alongside a financial return. Investment decisions for the Fund will be based on agency and program specific research to identify and select the fixed income securities described above that, in the opinion of the Investment Adviser, have the potential to produce attractive income returns whilst having a positive social and/or environmental impact. The team evaluates existing housing programs and initiatives to determine the level of social and/ or environmental impact and how the programs or initiatives support increased access to home ownership, savings to borrowers, support the increase affordable housing supply, and / or reduce barriers to the provision of affordable housing credit.

The Fund invests a minimum of 80% of its total assets in Sustainable Investments, across environmental and social objectives. The minimum for each Sustainable Investment objective is set out in the box above. BlackRock defines Sustainable Investments as investments in issuers or securities that contribute to an environmental or social objective, do not significantly harm any of those objectives and where investee companies follow good governance practices. BlackRock refers to relevant sustainability frameworks to identify the alignment of the investment to environmental or social objectives.

BlackRock invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to, alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (“Environmental and Social Objectives”).

An investment will be assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective where:

a) minimum proportion of the issuer's business activity contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

b) the issuer's business practices contribute to an Environmental and/or Social Objective; or

c) the use of proceeds is assessed as contributing to an Environmental and/or Social Objective such as green bonds, social bonds, and sustainability bonds; or

d) the fixed income securities are aligned with an Environmental and/or Social Objective.

The Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. This set of screens avoids exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by excluding direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti- corruption.

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the sustainable objectives of this financial product are attained.

- ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of the sustainable investment objective of this financial product?***

  1. The Fund's holdings in Sustainable Investments, as described above.
  2. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.
  3. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, as described above.

- ***How do sustainable investments not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an issuer or investment does significant harm. Investments considered to be causing significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments.

  Further information on the above can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  The indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment are assessed using BlackRock's Sustainable Investments proprietary methodology. BlackRock uses third-party data and/or fundamental analysis to identify investments which negatively impact sustainability factors and cause significant harm.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights?*

  Sustainable Investments are assessed to consider any detrimental impacts and ensure compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

This Fund takes into account the PAIs through BlackRock's DNSH standard for Sustainable Investments. This Fund will provide information on the PAIs in its annual report.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in fixed income securities issued or guaranteed by the United States Government, its agencies or United States government sponsored enterprises which have a positive social and/or environmental impact. These include Government National Mortgage Association (GNMA) mortgage backed certificates and other United States Government securities representing ownership interests in mortgage pools, such as mortgage-backed securities (MBS) issued by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac which have social and/or environmental impact characteristics that the Investment Adviser (IA) has at its discretion deemed to be impactful, including (without limitation) rural housing, manufactured housing, housing pools issued by State Housing Finance Authorities and bespoke impact MBS pools.

More than 90% of the issuers of securities the Fund invests in are ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

The Fund will apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain the sustainable investment objective?***

  The binding elements of the strategy are as follows:

  1. Maintain that all of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments (save for instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging, which will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets). In relation to such Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.
  2. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.
  3. Maintain that the investment strategy reduces the investment universe of the Fund by at least 20%.
  4. Ensure that more than 90% of the issuers of securities in which the Fund invests (excluding money market funds) shall be ESG rated or have been analysed for ESG purposes.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

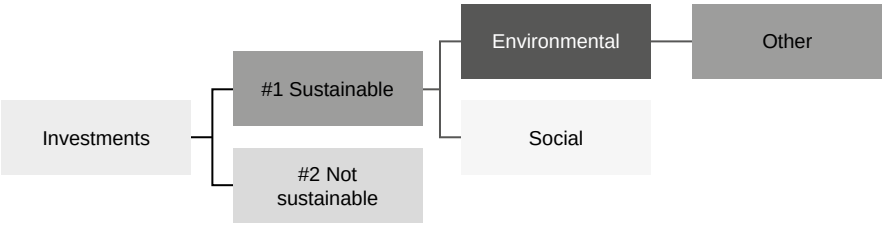
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

**What is the asset allocation and the minimum share of sustainable investments?**

All of the Fund's investments will be Sustainable Investments or instruments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging. Investments used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging will not exceed 20% of the Fund's total assets.

