# **BNP Paribas Funds**

AN OPEN-ENDED INVESTMENT COMPINCORPORATED UNDER LUXEMBOUF

VISA 2024/175399-743-0-PC

L'apposition du visa ne peut en aucun cas servir d'argument de publicité Luxembourg, le 2024-01-25 Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier







The sustainable investor for a changing world

### INFORMATION REQUESTS

BNP Paribas Funds 10 rue Edward Steichen L-2540 Luxembourg Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

#### NOTICE

This Prospectus may not be used for the purpose of an offer or solicitation to sell in any country or any circumstance in which such an offer or entreaty is not authorised.

The Company is approved as an Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities (UCITS) in Luxembourg. It is specifically authorised to market its shares in Luxembourg, Austria, Bahrain, Belgium, Chile, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Jersey, Liechtenstein, Macau, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom. Not all the sub-funds, categories, or classes of shares are necessarily registered in these countries. It is vital that before subscribing, potential investors ensure that they are informed about the sub-funds, categories, or classes of shares that are authorised to be marketed in their country of residence and the constraints applicable in each of these countries.

In particular, the Company's shares have not been registered in accordance with any legal or regulatory provisions in the United States of America. Consequently, this document may not be introduced, transmitted or distributed in that country, or its territories or possessions, or sent to its residents, nationals, or any other companies, associations, employee benefit plans or entities whose assets constitute employee benefit plan assets whether or not subject to the United States Employee Retirement Income Securities Act of 1974, as amended (collectively, "Benefit Plans"), or entities incorporated in or governed by the laws of that country. Furthermore, the Company's shares may not be offered or sold to such persons.

In addition, no one may issue any information other than that presented in the Prospectus or the documents mentioned in it, which may be consulted by the public. The Company's Board of Directors vouches for the accuracy of the information contained in the Prospectus on the date of publication.

Lastly, the Prospectus may be updated to take account of additional or closed sub-funds or any significant changes to the Company's structure and operating methods. Therefore, subscribers are recommended to request any more recent documents as mentioned below under "Information for Shareholders". Subscribers are also recommended to seek advice on the laws and regulations (such as those relating to taxation and exchange control) applicable to the subscription, purchase, holding and redemption of shares in their country of origin, residence or domicile.

The Prospectus is only valid if accompanied by the latest audited annual report as well as the latest interim report if the latter is more recent than the annual report.

If there is any inconsistency or ambiguity regarding the meaning of a word or sentence in any translation of the Prospectus, the English version shall prevail.



# **BOOK I**



# **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **REGISTERED OFFICE**

BNP Paribas Funds 10 rue Edward Steichen L-2540 Luxembourg Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

#### THE COMPANY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Chair

Mr Pierre MOULIN, Global Head of Products and Strategic Marketing, BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT France, Paris

### Members

Mr Marnix ARICKX, Chief Executive Officer, BNP Paribas Asset Management France, Belgian branch, Brussels Mr Emmanuel COLLINET DE LA SALLE, Head of Group Networks, BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT France, Paris Mrs Giorgia D'ANNA, Head of Group Networks Italy and International, BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT France, Paris Mr Philippe DITISHEIM, Director, Paris, France

Mrs Cecile du MERLE, Head of Global Product Engineering, BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT France, Paris Mrs Marianne HUVE-ALLARD, Head of Brand and Communication, BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT France, Paris

Mr François ROUX, Head of Global Product Strategy, BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT France, Paris

Mrs Georgina WILTON, Head of Business Management, Fundamental Active Equities, BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT UK Ltd, London

### Company Secretary (non-member of the Board)

Mr Stéphane BRUNET, Chief Executive Officer, BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT Luxembourg, Luxembourg

# **MANAGEMENT COMPANY**

BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT Luxembourg 10 rue Edward Steichen L-2540 Luxembourg Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT Luxembourg is a Management Company as defined by Chapter 15 of the Luxembourg Law of 17 December 2010 concerning undertakings for collective investment.

The Management Company performs the administration, portfolio management and marketing duties.

# THE MANAGEMENT COMPANY'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

# Chair

Mr Pierre MOULIN, Global Head of Products and Strategic Marketing, BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT France, Paris

# Members

Mr Stéphane BRUNET, Chief Executive Officer, BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT Luxembourg, Luxembourg Mr Georges ENGEL, Independent Director, Vincennes, France Mrs Marie-Sophie PASTANT, Head of ETF, Index & Synthetic Systematic Strategies Portfolio Management, BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT France, Paris

# **NAV CALCULATION**

BNP Paribas, Luxembourg Branch 60 avenue J.F. Kennedy L-1855 Luxembourg Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

# TRANSFER AND REGISTRAR AGENT

BNP Paribas, Luxembourg Branch 60 avenue J.F. Kennedy L-1855 Luxembourg Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

# **DEPOSITARY**

BNP Paribas, Luxembourg Branch 60 avenue J.F. Kennedy L-1855 Luxembourg Grand Duchy of Luxembourg



### **INVESTMENT MANAGERS**

BNP PARIBAS Group management entities:

# Alfred Berg Kapitalforvaltning AS

Munkedamsveien 34, PO box 1294 Vika, 0250 Oslo, Norway A Norwegian Company, incorporated on 19 November 1989

Also acting through its Sweden branch

Holvslagargatan 3, PO box 70447, 107 25 Stockholm, Sweden

### • BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT France

1 boulevard Haussmann, F-75009 Paris, France

A French company, incorporated on 28 July 1980

Also acting through its Dutch/Netherlands branch

Herengracht 595, PO box 71770, NL-1008 DG Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Also acting through its Belgian branch

Montagne du Parc 3, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

# • BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT Asia Ltd.

Suite 1701, 17/F, Lincoln House, Taikoo Place, 979 King's Road, Quarry Bay, Hong-Kong A Hong Kong company, incorporated on 29 October 1991

#### BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT Brasil Ltda

Av. Juscelino Kubitchek 510-11 Andar, 04543-00 Sao Paulo - SP, Brazil

A Brazilian company, incorporated on 20 May 1998

# BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT Singapore Limited

20 Collyer Quay Tung Center #01-01, Singapore 049319

A Singapore company incorporated on 22 December 1993

# BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT UK Ltd.

5 Aldermanbury Square, London EC2V 7BP, United Kingdom

A UK company incorporated on 27 February 1990

# • BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT USA, Inc.

200 Park Avenue, 11th floor, New York, NY 10166, USA

An US company, incorporated on 24 August 1972

# TEB Portföy Yönetimi A.Ş.

Gayrettepe Mahallesi Yener Sokak n° 1 Kat. 9 Besiktas 34353 Istanbul, Turkey

A Turkish company, incorporated on November 1999

Non-group management entities:

# • Impax Asset Management Limited

7th Floor, 30 Panton Street, London, SW1Y 4AJ, United Kingdom

A UK company, incorporated on 10 June 1998

Acting as manager for the "Aqua", "Climate Impact", "Global Environment", "Green Tigers", and "SMaRT Food" sub-funds

# Mitsubishi UFJ Kokusai Asset Management Co. Ltd

1-12-1 Yurakucho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0006, Japan

A Japanese company, incorporated and registered with the Registrar of Companies for Tokyo Legal Affairs Bureau under registered/company number (the "Delegate"), Legal Entity Identifier (LEI) number: 353800AKL46K41TUXX33

Acting as manager for the "Japan Equity" sub-fund

# Sumitomo Mitsui DS Asset Management Company, Limited

Atago Green Hills, Mori Tower, 28F, 2-5-1 Atago Minato-ku, Tokyo 105-6228, Japan

A Japanese company, incorporated on 1st December 2002

Acting as manager for the "Japan Small Cap" sub-fund

# **GUARANTOR**

BNP PARIBAS 16 boulevard des Italiens F-75009 Paris

France

The "Seasons" sub-fund benefits from a guarantee.



# **AUDITOR**

PricewaterhouseCoopers, Société coopérative 2, rue Gerhard Mercator B.P. 1443 L-1014 Luxembourg Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

# ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION

The Company was incorporated on 27 March 1990 and a notice was published in the *Mémorial*, *Recueil Spécial des Sociétés et Associations* (the "*Mémorial*").

The Articles of Association have been modified at various times, most recently at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 26 April 2021, with publication in the RESA on 10 May 2021.

The latest version of the Articles of Association has been filed with the Trade and Companies Registrar of Luxembourg, where any interested party may consult it and obtain a copy (website www.lbr.lu).



### **TERMINOLOGY**

For purposes of this document, the following terms shall have the following meanings. The below terminology is a generic list of terms. Some of them may therefore not be used in the present document.

ABS:

**Asset-Backed Securities**: Securities backed by the cash flows of a pool of assets (mortgage and non-mortgage assets) such as home equity loans, company receivables, truck and auto loans, leases, credit card receivables and student loans. ABS are issued in tranched format or as pass-through certificates, which represent undivided fractional ownership interests in the underlying pools of assets. Therefore, repayment depends largely on the cash flows generated by the assets backing the securities

**Accounting Currency:** 

Currency in which the assets of a sub-fund are stated for accounting purposes, which may be different of the share category valuation currency

**Active Trading:** 

Subscription, conversion, or redemption in the same sub-fund over a short period of time and involving substantial amounts, usually with the aim of making a quick profit. This activity is prejudicial to other shareholders as it affects the sub-fund's performance and disrupts management of the assets

ADR / GDR:

ADR / GDR refer to all categories of American Depositary Receipts and Global Depositary Receipts, mirror substitutes for shares which cannot be bought locally for legal reasons. ADRs and GDRs are not listed locally but on such markets as New York or London and are issued by major banks and/or financial institutions in industrialised countries in return for deposit of the securities mentioned in the sub-fund's investment policy

**Alternative Investments:** 

Investments outside of the traditional asset classes of equities, debt securities and cash: they include UCITS/UCIs with alternative strategies in so far as they fulfil the requirements of the section "Units or Shares of UCITS or other UCIs" of the Appendix 1 of the Book I of the Prospectus, Managed Futures, Real Estate Investments (indirectly), Commodities Investments (indirectly), Inflation-linked Products and Derivatives Contracts. Alternative investments strategies may pursue the following strategies: Equity Long / Short, Equity Market Neutral, Convertible Arbitrage, Fixed Income Arbitrage (yield curve arbitrage or corporate spread arbitrage), Global Macro, Distressed Securities, Multi-strategy, Managed Futures, Take-over / merger arbitrage, Volatility arbitrage, Total Return

**Asset Securitisation:** 

Financial package (off-balance sheet) which consists of issuing securities backed to a basket of assets (mortgages: residential and commercial mortgages, consumer loans, automobile loans, student loans, credit card financing, equipment loans and leases, business trade receivables, inventories among others) and based on the quality of the collateral they offer or their level of risk. The underlying assets are virtually "transformed" into securities, hence "securitisation"

**Authorised Investors:** 

Investors specially approved by the Board of Directors of the Company

Benchmark Register:

The Benchmark Index Administrators Register held by ESMA, in accordance with Article 36 of the Benchmark Regulation 2016/1011

BMTN:

**Mid-Term Negotiable Notes** (in French *Bons à Moyen Terme Négociables*) belong to the French category of negotiable debt securities (TCN: *Titres de créances negotiables*); they are negotiable debt securities with a greater than one-year initial duration; generally they are issued by credit institutions

**Bond Connect:** 

The "Bond Connect" is a mutual market access program between the PRC interbank bond market and Hong Kong bond market infrastructures as approved by People's Bank of China and Hong Kong Monetary Authority. It allows investors from Mainland China and overseas to trade in each other's bond markets through a market infrastructure linkage in Hong Kong.

CDS:

Credit Default Swap: When buying or selling a CDS the Company hedges against the risk of an issuer's default by paying a quarterly premium. In the event of payment default, settlement may be made either in cash, in which case the buyer of the protection receives the difference between the face value and the recoverable value, or in the form of an in-kind settlement, in which case the buyer of the protection sells the defaulting security, or another security chosen from a basket of deliverable securities agreed in the CDS contract, to the seller of the protection and recovers the face value. The events that constitute default are defined in the CDS contract, along with the procedures for delivery of the bonds and debt certificates

CDSC:

Contingent Deferred Sales Charge: A charge, paid to the Management Company and serving to cover remuneration of the distributors, that is deducted from redemption proceeds and calculated on the redemption NAV, as further detailed in Book I (The Shares)

CFD:

Contract for Difference: Contract between two parties whereby they agree on a cash payment between them in the amount of the difference between two valuations of the underlying asset, at least one of which is unknown when they enter into the contract. By entering into a CFD, the Company undertakes to pay (or receive) the difference between the valuation of the underlying asset at the time of entering into the contract and the valuation of the underlying asset at a particular moment in the future

Circular 08/356:

Circular issued by the CSSF on 4 June 2008 concerning the rules applicable to undertakings for collective investment when they utilise certain techniques and instruments based on transferable securities and money market instruments. This document is available on the CSSF website (www.cssf.lu)

Circular 11/512:

Circular issued by the CSSF on 30 May 2011 concerning: a) The presentation of the main regulatory changes in risk management following the publication of the CSSF Regulation 10-4 and ESMA clarifications; b) Further clarification from the CSSF on risk management rules; c) Definition of the content and format of the risk management process to be communicated to the CSSF. This document is available on the CSSF website (www.cssf.lu)



Circular 14/592:

Circular issued by the CSSF on 30 September 2014 concerning ESMA guidelines on ETF and other UCITS issues. This document is available on the CSSF website (www.cssf.lu)

Closed-ended REIT:

Real Estate Investment Trust which complies with the provisions of article 2 of the Grand Ducal Regulation dated 8 February 2008, the units of which are listed on a Regulated Market is classified as a transferable security listed on a Regulated Market, investments in closed-ended REITs which are not listed on a Regulated Market, are currently limited to 10% of the net assets of a sub-fund

CBO:

Collateralised Bond Obligation: Bonds backed by a collection of low-grade debt securities (such as junk bonds); CBOs are separated into tranches based on various levels of credit risk (called tiers) that are determined by the quality of bonds involved. When issuing CBO, the issuer can post more collateral than necessary in an attempt to obtain a better debt rating from a credit rating agency (overcollateralisation)

CDO:

Collateralised Debt Obligation: A structured financial product that pools together cash flow-generating assets and repackages this asset pool into discrete tranches that can be sold to investors. A CDO is so-called because the pooled assets, such as mortgages, bonds and loans, are essentially debt obligations that serve as collateral for the CDO. The tranches in a CDO vary substantially in their risk profile. The senior tranches are relatively safer because they have first priority on the collateral in the event of default. As a result, the senior tranches of a CDO generally have a higher credit rating and offer lower coupon rates than the junior tranches, which offer higher coupon rates to compensate for their higher default risk. CDOs include CBOs, CLOs and CMOs

CLO:

**Collateralised Loan Obligation**: A security backed by a pool of bank (commercial or personal) loans (often low-rated corporate loans) structured so that there are several classes of bondholders with varying credit qualities called tranches

CMO:

Collateralised Mortgage Obligation: A type of MBS created by redirecting the cash flows from underlying pools of mortgages to different classes of bonds called tranches. The redistribution of scheduled principal, unscheduled principal and interest from the underlying mortgage pool to different tranches creates securities with different coupon rates, average lives and price sensitivities. Consequently, these instruments can be used to match an investor's particular risk and return objectives more closely

CMBS:

Commercial (or Collateralised) Mortgage Backed Security: A security created by pooling a group of (non-residential) mortgages on commercial real estate, office building, warehousing facilities, multi-family real estate. CMBS are structured so that there are several classes of bondholders with varying credit qualities called tranches

### Company Name:

# **BNP** Paribas Funds

**Contingent Convertible:** 

A Contingent Convertible is a type of Subordinated Debt for banks designed to absorb large loss threatening the capital, via an automatic conversion into equity. Contingent Convertibles can be Tier 1 or Tier 2 instruments.

# Contingent Convertible Characteristics

- Trigger: the automatic conversion into equity is triggered by the level of Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1) capital, which can be high (around 7%), or low (5.125%) in 2014. As such, low trigger Contingent Convertibles are less risky than high triggers
- Loss Absorption Mechanism: it is the mode of transformation of the debt instrument into core equity. It can
  be a conversion into shares for listed banks, or a write-down (the bank books a capital gain in its Profits
  & Losses balance sheet). Write-downs can be full or partial, permanent or temporary. In case of temporary
  write-down, later write-ups are possible under certain conditions
- Coupons: Tier 1 Contingent Convertibles are with fully discretionary and not cumulative coupons, whereas Tier 2 Contingent Convertibles have coupon that have to be paid ("Must Pay"). In addition, if the capital ratios of the bank get too close to a regulatory minimum (10-12% in 2014) depending on banks), coupons are subject to mandatory cancellation. They are reset every five years, when the Contingent Convertible is callable
- Maturity: Tier 2 Contingent Convertibles are dated, and can be entirely paid all at once on the maturity date (bullet) or can be redeemed any time before reaching maturity date (callable). Tier 1 Contingent Convertibles are perpetual, usually with a call option every five years
- Point Of Non Viability (PONV): this is the moment when the banks' supervisory authorities decide that the
  bank is facing liquidity problems and subsequently take control and take actions to solve this issue. The
  determination of the PONV is left to the National banks' supervisory authorities on a case by case basis

# Additional Tier 1 Capital (AT1)

# is made up of:

- Subordinated and perpetual Tier 1 capital instruments issued by a bank that are not included in CET1;
- Share premium resulting from the issue of AT1 capital instruments;
- Instruments issued by consolidated bank subsidiaries and held by third parties. The instruments must meet AT1 capital requirements criteria and not included in CET1;
- Regulatory adjustments applied in the calculation of AT1.

# Common Equity Tier 1 (CET1)

A measurement of a bank's core equity capital compared with its total risk-weighted assets. This is the measure of a bank's financial strength. The Tier 1 common capital ratio excludes any preferred shares or non-controlling interests when determining the calculation

# Tier 1 capital

It includes only permanent shareholders' equity (issued and fully-paid ordinary shares/common stock and perpetual non-cumulative preference shares) and disclosed reserves (created or increased by



appropriations of retained earnings or other surplus, e.g. share premiums, retained profit, general reserves and legal reserves). Disclosed reserves also include general funds (Basle Capital Accord)

Tier 2 capital

It is designated as "supplementary capital", and is composed of items such as undisclosed reserves, revaluation reserves, general provisions/general loan-loss reserves, hybrid (debt/equity) capital instruments and subordinated term debt. Tier 2 capital is the secondary component of bank capital, in addition to Tier 1 capital, that makes up a bank's required reserves

Debt security issued by a financial institution and backed by a separate group of assets; in the event the

financial institution becomes insolvent, the bond is covered.

<u>CSSF:</u> Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier, the regulatory authority for UCI in the Grand Duchy of

Luxembourg

PLN:

**Currencies:** 

**Covered Bond:** 

AUD: Australian Dollar
BRL: Brazilian Real
CAD: Canadian Dollar
CHF: Swiss Franc

**CNH:** Chinese Yuan Renminbi Offshore (outside of China)

**CNY:** Chinese Yuan Renminbi Onshore

CZK: Czech Koruna

EUR: Euro

GBP: British Pound

HUF: Hungary Forint

HKD: Hong Kong Dollar

JPY: Japanese Yen

NOK: Norwegian Krone

Polish Zloty

RMB: Chinese Renminbi, unless otherwise provided refers either to CNY traded onshore or CNH traded

offshore. Both may have a value significantly different to each other since currency flows in/out of

mainland China are restricted.

SEK: Swedish Krona
SGD: Singapore Dollar
USD: US Dollar
ZAR: South African Rand

<u>Direct CIBM Access:</u> Direct CIBM Access is a program introduced by People's Bank of China allowing eligible foreign institutional

investors to invest in the China interbank bond market ("CIBM") without quota limit. Foreign institutional investors can invest in cash bonds available in CIBM as well as derivative products (e.g. bond lending, bond

forward, forward rate agreement and interest rate swap) for hedging purpose

<u>Directive 78/660:</u> European Council Directive 78/660/EEC of 25 July 1978 concerning the annual accounts of certain forms

of companies, as amended

<u>Directive 83/349:</u> European Council Directive 83/349/EEC of 13 June 1983 concerning consolidated accounts, as amended

<u>Directive 2014/65:</u> MiFID: European Council Directive 2014/65/EU of 15 May 2014 on markets in financial instruments

repealing the Directive/2004/39/EC of 21 April 2004

<u>Directive 2009/65:</u> European Council Directive 2009/65/EC of 13 July 2009 regarding the coordination of legislative, regulatory

and administrative provisions concerning undertakings for collective investment in transferable securities

(UCITS IV) as amended by the Directive 2014/91

Directive 2011/16: European Council Directive 2011/16/EU of 15 February 2011 on administrative cooperation in the field of

taxation as amended by the Directive 2014/107

<u>Directive 2013/34:</u> European Council Directive 2013/34/EU of 26 June 2013 on the annual financial statements, consolidated

financial statements and related reports of certain types of undertakings,

<u>Directive 2014/91:</u> European Parliament and of the Council Directive 2014/91/EU on the coordination of laws, regulations and

administrative provisions relating to undertakings for collective investments in transferable securities (UCITS) as regards depositary functions, remuneration policies and sanctions (UCITS V) amending the

Directive 2009/65

<u>Directive 2014/107:</u> European Council Directive 2014/107/EU of 9 December 2014 amending Directive 2011/16 as regards

mandatory automatic exchange of information (AEOI) in the field of taxation

<u>Distressed (default) securities:</u> Financial instruments of companies or government entities or central bank that is near or is currently going through default and or bankruptcy (inability to meet financial obligations; reorganisation, restructuring). As

through default and or banktupicy (maniful to meet infancial obligations; reorganisation, restructuring). As a result, this financial instrument suffers a substantial reduction in value (when yield to maturity is greater than 8% to 10% above the risk free rate of return and or when rated CCC or below). Distressed securities include corporate bonds, common and preferred shares, bank debt, trade claims (goods owed), warrants,

convertible bonds

**EDS:** Equity Default Swap: When buying equity default swap the Company hedges against the risk of a sharp

fall (the current market norm is 70%) in the value of the underlying security on the stock markets, regardless



of the cause for the fall, by paying a quarterly premium. When the risk is realised, i.e. when the closing price on the stock market reaches or exceeds the threshold (of -70%), the payment is made in cash: the buyer of the protection receives a pre-determined percentage (the current European market norm is 50%) of the notional amount initially assured

EEA:

Eligible Supra & Issuer below agreements

European Economic Area

Issuer belonging to the following category of national and/or supranational entities for reverse repurchase agreements by way of derogation to article 15.6 of Regulation 2017/1131, provided that a favourable internal credit quality assessment has been received:

- the Union.
- a central authority or central bank of a Member State (for example: Republic of France or the "Caisse d'amortissement de la dette sociale CADES" in France),
- the European Central Bank.
- the European Investment Bank.
- the European Stability Mechanism,
- the European Financial Stability Facility,
- a central authority or central bank of a Third Country, (such as the Federal Reserve System of the United Stated of America - FED).