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments (#1 Sustainable). In relation to these Sustainable Investments, at least 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy, and at least 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective. The remainder of the Fund's Sustainable Investments may fluctuate between these types of Sustainable Investment.

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Not sustainable).




**#1 Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.

**#2 Not sustainable** includes investments which do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the sustainable investment objective?***

Where derivatives are used for investment purposes, they are assessed against the criteria for Sustainable Investments. Derivatives may also be used for limited other purposes such as liquidity and hedging, and any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment in respect of such derivatives.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

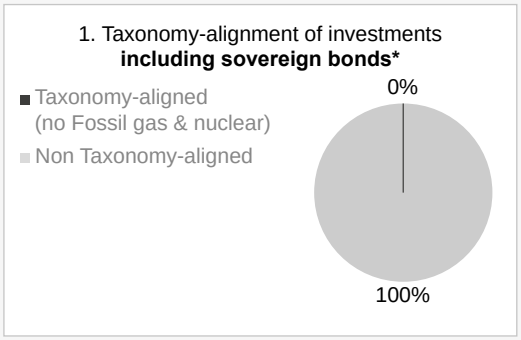
☐ Yes

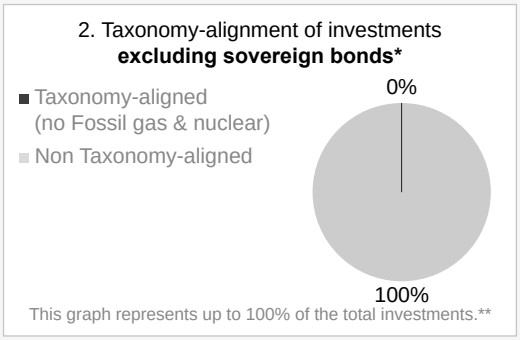
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are environmentally sustainable investments that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

A minimum of 15% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with environmental objectives that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

The Fund invests in Sustainable Investments that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy for the following reasons: (i) it is part of the investment strategy of the Fund; (ii) data to determine EU Taxonomy-alignment may be unavailable; and / or (iii) underlying economic activities may not be eligible under the EU Taxonomy's available technical screening criteria or may not comply with all requirements set out in such technical screening criteria.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with a social objective?**

A minimum of 1% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in Sustainable Investments with a social objective.

**What investments are included under "#2 Not sustainable", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

The use of such investments does not affect the delivery of the sustainable investment objective, as these investments are used for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to meet the sustainable investment objective?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the sustainable investment objective.

- ***How does the reference benchmark take into account sustainability factors in a way that is continuously aligned with the sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for Sustainable Investments can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-sfdr-sustainable-investments-methodology.pdf. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: World Financials Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 5493009JGB3XP8H4XV85**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

  *The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

  The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

  *Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

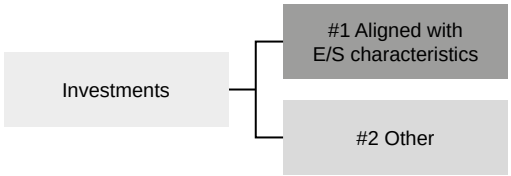
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

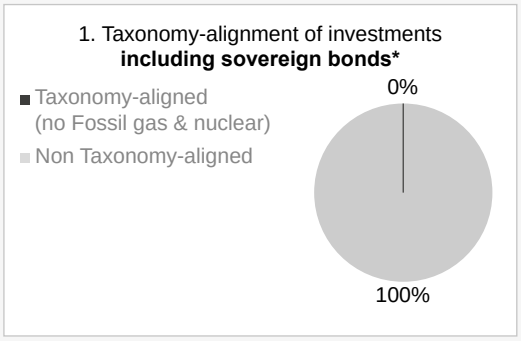
☐ Yes

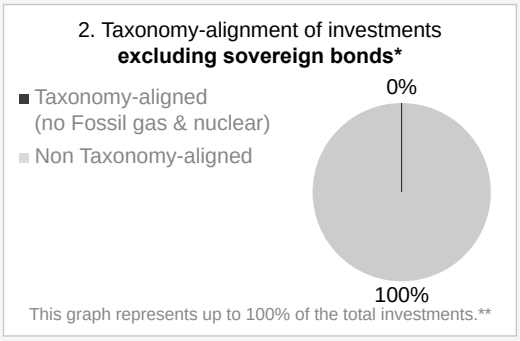
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: World Healthscience Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 549300OHN1ZT4WMEMU83**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