ELN:

**Equity Linked Notes:** Equity financial derivative instrument structured by combining a long call option on equity (basket of equities or equity index) with a long discount bond position; it provides investors fixed income principal protection along with equity market upside exposure. The coupon or final payment at maturity is determined by the appreciation of the underlying equity

**Emerging markets:** 

non OECD countries prior to 1 January 1994 together with Turkey and Greece

In the Emerging markets, 2 different categories may be identified by the main providers of indices:

- Frontier markets: a sub-category of emerging markets designating growing economies with widely varying characteristics in terms of development, growth, human capital, demographics and political openness.
- Advanced emerging markets: a sub-category of countries in the group of emerging markets gathering the best ranked countries in terms of market efficiency, regulatory environment, custody and settlement procedures and dealing tools available

EMTN:

**Euro Medium Term Notes:** Medium-term debt securities characterised by their high level of flexibility for both the issuer (corporate issuers and public bodies) and the investor. EMTN are issued according to an EMTN programme, which means that use of debt funding can be staggered and the amounts involved varied. The arranger of the issue will not necessarily underwrite it, which means that the issuer cannot be certain of raising the full amount envisaged (it is therefore in the issuer's interest to have a good credit rating)

Equity:

A stock or any other security representing an ownership interest

Equity equivalent security:

ADR, GDR and investment certificates Environmental, Social and Governance

ESG: ESMA:

European Securities and Markets Authority

ESMA/2011/112:

Guidelines to competent authorities and UCITS management companies on risk measurement and the calculation of global exposure for certain types of structured UCITS issued by the ESMA on April 14, 2011. This document is available on the ESMA website (www.esma.europa.eu)

ETC:

**Exchange Traded Commodities:** Trade and settle like ETFs but are structured as debt instruments. They track both broad and single commodity indices. ETC either physically hold the underlying commodity (e.g. physical gold) or get their exposure through fully collateralised swaps

ETF:

**Exchange Traded Funds:** Exchange traded products that are structured and regulated as mutual funds or collective investment schemes

To be eligible an ETF shall be a UCITS, or a UCI compliant with the conditions set out in the Appendix I of the Prospectus

ETN:

**Exchange Traded Notes:** Unsecured, unsubordinated debt securities issued by a bank and traded on a major exchange; ETN offered return based on the performance of a market index minus applicable fees, with no period coupon payments distributed and no principal protections. As ETN are issued by banks, their value also depends on the credit rating of the issuer. ETN can be linked to commodities, equities, bullions.

FII:

Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor pursuant to the FII Regulations

FII Regulations:

The PRC (People's Republic China) laws, rules, regulations, circulars, orders, notices, directives or directions governing the establishment and operation of the qualified foreign institutional investors regime in the PRC (including the Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor program ("QFII program") and the RMB Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor program ("RQFII program")), as may be promulgated and/or amended from time to time

FII sub-funds:

Collective investment schemes which can fully or partially invest into mainland Chinese domestic securities via the FII License: "China A-Shares", "China Equity", "Global Convertible", and "RMB Bond" sub-funds

GSS:

the Global Sustainability Strategy policy which governs the approach to sustainability of BNP Paribas Asset Management and can be found under the following link: <u>Global Sustainability Strategy</u>



**Hard Currencies:** 

AUD, CAD, CHF, EUR, GBP, JPY, and USD

**HELOC:** 

Home Equity Line of Credit: A line of credit extended to a homeowner that uses the borrower's home as collateral. Once a maximum loan balance is established, the homeowner may draw on the line of credit at his or her discretion. Interest is charged on a predetermined variable rate, which is usually based on prevailing prime rates

**High Yield Bonds:** 

These bond investments correspond to the ratings assigned by the rating agencies for borrowers rated below BBB- on the Standard & Poor's or Fitch rating scale and below Baa3 on the Moody's rating scale. Such high-yield bond issues are loans that generally take the form of bonds with a 5-, 7- or 10-year maturity. The bonds are issued by companies with a weak financial base. The return on the securities, and their level of risk, is significant, making them highly speculative. In the case, of securities rated by two or more agencies, the worst rate available will be considered

**Hybrid Security:** 

A single financial security that combines two or more different financial instruments. Hybrid securities, often referred to as "hybrids," generally combine both debt and equity characteristics. The most common type of hybrid security is a convertible bond that has features of an ordinary bond but is heavily influenced by the price movements of the stock into which it is convertible.

Institutional Investors:

Legal entities who hold for their own account and who are either considered to be professionals for the purpose of Annex II to Directive 2014/65 (MiFID), or who may, on request, be treated as professionals according to applicable local legislation ("Professionals"), UCI, and insurance companies or pension funds subscribing within the scope of a group savings scheme or an equivalent scheme. Portfolio managers subscribing within the scope of discretionary portfolios management mandates for other than Institutional Investors qualified as Professionals are not included in this category.

**Investment Grade Bonds:** 

These bond investments correspond to the ratings assigned by the rating agencies for borrowers rated between AAA and BBB- on the Standard & Poor's or Fitch rating scale and Aaa and Baa3 on the Moody's rating scale. In the case of securities rated by two agencies, the best rating among the two available will be taken. In the case of securities rated by three agencies, the two best ratings among the three available will be taken

IRS:

Interest Rate Swap: OTC agreement between two parties to exchange one stream of interest payments for another, over a set period of time without exchange of notionals. IRS allow portfolio managers to adjust interest rate exposure and offset the risks posed by interest rate volatility. By increasing or decreasing interest rate exposure in various parts of the yield curve using swaps, managers can either increase or neutralize their exposure to changes in the shape of the curve. Within Money Market sub-funds of the Company IRS are only negotiated for hedging purpose (i.e. IRS with a fixed rate paying leg and a variable rate receiving leg).

KID: Law:

Luxembourg law of 17 December 2010 concerning undertakings for collective investment. This law implements Directive 2009/65/EC (UCITS IV) of 13 July 2009 into Luxembourg law

Law of 10 August 1915:

Luxembourg law of 10 August 1915 on commercial companies, as amended

Key Information Document within the meaning of Regulation 1286/2014

**Mainland China Securities:** 

Securities traded in People's Republic of China included but not limited to China 'A' Shares (Shares listed in CNY in the Shanghai or Shenzhen stock exchanges and which are exclusively reserved to Chinese or eligible foreign investors), China 'B' Shares (Shares listed in foreign currencies in the Shanghai or Shenzhen stock exchanges and reserved to foreign investors) and/or any other equities and debt securities issued or settled in CNY and/or P-Notes linked to those securities. China 'H' shares (Shares listed in HKD in Hong Kong Stock exchange) are not concerned

Managers:

Portfolio managers subscribing within the scope of discretionary individual portfolios management mandates

**Market Timing:** 

Arbitrage technique whereby an investor systematically subscribes and redeems or converts units or shares in a single UCITS within a short space of time by taking advantage of time differences and/or imperfections or deficiencies in the system of determining the NAV of the UCITS. This technique is not authorised by the Company

MBS:

Mortgage Backed Security: also known as "mortgage-related security". A type of security that is backed (collateralised) by a mortgage loan or collection of mortgages loan with similar characteristics. These securities usually pay periodic payments that are similar to coupon payments; the mortgage must have originated from a regulated and authorized financial institution. Mortgage securities are backed by a wide variety of loans with generally 4 borrower characteristics (agency mortgages, prime jumbo mortgages, Alt-A mortgages and subprime mortgages)

Loans that satisfy the underwriting standard of the agencies are typically used to create RMBS that are referred to as <u>agency</u> mortgage-backed securities (MBS). All other loans are included in what is referred to generically as <u>non-agency</u> MBS; the agency MBS market includes three types of securities:

- agency mortgage pass-through securities
- agency collateralized mortgage obligations (CMOs)
- agency stripped MBS

Member State:

Member state of the European Union. The states that are contracting parties to the agreement creating the European Economic Area other than the Member States of the European Union, within the limits set forth by this agreement and related acts are considered as equivalent to Member States of the European Union



Money Market Funds (hereinafter "MMF"):

Money market funds compliant with Regulation 2017/1131 that:

- Require authorization as UCITS or are authorized as UCITS under Directive 2009/65/EC or are Alternative Investment Funds under Directive 2011/61/EU
- Invest in short-term assets; and
- Have distinct or cumulative objectives returns in line with money market rates or preserving the value of the investment

Short-Term Money Market Funds are a sub-part of this category with stricter guidelines (in terms of maximum maturities or minimum liquidity threshold) defined in the Regulation 2017/1131 and can only invest in other Short-Term Money Market Funds.

Standard Money Market Funds are a sub-part of this category with less strict guidelines (in terms of maximum maturities or minimum liquidity threshold) defined in the same Regulation and can invest in both Short-Term Money Market Funds and other Standard Money Market Funds.

All Money Market sub-funds of the Company are classified as Standard Money Market Funds qualified as VNAV

**Money Market Instruments:** 

Instruments normally dealt on the money market that are liquid and whose value can be accurately determined at any time.

Net Asset Value

OECD: Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

Over The Counter

P-Notes: Participatory Notes: offshore OTC transferable securities issued by registered foreign institutional investors (FII) (associates of local based foreign brokerages and domestic institutional brokerages) to

overseas investors, who wish to invest in some specific restricted local stock markets (India, China Shenzhen and Shanghai for China A-shares, some Middle East markets, North African markets and Korea)

without registering themselves with the market regulator

PRC: People's Republic of China

PRC Broker:

A broker based in the PRC selected by the Investment Manager to act on its behalf in each of the two

onshore PRC securities markets

PRC Custodian: A custodian based in the PRC to locally maintain assets of the relevant sub-fund in custody

<u>Prospectus:</u> The present document

RBC Policy: the Responsible Business Conduct Policy defining 1) norms-based screens, such as the UN Nations Global

Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and 2) BNP Paribas Asset Management sector policies. More information are available on the following link: Responsible Business

Conduct policy

Real Estate Investments: Investments in Real Estate certificates, shares of companies linked to Real Estate, closed-ended REITs

Reference Currency: Main currency when several valuation currencies are available for a same share

Regulation 1060/2009: Regulation (EC) 1060/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 September 2009 on credit

rating agencies

Regulation 1286/2014 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 26 November 2014 on key

information documents for packaged retail and insurance-based investment products (PRIIPS)

Regulation 2015/2365: Regulation (EU) 2015/2365 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on

transparency of securities financing transactions and of reuse and amending Regulation (EU) 648/2012

(SF 1 K)

Regulation 2016/679: Regulation (EU) 2016/679 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 April 2016 on the protection

of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data, and consoling Directive 05/46/FC (Conseq Data Protection Regulation "CDRR")

and repealing Directive 95/46/EC (General Data Protection Regulation – "GDPR")

Regulation 2016/1011: Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on indices used

as benchmarks in financial instruments and financial contracts or to measure the performance of investment

Regulation 2017/1131: Regulation (EU) 2017/1131 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 on money

market funds

Regulation 2019/2088: Regulation

gulation 2019/2088: 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, also known as the Sustainable Finance

Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) and that lays down harmonised rules for financial market participants on transparency with regard to the integration of sustainability risks and the consideration of adverse sustainability impacts in their processes and the provision of sustainability-related information with respect

to financial products.



### Regulation 2020/852:

Repurchase / Reverse Repurchase transaction:

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 investments, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (Taxonomy Regulation), and that implements the criteria for determining whether an economic activity qualifies as environmentally sustainable.

A transaction 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

Recueil Electronique des Sociétés et Associations

**Residential Mortgage Backed Security**: A type of mortgage-backed debt obligation created by banks and other financial institutions whose cash flows come from residential debt, such as mortgages, home-equity loans and subprime mortgages

A transaction by which a counterparty transfers securities subject to a commitment that the borrower will return the securities on a future date or when requested to do so by the transferor, that transaction being considered as securities lending for the counterparty transferring the securities and being considered as securities borrowing for the counterparty to which they are transferred.

Securities Lending or Borrowing:

SFT:

RESA:

RMBS:

# Securities Financing Transactions which means:

- a repurchase or reverse repurchase transaction;
- securities lending and securities borrowing;
- a buy-sell back transaction or sell-buy back transaction
- a margin lending transaction

Sustainable Investment:

According to SFDR an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental objective, as measured, for example, by key resource efficiency indicators on the use of energy, renewable energy, raw materials, water and land, on the production of waste, and greenhouse gas emissions, or on its impact on biodiversity and the circular economy, or an investment in an economic activity that contributes to a social objective, in particular an investment that contributes to tackling inequality or that fosters social cohesion, social integration and labour relations, or an investment in human capital or economically or socially disadvantaged communities, provided that such investments do not significantly harm any of those objectives and that the investee companies follow good governance practices, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance

Social Bonds:

Issuer self-labelled bonds where the issuer commits to allocate proceeds raised from the bond's issuance towards projects, assets, and/or activities that deliver benefits towards some social objective(s) (e.g. access to essential services, access to basic infrastructure). Social bond issuers typically use international guidelines such as the ones defined by the International Capital Market Association Social Bond Principles to structure their social bond. Social bonds typically have a structure of four components – use of proceeds, project selection process, management of proceeds, reporting. The Sustainability Center of BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT will assess the Social Bonds on the basis of these criteria.

# Sovereign Eligible Issuer:

Issuer belonging to the following category of national and/or supranational entities eligible for diversification by way of derogation to article 17.7 of Regulation 2017/1131:

- the Union
- the national administrations (countries or state agencies for example: Republic of Singapore or the "Caisse d'amortissement de la dette sociale CADES" in France,
- regional (for example: 18 regions or 101 French departments) and local (for example: Société du Grand Paris, Rennes Métropole but also City of Stockholm or City of Turin) of the Member States or their central banks administrations.
- 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 the central bank of a Third Country such as the Federal Reserve System of the United Stated of America (FED)
- 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

Stock Connect:

The "Stock Connect" is a program which aims to achieve mutual stock market access between Mainland China and Hong Kong. Stock Connect is a securities trading and clearing linked program developed by Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited ("HKEx"), Shanghai Stock Exchange ("SSE"), Shenzhen Stock Exchange ("SZSE") and China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited ("ChinaClear"). Hong Kong and overseas investors (including the FII sub-funds), through their Hong Kong brokers and subsidiaries established by The Stock Exchange of Hong Kong Limited ("SEHK"), may be able to trade certain predefined eligible shares listed on SSE/SZSE by routing orders to SSE/SZSE. It is expected that the list of eligible shares and stock exchanges in Mainland China in respect of Stock Connect will be subject to review from time to time. Trading under the Stock Connect will be subject to a daily quota ("Daily Quota"). The trading quota rules may be subject to review

STP:

Straight-Through Processing, process transactions to be conducted electronically without the need for rekeying or manual intervention



**Structured Debt Securities:** 

Debt instruments created through asset securitisation which include ABS, CBO, CDO, CMO, MBS, CMBS, RMBS and CLO

**Subordinated Debt:** 

Subordinated debt securities are more likely to suffer a partial or complete loss in the case of any default or bankruptcy of the issuer, because all obligations to holders of senior debt must be satisfied first.

Sustainability Bonds:

Issuer self-labelled bonds where the issuer commits to allocate proceeds raised from the bond's issuance towards projects, assets, and/or activities that deliver benefits towards some environmental and social objective(s) (e.g. solutions for climate change, access to essential services, access to basic infrastructure). Sustainability bond issuers typically use international guidelines such as the ones defined by the International Capital Market Association Sustainability Bond Guidelines, to structure their sustainability bond. Sustainability bonds typically have a structure of four components – use of proceeds, project selection process, management of proceeds, reporting. The Sustainability Center of BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT will assess the Sustainability Bonds on the basis of these criteria.

TBA:

**To Be Announced:** A TBA transaction is a contract for the purchase or sale of a Mortgage-Backed Security for future settlement at an agreed upon date but does not include a specified mortgage pool number, number of mortgage pools, or precise amount to be delivered

**Third Country:** 

A country part of the OECD, Brazil, People's Republic of China, India, Russia, Singapore, South Africa and any other country member of the G20 organisation

Transferable Securities:

Those classes of securities which are negotiable on the capital market (with the exception of instruments of payment) such as:

- Equity and Equity equivalent securities, partnerships or other entities, and depositary receipts in respect of Equity;
- Bonds or other forms of securitised debt, including depositary receipts in respect of such securities;
- any other securities giving the right to acquire or sell any such transferable securities or giving rise to a
  cash settlement determined by reference to transferable securities, currencies, interest rates or yields,
  commodities or other indices or measures

TRS:

**Total Return Swap**: Derivative contract in which one counterparty transfers the total economic performance, including income from interest and fees, gains and losses from price movements, and credit losses, of a reference asset (equity, equity index, bond, bank loan) to another counterparty.

TRS are in principle unfunded ("**Unfunded TRS**"): the total return receiver pays no upfront amount in return for the total return of the reference asset; then it allows both parties to gain exposure to a specific asset in cost-effective manner (the asset can be held without having to pay additional costs).

TRS may also be funded ("Funded TRS") when it involves an upfront payment (often based on the market value of the asset) at inception in return for the total return of the reference asset

UCI: UCITS: Undertaking for Collective Investment

Valuation Currency(ies):

Currency in which the net asset values of a sub-fund, share category, or share class are calculated. There may be several valuation currencies for the same sub-fund, share category, or share class (so called "Multi-Currency" facility). When the currency available in the share category, or share class is different from the Accounting Currency, subscription/conversion/redemption orders may be taken into account without suffering exchange rate charges

Valuation Day:

Each open bank day in Luxembourg and subject to exceptions available in the Book II:

It corresponds also to:

- Date attached to the NAV when it is published
- Trade date attached to orders
- With regards to exceptions in the valuation rules, closing date prices used for the valuation of the underlying assets in the sub-funds portfolios

VaR:

Value at risk: It is a statistical methodology used to assess an amount of potential loss according to a probability of occurrence and a time frame (see Appendix 2)

VNAV:

Variable Net Asset Value as defined in the Regulation 2017/1131

Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities

WAL:

Weighted Average Life which means the average length of time to legal maturity of all of the underlying assets in the sub-fund reflecting the relative holdings in each asset

WAM:

Weighted Average Maturity which means the average length of time to legal maturity or, if shorter, to the next interest rate reset to a money market rate, of all of the underlying assets in the sub-fund reflecting the relative holdings in each asset

Warrant:

Financial Derivative Instrument that give the right, but not the obligation, to buy (call warrant) or sell (put warrant) a security—commonly an equity—at a certain price (strike price) before the expiration date (American warrant) or at the expiration date (European warrant). The vast majority of warrants are "attached" to newly issued bonds or preferred stock permitting the holder to purchase common stock of the issuer. Warrant are often detachable which means that if an investor holds a bond with attached warrants, he can sell the warrants and keep the bond.



### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

BNP Paribas Funds is an open-ended investment company (société d'investissement à capital variable – abbreviated to "SICAV"), incorporated under Luxembourg law on 27 March 1990 for an indefinite period under the name PARVEST. The current name BNP Paribas Funds is effective as from 30 August 2019.

The Company is currently governed by the provisions of Part I of the Law of 17 December 2010 governing undertakings for collective investment as well as by Directive 2009/65 and the provisions of Regulation 2017/1131.

The Company's capital is expressed in euros ("EUR") and is at all times equal to the total net assets of the various sub-funds. It is represented by fully paid-up shares issued without a designated par value, described below under "The Shares". The capital varies automatically without the notification and specific recording measures required for increases and decreases in the capital of limited companies. Its minimum capital is defined by the Law.

The Company is registered in the Luxembourg Trade and Companies Register under the number B 33 363.

The Company is an umbrella fund, which comprises multiple sub-funds, each with distinct assets and liabilities of the Company. Each sub-fund shall have an investment policy and an Accounting Currency that shall be specific to it as determined by the Board of Directors.

The Company is a single legal entity.

In accordance with Article 181 of the Law:

- the rights of shareholders and creditors in relation to a sub-fund or arising from the constitution, operation or liquidation of a sub-fund are limited to the assets of that sub-fund;
- the assets of a sub-fund are the exclusive property of shareholders in that sub-fund and of creditors where the credit arises from the constitution, operation or liquidation of the sub-fund;
- in relations between shareholders, each sub-fund is treated as a separate entity.

The Board of Directors may at any time create new sub-funds, investment policy and offering methods of which will be communicated at the appropriate time by an update to the Prospectus. Shareholders may also be informed via press publications if required by regulations or if deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors. Similarly, the Board of Directors may close sub-funds, in accordance with the provisions of Appendix 4.

The Board of Directors may restrict and / or prohibit the access to any sub-fund to certain investors. As at the date of the Prospectus, investors residing in India cannot invest in the sub-fund "India Equity".

All the Benchmark Indexes mentioned in this Prospectus, which are used either for asset allocation purposes, or for computing performance fees, are published by Benchmark index's administrators registered in the Benchmark Register, except if otherwise provided in Book II. The Prospectus will be updated with newly registered Benchmark index's administrators in a timely manner.

The Management Company has produced and maintains robust written plans setting out the actions that it will take if a Benchmark Index materially changes or ceases to be provided, or if the Benchmark Index's administrator loses its registration with ESMA. These plans may be obtained free of charge and upon request from the Management Company.



# **ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT**

The Company is directed and represented by the Board of Directors acting under the authority of the General Shareholders' Meeting. The Company outsources management, audit and asset custody services. The roles and responsibilities associated with these functions are described below. The composition of the Board of Directors and the names, addresses and detailed information about the service providers are listed above in "General Information".

#### **Conflicts of Interest**

The Management Company, the Investment Managers, the Depositary, the Administrative agent, Distributors and other service providers and their respective affiliates, directors, officers and shareholders are or may be involved in other financial, investment and professional activities that may create conflicts of interest with the management and administration of the Company. These include the management of other funds, purchases and sales of securities, brokerage services, depositary and safekeeping services, and serving as directors, officers, advisors or agents for other funds or other companies, including companies in which a sub-fund may invest. Each of the Parties will ensure that the performance of their respective duties will not be impaired by any such other involvement that they might have. In the event that a conflict of interest does arise, the Directors and the relevant Parties involved shall endeavour to resolve it fairly, within reasonable time and in the interest of the Company.

#### **Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors assumes ultimate responsibility for the management of the Company and is therefore responsible for the Company's investment policy definition and implementation.

The Board has granted Mr Stéphane BRUNET (Company Secretary) responsibilities relating to the day-to-day management of the Company (including the right to act as an authorised signatory of the Company) and its representation.

#### Management Company

BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT Luxembourg was incorporated as a limited company (société anonyme) in Luxembourg on 19 February 1988. Its Articles of Association have been modified at various times, most recently at the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 17 May 2017 with effect on 01 June 2017, with publication in the RESA on 2 June 2017. Its share capital is EUR 3 million, fully paid up.

The Management Company performs administration, portfolio management and marketing tasks on behalf of the Company.

Under its own responsibility and at its own expense, the Management Company is authorised to delegate some or all of these tasks to third parties of its choice.

It has used this authority to delegate:

- the functions of NAV calculation, Registrar (both for registered and bearer shares) and Transfer Agent to BNP Paribas, Luxembourg Branch;
- the management of the Company's holdings, and the observance of its investment policy and restrictions, to the investment managers listed
  above in "General Information". A list of the investment managers effectively in charge of management and details of the portfolios managed
  is appended to the Company's periodic reports. Investors may request an up-to-date list of investment managers specifying the portfolios
  managed by each.

Investment advice is also sought from the Advisors mentioned above in "General Information".

In executing securities transactions and in selecting any broker, dealer, or other counterparty, the Management Company and any Investment Managers will use due diligence in seeking the best overall terms available. For any transaction, this will involve consideration of all factors deemed relevant, such as market breadth, security price and the financial condition and execution capability of the counterparty. An investment manager may select counterparties from within BNP PARIBAS so long as they appear to offer the best overall terms available.

In addition, the Management Company may decide to appoint Distributors/Nominees to assist in the distribution of the Company's shares in the countries where they are marketed.

Distribution and Nominee contracts will be concluded between the Management Company and the various Distributors/Nominees.

In accordance with the Distribution and Nominee Contract, the Nominee will be recorded in the register of shareholders in place of the end shareholders.

Shareholders who have invested in the Company through a Nominee can at any time request the transfer to their own name of the shares subscribed via the Nominee. In this case, the shareholders will be recorded in the register of shareholders in their own name as soon as the transfer instruction is received from the Nominee.

Investors may subscribe to the Company directly without necessarily subscribing via a Distributor/Nominee.

The Company draws the investors' attention to the fact that any investor will only be able to fully exercise his investor rights directly against the Company, (notably the right to participate in general shareholders' meetings) if the investor is registered himself and in his own name in the shareholders' register of the Company. In cases where an investor invests in the Company through an intermediary investing into the Company in his own name but on behalf of the investor, it may not always be possible for the investor to exercise certain shareholder rights directly against the Company. Investors are advised to take advice on their rights.



### Remuneration policy:

The Management Company applies a sound, effective and sustainable Remuneration Policy in line with the strategy, risk tolerance, goals and values of the Company.

The Remuneration Policy is in line with and contributes to sound and effective risk management and doesn't encourage taking more risk than appropriate within the investment policy and terms and conditions of the Company.

The key principles of the remuneration policy are:

- · Deliver a market-competitive remuneration policy and practice to attract, motivate and retain best performing employees;
- · Avoid conflicts of interest;
- · Achieve sound and effective remuneration policy & practice, avoiding excessive risk-taking;
- Ensure long-term risk alignment, and reward of long-term goals;
- Design and implement a sustainable and responsible remuneration strategy, with pay levels and structure which make economic sense for the business.

The details of the up-to-date Remuneration Policy can be found on the website under http://www.bnpparibas-am.com/en/remuneration-disclosure/, and will also be made available free of charge by the Management Company upon request.

#### Depositary

BNP Paribas, Luxembourg Branch is a branch of BNP Paribas. BNP Paribas is a licensed bank incorporated in France as a Société Anonyme (public limited company) registered with the Registre du commerce et des sociétés Paris (Trade and Companies' Register) under number No. 662 042 449, authorised by the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution (ACPR) and supervised by the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF), with its registered address at 16 Boulevard des Italiens, 75009 Paris, France, acting through its Luxembourg Branch, whose office is at 60, avenue J.F. Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg, Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg, registered with the Luxembourg Trade and Companies' Register under number B23968 and supervised by the CSSF.

The Depositary performs three types of functions, namely (i) the oversight duties (as defined in Art 34(1) of the Law), (ii) the monitoring of the cash flows of the Company (as set out in Art 34(2) of the Law) and (iii) the safekeeping of the Company's assets (as set out in Art 34(3) of the Law).

Under its oversight duties, the Depositary is required to:

- (1) ensure that the sale, issue, repurchase, redemption and cancellation of shares effected on behalf of the Company are carried out in accordance with the Law or with the Articles of Association,
- (2) ensure that the value of shares is calculated in accordance with the Law and the Articles of Association,
- (3) carry out the instructions of the Company or the Management Company acting on behalf of the Company, unless they conflict with the Law or the Company's Articles of Association,
- (4) ensure that in transactions involving the Company's assets, the consideration is remitted to the Company within the usual time limits;
- (5) ensure that the Company's revenues are allocated in accordance with the Law and its Articles of Association.

The overriding objective of the Depositary is to protect the interests of the shareholders, which always prevail over any commercial interests.

Conflicts of interest may arise if and when the Management Company or the Company maintains other business relationships with BNP Paribas, Luxembourg Branch in parallel with an appointment of BNP Paribas, Luxembourg Branch acting as Depositary.

Such other business relationships may cover services in relation to:

- Outsourcing/delegation of middle or back office functions (e.g. trade processing, position keeping, post trade investment compliance monitoring, collateral management, OTC valuation, fund administration inclusive of net asset value calculation, transfer agency, fund dealing services) where BNP Paribas or its affiliates act as agent of the Company or the Management Company, or
- Selection of BNP Paribas or its affiliates as counterparty or ancillary service provider for matters such as foreign exchange execution, or bridge financing.

The Depositary is required to ensure that any transaction relating to such business relationships between the Depositary and an entity within the same group as the Depositary is conducted at arm's length and is in the best interests of shareholders.

In order to address any situations of conflicts of interest, the Depositary has implemented and maintains a management of conflicts of interest policy, aiming namely at:

- Identifying and analysing potential situations of conflicts of interest;
- Recording, managing and monitoring the conflict of interest situations either in:
  - o Relying on the permanent measures in place to address conflicts of interest such as segregation of duties, separation of reporting lines, insider lists for staff members;
  - o Implementing a case-by-case management to (i) take the appropriate preventive measures such as drawing up a new watch list, implementing a new Chinese wall, (i.e. by separating functionally and hierarchically the performance of its Depositary duties from other activities), making sure that operations are carried out at arm's length and/or informing the concerned shareholders, or (ii) refuse to carry out the activity giving rise to the conflict of interest;
  - Implementing a deontological policy;
  - o Recording of a cartography of conflict of interests permitting to create an inventory of the permanent measures put in place to protect the Company's interests; or
  - o Setting up internal procedures in relation to, for instance (i) the appointment of service providers which may generate conflicts of interests, (ii) new products/activities of the Depositary in order to assess any situation entailing a conflict of interest.

In the event that conflicts of interest do arise, the Depositary will undertake to use its reasonable endeavours to resolve any such conflicts of interest fairly (having regard to its respective obligations and duties) and to ensure that the Company and the shareholders are fairly treated. The Depositary may delegate to third parties the safekeeping of the Company's assets subject to the conditions laid down in the applicable laws and regulations and the provisions of the Depositary Agreement. The process of appointing such delegates and their continuing oversight follows



the highest quality standards, including the management of any potential conflict of interest that should arise from such an appointment. Such delegates must be subject to effective prudential regulation (including minimum capital requirements, supervision in the jurisdiction concerned and external periodic audit) for the custody of financial instruments. The Depositary's liability shall not be affected by any such delegation.

A potential risk of conflicts of interest may occur in situations where the delegates may enter into or have a separate commercial and/or business relationships with the Depositary in parallel to the custody delegation relationship.

In order to prevent such potential conflicts of interest from crystallizing, the Depositary has implemented and maintains an internal organisation whereby such separate commercial and / or business relationships have no bearings on the choice of the delegate or the monitoring of the delegates' performance under the delegation agreement.

A list of these delegates and sub-delegates for its safekeeping duties is available on the website: https://securities.cib.bnpparibas/app/uploads/sites/3/2021/11/ucitsv-list-of-delegates-sub-delegates-en.pdf Such list may be updated from time to time.

Updated information on the Depositary's custody duties, a list of delegations and sub-delegations and conflicts of interest that may arise, may be obtained, free of charge and upon request, from the Depositary.

BNP Paribas, Luxembourg Branch, being part of a group providing clients with a worldwide network covering different time zones, may entrust parts of its operational processes to other BNP Paribas Group entities and/or third parties, whilst keeping ultimate accountability and responsibility in Luxembourg. The entities involved in the support of internal organisation, banking services, central administration and transfer agency service are listed in the website: https://securities.cib.bnpparibas/luxembourg/.

Further information on BNP Paribas, Luxembourg Branch international operating model linked to the Company may be provided upon request by BNP Paribas, Luxembourg Branch, the Company and the Management Company.

### Independence requirement

The selection of the Depositary by the Management Company is based on robust, objective and pre-defined criteria and warrants the sole interest of the Company and its investors, Details about this selection process can be provided to investors upon request by the Management Company.

# <u>Auditor</u>

All the Company's accounts and transactions are subject to an annual audit by the Auditor.



# INVESTMENT POLICY, OBJECTIVES, RESTRICTIONS AND TECHNIQUES

The Company's general objective is to provide its investors with the highest possible appreciation of capital invested while offering them a broad distribution of risks. To this end, the Company will principally invest its assets in a range of transferable securities, money market instruments, units, or shares in UCIs, credit institution deposits, and financial derivative instruments denominated in various currencies and issued in different countries.

For Money Market sub-funds, the Company invests only in high quality short-term liquid assets, money market instruments as defined in the Regulation 2017/1131, units or shares of MMFs, credit institution deposits, and financial derivative instruments (such as interest rate swaps ("IRS"), forwards and futures) for hedging purposes only, denominated in various currencies and issued in different countries.

The Company's investment policy is determined by the Board of Directors in light of current political, economic, financial and monetary circumstances. The policy will vary for different sub-funds, within the limits of, and in accordance with, the specific features and objective of each as stipulated in Book II.

The investment policy will be conducted with strict adherence to the principle of diversification and spread of risks. To this end, without prejudice to anything that may be specified for one or more individual sub-funds, the Company will be subject to a series of investment restrictions as stipulated in Appendix 1. In this respect, the attention of investors is drawn to the investment risks described in Appendix 3.

Furthermore, the Company is authorised to utilise techniques and instruments on transferable securities and money market instruments under the conditions and limits defined in Appendix 2, provided that these techniques and financial derivative instruments are employed for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. When these operations involve the use of financial derivative instruments, these conditions and limits must comply with the provisions of the Law. Under no circumstances can these operations cause the Company and its sub-funds to deviate from the investment objectives as described in the Prospectus.

Unless otherwise provided in each sub-fund's investment policy on book II, particularly for the "Seasons" sub-fund, no guarantee can be given on the realisation of the investment objectives of the sub-funds, and past performance is not an indicator of future performance.

The Money Market sub-funds of the Company are not guaranteed investments. An investment in a Money Market sub-fund is different from an investment in deposits, with the risk that the principal invested in a Money Market sub-fund is capable of fluctuation. The Company does not rely on external support for guaranteeing the liquidity of the Money Market sub-funds or stabilising the NAV per share. The risk of loss of the principal is to be borne by the shareholders.

# **Class Action Policy**

The Management Company has defined a class action policy applicable to Undertakings for Collective Investments (UCI) that it manages. A class action can typically be described as a collective legal procedure, seeking compensation for multiple persons having been harmed by the same (illegal) activity.

As a matter of policy, the Management Company:

- Does, in principle, not participate in active class actions (i.e. the Management Company does not initiate, act as a plaintiff, or otherwise take an active role in a class action against an issuer);
- May participate in passive class actions in jurisdictions where the Management Company considers, at its sole discretion, that (i) the class
  action process is sufficiently effective (e.g. where the anticipated revenue exceeds the predictable cost of the process), (ii) the class action
  process is sufficiently predictable and (iii) the relevant data required for the assessment of eligibility to the class action process are reasonably
  available and can be efficiently and robustly managed;
- Transfers any monies which are paid to the Management Company in the context of a class action, net of external costs, to the funds which are involved in the relevant class action.

The Management Company may at any time amend its class actions policy and may deviate from the principles set out therein in specific circumstances.

The applicable principles of the class actions policy are available on the website of the Management Company https://www.bnpparibas-am.com/en/footer/class-actions-policy/.



# SUSTAINABLE INVESTMENT POLICY<sup>1</sup>

BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT'S <u>Global Sustainability Strategy</u> governs the approach of BNP Paribas Asset Management to sustainability, which consists in particular of the implementation of ESG integration, responsible business conduct standards and stewardship activities (as defined below) into the investment processes applied by the investment managers of each sub-fund.

ESG stands for Environmental, Social and Governance; these are criteria commonly used to assess the level of sustainability of an investment.

BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT is committed having a sustainability approach for its investments. Nonetheless, the extent and manner in which this approach is applied varies according to the type of sub-fund, asset class, region and instrument used. Furthermore, some sub-funds may apply additional investment guidelines, as described in Book II. Consequently, the implementation of the sustainability approach applies individually across all portfolios. This means the sub-fund's extra-financial score is compared to the one of its investment universe, that is the main securities and geographical areas targeted by each sub-fund, unless otherwise stated in Book II.

Unless specified in Book II, the extra-financial analysis coverage of each sub-fund classified as article 8 under SFDR must be at least (the "Minimum Extra-Financial Analysis"):

- 90%\* of its assets for equities issued by large capitalisation companies whose registered office is located in "developed" countries, debt securities and money market instruments with an investment grade credit rating, sovereign debt issued by developed countries; or
- 75%\* of its assets for equities issued by large capitalisations whose registered office is located in "emerging" countries, equities issued by small and medium capitalisations, debt securities and money market, instruments with a high yield credit rating and sovereign debt issued by "emerging" countries.
- \* These ratios are understood as excluding ancillary liquid assets.

The sustainability approach, including the integration of sustainability risks, is incorporated at each step of the investment process of each subfund and includes the following elements: Responsible business conduct standards: As defined in the BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT'S Responsible Business Conduct policy ("RBC"), they include respecting: 1) norms-based screens, such as the UN Nations Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, and 2) BNP Paribas Asset Management sector policies.

- 1) Norms-based screens: The United Nations Global Compact (<u>www.unglobalcompact.org</u>) defines 10 principles for businesses to uphold in the areas of human rights, labour standards, environmental stewardship and anti-corruption. Similarly, the <u>OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises</u> sets out principles for the responsible business conduct of businesses. These two shared frameworks are recognized worldwide and applicable to all industry sectors. Companies that violate one or more of the principles are excluded from the sub-funds' investments, and those at risk of breaching them are closely monitored, and may also be excluded.
- 2) BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT has also defined a series of guidelines relating to investments in sensitive sectors, listed in the RBC. Companies from these sensitive sectors that do not comply with the minimum principles specified in these guidelines are excluded from the sub-funds' investments. The sectors concerned include, <u>but are not limited to</u>, palm oil, wood pulp, mining activities, nuclear, coal-fired power generation, tobacco, controversial weapons, unconventional oil and gas and asbestos.
- ESG integration: It involves the evaluation of the below three non-financial criteria at the level of the issuers in which the sub-funds invest:
  - Environmental: such as energy efficiency, reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, treatment of waste;
  - Social: such as respect of human rights and workers' rights, human resources management (workers' health and safety, diversity);
  - Governance: such as Board of Directors independence, managers' remuneration, respect of minority shareholders rights.

<u>ESG scores</u>, as defined by an internal proprietary framework, is made available to assist in the ESG evaluation of securities' issuers. ESG integration is systematically applied to all investment strategies. The process to integrate and embed ESG factors in the investment decision-making processes is guided by formal <u>ESG Integration Guidelines</u>. However, the way and the extent to which ESG integration, including ESG scores, is embedded in each investment process is determined by its Investment Manager, who is fully responsible in this respect.

- <u>Stewardship</u>: It is designed to enhance the long-term value of shareholdings and the management of long-term risk for clients, as part of BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT's commitment to act as an efficient and diligent steward of assets. Stewardship activities include the following categories of engagement:
  - Company Engagement: the aim is to foster, through dialogue with companies, corporate governance best practices, social responsibility
    and environmental stewardship. A key component of company engagement is voting at annual general meetings. BNP PARIBAS ASSET
    MANAGEMENT publishes detailed proxy-voting guidelines on a range of ESG issues.
  - Public Policy Engagement: BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT aims to embed sustainability considerations more fully into the markets in which it invests and in the rules that guide and govern company behaviour as per its <u>Public Policy Stewardship Strategy</u>.

# **ESG Scoring Framework**

BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT's ESG scoring framework assesses ESG characteristics of an issuer. Specifically, it produces:

- A company-level score based on a firm's performance on material ESG issues relative to peers.
- A global ESG score that aggregates the average ESG scores of the companies in a portfolio.

A four-step process is used in order to score an issuer:

- 1- ESG metric selection and weighting based on three criteria:
  - Materiality of ESG issues that are material to the business of an issuer.
  - Measurability and insight.
  - · Data quality and availability based on data of reasonable quality and that are readily available

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> In the meaning of global sustainability approach



#### 2- ESG assessment vs. peers

This assessment is primarily sector-relative, reflecting the fact that ESG risks and opportunities are not always comparable between sectors and regions. For instance, health & safety is less important for an insurance company than a mining company.

Each issuer starts with a baseline 'neutral' score of 50. Each score is then summed for each of the three ESG pillars – Environmental, Social and Governance. An issuer receives a positive score for a pillar if it performs better than the average of its peer group. If it performs below than the average, it receives a negative score.

However, two universal issues that impact all companies are not scored relative to peers, introducing a deliberate 'tilt' for the most exposed sectors. These are:

- Carbon emissions —An absolute carbon emission measure, creating a positive bias towards issuers and sectors with lower carbon
  emissions, has been implemented.
- Controversies Sectors that are more prone to ESG controversies have slightly lower scores, reflecting increased risk ('headline', reputational or financial risk).

The overall result is an intermediate quantitative ESG score that ranges from zero to 99, with the ability to see how each ESG pillar has added to or detracted from the issuer's final score.

#### 3- Qualitative review

In addition to proprietary quantitative analysis, the methodology takes into account a qualitative review of issuers with information gathered from third-party sources, internal in-depth research on material issues (e.g. climate change) and knowledge and interaction with issuers.

### 4- Final ESG score

Combining both qualitative and quantitative inputs, an ESG score is reached ranging from zero to 99, with issuers ranked in deciles against peers. Issuers that are excluded from investment through the RBC policy are assigned a score of 0.