—— *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

—— *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers and proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

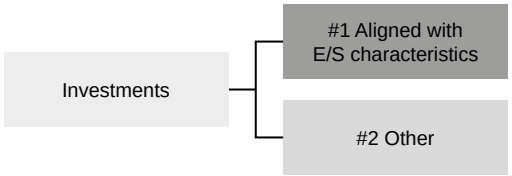
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

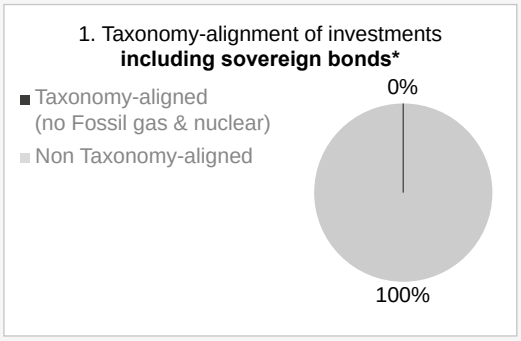
☐ Yes

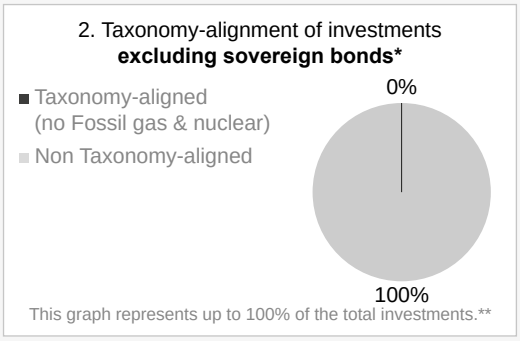
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8 paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name: World Technology Fund**
**Legal entity identifier: 5493007T8WWG2QURHU23**

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

***Sustainable investment*** *means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.*

*The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.*

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ●● ☐ **Yes** | ●○ ✔ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ____%** | ☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of ___% of sustainable investments |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☐ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective: ____%** | ✔ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

This Fund applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens with the Fundamental Insights Methodology. This approach seeks to avoid exposures that have negative environmental outcomes by excluding direct investment in issuers that have material involvement in thermal coal and tar sands extraction, as well as thermal coal-based power generation. Negative social outcomes are also avoided by limiting direct investment in issuers involved in controversial weapons and nuclear weapons, and material involvement in production and distribution of civilian firearms and tobacco. This Fund also excludes issuers deemed to have failed to comply with the 10 UN Global Compact Principles, which cover human rights, labour standards, the environment, and anti-corruption. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

The Fund does not use a reference benchmark for the purposes of attaining the ESG characteristics that it promotes.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

● ***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

The sustainability indicators used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Fund include:

1. The Fund's consideration of principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors, as described below.

2. The Fund's exclusion of holdings in issuers identified by the exclusion criteria set out in the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology, as described above.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

  The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- *How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio. Please refer to the section below which describes how the Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors.

- *How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

  Not applicable as this Fund does not commit to investing in Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✔ Yes

☐ No

The Fund considers PAIs on sustainability factors through the application of the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens.

The Fund takes into account the following PAIs:
- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Exposure to controversial weapons (anti personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

Companies are evaluated by the Investment Adviser based on their ability to manage the risks and opportunities associated with ESG factors and their ability to strategically manage longer-term issues surrounding ESG and the potential impact this may have on a company's financial performance.

The Investment Adviser conducts enhanced analysis on all companies that it considers to have heightened ESG risks, higher carbon emissions and controversial business activities. In such circumstances, the Investment Adviser may determine an engagement agenda for discussion with those companies in seeking to improve their ESG credentials. To undertake this analysis, the Investment Adviser uses its fundamental insights and may use data provided by external ESG data providers, proprietary models.