#### SFDR's Sustainable Investments

In addition to the above, some sub-funds may have either a sustainable investment objective, in the meaning of Article 9 of SFDR, or intend to invest part of their assets in sustainable investments, as disclosed in Appendix 5.

The objectives of sustainable investments are to finance companies that contribute to environmental and/or social objectives through their products and services, as well as their sustainable practices.

BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT's internal methodology uses a binary approach of Sustainable Investment to qualify a company. This does not mean that all the economic activities of the entity considered have a positive contribution to an environmental or social objective, but it means that the considered entity has a quantitatively measured positive contribution to an environmental or social objective while not harming any other objective. These measures are the thresholds indicated in the below listed criteria. As such, as long as a company meets the threshold of at least one of these criteria and does not harm any other objective, the whole entity is qualified as a "sustainable investment".

BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT's internal methodology integrates several criteria into its definition of sustainable investments that are considered to be core components to qualify a company as sustainable. These criteria are complementary to each other. In practice, a company must meet at least one of the criteria described below in order to be considered as contributing to an environmental or social objective:

- 1. A company with an economic activity aligned with the EU Taxonomy objectives. A company can be qualified as sustainable investment in case it has more than 20% of its revenues aligned with the EU Taxonomy. A company qualifying as sustainable investment through this criteria can for example contribute to the following environmental objectives: sustainable forestry, environmental restoration, sustainable manufacturing, renewable energy, water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation, sustainable transportation, sustainable buildings, sustainable information and technology, scientific research for sustainable development;
- 2. A company with an economic activity contributing to one or more United Nations Sustainable Development goals (UN SDG) targets. A company can be qualified as sustainable investment in case it has more than 20% of its revenues aligned with the SDGs and less than 20% of its revenues misaligned with the UN SDGs. A company qualifying as sustainable investment through this criteria can for example contribute to the following objectives:
  - a. Environmental: sustainable agriculture, sustainable management of water and sanitation, sustainable and modern energy, sustainable economic growth, sustainable infrastructure, sustainable cities, sustainable consumption and production patterns, fight against climate change, conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, protection, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable management of forests, fight against desertification, land degradation and biodiversity loss;
  - b. Social: no poverty, zero hunger, food security, healthy lives and well-being at all ages, inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities, gender equality, women and girls empowerment, availability of water and sanitation, access to affordable, reliable and modern energy, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work, resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, reduced inequality, inclusive, safe and resilient cities and human settlements, peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions, global partnership for sustainable development.
- 3. A company operating in a high GHG emission sector that is transitioning its business model to align with the objective of maintaining the global temperature rise below 1.5°C. A company qualifying as sustainable investment through this criteria can for example contribute to the following environmental objectives: GHG emissions reduction, fight against climate change;
- 4. A company with best-in-class environmental or social practices compared to its peers within the relevant sector and geographical region. The E or S best performer assessment is based on the BNPP AM ESG scoring methodology. The methodology scores companies and assesses them against a peer group comprising companies in comparable sectors and geographical regions. A company with a contribution score above 10 on the Environmental or Social pillar qualifies as best performer. A company qualifying as sustainable investment through this criteria can for example contribute to the following objectives:



- Environmental: fight against climate change, environmental risk management, sustainable management of natural resources, waste management, water management, GHG emissions reduction, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, green infrastructure:
- b. Social: health and safety, human capital management, good external stakeholder management (supply chain, contractors, data), business ethics preparedness, good corporate governance.

Green bonds, social bonds and sustainability bonds issued to support specific environmental and/or social projects are also qualified as sustainable investments provided that these debt securities receive an investment recommendation "POSITIVE" or "NEUTRAL" from the Sustainability Center following the issuer and underlying project assessment based on a proprietary Green/Social/Sustainability Bond Assessment methodology.

Companies identified as a sustainable investment should not significantly harm any other environmental or social objectives (the Do No Significant Harm "DNSH" principle) and should follow good governance practices. BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT uses its proprietary methodology to assess all companies against these requirements.

More information on the internal methodology can be found on the following website: Sustainability documents - BNPP AM Corporate English (bnpparibas-am.com).

# **Taxonomy-aligned Investments**

The Taxonomy Regulation aims to establish the criteria for determining whether an economic activity is considered environmentally sustainable. The EU Taxonomy is a classification system establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities in respect of the six EU's climate and environmental objectives defined by this regulation.

Thus, for the purpose of determining the environmental sustainability of a given economic activity, six environmental objectives are defined and covered by the Taxonomy Regulation: climate change mitigation; climate change adaptation; the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources; the transition to a circular economy; pollution prevention and control; and the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

To be qualified as Taxonomy-aligned, an economic activity has to meet the following four conditions:

- Be mapped as an eligible economic activity within the Technical Screening Criteria (TSC);
- Make a substantial contribution to at least one of the above mentioned environmental objective;
- Do no significant harm (DNSH) to any other environmental objective;
- Comply with minimum social safeguards through the implementation of procedures to meets minimum social requirements embedded in the OECD Guidelines on Multinational Enterprises (MNEs), the UN Global Compact (UNGC) and the ten UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP), with specific reference to International Bill of Human Rights and the ILO Core Labour Conventions and Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.

In order to determine the percentage of assets of each sub-fund invested in Taxonomy-aligned investments, as disclosed in Appendix 5, BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT may rely on third party data providers.

Nonetheless, taxonomy alignment data is not yet widely communicated or published and the activities of certain issuers require additional fundamental analysis in order to be accounted for and are therefore not taken into account by the taxonomy data that we use.

BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT is currently improving its Taxonomy-alignment data collection to ensure the accuracy and suitability of its Taxonomy sustainability-related disclosures. Further prospectus updates will be made accordingly.

More information on the internal methodology can be found on the following website: Sustainability documents - BNPP AM Corporate English (bnpparibas-am.com).

# Methodological limitations

Applying an extra-financial strategy may comprise methodological limitations such as the "Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) Investment Risks" as defined in the appendix 3 of this Prospectus.

In the event the extra-financial criteria as specified above or in Book II for any sub-fund are no longer met from time to time, the Investment Manager will promptly adjust the portfolio in the best interest of the shareholders.

In particular, it should be noted that the proprietary methodologies used to take into account ESG non-financial criteria may be subject to reviews in the event of regulatory developments or updates that may lead, in accordance with the applicable regulations, to the increase or decrease of the classification of products, of the indicators used or of the minimum investment commitment levels set.

# Transparency of adverse sustainability impacts

The sub-funds consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors (PAI) by applying the RBC, and/or the other sustainability pillars listed in the "SFDR Disclosure Statement: sustainability risk integration and PASI considerations" (the "Disclosure Statement").

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 sub-funds which are not categorized as Article 8 or Article 9, consider in their investment process, through the application of the RBC, the indicator n°10 on violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the indicator n°14 on the exposure to controversial weapons (anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons).

<u>For the sub-funds categorized as Article 8 and Article 9</u>, through the combination of one or more pillars as detailed in the Disclosure Statement, and depending on the underlying assets, principal adverse impacts are considered and addressed or mitigated at sub-fund level.

Unless otherwise mentioned in the Tables disclosed in Appendix 5, by applying the sustainability pillars mentioned in the Disclosure Statement all of the following indicators are considered and addressed or mitigated by each sub-fund (the "General PAI Approach"): <u>Corporate mandatory indicators:</u>



- 1. GreenHouse Gas (GHG) Emissions
- 2. Carbon footprint
- 3. GHG intensity of investee companies
- 4. Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- 5. Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
- 6. Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- 7. Activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive areas
- 8 Emissions to water
- 9 Hazardous waste ratio
- 10. Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- 11. Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- 12. Unadjusted gender pay gap
- 13. Board gender diversity
- 14. Exposure to controversial weapons (anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

# Corporate voluntary indicators:

Environment

4. Investments in companies without carbon emission reduction initiatives

Social

- 4. Lack of a supplier code of conduct
- 9. Lack of a human rights policy

# Sovereign mandatory indicators

- 15. GHG intensity
- 16. Investee countries subject to social violations

More information on the PAI Disclosure are available on the website at the following address: https://docfinder.bnpparibas-am.com/api/files/874ADAE2-3EE7-4AD4-B0ED-84FC06E090BF.

# Categorization as per SFDR

According to SFDR, sub-funds shall be classified into 3 categories:

- Sub-funds having a sustainable investment as their objectives (referred to as "Article 9"): Sustainable investment is defined as an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental objective, as measured, for example, by key resource efficiency indicators on the use of energy, renewable energy, raw materials, water and land, on the production of waste, and greenhouse gas emissions, or on its impact on biodiversity and the circular economy, or an investment in an economic activity that contributes to a social objective, in particular an investment that contributes to tackling inequality or that fosters social cohesion, social integration and labour relations, or an investment in human capital or economically or socially disadvantaged communities, provided that such investments do not significantly harm any of those objectives and that the investee companies follow good governance practices, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.
- Sub-funds promoting environmental or social characteristics (referred to as "Article 8"): These sub-funds promote 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.
- ⇒ Other sub-funds not categorized under Article 8 or Article 9.

As of the date of the Prospectus, all sub-funds are categorized either Article 8 or Article 9. Please refer to Book II of this Prospectus for the exact SFDR categorization of each sub-fund.

# Among Article 8 and Article 9, BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT has defined an internal classification and some sub-funds can be classified as "Enhanced ESG "Sustainable Thematic" and /or "Impact", as follows:

- Enhanced ESG: These sub-funds implement more stringent ESG characteristics that are determined as an ESG score significantly better than that of its benchmark or investment universe and/or a Sustainable Investment percentage significantly better than that of its benchmark or investment universe and/or successfully obtaining an ESG label;
- Sustainable Thematic: These sub-funds invest in companies that provide products and services providing concrete solutions to specific environmental and/or social challenges, seeking to benefit from future growth anticipated in these areas while contributing capital towards the transition towards a low-carbon, inclusive economy;
- Impact: these sub-funds invest with the intention to contribute to measurable positive social and/or environmental impact alongside financial returns. The impact investment process embeds intentionality, additionally, and impact measurement.

Sub-funds included in the last two categories may also have an ESG label.

All the Article 9 sub-funds are either Sustainable Thematic and/or Impact.



The table below classifies the sub-funds according to the above criteria while indicating their classification as per SFDR:

Sub-fund	ESG category	SFDR Category
Aqua	Sustainable Thematic	Article 9
Belgium Equity	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Climate Impact	Sustainable Thematic	Article 9
Ecosystem Restoration	Sustainable Thematic	Article 9
Emerging Markets Climate Solutions	Sustainable Thematic	Article 9
Energy Transition	Sustainable Thematic	Article 9
Environmental Absolute Return Thematic Equity (EARTH)	Sustainable Thematic	Article 8
Euro Corporate Green Bond	Impact	Article 9
Euro Defensive Equity	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Euro Government Bond	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Euro Government Green Bond	Impact	Article 9
Euro High Yield Bond	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Europe Real Estate Securities	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Global Climate Solutions	Sustainable Thematic	Article 9
Global Environment	Sustainable Thematic	Article 9
Global Net Zero Transition Equity	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Green Bond	Impact	Article 9
Green Tigers	Sustainable Thematic	Article 9
Health Care Innovators	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Inclusive Growth	Sustainable Thematic	Article 8
SMaRT Food	Sustainable Thematic	Article 9
Social Bond	Sustainable Thematic	Article 9
Sustainable Asia ex-Japan Equity	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Asian Cities Bond	Sustainable Thematic	Article 9
Sustainable Enhanced Bond 12M	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Euro Bond	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Euro Corporate Bond	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Euro Low Vol Equity	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Euro Multi-Factor Corporate Bond	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Euro Multi-Factor Equity	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Europe Dividend	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Europe Multi-Factor Equity	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Europe Value	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Global Corporate Bond	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Global Equity	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Global Low Vol Equity	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Global Multi-Factor Corporate Bond	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Global Multi-Factor Equity	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Global Multi-Factor High Yield Bond	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Japan Multi-Factor Equity	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Multi-Asset Balanced	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Multi-Asset Flexible	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Multi-Asset Growth	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable Multi-Asset Stability	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable US Multi-Factor Corporate Bond	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable US Multi-Factor Equity	Enhanced ESG	Article 8
Sustainable US Value Multi-Factor Equity	Enhanced ESG	Article 8

As the above list of sub-funds and SFDR categorization may evolve over time, the Prospectus will be updated accordingly.

More information and documents on BNP Paribas Asset Management approach to sustainability may be found on the website at the following address: https://www.bnpparibas-am.com/en/our-approach-to-responsibility/as-a-responsible-investor/



# LIQUIDITY RISK POLICY

The Management Company has established, implemented and consistently applies a liquidity management policy and has put in place a prudent and rigorous liquidity management procedure which enable it to monitor the liquidity risks of the sub-funds and to ensure that the sub-funds can normally meet at all times their obligation to redeem their Shares at the request of Shareholders. Qualitative and quantitative measures are used to ensure investment portfolios are appropriately liquid and that sub-funds are able to honour Shareholders' redemption requests. In addition, Shareholders' concentrations are regularly reviewed to assess their potential impact on liquidity of the sub-funds.

Sub-funds are reviewed individually with respect to liquidity risks. The Management Company's liquidity management policy takes into account the investment strategy, the dealing frequency, the underlying assets' liquidity (and their valuation) and shareholder base. The Board of Directors, or the Management Company, where deemed necessary and appropriate to protect Shareholders, may also make use, among others, of certain tools to manage liquidity risk as described in the following sections of the Prospectus:

- Section "Suspension of the calculation of the Net Asset Value and the issue, conversion and redemption of shares":
  - The Board of Directors may temporarily suspend the calculation of the net asset value and the right of any Shareholder to request redemption of any share in any sub-fund or Share Class of any sub-fund and the issue of Shares in any sub-fund or Share Class of any sub-fund.
- ✓ Section "Subscription. Conversion and redemption of shares":
  - The Board of Directors may decide to satisfy payment of the redemption price to any Shareholder who agrees, in whole or in part, by an inkind allocation of securities in compliance with the conditions set forth by Luxembourg law. If the Company receives requests on one valuation day for net redemptions (and switches into another sub-fund) of more than 10% of the net asset value of the relevant sub-fund, the Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, may elect to limit each redemption (and switch) request pro rata such that the aggregate amount redeemed in that valuation day will not exceed 10% of the net asset Value of the relevant sub-fund.
- ✓ Section "Swing Pricing":
  - The net asset value per Share of a sub-fund may be adjusted on a valuation date in certain circumstances.

Shareholders that wish to assess the underlying assets' liquidity risk for themselves should note that the sub-funds complete portfolio holdings are indicated in the latest annual report or the latest semi-annual report where this is more recent.



# THE SHARES

### SHARE CATEGORIES, SUB-CATEGORIES AND CLASSES

#### A. CATEGORIES

Within each sub-fund, the Board of Directors will be able to create and issue the share categories listed below and add new valuation currencies to existing shares.

Investors should check the Management Company website for the availability of share classes (www.bnpparibas-am.com).

Category	Investors	Initial subscription Price per share (1)(2)	<b>Minimum holding</b> <sup>(2)</sup> (in EUR or its equivalent in any other Valuation Currency)
Classic	All		None
N	All		
Privilege	Distributors <sup>(3)</sup> , Managers, All	100 in the	- <u>Distributors <sup>(3)</sup></u> : none - <u>Managers</u> : none - <u>Others</u> : 3 million per sub-fund,
I	Institutional Investors, UCIs	Reference Currencies except: CNH, CZK, NOK, PLN, SEK, and ZAR: 1,000 JPY and	Institutional Investors: 3 million per sub-fund or 10 million in the Company UCls: none
Life	AG Insurance	HUF: 10,000	
В	Authorised Distributor		
K	Authorised Distributor		
Х	Authorised Investors	100,000 in the Reference Currencies except: CNH, CZK, NOK, PLN, SEK, and ZAR: 1,000,000 JPY and HUF: 10,000,000	None

- (1) Entry Fees excluded, if any
- (2) Unless otherwise provided by the Board of Directors
- (3) Distributors which provide only fee-based independent advisory services as defined by MiFID, with respect to distributors that are incorporated in the EEA

# B. SUB-CATEGORIES

In some sub-funds, following sub-categories may be created:

# MD / QD

These sub-categories pay dividend on a monthly (MD) or quarterly (QD) basis

Such sub-categories may be duplicated (for example "MD2", "MD3"...) to accommodate different dividend distribution arrangements.

The differences between such same classes within a sub-fund are explained in Book II.

# Hedged (H)

These sub-categories aim at hedging the Currency Exchange risk of the sub-fund's portfolio against their Reference Currency. In the event of changes in the net asset value of the portfolio and/or of subscriptions and/or redemptions, hedging will be operated to the extent possible within specific bandwidths (should those limits not be respected from time to time, hedging readjustment will be operated). As a consequence, we cannot guarantee the currency exchange risk will be completely neutralised.

The currency of these sub-categories appears in their denomination (for example, in the "Brazil Equity" sub-fund, "Classic H EUR" for a sub-category hedged in EUR where the currency exposure of the portfolio of the sub-fund is Brazilian Real).

# Return Hedged (RH)

These sub-categories aim at hedging the portfolio return either:

- from Accounting Currency of the sub-fund (and not the underlying currency exposures) to the currency denomination of the sub-category;
- or an Alternative Currency to the abovementioned Accounting Currency to the currency denomination of the sub-category.

In the event of changes in the net asset value of the portfolio and/or of subscriptions and/or redemptions, hedging will be operated to the extent possible within specific bandwidths (should those limits not be respected from time to time, hedging readjustment will be operated). The currency of these sub-categories appears in their denomination for example:

- "Classic RH EUR" for a sub-category hedged in EUR and the Accounting Currency of the sub-fund is USD;
- or "U2 RH AUD" for a sub-category hedged in the currency of the class (AUD) against an Alternative Currency (USD) to the Accounting Currency of the sub-fund (EUR), while having a portfolio exposed to the JPY currency.

Each time a RH share category will hedge the portfolio return from an Alternative Currency to the Accounting Currency of a given sub-fund, it will be specified at Book II level.



# Mono-Currency

These sub-categories are valued and issued solely in the Reference Currency, indicated by the denomination of the sub-category, which is different from the Accounting Currency of the sub-fund (for example "Classic USD" for a category issued and valued only in USD when the Accounting Currency of the sub-fund is EUR).

#### Plus

These sub-categories are reserved to Authorised Distributors and Investors with specific minimum holding.

Into the "Classic Plus" shares the minimum holding is:

√ 100,000 per sub-fund: "Euro Money Market" and "USD Money Market"

Into the "Privilege Plus" shares the minimum holding are:

✓ 25 million per sub-fund: "Sustainable Asia ex-Japan Equity"

Into the "I Plus" shares the minimum holding are:

- ✓ 25 million per sub-fund: "Climate Impact", "Disruptive Technology", "Energy Transition", "Environmental Absolute Return Thematic Equity (EARTH)", "Euro High Yield Bond", "Sustainable Europe Multi-Factor Equity", "Sustainable Global Low Vol Equity", "Sustainable Global Multi-Factor Corporate Bond", "Sustainable US Multi-Factor Equity", "Sustainable US Value Multi-Factor Equity"
- ✓ 50 million per sub-fund : "Enhanced Bond 6M", "Europe Equity", "Europe High Conviction Bond", "Sustainable Enhanced Bond 12M"
- ✓ 100 million per sub-fund: "Global Environment"

For sub-funds not listed above, the minimum holding is set at:

- 100,000 per sub-fund for the Classic Plus shares;
- 25 million per sub-fund for the Privilege Plus shares;
- 20 million per sub-fund for the I Plus shares

unless otherwise decided by the Board of Directors.

### - Solidarity

Into these sub-categories, non-governmental organisations and/or other charitable organisations (the Charities) benefit from a part of charged fees and costs. The list of elected Charities is available in annual and semi-annual reports of the Company in addition to the relevant websites disclosed in Book II.

Entry Fees payable in the "Solidarity BE" classes are split as follows: 0.05% for the Charities and maximum 2.95% for placing agents. The cost remains acquired for the Charities even if the placing agents give up their own commission.

Other specific costs are detailed in Book II.

#### . .

Unless otherwise provided, these sub-categories duplicate existing categories (for example "U" for "Classic", "UI" for "I", "UP" for "Privilege", ...), and are dedicated to authorised distributors for themselves or for their own clients.

#### Series of shares

I Plus, X, U, B, K categories may be duplicated as many times there are specific authorised distributors (for example "U2", "UP3" ...).

Other characteristics of these sub-categories as well as the fee structure are the same as those of their mother-category in the same sub-fund, unless otherwise decided by the Board of Directors.

# C. CAPITALISATION / DISTRIBUTIONS CLASSES

Any of the above share categories / sub-categories are issued in Capitalisation ("CAP") and/or Distribution ("DIS") classes as defined below.

# 1. <u>CAP</u>

CAP shares retain their income to reinvest it.

# 2. <u>DIS</u>

DIS shares may pay dividend to shareholders on an annual, monthly ("MD") or quarterly ("QD") basis.

The general meeting of shareholders holding DIS shares for each sub-fund concerned decides each year on the Board of Directors' proposal to pay a dividend, which is calculated in accordance with the limitations defined by law and the Articles of Association. In this respect, the general meeting reserves the right to distribute the net assets of each of the Company's sub-funds up to the limit of the legal minimum capital. Distributions may be paid out of net investment income or capital.

If, given market conditions, it is in the shareholders' interest not to distribute a dividend, then no such distribution will be carried out.

If it deems it advisable, the Board of Directors may decide to distribute interim dividends.

The Board of Directors determines the payment methods for the dividends and interim dividends that have been decided upon. Dividends will, in principle, be paid in the Reference Currency of the class (exchange costs incurred for payments in different currencies will be borne by the investor).

The Board of Directors may decide that dividends will be paid by issuing new shares.

Declared dividends and interim dividends not collected by shareholders within a period of five years from the payment date will lapse and revert to the sub-fund concerned.

Interest will not be paid on declared and unclaimed dividends or interim dividends, which will be held by the Company on behalf of the shareholders of the sub-fund for the duration of the legal limitation period.

# D. SHARE LEGAL FORMS

All the shares are issued in registered form.

"Classic", "N", "Privilege", and "I" shares may also be issued in bearer form.

The shares are all listed into specific registers kept in Luxembourg by the Registrar Agent indicated in the section "General Information". Unless otherwise provided, shareholders will not receive a certificate representing their shares. Instead, they will receive a confirmation of their entry into the register.



Further to the Luxembourg law of 28 July 2014, all physical bearer shares have been cancelled. The cash equivalent of such cancelled shares has been deposited with the Luxembourg Caisse de Consignation.

#### E. GENERAL PROVISION AVAILABLE FOR ALL SHARES

The Board of Directors has the option of adding new valuation currencies to existing categories or classes and, with the previous approval of the CSSF, of adding new share categories, sub-categories and classes to existing sub-funds with the same specification as those described above on points A, B and C. Such a decision will not be published but the website www.bnpparibas-am.com and the next version of the Prospectus will be updated accordingly.

The Board of Directors may depart from the initial subscription price per share. However, the equal treatment of shareholders shall be preserved at all time

The Board of Directors may decide at any time to split or consolidate the shares issued within one same sub-fund, category, or class into a number of shares determined by the Board itself. The total net asset value of such shares must be equal to the net asset value of the subdivided/consolidated shares existing at the time of the splitting/consolidation event.

If the assets of a category/class fall below EUR 1,000,000.00 or equivalent, the Board of Directors reserves the right to liquidate or merge it with another category/class if it decides it is in the best interest of shareholders.

another category/class if it decides it is in the best interest of shareholders.

If it transpires that shares are held by persons other than those authorised, they will be converted to the appropriate category, class or currency.

The shares must be fully paid-up and are issued without a par value. Unless otherwise provided, there is no limitation on their number. The rights attached to the shares are those described in the law of 10 August 1915, unless exempted by the Law.

Fractions of shares may be issued up to one-thousandth of a share.

All the Company's whole shares, whatever their value, have equal voting rights. The shares of each sub-fund, category, or class have an equal right to the liquidation proceeds of the sub-fund, category, or class.

If no specific information is given by the investor, orders received will be processed in the Reference Currency of the category.

When trading through a financial intermediary (such as a platform or clearing house) in a multi-currency share class, the investor must ensure that this intermediary is able to correctly deal in the additional currency other than the Reference Currency.

# SUBSCRIPTION, CONVERSION AND REDEMPTION OF SHARES

The shares of the Company may be locally offered for subscription via regular savings plans, redemption and conversion programs, specific to this local supply, and may be subject to additional charges.

In the event that a regular savings plan is terminated prior to the agreed final date, the sum of entry fees payable by the shareholders concerned may be greater than would have been the case for standard subscriptions.

Investors may be required to appoint a paying agent as nominee (the "Nominee") for all actions connected with their shareholding in the Company. On the basis of this mandate, the Nominee is specifically required to:

- send requests for subscription, conversion, and redemption, grouped by share category, share class, sub-fund and distributor to the Company;
- be listed on the Company's register in its name "on behalf of a third party"; and
- exercise the investor's voting right (if any), according to the investor's instructions.

The Nominee must make every effort to keep an up-to-date electronic list of investors' names and addresses and the number of shares held; the status of shareholder can be verified via the confirmation letter sent to the investor by the Nominee.

Investors are informed that they may be required to pay additional fees for the activity of the above Nominee.

For further details, investors are invited to read the subscription documents available from their usual distributor.

# Preliminary Information

Subscriptions, conversions and redemptions of shares are made with reference to their unknown net asset value (NAV). They may concern a number of shares or an amount.

The Board of Directors reserves the right to:

- (a) refuse a subscription, or conversion request for any reason whatsoever in whole or in part;
- (b) redeem, at any time, shares held by persons who are not authorised to buy or hold the Company's shares;
- (c) reject subscription, conversion or redemption requests from any investor who it suspects of using practices associated with Market Timing and Active Trading, and, where applicable, take necessary measures to protect the other investors in the Company, notably by charging an additional exit fees up to 2% of the order amount, to be retained by the sub-fund.

The Board of Directors is authorised to set minimum amounts for subscription, conversion, redemption and holding.

Subscriptions from entities which submit subscription applications and whose names show that they belong to one and the same group, or which have one central decision-making body, will be grouped together to calculate these minimum subscription amounts.

Should a share redemption or conversion request, a merger/splitting procedure, or any other event, have the effect of reducing the number or the total net book value of the shares held by a shareholder to below the number or value decided upon by the Board of Directors, the Company may redeem all the shares

In certain cases stipulated in the section on suspension of the calculation of the NAV, the Board of Directors is authorised to temporarily suspend the issue, conversion and redemption of shares and the calculation of their net asset value.

The Board of Directors may decide, in the interest of the shareholders, to close a sub-fund, category and/or class for subscription or conversion in, under certain conditions and for the time it defines. Such a decision will not be published but the website www.bnpparibas-am.com will be updated accordingly.

In connection with anti-money laundering procedures, the subscription form must be accompanied, in the case of an individual, by the identity card or passport of the subscriber, authenticated by a competent authority (for example, an embassy, consulate, notary, police superintendent) or by a financial institution subject to equivalent identification standards to those applicable in Luxembourg or the Articles of Association; and by an extract from the trade and companies register for a legal entity, in the following cases:

1. direct subscription to the Company;



- 2. subscription through a professional financial sector intermediary resident in a country that is not subject to an obligation for identification equivalent to Luxembourg standards as regards preventing the use of the financial system for the purposes of money laundering:
- subscription through a subsidiary or branch office, the parent company of which would be subject to an obligation for identification equivalent to that required under Luxembourg law, if the law applicable to the parent company does not oblige it to ensure that its subsidiaries or branch offices adhere to these provisions.

The Company is also bound to identify the source of funds if they come from financial institutions that are not subject to an obligation for identification equivalent to those required under Luxembourg law. Subscriptions may be temporarily frozen pending identification of the source of the funds.

It is generally accepted that finance sector professionals resident in countries that have signed up to the conclusions of the FATF (Financial Action Task Force) on money laundering are deemed to have an obligation for identification equivalent to that required under Luxembourg law.

#### Processing of Personal Data

In accordance with GDPR, when submitting a subscription request, personal data of the investor ("Personal Data") may be collected, recorded, stored, adapted, transferred or otherwise processed and used by the Company and the Management Company (as data controllers) with a view to managing its account and business relationship (such as to maintain the register of shareholder, process requests, provide shareholder services, guard against unauthorised account access, conduct statistical analyses, provide information on other products and services and/or comply with various laws and regulations). To the extent that this usage so requires, the investor further authorises the sharing of this information with different service providers of the Company, including some of which that may be established outside of the European Union, who may need to process these Personal Data for carrying out their services and complying with their own legal obligations, but which may not have data protection requirements deemed equivalent to those prevailing in the European Union. The Personal Data may notably be processed for purposes of filing, order processing, responding to shareholder's requests, and providing them with information on other products and services. Neither the Company nor its Management Company will disclose such Personal Data on shareholder unless required to do so by specific regulations or where necessary for legitimate business interests.

Further detailed information in relation to the processing of Personal Data can be found in the Management Company's "Data Protection Notice" as well as on the "Personal Data Privacy Charter", which are accessible via the following link https://www.bnpparibas-am.com/en/footer/data-protection/

Each shareholder whose Personal Data has been processed has a right of access to his/her/its Personal Data and may ask for a rectification thereof in case where such data is inaccurate or incomplete.

#### Subscriptions

The shares will be issued at a price corresponding to the net asset value per share plus the entry fees as described in the above table.

For an order to be executed at the net asset value on a given Valuation Day, it must be received by the Company before the time and date specified in the detailed conditions for each sub-fund in Book II. Orders received after this deadline will be processed at the net asset value on the next Valuation Day.

In order to be accepted by the Company, the order must include all necessary information relating to the identification of the subscribed shares and the identity of the subscriber as described above.

Unless otherwise provided for a particular sub-fund, the subscription price of each share is payable in one of the valuation currencies of the shares concerned within the time period defined in Book II, increased, where necessary, by the applicable entry fees. At the shareholder's request, the payment may be made in a currency other than one of the valuation currencies. The exchange expenses will then be borne by the shareholder.

The Company reserves the right to postpone, and/or cancel subscription requests if it is not certain that the appropriate payment will reach the Depositary within the required payment time or if the order is incomplete. The Board of Directors or its agent may process the request by applying an additional charge to reflect interest owed at the customary market rates; or cancelling the share allotment, as applicable accompanied by a request for compensation for any loss owing to failure to make payment before the stipulated time limit. The shares will not be assigned until the duly completed subscription request has been received accompanied by the payment or a document irrevocably guaranteeing that the payment will be made before the deadline. The Company cannot be held responsible for the delayed processing of incomplete orders.

Any outstanding balance remaining after subscription will be reimbursed to the shareholder, unless the amount is less than EUR 15 or its currency equivalent, as the case may be. Amounts thus not reimbursed will be retained by the relevant sub-fund.

The Board of Directors may accept the issue of shares in exchange for the contribution in kind of transferable securities, in accordance with the conditions defined by Luxembourg Law, in particular with respect to the obligation for the submission of a valuation report by the Auditor mentioned under "General Information" above, and provided that these transferable securities meet the Company's investment policy and restrictions for the sub-fund concerned as described in Book II. Unless otherwise provided, the costs of such a transaction will be borne by the applicant.

# Conversions

Without prejudice to the specific provisions of a sub-fund, category, or class, shareholders may request the conversion of some or all of their shares into shares of another sub-fund, category, or class. The number of newly issued shares and the costs arising from the transaction are calculated in accordance with the formula described below.



Conversions are only permitted between the following categories:

To From	Classic	N	Privilege	ı	Life	U UP	х	В	К	Plus
Classic	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes <sup>(1)</sup>	No	No	No	No
N	No	Yes	No	No	NA	No	No	No	No	No
Privilege	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes <sup>(1)</sup>	No	No	No	No
1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes <sup>(1)</sup>	No	No	No	Yes <sup>(2)</sup>
Life	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
U, UP	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
Х	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	No	Yes	No	No	Yes
В	No	No	No	No	NA	Yes <sup>(1)</sup>	No	Yes	No	No
K	No	No	No	No	NA	Yes <sup>(1)</sup>	No	No	Yes	No
Plus	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	NA	Yes <sup>(1)</sup>	Yes	No	No	Yes (3)

- (1) Conversion is allowed only with the approval of the Board of Directors and for investors meeting the eligibility requirements applicable to the U share class.
- (2) Conversion from I to I Plus is subject to (i) meeting the subscription conditions of the relevant I Plus share category and (ii) Board of Directors' approval.
- (3) In the same category only (ex: I Plus / I Plus authorised but not I Plus / Privilege Plus)

Due to different NAV cycles, conversions from and to the sub-funds "Environmental Absolute Return Thematic Equity (EARTH)", "Green Bond" and "Seasons" are not authorised. Conversion remain possible, if authorised, between shares classes in the same sub-fund.

For the "Multi-Asset Thematic", "Sustainable Multi-Asset Balanced", "Sustainable Multi-Asset Flexible", "Sustainable Multi-Asset Growth", "Sustainable Multi-Asset Stability": Authorised only between these five sub-funds; Not authorised with other sub-funds.

Conversion principles of the sub-categories are the same as those of their mother-category.

For a conversion order to be executed at the net asset value on a given valuation day, it must be received by the Company before the time and date specified for each sub-fund in Book II. Orders received after this deadline will be processed at the net asset value on the next valuation day.

#### **Automatic Switch**

"B" and "K" shares held until the third anniversary of their issue are automatically switched into the corresponding "Classic" share category of the same sub-fund **free of charge**, on the basis of the respective NAV per share of the relevant "B" or "K" share and their corresponding "Classic" shares.

Such automatic switch occurs:

- (i) for "B" shares, on the scheduled switch date (to be determined by the Management Company from time to time) within one month after the third anniversary of their issue.
  - Shareholders should note that if there is a pending redemption or conversion-out request in respect of any of the Shares to be switched, the switch of the remaining Shares into "Classic" Shares will take place in the following month.
- (ii) for "K" shares, on the third anniversary of the date of which they were issued;
- (iii) if the switch day is not a Valuation Day, the following Valuation Day.

Such switch may give rise to a tax liability for shareholders in certain jurisdictions. Shareholders should consult their tax adviser for advice about their own position

# Conversion Formula

The number of shares allocated to a new sub-fund, category or class will be established according to the following formula:

$$A = \underbrace{B \times C \times E}_{D}$$

- A being the number of shares to be allocated in the new sub-fund;
- B being the number of shares of the original sub-fund to be converted;
- C being the prevailing net asset value per share of the original sub-fund on the relevant Valuation Day;
- D being the prevailing net asset value per share of the new sub-fund on the relevant Valuation Day; and
- E being the exchange rate applicable at the time of the transaction between the currencies of the two concerned sub-funds

Investors will be charged for any foreign exchange transactions carried out at their request.

In the case of shares held in account (with or without attribution of fractions of shares), any outstanding balance remaining after conversion will be reimbursed to the shareholder, unless the amount is less than EUR 15 or its currency equivalent, as the case may be. Amounts thus not reimbursed will be deemed belonging to the relevant sub-fund.



### Redemptions

### I. General Rules

Subject to the exceptions and limitations prescribed in the Prospectus, all shareholders are entitled, at any time, to have their shares redeemed by the Company.

For an order to be executed at the net asset value on a given Valuation Day, it must be received by the Company before the time and date specified in the conditions for each sub-fund in Book II. Orders received after this deadline will be processed at the net asset value on the next Valuation Day.

In order to be accepted by the Company, the order must include all necessary information relating to the identification of the shares in question and the identity of the shareholder as described above.

Unless otherwise provided for a particular sub-fund, the redemption amount for each share will be reimbursed in the subscription currency, less, where necessary, the applicable exit fees or CDSC.

At the shareholder's request, the payment may be made in a currency other than the subscription currency of the redeemed shares, in which case the exchange costs will be borne by the shareholder and charged against the redemption price. The redemption price of shares may be higher or lower than the price paid at the time of subscription (or conversion), depending on whether the net asset value has appreciated or depreciated in the interval

The Company reserves the right to postpone redemption requests if the order is incomplete. The Company cannot be held responsible for the delayed processing of incomplete orders.

Redemptions in kind are possible upon specific approval of the Board of Directors, provided that the remaining shareholders are not prejudiced and that a valuation report is produced by the Company's Auditor. The type and kind of assets that may be transferred in such cases will be determined by the manager, taking into account the investment policy and restrictions of the sub-fund in question. The costs of such transfers may be borne by the applicant.

In the event that the total net redemption/conversion applications received for a given sub-fund on a Valuation Day equals or exceeds 10%\* of the net assets of the sub-fund in question, the Board of Directors may decide to split and/or defer the redemption/conversion applications on a pro-rata basis so as to reduce the number of shares redeemed/converted to date to 10%\* of the net assets of the sub-fund concerned. Any redemption/conversion applications deferred shall be given in priority in relation to redemption/conversion applications received on the next Valuation Day, again subject to the limit of 10%\* of net assets.

\* 5% for the "Japan Small Cap" sub-fund.

In the case of shares held in account (with or without attribution of fractions of shares), any outstanding balance remaining after redemption will be reimbursed to the shareholder, unless the amount is less than EUR 15 or its currency equivalent, as the case may be. Amounts thus not reimbursed will be deemed belonging to the relevant sub-fund.

# II. Specific Liquidity Management Policy for "Money Market" sub-funds

The liquidity of the sub-funds is carefully monitored by the Investment Manager who is responsible for ensuring the sub-fund's ability to meet any necessary inflows and outflows and avoid any significant mismatches between the structure and liquidity profile of a sub-fund and its shareholders concentration. Minimum daily and weekly liquidity regulatory thresholds can be adjusted upwards if needed, taking into account:

- the size of the sub-fund;
- · expected flows;
- · shareholders' concentration;
- market conditions.

Liquidity risk is being addressed at all times by maintaining liquidity pockets above daily and weekly regulatory requirements by:

- the use of reverse repurchase agreements and repurchase agreements negotiated only with a 24-hour call option;
- the possibility to negotiate very liquid papers such as T-bills, CDs, NeuCPs and CPs;
- ensuring that the value of shares held by a single shareholder does not materially impact the liquidity profile of the sub-fund where it accounts
  for a substantial part of the total NAV of the sub-fund.

# Stock exchange listing

By decision of the Board of Directors, the shares may be admitted to official listing on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange and/or as applicable on another securities exchange.

At the date of this Prospectus, there are no shares listed on any stock exchange.



### **FEES AND COSTS**

# Costs payable by the Investors

Maximum charges paid directly by the investors which may be paid solely at the occurrence of a specific operation (entry, conversion, exit):

shares	Entry	Conversion	Exit	CDSC	
Classic	3%		None		
N	None	1.50%	3%		
Privilege	3%			Not applicable	
1			None	Not applicable	
Life		Nama	None		
Х	None	None			
В				3%	
K		1.50%	Not applicable	2.25%	

#### Conversion:

✓ In the event of conversion to a sub-fund with a higher Entry Fees, the difference may be payable.

#### CDSC:

- Contingent Deferred Sales Charge: A charge, paid to the Management Company and serving to cover remuneration of the distributors, that is deducted from redemption proceeds and calculated on the redemption NAV.
- ✓ Where shares are redeemed before the third anniversary of their issue, a CDSC is levied on shares that are redeemed at a maximum rate set out in the following table:

Time period since subscription	Maximum CDSC	
	В	K
0-1 year	3,00%	2,25%
1-2 years	2,00%	1,50%
2-3 years	1,00%	0,75%

For the purpose of determining the number of years shares have been held:

- (a) The anniversary of the date of which shares were issued shall be used;
- (b) The shares which a Shareholder receives upon a conversion from the same sub-fund or another sub-fund carry the holding period(s) which corresponds to the holding period(s) of the shares which were converted.

The applicable rate of CDSC is determined by reference to the total length of time during which the shares being redeemed were in issue.

The amount of any CDSC is calculated on redemption NAV.

# Fees and Expenses payable by the sub-funds

Each sub-fund is charged fees or generate expenses specifically attributable thereto. Fees and expenses not attributable to any particular sub-fund are allocated among all the sub-funds on a pro rata basis in relation to their respective net asset values.

These fees and expenses are calculated each Valuation Day and paid monthly from the average net assets of a sub-fund, share category, or share class, paid to the Management Company. The amount charged varies depending on the value of the NAV.

Please refer to Book II of this Prospectus for detailed information on the annual fees and charges applicable to the sub-fund(s) you are invested in.

# **Charity Fee**

Fee payable to the non-governmental organisations and/or other charitable organisations elected by the board of directors of the Company in the "Solidarity" shares. The list of elected Charities is available in annual and semi-annual reports of the Company and on the website www.bnpparibas-am.com.

# **Distribution Fee**

Fee serving to cover remuneration of the distributors, supplemental to the portion of the management fee that they receive for their services.

# **Extraordinary Expenses**

Expenses other than management, performance, distribution and other fees borne by each sub-fund. These expenses include but are not limited to:

- Interest and full amount of any duty, levy and tax or similar charge imposed on a sub-fund
- litigation or tax reclaim expenses

# **Indirect Fee**

For all sub-funds, ongoing charges incurred in underlying UCITS and/or UCIs the Company is invested in and included in the ongoing charges mentioned in the KID.

In Book II, the maximum percentage of indirect fee is only mentioned for sub-funds investing more than 10% of their assets in underlying UCITS and/or UCIs.



#### Management Fee

Fee serving to cover remuneration of the investment managers and, unless otherwise provided in Book II, also distributors in connection with the marketing of the Company's stock.

#### Other Fee

Fee serving to cover notably the following services:

- administration, domiciliary and fund accounting
- audi
- custody, depositary and safekeeping
- documentation, such as preparing, printing, translating and distributing the Prospectus, KID, financial reports
- ESG certification and service fees
- financial index licensing (if applicable)
- legal expenses
- listing of shares on a stock exchange (if applicable)
- management company expenses (including among other AML/CFT, KYC, Risk and oversight of delegated activities)
- marketing operations
- publishing fund performance data
- registration expenses including translation
- services associated with the required collection, tax and regulatory reporting, and publication of data about the Company, its investments and shareholders
- transfer, registrar and payment agency

These fees do not include fees paid to independent Directors and reasonable out-of-pocket expenses paid to all Directors, expenses for operating hedged shares, duties, taxes and transaction costs associated with buying and selling assets, brokerage and other transactions fees, interest and bank fees.