The Fund will apply exclusionary screens, the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens, to the companies within the investment universe. The Investment Adviser then applies its proprietary "Fundamental Insights" methodology (the "Methodology", see further detail on https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf) to identify companies that would otherwise have been excluded by the exclusionary screens but that it considers to be appropriate for investment on the basis that they are "in transition" and focused on meeting sustainability criteria over time, or are otherwise meeting other criteria in accordance with the Methodology requirements.

The Methodology uses quantitative and qualitative inputs generated by the Investment Adviser, its affiliates and/or one or more external research providers. Where a company is identified by the Investment Adviser as meeting the criteria in the Methodology for investment and is approved in accordance with the Methodology, it is eligible to be held by the Fund. Such companies are regularly reviewed. In the event that the Investment Adviser determines that a company fails the criteria in the Methodology (in whole or in part and at any time) or it is not engaging with the Investment Adviser on a satisfactory basis, it will be considered for divestment by the Fund in accordance with the Methodology.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

  The binding elements of the investment strategy are as follows:

  1. Apply the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

  Whilst the Fund applies exclusionary screens to avoid investment in the activities listed above, there is no commitment to reduce the scope of investments by a minimum rate.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

  BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Adviser, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

  Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Adviser agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Adviser is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Adviser's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Adviser may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

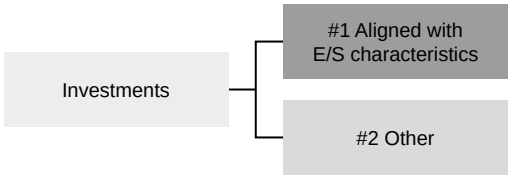
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies.
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

### What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

A minimum of 80% of the Fund's total assets will be invested in investments that are aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics described above (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

The Fund may invest up to 20% of its total assets in other investments (#2 Other investments).




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

- ***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. For derivatives, any ESG rating or analyses referenced above will apply only to the underlying investment.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not currently commit to investing more than 0% of its assets in Sustainable Investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

- ***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy[1]?***

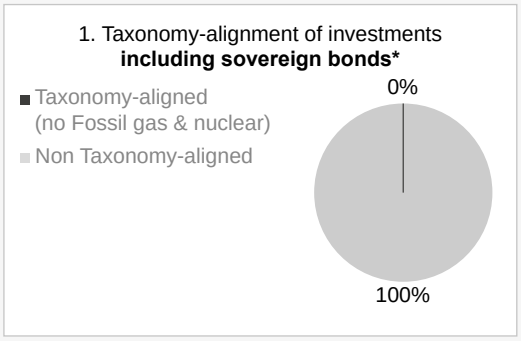
☐ Yes

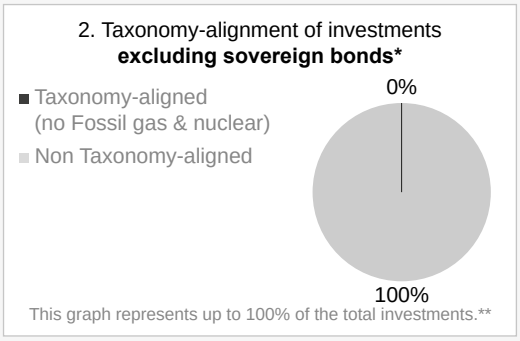
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

✔ No

The Fund does not currently commit to invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

***The two graphs below show the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy-alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




**For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures*
*** As the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the proportion of sovereign bonds in the Fund portfolio will not impact the proportion of sustainable investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy included in the graph.*

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective - see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

- ***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

  The Fund does not commit to making investments in transitional and enabling activities, however, these investments may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Fund does not commit to holding Sustainable Investments, however, they may form part of the portfolio.

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

Other holdings are limited to 20% and may include derivatives, cash and near cash instruments and shares or units of CIS and fixed income transferable securities (also known as debt securities) issued by governments and agencies worldwide.

These investments may be used for investment purposes in pursuit of the Fund's (non ESG) investment objective, for the purposes of liquidity management and/or hedging.