#### Performance Fee

The Company may apply two types of Performance Fee:

#### Relative Performance Fee

The performance fee is determined over the performance period and corresponds to a percentage "performance fee rate" of the positive difference "over performance" between the annual performance of the share class and the annual performance calculated with the application of the "High Water Mark (HWM) with Hurdle Rate or Benchmark method". Performance fee provision will be accrued at each valuation day based on the unswung (see Swing Pricing part in the prospectus) share class' Total Net Asset if the share class' performance exceeds the performance determined as per "High Water Mark (HWM) with Hurdle Rate or Benchmark method". The performance fee provision will be then adjusted at each valuation day depending on the share class performance. In case of underperformance at the end of the performance period, neither the High-Water Mark nor the Hurdle Rate or Benchmark will be reset. Performance reference period will correspond in this case to the entire life of the share class.

# II. Absolute Performance Fee

The positive difference between the NAV per share at the end of the financial year and the HWM of the share class or the initial offer price per share. Performance fee provision will be accrued at each valuation day based on the unswung (see Swing Pricing part in the prospectus) share class' Total Net Asset if the NAV per share exceeds the HWM. The performance fee provision will be then adjusted at each valuation day depending on the share class performance. In case of underperformance at the end of the performance period, a loss is carried forward over a maximum period of 5 years. That means that after 5 consecutive years with no performance fees paid to the Management Company, the HWM will be reset.

# III. Principles applicable to both methodologies

Performance fee provision is payable, on a yearly basis, to the Management Company based on the accruals at the end of the performance period.

If shares are redeemed during the performance period, the fraction of the provisioned performance fee linked to the total amount redeemed shall be granted definitively to the Management Company at the end of the performance period.

In case of share class' performance fee launching, the first performance period will be extended to the next financial year (> 12 months).

When decision is taken to liquidate or to merge a share class subject to performance fee, the potentially provisioned performance fee raised at the event date will be paid to the Management Company.

In case of merger with a ratio 1:1 and where the receiving share class is a newly established one with no performance history, the performance period of the merging share class should continue applying in the receiving share class.

# IV. Terminology

# Benchmark:

A market index against which to assess the performance of a share class.

# **Fictive Asset**

The fictive asset is defined by the net asset value at the launch date in case of share class launching or the last asset published at the end of the financial year when an over performance is noticed to which is added inflows and outflows. The determined amount is multiplied by the hurdle rate or the benchmark (% of performance) at each valuation day.

# Gross Asset Value (GAV):

Net Asset Value (NAV) before performance fee provision booking.

# High-Water Mark (HWM):

Highest NAV per share at the end of any previous financial year on which performance fees becomes payable, after deducting any performance fee.



# High Water Mark (HWM) with Hurdle Rate or Benchmark method:

A performance fee model whereby the performance may only be charged on the basis of achieving a new High-Water Mark and exceeds that of the hurdle rate or the benchmark (% of performance).

# Hurdle Rate:

A predefined minimum fixed rate of return or monetary index against which to assess the performance of a share class.

### **Over-Performance Amount:**

Amount determined by the difference between GAV per share and the maximum amount between HWM and fictive asset.

### Performance Fee Provision:

Amount determined by the application of the performance fee rate on the over-performance amount. This provision is booked and adjusted at each valuation day.

# Performance Fee Rate:

Rate applied at each valuation day to determine the amount of the performance fees provision.

### **Performance Period:**

Period on which the share class' performance is measured and corresponds to the financial year.

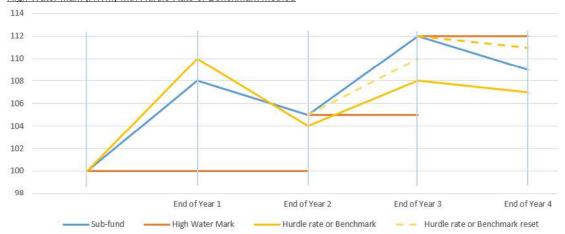
#### Performance Reference Period:

The time horizon over which the performance is measured and compared with that of the hurdle rate or Benchmark, at the end of which the mechanism for the compensation for past under-performance (or negative performance) can be reset.

#### V. Example

Example are for illustration only, and are not intended to reflect any actual past performance or potential future performance.

High Water Mark (HWM) with Hurdle Rate or Benchmark method



- At the end of year 1, the Gross Asset Value per share class (108) outperforms the High Water Mark (100) but underperforms
  the hurdle rate or benchmark (110). No performance fee is payable and no reset will be performed on hurdle rate or benchmark
  and High Water Mark.
- During year 2, the Gross Asset Value per share class goes from underperforming the hurdle rate / benchmark to outperforming
  it while also remaining above the High Water Mark. Even if the hurdle rate or benchmark and share class performance are
  negative, the last one is less negative than the performance of hurdle rate or benchmark.

At the end of year 2, the Gross Asset Value per share class (105) outperforms the High Water Mark (100) and outperforms the hurdle rate or benchmark (104). Double condition is completed. Performance fee is payable. High Water Mark and hurdle rate or benchmark are reset.

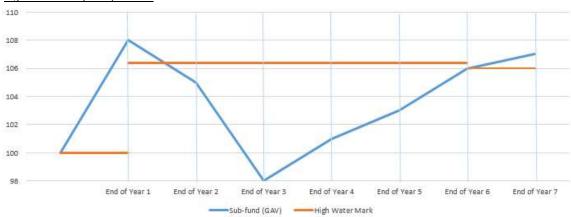
- At the end of year 3, the Gross Asset Value per share class (112) outperforms the hurdle rate or benchmark (109.04) and the High Water Mark (105). Performance fee is payable. High Water Mark and hurdle rate or benchmark are reset.
- At the end of year 4, the Gross Asset Value per share class (109) falls below both, High Water Mark (112) and hurdle rate or benchmark (110.96). No performance fee is payable and no reset will be performed on hurdle rate or benchmark and High Water Mark.



# Below a quantified example

Year	0 (Initial values)	1	2	3	4
Final GAV per share level	100	108	105	112	109
Final hurdle rate or benchmark level	100	110	104	108	107
Final reset hurdle rate or benchmark level	100	110	105	= 109.04 = 105 * 108/104	= 110.96 =112* 107/108
High Water Mark level	100	100	100	105	112
Performance reference period ("PRP")	N.A.	Year 1	Years 1 + 2	Year 3	Years 4
GAV per share performance during the PRP	N.A.	8.00%	5.00%	6.67%	-2.68%
Hurdle rate or benchmark performance during the PRP	N.A.	10.00%	4.00%	3.85%	-0.93%
(1) GAV per share performance > Performance hurdle rate or benchmark over PRP	N.A.	NO	YES	YES	NO
(2) GAV per share > High Water Mark over PRP	N.A.	YES	YES	YES	NO
If both conditions (1) and (2) are met, then: ==> Performance fee is payable and performance reference period is reset	N.A.	NO	YES	YES	NO
Performance fee rate	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
PERFORMANCE FEE	N.A.	0	20% x (5% - 4%) = 0.20%	20% x (6.67% - 3.85%) = 0.56%	0

# High Water Mark (HWM) method:



- At the end of year 1, the Gross Asset Value per share class (108) outperforms the High Water Mark (100). Performance fee
  is payable and High Water Mark is reset.
- Starting from year 2 till end of year 6, the Gross Asset Value still underperforms the High Water Mark (106.4). That means that
  after 5 consecutive years with no performance fees paid, the High Water Mark is reset. No performance fee is payable
- At the end of year 7, the Gross Asset Value per share class (107) outperforms the High Water Mark (106). Performance fee
  is payable and High Water Mark is reset.

# Below a quantified example

Year	0 (Initial values)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Final GAV per share level	100	108	105 = 106.4	98	101	103	106	107
High Water Mark level	100	100	= 108 - [(108- 100)*20%]	106.4	106.4	106.4	106.4	106
Performance reference period ("PRP")	N.A.	Year 1	Years 2	Years 2 + 3	Years 2 + 3 + 4	Years 2+3+4+5	Years 2 + 3 + 4 + 5 + 6	Year 7
GAV per share performance during the PRP	N.A.	8.00%	-2.78%	-9.26%	-6.48%	-4.63%	-1.85%	0.94%
(1) GAV per share > High Water Mark over PRP	N.A.	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
If condition is met, then: ⇒ Performance fee is payable and performance reference period is reset	N.A.	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
Performance fee rate	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%
PERFORMANCE FEE	N.A.	20% x 8% = 1.60%	0	0	0	0	0	20% × 0.94% = 0.19%



# **Regulatory and Tax Fees**

These fees include:

- the Luxembourg taxe d'abonnement (subscription tax)
- foreign UCI's tax and/or other regulatory levy in the country where the sub-fund is registered for distribution



## INTERNAL CREDIT QUALITY ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE APPLICABLE TO MMF SUB-FUNDS

In accordance with the Regulation and applicable delegated regulations, supplementing the Regulation, the Management Company has established, implemented and consistently applies a tailored internal credit quality assessment procedure ("ICAP"), for determining the credit quality of money market instruments, taking into account the issuer of the instrument and the characteristics of the instrument itself.

The Management Company ensures 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 assessment procedure is based on prudent, systematic and continuous assessment methodologies. The methodologies are subject to validation by the Management Company based on historical experience and empirical evidence, including back testing.

The Management Company ensures that the internal credit quality assessment procedure complies with all of the following general principles:

- (a) An effective process is established to obtain and update relevant information on the issuer and the instrument's characteristics;
- (b) Adequate measures are adopted and implemented to ensure that the ICAP 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 instrument;
- (c) The ICAP is monitored on an ongoing basis and all credit quality assessments are reviewed at least annually;
- (d) While there is to be no mechanistic over-reliance on external ratings in accordance with Article 5a of Regulation 1060/2009, the Management Company shall undertake a new credit quality assessment for a money market instrument 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 reviewed at least annually by the Management Company to determine whether they remain appropriate for the current portfolio and external conditions and the review is transmitted to the CSSF. Where the Management Company becomes aware of errors in the credit quality assessment methodology or in its application, it shall immediately correct those errors;
- (f) When methodologies, models or key assumptions used in the ICAP are changed, the Management Company will review all affected internal credit quality assessments as soon as possible.

# Internal credit quality assessment

The Management Company applies the internal credit quality assessment procedure above to determine whether the credit quality of a money market instrument receives a favourable assessment. Where a credit rating agency registered and certified in accordance with Regulation 1060/2009 has provided a rating of that money market instrument, the Management Company may have regard to such rating and supplementary information and analysis in its internal credit quality assessment, while not solely or mechanistically relying on such rating in accordance with Article 5a of Regulation 1060/2009.

The Credit Research Department of the BNP Paribas Asset Management group provides opinions on issuers, covering the fundamental trend of the companies, expectations for event risk, expected and floor ratings benchmarked against the rating agencies and a relative value view based on market trading levels.

The credit quality assessment takes into account at least the following factors and general principles:

## 1. Quantification of the credit risk of the issuer and of the relative risk of default of the issuer and of the instrument

The internal credit quality assessment procedure starts with a top down view of the economic dynamics of each industry, in the light of the macroeconomic trends. Analysts look at industry drivers to formulate opinion on improvement or deterioration of industries. Factors taken into consideration include the stage of the cycle, structure of the industry, demographics, regulation, legal risks and consolidation trends. The industry recommendation is used to assist with in-depth issuer analysis.

The criteria for quantifying the credit risk of the issuer and of the relative risk of default of the issuer and of the instrument are the following:

- (i) bond pricing information, including credit spreads and the pricing of comparable fixed income instruments and related securities;
- (ii) pricing of money market instruments relating to the issuer, the instrument or the industry sector;
- (iii) default statistics relating to the issuer, the instrument or the industry sector as provided by external credit ratings; (iv) financial indicators relating to the geographic location, the industry sector or the asset class of the issuer or instrument;
- (iv) financial information relating to the issuer, including profitability ratios, interest coverage ratio, leverage metrics and the pricing of new issues, including the existence of more junior securities.

Additional indicators such as revenue, earnings, cash flow, growth, leverage, interest are used in the context of the issuer's review. Historic trends are examined and serve as a basis to anticipate that future operating results and financial position are reasonable, thus allowing to assess the impact on credit quality over the short, medium and long term.

Individual issuers are selected using well-established analytical measurements (including revenue, earnings and cash flow (EBITDA) growth, free cash flow, leverage, interest and fixed charge coverage). For an issuer review, historic trends are examined relative to the current financial position and operating performance. These trends serve as the basis for judging the degree to which forecasts for future operating results and financial position are reasonable and allows our analysts to anticipate credit quality migration, changes in the issuer's financial strategies, and its ultimate impact on credit quality over the short, medium and long term. Qualitative factors are important as well, including industry position, corporate strategy, quality of management and corporate risks.

# 2. Qualitative indicators on the issuer of the instrument, including in the light of the macroeconomic and financial market situation

The criteria for establishing qualitative indicators in relation to the issuer of the instrument are the following:

- (i) an analysis of any underlying assets;
- (ii) an analysis of any structural aspects of the relevant instruments issued;
- (iii) an analysis of the relevant markets, including the degree of volume and liquidity of those markets;
- (iv) a sovereign analysis, to the extent it could impact the issuer credit quality;
- (v) an analysis of the governance risk relating to the issuer, including frauds, conduct fines, litigation, financial restatements, exceptional items, management turnover, borrower concentration;
- (vi) securities-related external research on the issuer or market sector;
- (vii) where relevant, an analysis of the credit ratings or rating outlook given to the issuer of an instrument by a credit rating agency registered with the ESMA and selected by the Management Company if suited to the specific investment portfolio of one of the Company's subfund.
  - In addition, the Management Company assesses the following qualitative credit risk criteria for the issuer:
- (viii) the financial situation of the issuer; or where applicable, of the guarantor;
- (ix) the sources of liquidity of the issuer, or where applicable, of the guarantor;



- (x) the ability of the issuer to react to future market-wide or issuer-specific events, including the ability to repay debt in a highly adverse situation;
- (xi) the strength of the issuer's industry within the economy relative to economic trends and the issuer's competitive position in its industry.

### 3. Short-term nature and asset class of money market instruments

The universe of eligible money market instruments covers instruments which are normally dealt in on the money market:

- (i) short-term negotiable instruments such as, but not limited to, NEU Commercial Paper, Certificates of Deposit, Euro Commercial Papers;
- (ii) senior unsecured bonds (excluding Subordinated Debts);
- (iii) treasury-bills.

Specific constraints associated to those instruments and their definitions are detailed in the Prospectus, in the limit and as permitted by the Regulation.

The universe of eligible instruments has to comply with the WAL and WAM requirements as defined by the Regulation.

# 4. Type of issuer

Issuers are distinguished at least as follows:

- (i) national, regional or local administrations;
- (ii) financial corporations and non-financial corporations.

# 5. Liquidity profile of the instrument

All money market instruments selected are issued by Financial Institutions (such as Banks and insurance company), Corporates and Sovereign (such as Government, Local administration and Supranational, Agency).

The instruments are categorized depending on their ability to be sold in due time and under favourable conditions to ensure that the liquidity of the sub-fund is met at all times. The Management Company may, in addition to the factors and general principles referred to in this section, take into account warnings and indicators when determining the credit quality of a money market instrument referred to in point 2 of Diversification Rules of Appendix 1 – Specific Rules for Money Market sub-funds.

A global policy of the Management Company's internal ratings which sets the principles and the methodology to qualify and quantify the credit quality inherent of the issuers held within the portfolios monitored by investment credit limits has been defined.

An internal rating reflecting the default risk is allocated for each issuer. As a result of the group internal credit assessment of credit analysts' review, investment limits will be provided on issuers considered to be of high credit quality.

The internal ratings provided are considered more relevant than ratings provided by external rating agencies or other sources of information.

### Governance of the credit quality assessment

The ICAP is approved by the senior management of the Management Company and by the Board of Directors of the Company ("Senior Management"). Those parties have a good understanding of the ICAP and the methodologies applied by the Management Company, as well as a detailed comprehension of the associated reports.

The Management Company reports to the parties referred to in paragraph 1 on the Company's credit risk profile, based on an analysis of the Company's internal credit quality assessments. Reporting frequencies depend on the significance and type of information and are at least annual. Senior Management ensures that the ICAP is operating properly on an ongoing basis. Senior Management is regularly informed about the performance of the internal credit quality assessment procedures, the areas where deficiencies were identified, and the status of efforts and actions taken to improve previously identified deficiencies.

Internal credit quality assessments and their periodic reviews by the Management Company are not performed by the persons performing or responsible for the portfolio management of the sub-funds of the Company.

The credit risk committee is the body responsible for:

- (i) validating the authorizations in place or suggested;
- (ii) and disseminating information on any critical file, based on the agenda established by the risk department of the Management Company. This Committee is held on a regular basis and possibly on an extraordinary basis.

Should the internal credit rating quality of an issuer and/or an instrument decrease and/or change, appropriate measures will be taken by the credit risk committee to remedy the situation as soon as possible.



## **NET ASSET VALUE**

### CALCULATION OF THE NET ASSET VALUE PER SHARE

Each net asset value calculation will be made as follows under the responsibility of the Board of Directors:

- (1) The net asset value will be calculated as specified in Book II.
- (2) The net asset value per share will be calculated with reference to the total net assets of the corresponding sub-fund, category, or class. The total net assets of each sub-fund, category, or class will be calculated by adding all the asset items held by each (including the entitlements or percentages held in certain internal sub-portfolios as more fully described in point 4, below) from which any related liabilities and commitments will be subtracted, all in accordance with the description in point 4, paragraph 4, below.
- (3) The net asset value per share of each sub-fund, category, or class will be calculated by dividing its respective total net assets by the number of shares in issue, up to six decimal places for the "Money Market" sub-funds, and up to two decimal places for all other sub-funds, except for those currencies for which decimals are not used.
- (4) Internally, in order to ensure the overall financial and administrative management of the set of assets belonging to one or more sub-funds, categories, or classes, the Board of Directors may create as many internal sub-portfolios as there are sets of assets to be managed (the "internal sub-portfolios").

Accordingly, one or more sub-funds, categories, or classes that have entirely or partially the same investment policy may combine the assets acquired by each of them in order to implement this investment policy in an internal sub-portfolio created for this purpose. The portion held by each sub-fund, category, or class within each of these internal sub-portfolios may be expressed either in terms of percentages or in terms of entitlements, as specified in the following two paragraphs. The creation of an internal sub-portfolio will have the sole objective of facilitating the Company's financial and administrative management.

The holding percentages will be established solely on the basis of the contribution ratio of the assets of a given internal sub-portfolio. These holding percentages will be recalculated on each valuation day to take account of any redemptions, issues, conversions, distributions or any other events generally of any kind affecting any of the sub-funds, categories, or classes concerned that would increase or decrease their participation in the internal sub-portfolio concerned.

The entitlements issued by a given internal sub-portfolio will be valued as regularly and according to identical methods as those mentioned in points 1, 2 and 3, above. The total number of entitlements issued will vary according to the distributions, redemptions, issues, conversions, or any other events generally of any kind affecting any of the sub-funds, categories, or classes concerned that would increase or decrease their participation in the internal sub-portfolio concerned.

- (5) Whatever the number of categories, or classes created within a particular sub-fund, the total net assets of the sub-fund will be calculated at the intervals defined by Luxembourg Law, the Articles of Association, or the Prospectus. The total net assets of each sub-fund will be calculated by adding together the total net assets of each category, or class created within the sub-fund.
- (6) Without prejudice to the information in point 4, above, concerning entitlements and holding percentages, and without prejudice to the particular rules that may be defined for one or more particular sub-funds, the net assets of the various sub-funds will be valued in accordance with the rules stipulated below.

### **COMPOSITION OF ASSETS**

The Company's assets primarily include:

- (1) cash in hand and cash deposit including interest accrued but not yet received and interest accrued on these deposits until the payment date;
- (2) all notes and bills payable on demand and accounts receivable (including the results of sales of securities before the proceeds have been received):
- (3) all securities, units, shares, bonds, options or subscription rights and other investments and securities which are the property of the Company;
- (4) all dividends and distributions to be received by the Company in cash or securities that the Company is aware of;
- (5) all interest accrued but not yet received and all interest generated up to the payment date by securities which are the property of the Company, unless such interest is included in the principal of these securities;
- (6) the Company's formation expenses, insofar as these have not been written down;
- (7) all other assets, whatever their nature, including prepaid expenses.