No other holdings are considered against minimum environmental or social safeguards.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

No.

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

  Not applicable.

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

  Not applicable.

- ***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

  Not applicable.

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

Please refer to the website page for the Fund, which can be found by typing the name of the Fund into the search bar on the BlackRock website: www.blackrock.com. Further information on the criteria for BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens using Fundamental Insights Methodology can be found by copying and pasting the following link into your web browser: https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf

# BlackRock Global Funds

BlackRock

## Addendum

Dated March 2024
to Prospectus dated 23 February 2024

**This addendum (the "Addendum") forms part of and should be read in the context of and in conjunction with, the prospectus dated 23 February 2024 (the "Prospectus"). Distribution of this Addendum is not authorised unless accompanied by a copy of the Prospectus and the reports referred to therein. The Prospectus is deemed to be modified by the information in this Addendum.**

Words and expressions not specifically defined herein shall bear the same meaning as that attributed to them in the Prospectus.

The Directors of BlackRock Global Funds (the "Company") and BlackRock (Luxembourg) S.A. (the "Management Company"), whose names appear under the headings "Directory - Board of Directors" and "Management Company" respectively in the Prospectus, accept responsibility for the information contained in this Addendum. To the best of the knowledge and belief of the Directors (who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information contained in this Addendum is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

This Addendum describes all changes to the Prospectus due to the launch of the "Emerging Europe II Fund" (hereafter described as the "**EE Fund**"). These changes will be effective as from 18th March 2024 (the "**Effective Date**").

On 17th June 2024 (the "**Repositioning Date**"), the EE Fund will be repositioned to provide Shareholders and future investors with greater opportunities. Following the Repositioning Date, the EE Fund will be renamed "Emerging Markets Ex-China Fund".

**AS FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE AND UNTIL THE REPOSITIONING DATE, THE EE FUND WILL NOT BE OPENED TO SUBSCRIPTIONS**

If you are in any doubt about the action to be taken you should consult your stockbroker, bank manager, solicitor, accountant, relationship manager or other professional adviser immediately.

In light of the above, the Directors of the Company have resolved that the Prospectus shall be amended effective as and from the date of this Addendum to include the following amendments:

1. **Introduction to BlackRock Global Funds**

The "Choice of Funds" list from page 2 of the Prospectus shall be updated to include the following funds:

As from the Effective Date and until the Repositioning Date, the section "Choice of Funds" will be amended as follows.

| Fund | Base Currency | Bond/Equity/ Mixed Fund/ Fund of Funds |
|---|---|---|
| 22. Emerging Europe II Fund | EUR | E |

As of the Repositioning Date, the section "Choice of Funds" will be amended as follows:

| Fund | Base Currency | Bond/Equity/ Mixed Fund/ Fund of Funds |
|---|---|---|
| 25. Emerging Markets Ex-China Fund | USD | E |

The list of funds in these tables shall be renumbered accordingly.



NM0324U-3453640-800/808

## 2. Specific Risk Considerations

The section "Specific Risk Considerations" from page 21 of the Prospectus shall be updated to include the following:

As from the Effective Date and until the Repositioning Date, the section "Specific Risk Considerations" will be amended as follows.

| No. FUND | Risk of Capital Erosion | Fixed Income | Distressed Securi-ties | Delayed Delivery Trans-actions | Small Cap | Equity risk | ABS/ MBS/ ABCPs | Port-folio Concen tra-tion Risk | Contin-gent Conver-tible Bonds | ESG Investment Policy Risk* | Model Risk |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 22. Emerging Europe II Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | | |

As of the Repositioning Date, the section "Specific Risk Considerations" will be amended as follows.

| No. FUND | Risk of Capital Erosion | Fixed Income | Distressed Securi-ties | Delayed Delivery Trans-actions | Small Cap | Equity risk | ABS/ MBS/ ABCPs | Port-folio Concen tra-tion Risk | Contin-gent Conver-tible Bonds | ESG Investment Policy Risk* | Model Risk |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 25. Emerging Markets Ex-China Fund | | | | | X | X | | | | | |

The list of funds in these tables shall be renumbered accordingly.

Also, the tables of specific risk considerations from page 22 of the Prospectus shall be updated to include the following:

As from the Effective Date and until the Repositioning Date, the section "Specific Risk Considerations" will be amended as follows:

| No. FUND | Specific Risks – Continued | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Emer-ging Markets/ Frontier Markets | Sover-eign Debt | Bond Down-grade Risk | Restrict-ions on for-eign Invest-ments | Specific Sectors | Commo-dities accessed via ETFs | Bank Corpo-rate Bonds | Turn-over | Liquidity Risk | Fixed Maturity Funds |
| 22. Emerging Europe II Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |

As of the Repositioning Date, the section "Specific Risk Considerations" will be amended as follows:

| No. FUND | Specific Risks – Continued | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Emer-ging Markets/ Frontier Markets | Sover-eign Debt | Bond Down-grade Risk | Restrict-ions on for-eign Invest-ments | Specific Sectors | Commo-dities accessed via ETFs | Bank Corpo-rate Bonds | Turn-over | Liquidity Risk | Fixed Maturity Funds |
| 25. Emerging Markets Ex-China Fund | X | | | X | | | | | X | |

The list of funds in these tables shall be renumbered accordingly.

## 3. German Tax Rules – Equity Funds

The section "German Tax Rules – Equity Funds" from page 54 of the Prospectus shall be updated to include, as from the Effective Date and until the Repositioning Date, the "Emerging Europe II Fund", and as from the Repositioning Date, the "Emerging Markets Ex-China Fund".

## 4. Investment Objectives and Policies

As from the Effective Date and until the Repositioning Date, the section "Investment Objectives and Policies" from page 70 will be amended as follows, to include the EE Fund's investment objective and policy before its repositioning:

*The **Emerging Europe II Fund** seeks to maximise total return. The Fund invests at least 70% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging European countries, excluding Russia and Belarus. It may also invest in companies domiciled in and around, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in and around, the Mediterranean region.*

*The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.*

***Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.***

***Benchmark use***
*The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI Emerging Markets Europe 10/40 Index when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.*

As of the Repositioning Date, the section "Investment Objectives and Policies" from page 71 will be amended as follows, to reflect changes to the name and to the investment objective and policy due to the repositioning of the EE Fund's:

*The **Emerging Markets Ex-China Fund** seeks to maximise total return through a combination of capital growth and income on Fund assets. The Fund invests globally at least 80% of its total assets in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, emerging markets, excluding China. Investments may also be made in the equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their economic activity in, developed markets that have significant business operations in emerging markets (excluding China).*

*The Fund may indirectly invest in emerging markets securities (excluding China) by investing in American Depository Receipts (ADRs) and Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs), which are listed or traded on stock-exchanges and regulated markets outside emerging markets. ADRs and GDRs are investments issued by financial institutions which give exposure to underlying equity securities.*

*The Fund may use derivatives for investment purposes and for the purposes of efficient portfolio management.*

***Risk management measure used: Commitment Approach.***

***Benchmark use***
*The Fund is actively managed, and the Investment Adviser has discretion to select the Fund's investments. In doing so, the Investment Adviser will refer to the MSCI Emerging Markets ex-China 10/40 Index (the "Index") when constructing the Fund's portfolio, and also for risk management purposes to ensure that the active risk (i.e. degree of deviation from the index) taken by the Fund remains appropriate given the Fund's investment objective and policy. The Investment Adviser is not bound by the components or weighting of the Index when selecting investments. The Investment Adviser may also use its discretion to invest in securities not included in the Index in order to take advantage of specific investment opportunities. However, the geographical scope of the investment objective and policy may have the effect of limiting the extent to which the portfolio holdings will deviate from the Index. The Index should be used by investors to compare the performance of the Fund.*

## 5. Classes and Form of Shares

The introductive paragraph of section "Classes and Form of Shares" on page 141 shall be updated to reflect mention to the Class B.