## **VALUATION RULES**

The assets of each sub-fund shall be valued as follows:

- (1) The value of cash in hand and cash deposit, prepaid expenses, and dividends and interest due but not yet received, shall comprise the nominal value of these assets, unless it is unlikely that this value could be received; in that event, the value will be determined by deducting an amount which the Company deems adequate to reflect the actual value of these assets;
- (2) The value of shares or units in undertakings for collective investment shall be determined on the basis of the last net asset value available on the Valuation Day. If this price is not a true reflection, the valuation shall be based on the probable sale price estimated by the Board of Directors in a prudent and bona fide manner.
- (3) The valuation of all securities listed on a stock exchange or any other regulated market, which functions regularly, is recognised and accessible to the public, is based on the last known closing price on the Valuation Day, and, if the securities concerned are traded on several markets, on the basis of the last known closing price on the major market on which they are traded.
  - If the last known closing price is not a true reflection, the valuation shall be based on the probable sale price estimated by the Board of Directors in a prudent and bona fide manner.
  - The Board of Directors uses this possibility for the valuation of the securities listed on East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, and Oceania markets. In these cases, the aforesaid last known closing price is adjusted by using a method reviewed by the auditors of the Company and monitored by the Management Company to reflect a fair value price of the concerned assets.
- (4) Unlisted securities or securities not traded on a stock exchange or another regulated market which functions in a regular manner, is recognised and accessible to the public, shall be valued on the basis of the probable sale price estimated in a prudent and bona fide manner by a qualified professional appointed for this purpose by the Board of Directors;
- (5) Securities denominated in a currency other than the currency in which the sub-fund concerned is denominated shall be converted at the exchange rate prevailing on the Valuation Day;
- (6) If permitted by market practice, liquid assets, money market instruments and all other instruments may be valued at their nominal value plus accrued interest or according to the linear amortisation method. Any decision to value the assets in the portfolio using the linear amortisation method must be approved by the Board of Directors, which will record the reasons for such a decision. The Board of Directors will put in place appropriate checks and controls concerning the valuation of the instruments;



- (7) The Board of Directors is authorised to draw up or amend the rules in respect of the relevant valuation principles after concertation with the different parties;
- (8) IRS shall be valued on the basis of the difference between the value of all future interest payable by the Company to its counterparty on the valuation date at the zero coupon swap rate corresponding to the maturity of these payments and the value of all future interest payable by the counterparty to the Company on the valuation date at the zero coupon swap rate corresponding to the maturity of these payments;
- (9) The internal valuation model for CDS utilises as inputs the CDS rate curve, the recovery rate and a discount rate (€STR/SOFR or market swap rate) to calculate the mark-to-market. This internal model also produces the rate curve for default probabilities. To establish the CDS rate curve, data from a certain number of counterparties active in the CDS market are used. The manager uses the valuation of the counterparties' CDS to compare them with the values obtained from the internal model. The starting point for the construction of the internal model is parity between the variable portion and fixed portion of the CDS on signing the CDS.
- (10)Since EDS are triggered by an event affecting a share, their valuation depends mainly on the volatility of the share and its asymmetrical position. The higher the volatility, the greater the risk that the share will reach the 70% threshold and therefore the greater the EDS spread. The spread of a company's CDS also reflects its volatility, since high volatility of the share indicates high volatility of the assets of the company in question and therefore a high probability of a credit event. Given that the spreads of both EDS and CDS are correlated with the implicit volatility of the shares, and that these relations have a tendency to remain stable over time, an EDS can be considered as a proxy for a CDS. The key point in the valuation of an EDS is to calculate the implicit probability of a share event. Two methods are generally accepted: the first consists of using the market spread of the CDS as input in a model to evaluate the EDS; the second uses historical data for the share in question to estimate the probability. Although historical data are not necessarily a proper guide as to what may happen in the future, such data can reflect the general behaviour of a share in crisis situation. In comparing the two approaches, it is very rare to see historic probabilities higher than the shares' implicit probabilities;
- (11)The valuation of a CFD and TRS shall at any given time reflect the difference between the latest known price of the underlying stock and the valuation that was taken into account when the transaction was signed.

### **COMPOSITION OF LIABILITIES**

The Company's liabilities primarily include:

- (1) all loans, matured bills and accounts payable;
- (2) all known liabilities, whether or not due, including all contractual obligations due and relating to payment in cash or kind, including the amount of dividends announced by the Company but yet to be paid;
- (3) all reserves, authorised or approved by the Board of Directors, including reserves set up in order to cover a potential capital loss on certain of the Company's investments:
- (4) any other undertakings given by the Company, except for those represented by the Company's equity. For the valuation of the amount of these liabilities, the Company shall take account of all the charges for which it is liable, including, without restriction, the costs of amendments to the Articles of Association, the Prospectus and any other document relating to the Company, management, advisory, charity, performance and other fees and extraordinary expenses, any taxes and duties payable to government departments and stock exchanges, the costs of financial charges, bank charges or brokerage incurred upon the purchase and sale of assets or otherwise. When assessing the amount of these liabilities, the Company shall take account of regular and periodic administrative and other expenses on a prorata temporis basis.

The assets, liabilities, expenses and fees not allocated to a sub-fund, category or class shall be apportioned to the various sub-funds, categories, or classes in equal parts or, subject to the amounts involved justifying this, proportionally to their respective net assets. Each of the Company's shares which is in the process of being redeemed shall be considered as a share issued and existing until closure on the Valuation Day relating to the redemption of such share and its price shall be considered as a liability of the Company as from closing on the date in question until such time as the price has been duly paid. Each share to be issued by the Company in accordance with subscription applications received shall be considered as being an amount due to the Company until such time as it has been duly received by the Company. As far as possible, account shall be taken of any investment or divestment decided by the Company until the Valuation Day.

## SUSPENSION OF THE CALCULATION OF NET ASSET VALUE AND THE ISSUE, CONVERSION AND REDEMPTION OF SHARES

Without prejudice to legal causes for suspension, the Board of Directors may at any time temporarily suspend the calculation of the net asset value of shares of one or more sub-funds, as well as the issue, conversion and redemption in the following cases:

- (1) during any period when one or more currency markets, or a stock exchange, which are the main markets or exchanges where a substantial portion of a sub-fund's investments at a given time are listed, is/are closed, except for normal closing days, or during which trading is subject to major restrictions or is suspended;
- (2) when the political, economic, military, currency, social situation, or any event of force majeure beyond the responsibility or power of the Company makes it impossible to dispose of one assets by reasonable and normal means, without seriously harming the shareholders' interests;
- (3) during any failure in the means of communication normally used to determine the price of any of the Company's investments or the going prices on a particular market or exchange;
- (4) when restrictions on foreign exchange or transfer of capital prevents transactions from being carried out on behalf of the Company or when purchases or sales of the Company's assets cannot be carried out at normal exchange rates;
- (5) as soon as a decision has been taken to either liquidate the Company or one or more sub-funds, categories or classes;
- (6) to determine an exchange parity under a merger, partial business transfer, splitting or any restructuring operation within, by or in one or more sub-funds, categories, or classes;
- (7) for a "Feeder" sub-fund, when the net asset value, issue, conversion, or redemption of units, or shares of the "Master" sub-fund are suspended:
- (8) any other cases when the Board of Directors estimates by a justified decision that such a suspension is necessary to safeguard the general interests of the shareholders concerned.

In the event the calculation of the net asset value is suspended, the Company shall immediately and in an appropriate manner inform the shareholders who requested the subscription, conversion or redemption of the shares of the sub-fund(s) in question.

In exceptional circumstances which could have a negative impact on shareholders' interests, or in the event of subscription, redemption or conversion applications exceeding 10%\* of a sub-funds' net assets, the Board of Directors reserves the right not to determine the value of a share until such time as the required purchases and sales of securities have been made on behalf of the sub-fund. In that event, subscription, redemption and conversion applications in the pipeline will be processed simultaneously on the basis of the net asset value so calculated.

\* 5% for the "Japan Small Cap" sub-fund.



Pending subscription, conversion and redemption applications may be withdrawn by written notification provided that such notification is received by the company prior to lifting of the suspension. Pending applications will be taken into account on the first calculation date following lifting of the suspension. If all pending applications cannot be processed on the same calculation date, the earliest applications shall take precedence over more recent applications.

#### **SWING PRICING**

A sub-fund may suffer reduction of the net asset value due to investors purchasing, selling and/or switching in and out of the sub-fund at a price that does not reflect the dealing costs associated with this sub-fund's portfolio trades undertaken by the Investment Manager to accommodate such cash inflows or outflows. In order to mitigate this effect and enhance the protection of existing unitholders, the mechanism known as "swing pricing" may be applied at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Management Company.

Such swing pricing mechanism may be applied to a given sub-fund when its total capital activity (i.e. net amount of subscriptions and redemptions) exceeds a pre-determined threshold determined as a percentage of the net assets value for a given valuation day. The net asset value of the relevant sub-fund may then be adjusted by an amount (the "swing factor") to compensate for the expected transaction costs resulting from the capital activity. The level of thresholds, if and when applicable, will be decided on the basis of certain parameters which may include the size of the sub-fund, the liquidity of the underlying market in which the respective sub-fund invests, the cash management of the respective sub-fund or the type of instruments that are used to manage the capital activity. The swing factor is, amongst others, based on the estimated transaction costs of the financial instruments in which the respective sub-fund may invest. Typically, such adjustment will increase the net asset value when there are net redemptions. Swing pricing does not address the specific circumstances of each individual investor transaction. An ad hoc internal committee is in charge of the implementation and periodic review of the operational decisions associated with swing pricing. This committee is responsible for decisions relating to swing pricing and the ongoing approval of swing factors which form the basis of pre-determined standing instructions.

In principle, the swing factor will not exceed 1% of the respective sub-fund's net asset value. Such limit may however, on a temporary basis and to protect interests of the shareholders, be raised beyond this maximum level when facing exceptional market conditions. Situations such as a global pandemic, a financial crisis, a geopolitical crisis, or any other exceptional event causing a severe deterioration of the liquidity.

The swing pricing mechanism may be applied across all sub-funds of the Company. In the event that, in addition to the swing pricing mechanism, another anti-dilution mechanism is available for a given sub-fund as decided by the Board of Directors of the Management Company, such mechanisms shall not be cumulatively applied. On certain unit classes, the Management Company may be entitled to a performance fee. Where applicable, this will be based on the unswung net asset value.



### **TAX PROVISIONS**

#### **TAXATION OF THE COMPANY**

At the date of the Prospectus, the Company is not liable to any Luxembourg income tax or capital gains tax.

The Company is liable to an annual *taxe d'abonnement* in Luxembourg representing 0.05% of the net asset value. This rate is reduced to 0.01% for:

- a) sub-funds with the exclusive objective of collective investments in money market instruments and deposits with credit institutions;
- b) sub-funds with the exclusive objective of collective investments with credit institutions;
- c) sub-funds, categories, or classes reserved for Institutional Investors, Managers, and UCIs.

The following are exempt from this *taxe d'abonnement*:

- a) the value of assets represented by units, or shares in other UCIs, provided that these units or shares have already been subject to the taxe d'abonnement:
- b) sub-funds, categories and/or classes:
  - (i) whose securities are reserved to Institutional Investors, Managers or UCIs and
  - (ii) whose sole object is the collective investment in money market instruments and the placing of deposits with credit institutions, and
  - (iii) whose weighted residual portfolio maturity does not exceed 90 days, and
  - (iv) that have obtained the highest possible rating from a recognised rating agency;
- c) sub-funds, categories and/or classes reserved to:
  - (i) institutions for occupational retirement pension or similar investment vehicles, set up at the initiative of one or more employers for the benefit of their employees, and
  - (ii) companies having one or more employers investing funds to provide pension benefits to their employees;
- d) sub-funds whose main objective is investment in microfinance institutions;
- e) sub-funds, categories and/or classes:
  - (i) whose securities are listed or traded on at least one stock exchange or another regulated market operating regularly that is recognized and open to the public, and
  - (ii) whose exclusive object is to replicate the performance of one or several indices.

When due, the taxe d'abonnement is payable quarterly based on the relevant net assets and calculated at the end of the quarter for which it is applicable.

In addition, the Company may be subject to foreign UCl's tax, and/or other regulators levy, in the country where the sub-fund is registered for distribution

### **TAXATION OF THE COMPANY'S INVESTMENTS**

Some of the Company's portfolio income, especially income in dividends and interest, as well as certain capital gains, may be subject to tax at various rates and of different types in the countries in which they are generated. This income and capital gains may also be subject to withholding tax. Under certain circumstances, the Company may not be eligible for the international agreements preventing double taxation that exist between the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and other countries. Some countries will only consider that persons taxable in Luxembourg qualify under these agreements.

## **TAXATION OF SHAREHOLDERS**

a) Residents of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

On the date of the Prospectus, the dividends earned and capital gains made on the sale of shares by residents of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg are not subject to withholding tax.

Dividends are subject to income tax at the personal tax rate.

Capital gains made on the sale of shares are not subject to income tax if the shares are held for a period of over six months, except in the case of resident shareholders holding over 10% of the shares of the Company.

b) Non-residents

In principle, according to current law:

- the dividends earned and the capital gains made on the sale of shares by non-residents are not subject to Luxembourg withholding tax;
- the capital gains made by non-residents on the sale of shares are not subject to Luxembourg income tax.

Nevertheless, if there is a dual tax convention between the Grand Duchy and the shareholder's country of residence, the capital gains made on the sale of shares are tax-exempt in principle in Luxembourg, with the taxation authority being attributed to the shareholder's country of residence.

## **EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION**

a) Residents of another member state of the European Union, including the French overseas departments, the Azores, Madeira, the Canary Islands, the Åland Islands and Gibraltar.

Any individual who receives dividends from the Company or the proceeds from the sale of shares in the Company through a paying agent based in a state other than the one in which he resides is advised to seek information on the legal and regulatory provisions applicable to him.

In most countries covered by Directive 2011/16 and 2014/107, the total gross amount <u>distributed</u> by the Company and/or the total gross proceeds from the sale, refunding or redemption of shares in the Company will be reported to the tax authorities in the state of residence of the beneficial owner of the income.



# b) Residents of third countries or territories

No withholding tax is levied on interest paid to residents of third countries or territories.

Nevertheless, in the framework of Automatic Exchange of Information package (AEOI) covering fiscal matters elaborated by OECD. The Management Company may need to collect and disclose information about the Company's shareholders to third parties, including the tax authorities of the participating country in which the beneficiary is tax resident, for the purpose of onward transmission to the relevant jurisdictions. The data of financial and personal information as defined by this regulation which will be disclosed may include (but is not limited to) the identity of the Company's shareholders and their direct or indirect beneficiaries, beneficial owners and controlling persons. A shareholder will therefore be required to comply with any reasonable request from the Management Company for such information, to allow the Management Company to comply with its reporting requirements. The list of AEOI participating countries is available on the website http://www.oecd.org/tax/automatic-exchange/

### c) US Tax

Under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA") provisions which entered into force as from 1st July 2014, in the case the Company invests directly or indirectly in US assets, income received from such US investments might be subject to a 30% US withholding tax.

To avoid such withholding tax the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has entered, on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014, into an intergovernmental agreement (the "IGA") with the United States under which the Luxembourg financial institutions have to undertake due diligence to report certain information on their U.S. investors to the Luxembourg Tax authorities. Such information will be onward reported by the Luxembourg tax authorities to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

The foregoing provisions are based on the Law and practices currently in force, and might be subject to change. Potential investors are advised to seek information in their country of origin, place of tax residence or domicile on the possible tax consequences associated with their investment. The attention of investors is also drawn to certain tax provisions specific to several countries in which the Company publicly trades its shares.



## **GENERAL MEETINGS AND INFORMATION FOR SHAREHOLDERS**

# **GENERAL SHAREHOLDERS' MEETINGS**

The Annual General Shareholders' Meeting is held at 3.00 p.m. on 25 April at the Company's registered office or any other location in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg specified in the notice to attend the meeting. If that day is not a bank business day in Luxembourg, the Annual General Meeting will be held on the following bank business day. Other General Meetings may be convened in accordance with the prescriptions of Luxembourg law and the Company's Articles of Association.

Notices inviting shareholders to attend General Meetings will be published according to the forms and times prescribed in Luxembourg law and the Company's Articles of Association, and at least with a 14 days prior notice.

Similarly, General Meetings will be conducted as prescribed by Luxembourg law and the Company's Articles of Association.

Every share, irrespective of its unit value, entitles its holder to one vote. All shares have equal weight in decisions taken at the General Meeting when decisions concern the Company as a whole. When decisions concern the specific rights of shareholders of one sub-fund, category, or class, only the holders of shares of that sub-fund, category, or class may vote.

### INFORMATION FOR SHAREHOLDERS

## Net Asset Values and Dividends

The Company publishes the legally required information in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and in all other countries where the shares are publicly offered.

This information is also available on the website: www.bnpparibas-am.com.

## Financial Year

The Company's financial year starts on 1st January and ends on 31st December.

#### Financial Reports

The Company publishes an annual report closed on the last day of the financial year, certified by the auditors, as well as a non-certified, semi-annual interim report closed on the last day of the sixth month of the financial year. The Company is authorised to publish a simplified version of the financial report when required.

The financial reports of each sub-fund are published in the Accounting Currency of the sub-fund, although the consolidated accounts of the Company are expressed in euro.

The annual report is made public within four months of the end of the financial year and the interim report within two months of the end of the half-vear.

The financial reports of the Company will be prepared in accordance with Luxembourg GAAP\*.

\* Luxembourg GAAP is a combination of authoritative standards and the commonly accepted ways of recording and reporting accounting information. GAAP aims to improve the clarity, consistency, and comparability of the communication of financial information.

## **Documents for Consultation**

The Articles of Association, the Prospectus, the KID, and periodic reports may be consulted at the Company's registered office and at the establishments responsible for the Company's financial service. Copies of the Articles of Association and the annual and interim reports are available upon request.

Except for the newspaper publications required by Law, the official media to obtain any notice to shareholders from the Company will be the website www.bnpparibas-am.com.

Documents and information are also available on the website: www.bnpparibas-am.com.

# Weekly information available to the shareholders of Money Market sub-funds:

In accordance with the Regulation 2017/1131, the Management Company will make all of the following information available to investors on money market sub-funds at least on a weekly basis:

- the maturity breakdown of the portfolio of the sub-fund;
- the credit profile of the sub-fund;
- the WAM and WAL of the sub-fund;
- details of the 10 largest holdings in the sub-fund, including the name, country, maturity and asset type, and the counterparty in the case of repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements;
- the total value of the assets of the sub-fund:
- the net yield of the sub-fund.

These information are made available on the website www.bnpparibas-am.com. After having selected the money market sub-fund and the share class of their choice, investors can access the weekly reporting on the 'Documents' section of the website.



## **APPENDIX 1 – INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS**

### I. GENERAL RULES

### **ELIGIBLE ASSETS**

## 1. Transferable securities

Transferable securities must be listed or traded on an official stock exchange or on a regulated market (a market that operated regularly, is recognised and is open to the public) in an eligible state (i.e. a Member State or a Third Country).

Recently issued transferable securities must include in their terms of issue an undertaking that an application will be made for admission to official listing on a regulated market and such admission must be secured within a year of issue.

# 2. Money market instruments

A money market instrument shall fall within one of the categories below:

- a) it is listed or traded on an official stock exchange, or on a regulated market (a market that operated regularly, is recognised and is open to the public) in an eligible state (i.e. a Member State or a Third Country);
- b) it does not meet the requirements of point (a) but it is subject (at the securities or issuer level) to regulation aimed at protecting investors and savings, provided that it is:
  - i. issued or guaranteed by a central, regional or local authority or central bank of a Member State, the European Central Bank, the European Union or the European Investment Bank, a third country or a member of a federation; or
  - ii. issued by an undertaking any securities of which are dealt in on regulated markets referred to in point (a);or
  - iii. issued or guaranteed by an establishment subject to, and which complies with European Union prudential supervision rules or others rules at least considered to be stringent; or
  - iv. issued by other bodies belonging to the categories approved by the CSSF provided that the investments in such instruments are subject to investor protection equivalent to that laid down in points (i), (ii) or (iii) above, and provided that the issuer is a company whose capital and reserves amount to at least EUR 10 000 000 and which presents and publishes its annual accounts in accordance with the Directive 78/660, 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.

## 3. Units or Shares of UCITS or other UCIs

A sub-fund may invest in units or shares of UCITS and/or other UCIs, whether or not established in a Member State, provided that:

- a) such other UCIs are authorised under laws which provide that they are subject to supervision considered by the CSSF to be equivalent to that laid down in EU legislation, and that cooperation between authorities is sufficiently ensured;
- b) the level of protection to unitholders or shareholders in these other UCIs is equivalent to that provided for unitholders or 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;
- c) the business of these other UCIs is reported in semi-annual interim and annual reports to enable an assessment to be made of the assets and liabilities, income and operations over the reporting period; and
- d) no more than 10% of the assets of the UCITS or of the other UCIs whose acquisition is contemplated can, according to their management regulations or articles of association, be invested in aggregate in units or shares of other UCITS or other UCIs.

# 4. Shares of other sub-funds of the Company

A sub-fund may acquire shares of one or more other sub-funds of the Company (the target sub-fund), provided that:

- the target sub-fund does not, in turn, invest in the sub-fund;
- the proportion of assets that each target sub-fund invests in other target sub-funds of the Company does not exceed 10%;
- any voting rights attached to the shares of the target sub-funds are suspended for as long as they are held by the sub-fund and without prejudice to the appropriate processing in the accounts and the periodic reports; and
- in any events, for as long as these target sub-fund shares are held by the Company, their value shall not be taken into consideration for the calculation of the net assets of the Company for the purposes of verifying the minimum threshold of net assets required by the law.

## 5. Deposits with credit institutions

A deposit with a credit institution is eligible for investment by a sub-fund provided that all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- a) The deposit is repayable on demand or is able to be withdrawn at any time;
- b) The deposit matures in no more than 12 months;
- c) The credit institution has its registered office in a Member State or, where the credit institution has its registered office in a Third Country, it is subject to prudential rules considered by the CSSF as equivalent to those laid down in EU legislation.