## 6. Minimum Subscription

The section "Minimum Subscription" on page 145 shall be entirely replaced and shall now read as follows:

The minimum initial subscription in respect of Class A, Class B, Class C, Class CI, Class E, and Class EI Shares is currently USD5,000, for Class AI Shares USD25,000, for Class D Shares USD100,000, for Class DD Shares USD1 million, for Class I Shares, Class J Shares, Class X Shares and Class Z Shares USD10 million, for Class ZI Shares USD 25 million, for Class S Shares and Class SR Shares USD50 million and for Class SI Shares USD 1billion. In all cases, the minimum subscription will also be accepted in the approximate equivalent in the relevant Dealing Currency. The minimum for additions to existing holdings of any Share Class of a

Fund is USD1,000 or the approximate equivalent. These minima may be varied for any particular case or distributor or generally. Details of the current minima are available from the local Investor Servicing team.

## 7. Iceland

The section "Iceland" from page 182 of the Prospectus shall be updated to include, as from the Effective Date and until the Repositioning Date, the "Emerging Europe II Fund", and as from the Repositioning Date, the "Emerging Markets Ex-China Fund".

## 8. Appendix E – Summary of Charges and Expenses

The section "Summary of Charges and Expenses" from page 191 of the Prospectus shall be updated to include the following:

As from the Effective Date and until the Repositioning Date, the section "Summary of Charges and Expenses" will be amended as follows:

| Emerging Europe II Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

As from the Repositioning Date, the section "Summary of Charges and Expenses" will be amended as follows:

| Emerging Markets Ex-China Fund | Initial charge | Management Fee | Distribution Fee | CDSC |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Class A | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class AI | 5.00% | 1.50% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class C | 0.00% | 1.50% | 1.25% | 0.00% |
| Class D | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class DD | 5.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class E | 3.00% | 1.50% | 0.50% | 0.00% |
| Class I | 0.00% | 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class J | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class S | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SI | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class SR | 0.00% | up to 0.75%* | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class X | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class Z | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |
| Class ZI | 0.00% | up to 0.75% | 0.00% | 0.00% |

* *A single fee is charged on Class SR Shares (which comprises the management fee and the Annual Service Charge). Please refer to the applicable KIID for the ongoing charges figure. Please note that this figure may vary from year to year. It excludes any distribution fees and/or portfolio trade-related costs paid to the custodian and any entry/exit charge paid to an underlying collective investment scheme (if any).*

## 9. Appendix G – Securities Financing Transaction Disclosures – Proportions of Fund property subject to SFTs

The section "Proportions of Fund property subject to SFTs" from page 212 of the Prospectus shall be updated to include the following:

As from the Effective Date and until the Repositioning Date, the section "Proportions of Fund property subject to SFTs" will be amended as follows:

| No. FUND | TRS (in aggregate*) Maximum/Expected proportion of the NAV (%) | Securities Lending** Maximum****/Expected proportion of the NAV (%) | Repurchase Transactions Maximum/Expected proportion of the NAV (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 22. Emerging Europe II Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |

As from the Repositioning Date, the section "Proportions of Fund property subject to SFTs" will be amended as follows:

| No. FUND | TRS (in aggregate*) Maximum/Expected proportion of the NAV (%) | Securities Lending** Maximum****/Expected proportion of the NAV (%) | Repurchase Transactions Maximum/Expected proportion of the NAV (%) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 25. Emerging Markets Ex-China Fund | 40/0 | 49/ up to 40 | 0/0 |

This page is intentionally left blank

This page is intentionally left blank

This page is intentionally left blank

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

BlackRock.com/lu | +44 (0)20 7743 3300

© 2024 BlackRock, Inc. All Rights reserved. BLACKROCK, BLACKROCK SOLUTIONS, iSHARES, SO WHAT DO I DO WITH MY MONEY, INVESTING FOR A NEW WORLD, and BUILT FOR THESE TIMES are registered and unregistered trademarks of BlackRock, Inc. or its subsidiaries in the United States and elsewhere. All other trademarks are those of their respective owners.

PRISMA 24/1148 BGF PRO 0224 INCL ADD ENG 0324

BlackRock.

Go paperless. . .
It's Easy, Economical and Green!
Go to **www.icsdelivery.com**

NM0324U-3453640-808/808