## 6. Financial derivatives instruments

Financial derivative instruments, including equivalent cash-settled instruments, must be dealt in on a regulated market referred to in point 1 above or financial derivative instruments dealt in over-the-counter (OTC) derivatives, provided that:

- a) The underlying of the derivative consists of instruments covered by points 1, 2, 3 and 6 above, financial indices, interest rates, foreign exchange rates or currencies, in which the corresponding sub-fund may invest according to its investment objectives as stated in the Company's Articles of Association;
- b) The counterparties to OTC derivative transactions are institutions subject to prudential supervision and belonging to the categories approved by the CSSF, and
- c) 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.



## 7. Ancillary Liquid Assets

Each sub-fund may hold ancillary liquid assets limited to bank deposits at sight (other than those mentioned on above point 5), such as cash held in current accounts with a bank accessible at any time, in order to:

- 1) cover current or exceptional payments, or
- 2) for the time necessary to reinvest in eligible assets foreseen in its investment policy, or
- 3) for a period of time strictly necessary in case of unfavourable market conditions.

Such holding is limited to 20% of the net assets of the sub-fund.

This 20% limit shall only be temporarily breached for a period of time strictly necessary when, because of exceptionally unfavourable market conditions, circumstances so require and where such breach is justified having regard to the interests of the investors, for instance in highly serious circumstances.

#### 8. Movable and immovable properties

The Company may acquire movable or immovable property which is essential for the direct pursuit of its business.

#### 9. Borrowing

A sub-fund may acquire currencies by means of "back-to-back" loans.

A sub-fund may borrow provided that such borrowing:

- a) is made on a temporary basis and represents no more than 10% of its assets; or
- allows the acquisition of immovable property essential for the direct pursuit of its business and represents no more than 10% of its assets.

Such borrowing shall not exceed 15% of its assets in total.

### **PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES**

A sub-fund shall not:

- a) Acquire either precious metals or certificates representing them;
- b) Grant loans or act as a guarantor on behalf of third parties; this shall not prevent a sub-fund from acquiring transferable securities, money
  market instruments or other financial instruments referred to as Eligible Assets which are not fully paid;
- c) Carry out uncovered sales of transferable securities, money market instruments or other financial instruments referred to as Eligible Assets.

### **DIVERSIFICATION RULES**

The sub-funds are not required to comply with the limits laid down in this Appendix when exercising subscription rights attaching to transferable securities or money market instruments which form part of their assets.

While ensuring observance of the principle of risk spreading, recently authorised sub-funds are allowed to derogate from Diversification Rules below for six months following the date of their authorisation.

If these limits are exceeded for reasons beyond the control of the sub-fund or as a result of the exercise of subscription rights, the sub-fund shall adopt as a priority objective for its sales transactions the remedying of that situation, taking due account of the interests of its shareholders.

A sub-fund may, in compliance with the applicable limits laid down in this Appendix and in the best interest of the shareholders, temporarily adopt a more defensive attitude by holding more liquid assets in the portfolio. This could be as a result of the prevailing market conditions or on account of liquidation or merger events or when the sub-fund approached maturity. In such circumstances, the sub-fund concerned may prove to be incapable in the interest the shareholders of pursuing its investment objective as a temporary measure, which may affect its performance.

1. A sub-fund shall not invest more than 10% of its assets in transferable securities, or money market instruments other than those referred to as Eligible Assets.

2.

- a) A sub-fund shall invest no more than:
  - i. 10% of its assets in transferable securities or money market instruments issued by the same body; or
  - ii. 20% of its assets in deposits made with the same body.

The risk exposure to a counterparty of a sub-fund in an OTC derivative transaction shall not exceed either:

- i. 10% of its assets when the counterparty is a credit institution referred to in point 5 of Eligible Assets; or
- ii. 5% of its assets, in other cases.
- b) The total value of the transferable securities and the money market instruments held by a sub-fund in the issuing bodies in each of which it invests more than 5% of its assets shall not exceed 40% of the value of its assets. That limitation shall not apply to deposits or OTC derivative transactions made with financial institutions subject to prudential supervision.

Notwithstanding the individual limits laid down in paragraph a), a sub-fund shall not combine, where this would lead to investment of more than 20% of its assets in a single body, any of the following:

- i. investments in transferable securities or money market instruments issued by that body;
- ii. deposits made with that body; or
- iii. exposure arising from OTC derivative transactions undertaken with that body.
- c) The 10% limit laid down in paragraph a) point (i) may be raised to a maximum of 35% if the transferable securities or money market instruments are issued or guaranteed by a Member State, by its local authorities, by a Third Country or by public international body to which one or more Member States belong.
- d) The 10% limit laid down in the paragraph a) point (i) may be raised to a maximum of 25% for covered bonds as defined under article 3, point 1 of the Directive (EU) 2019/2162 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on the issue of covered bonds and covered bond public supervision and amending Directives 2009/65/EC and 2014/59/UE (hereinafter "directive (EU) 2019/2162") and for certain bonds issued prior to 8 July 2022 by a credit institution which 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 issued prior to 8 July 2022 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.



Where a sub-fund invests more than 5% of its assets in the bonds referred to in this paragraph d) which are issued by a single issuer, the total value of these investments shall not exceed 80% of the value of the assets of the sub-fund.

- e) The transferable securities and money market instruments referred to in paragraphs c) and d) shall not be taken into account for the purpose of applying the limit of 40% referred to in paragraph b).
  - The limits provided for in paragraph a), b), c) and d) shall not be combined, and thus investments in transferable securities or money market instruments issued by the same body or in deposits or derivative instruments made with this body carried out in accordance with paragraph a), b), c) and d) shall not exceed in total 35% of the assets of the sub-fund.
  - Companies which are included in the same group for the purposes of consolidated accounts, as defined in Directive 2013/34 or in accordance with recognised international accounting rules, shall be regarded as a single body for the purpose of calculating the limits contained in this section.
  - A sub-fund may cumulatively invest in transferable securities and money market instruments within the same group up to 20% of its assets.
- 3. Without prejudice to the Limits to Prevent Concentration of Ownership below, the limits laid down in point 2. are raised to a maximum of 20% for investments in shares or debt securities issued by the same body, when the aim of the sub-fund's investment policy is to replicate the composition of a certain stock or debt securities index which is recognised by the CSSF, on the following basis:
  - i. its composition is sufficiently diversified;
  - ii. the index represents an adequate benchmark for the market to which it refers; and
  - iii. it is published in an appropriate manner.

This limit of 20% shall be raised to a maximum of 35% where that proves to be justified by exceptional market conditions (such as, but not limited to, disruptive market conditions or extremely volatile markets) in particular in regulated markets where certain transferable securities or money market instruments are highly dominant. The investment up to that limit shall be permitted only for a single issuer.

- 4. As an exception to point 2., in accordance with the principle of risk-spreading, a sub-fund shall invest up to 100% of its assets in different transferable securities and money market instruments issued or guaranteed by a Member State, one or more of its local authorities, a Third Country part of the OECD, Brazil, People's Republic of China, India, Russia, Singapore and South Africa, or a public international body to which one or more Member States belong.
  - Such a sub-fund shall hold securities from at least six different issues, but securities from any single issue shall not account for more than 30% of its total assets.

5.

- a) A sub-fund may acquire the units or shares of UCITS or other UCIs referred to as Eligible Assets, provided that no more than 20% of its assets are invested in units or shares of a single UCITS or other UCI. For the purposes of the application of this investment limit, each sub-fund in a multi-sub-fund UCI, is considered as a separate issuer, provided that the principle of segregation of the commitments of the different sub-funds with regard to third parties is assured.
- b) Investments made in units or shares of UCIs other than UCITS shall not exceed, in aggregate, 30% of the assets of a sub-fund. Where a sub-fund has acquired units or shares of another UCITS or UCIs, the assets of the respective UCITS or other UCIs are not combined for the purposes of the limits laid down in point 2.
- c) Due to the fact that the Company may invest in UCI units, or shares, the investor is exposed to a risk of fees doubling (for example, the management fees of the UCI in which the Company is invested).
  - A sub-fund may not invest in a UCITS, or other UCI (underlying), with a management fee exceeding 3% per annum.
  - Where a sub-fund invests in the units or shares of other UCITS or UCIs that are managed, directly or by delegation, by the same management company 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, the sub-fund will not incur any entry or exit costs for the units or shares of these underlying assets.
  - The maximum annual management fee payable directly by the sub-fund is defined in Book II.

## LIMIT TO PREVENT CONCENTRATION OF OWNERSHIP

- 1. The Company shall not acquire any shares carrying voting rights which would enable it to exercise significant influence over the management of an issuing body.
- 2. A sub-fund may acquire no more than:
  - i. 10% of the non-voting shares of a single issuing body;
  - ii. 10% of debt securities of a single issuing body;
  - iii. 25% of the units or shares of a UCITS or UCI (umbrella level); or
  - iv. 10% of the money market instruments of a single issuing body.

The limits laid down in points ii., iii. and iv. may be disregarded at the time of acquisition if, at that time the gross amount of the debt securities or of the money market instruments, or the net amount of the securities in issue, cannot be calculated.

- 3. Points 1. and 2. above do not apply with regard to:
  - i. transferable securities and money market instruments issued or guaranteed by a Member State or its local authorities;
  - ii. transferable securities and money market instruments issued or guaranteed by a country which is not a European Union Member State :
  - iii. transferable securities and money market instruments issued by a public international body to which one or more European Union Member States belong;
  - iv. shares held by the Company in the capital of a company incorporated in a Third Country investing its assets mainly in the securities of issuing bodies having their registered offices in that country, where under the legislation of that country, such a holding represents the only way in which the Company can invest in the securities of issuing of that country. This derogation shall apply only if in its investment policy the company from the Third Country complies with the limits laid down in Diversification Rules (points 2 and 5) and Limits To Prevent Concentration of Ownership (points 1 and 2).



## **MASTER-FEEDER STRUCTURE**

By way of derogation to Diversification Rules above, a sub-fund designed as "the Feeder" may invest:

- a) at least 85% of its assets in units, or shares of another UCITS or another sub-fund of UCITS (the "Master");
- b) up to 15% of its assets in one or more of the following:
  - ancillary liquid assets,
  - financial derivative instruments, which may be used only for hedging purpose in accordance with Appendix 2;
  - movable and immovable property which is essential for the direct pursuit of its business.

By derogation to item 7 above, ancillary liquid assets comprise bank deposits at sight and highly liquid assets such as deposits with credit institution, money market instruments and money market funds.

## ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY SPECIFIC JURISDICTIONS

Any sub-fund registered in multiple jurisdictions will comply with the restrictions for all jurisdictions where it is registered.

#### 1 France

Following sub-funds are compliant with the French Plan d'Epargne en Actions (PEA), as at all times, they invest at least 75% of their assets in equities issued by companies that have their registered office in a member country of the EEA, other than non-cooperative countries in the fight against fraud and tax evasion, as well as in UCI eligible to the PEA:

"Euro Defensive Equity", "Euro Equity", "Nordic Small Cap", "Seasons", "Sustainable Euro Low Vol Equity", "Sustainable Euro Multi-Factor Equity", "Sustainable Europe Value".

## 2. Germany

In accordance with the German Investment tax Act, the following sub-funds registered in the Federal Republic of Germany shall invest at least 50% of their assets in Equity:

"Aqua", "Brazil Equity", "China A-Shares", "China Equity", "Climate Impact", "Consumer Innovators", "Disruptive Technology", "Emerging Equity", "Energy Transition", "Euro Equity", "Europe Equity", "Europe Growth", "Europe Small Cap", "Global Environment", "Green Tigers", "Health Care Innovators", "Inclusive Growth", "India Equity", "Japan Equity", "Japan Small Cap", "Latin America Equity", "Nordic Small Cap", "Russia Equity", "SMART Food", "Sustainable Asia ex-Japan Equity", "Sustainable Europe Dividend", "Sustainable Europe Value", "Sustainable Global Equity", "Sustainable Global Equity", "Turkey Equity", "US Growth", "US Mid Cap", "US Small Cap".

In the context of the German Investment Tax Act, "Equity" does not include: derivative swap, Equity equivalent security, partnership, REIT, right, units/shares of a non-equity target fund.

### 3. Hong Kong

As an exception, the following sub-funds registered in Hong Kong may not invest more than 10% of their assets in transferable securities issued by or guaranteed by any single country (including its government, a public or local authority of that country) with a credit rating below investment grade and/or unrated (the "non-investment grade securities of a single sovereign issuer"):

"Aqua", "Brazil Equity", "China Equity", "Climate Impact", "Consumer Innovators", "Disruptive Technology", "Ecosystem Restoration", "Emerging Bond Opportunities", "Emerging Equity", "Energy Transition", "Euro Equity", "Europe Equity", "Europe Growth", "Europe Small Cap", "Global Convertible", "Global Environment", "Global High Yield Bond", "Global Inflation-Linked Bond", "Green Tigers", "Health Care Innovators", "Latin America Equity", "Multi-Asset Opportunities", "Russia Equity", "SMaRT Food", "Sustainable Asia ex-Japan Equity", "Sustainable Asian Cities Bond", "Sustainable Europe Dividend", "Sustainable Global Corporate Bond", "Sustainable Global Low Vol Equity", "Sustainable Multi-Asset Balanced", "Sustainable Multi-Asset Growth", "US Growth", "US Mid Cap", "USD Short Duration Bond".

## 4. Korea

Notwithstanding the foregoing statement, the following sub-funds registered in Korea shall not invest more than 35% of their assets in transferable securities and money market instruments issued by or guaranteed by a government which is not a member state of either the EU or OECD or its local authority:

"Aqua", "Consumer Innovators", "Ecosystem Restoration", "Emerging Bond", "Emerging Bond Opportunities", "Emerging Equity", "Energy Transition", "Environmental Absolute Return Thematic Equity (EARTH)", "Euro Equity", "Euro High Yield Bond", "Europe Convertible", "Europe Equity", "Europe Small Cap", "Global Convertible", "Global Environment", "Global High Yield Bond", "Health Care Innovators", "Local Emerging Bond", "Multi-Asset Opportunities", "Sustainable Asia ex-Japan Equity", "Sustainable Asian Cities Bond", "Sustainable Global Low Vol Equity", "Target Risk Balanced", "Turkey Equity", "US High Yield Bond", "US Mid Cap", "US Small Cap".

## Taiwan

In addition to the prohibition on investing in gold, property and commodities, all the following sub-funds registered and marketed in Taiwan

"Aqua", "Brazil Equity", "Consumer Innovators", "Disruptive Technology", "Emerging Bond", "Emerging Bond Opportunities", "Emerging Equity", "Energy Transition", "Euro Bond", "Euro Money Market", "Europe Convertible", "Europe Equity", "Europe Small Cap", "Global Environment", "Global High Yield Bond", "Health Care Innovators", "Inclusive Growth", "India Equity", "Japan Equity", "Japan Small Cap", "Latin America Equity", "Local Emerging Bond", "Multi-Asset Opportunities", "Russia Equity", "Sustainable Asian Cities Bond", "Sustainable Asia ex-Japan Equity", "Sustainable Europe Dividend", "Sustainable Global Corporate Bond", "Sustainable Global Equity", "Sustainable Global Low Vol Equity", "US Growth", "US High Yield Bond", "US Mid Cap", "USD Short Duration Bond", "US Small Cap", "USD Money Market".

shall comply with the following additional requirements:

- The sub-fund may not invest more than 50% of its net asset value in the Taiwanese securities market;
- For "Multi-Asset" sub-funds, the percentage of the net asset value invested in equity, bond and fixed income securities exceeds 70%, percentage in equity is less than 90% but no less than 10%, and percentage in non-investment grade bond is less than 30%;
- The sub-fund may not invest more than 20% of its net asset value in Mainland China securities.

Additionally, the following sub-funds

"Consumer Innovators", "Disruptive Technology", "Emerging Equity", "Energy Transition", "Europe Equity", "Europe Small Cap", "Global Environment", "Health Care Innovators", "India Equity", "Russia Equity", "Sustainable Asia ex-Japan Equity", "Sustainable Global Corporate Bond", "Sustainable Global Equity", "Sustainable Global Low Vol Equity"

shall comply with the following additional requirements:



- The total value of non-offset position in derivatives for portfolio management shall not exceed 40% of the net asset value of the subfund:
- The total value of non-offset position in derivatives for hedging purposes shall not exceed the total market value of the relevant securities held by the sub-fund;

#### II. SPECIFIC RULES FOR MONEY MARKET SUB-FUNDS

## **ELIGIBLE ASSETS**

## 1. Money Market Instruments

The money market instruments include financial instruments issued or guaranteed separately or jointly by a Sovereign Eligible Issuer. A money market sub-fund of the Company shall comply with the following requirements:

- 1.1 It falls within one of the categories below as in compliance with the provisions of Directive 2009/65:
  - a) It is listed or traded on an official stock exchange, or on a regulated market (a market that operated regularly, is recognised and is open to the public) in an eligible state (i.e. a Member State or a Third Country);
  - b) It does not meet the requirements of point (a) but it is subject (at the securities or issuer level) to regulation aimed at protecting investors and savings, provided that it is:
    - Issued or guaranteed by a central, regional or local authority or central bank of a Member State, the European Central Bank, the European Union or the European Investment Bank, a Third Country or a member of a federation; or
    - ii. Issued by an undertaking any securities of which are dealt in on regulated markets referred to in point (a);or
    - iii. Issued or guaranteed by an establishment subject to, and which complies with European Union prudential supervision rules or others rules at least considered to be stringent; or
    - iv. Issued by other bodies belonging to the categories approved by the CSSF provided that the investments in such instruments are subject to investor protection equivalent to that laid down in points (i), (ii) or (iii) above, and provided that the issuer is a company whose capital and reserves amount to at least EUR 10 000 000 and which presents and publishes its annual accounts in accordance with the Directive 78/660, 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.
- 1.2 It displays one of the following alternative characteristics:
  - (i) It has a legal maturity at issuance of 397 days or less;
  - (ii) It has a residual maturity of 397 days or less.
- 1.3 The issuer of the money market instrument and the quality of the money market instrument has received a favourable assessment pursuant to the Internal Credit Quality Assessment procedure" of Book 1.
- 1.4 Notwithstanding point 1.2, a sub-fund can invest in money market instruments with a residual maturity until the legal redemption date of less than or equal to 2 years, provided that the time remaining until the next interest rate reset date is 397 days or less. For that purpose, floating-rate money-market instruments and fixed-rate money-market instruments hedged by a swap arrangement shall be reset to a money market rate or index.

# 2. Deposits with credit institutions

A deposit with a credit institution is eligible for investment by a sub-fund provided that all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- a) The deposit is repayable on demand or is able to be withdrawn at any time;
- b) The deposit matures in no more than 12 months;
- c) The credit institution has its registered office in a Member State or, where the credit institution has its registered office in a third country, it is subject to prudential rules considered by the CSSF as equivalent to those laid down in European legislation.

## 3. Financial Derivative Instruments

A financial derivative instrument (such as IRS, forwards and futures) is eligible for investment by a sub-fund provided it is dealt in on a regulated market as referred to in point 1.1 (a) above, or OTC derivatives and provided that all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- a) The underlying of the derivative instrument consists of interest rates
- b) The derivative instrument serves only the purpose of hedging the interest rate of the sub-fund;
- c) The counterparties to OTC derivative transactions are institutions subject to prudential regulation and supervision and belonging to the categories approved by the CSSF;
- d) 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.

# The Company does not use TRS for any of its Money Market sub-funds.

## 4. Repurchase agreements

A repurchase agreement shall be eligible to be entered into by a money market sub-fund provided that all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- a) It is used on a temporary basis, for no more than seven working days, only for liquidity management purposes and not for investment purposes other than as referred to in point c) below;
- The counterparty receiving assets transferred by the sub-fund as collateral under the repurchase agreement is prohibited from selling, investing, pledging or otherwise transferring those assets without the sub-fund's prior consent;
- c) The cash received by the sub-fund as part of the repurchase agreement is able to be:
  - i. Placed on deposits in accordance with point 3) and;
  - ii. Invested in assets referred to point 6), but shall not otherwise be invested in eligible assets as referred in point 1), 2), 3) and 4), transferred or otherwise reused; and
- d) The cash received by a sub-fund as part of the repurchase agreement shall not exceed 10% of its assets;
- e) The sub-fund has the right to terminate the agreement at any time upon giving prior notice of no more than two working days.

Any Money Market sub-fund may use repurchase agreements under these conditions within the limits of 5% (expected) and 10% (maximum) of the assets.



## 5. Reverse repurchase agreements

- a) A reverse repurchase agreement shall be eligible to be entered into by a sub-fund provided that all of the following conditions are fulfilled:
  - . The sub-fund has the right to terminate the agreement at any time upon giving prior notice of no more than two working days;
  - ii. The market value of the assets received as part of the reverse repurchase agreement is at all times at least equal to the value of the cash paid out.
- b) The assets received by a sub-fund as part of a reverse repurchase agreement shall be money market instruments that fulfil the requirements set out in point 1. and shall not be sold, reinvested, pledged or otherwise transferred.
- c) The assets received by a sub-fund as part of a reverse repurchase agreement shall be sufficiently diversified with a maximum exposure to a given issuer of 15% of the NAV of the sub-fund, except where those assets take the form of money market instruments that fulfil the requirements of point 2 (ii) of Diversification Rules below. The assets received in this context shall 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.
- d) A sub-fund that enters into a reverse repurchase agreement shall ensure that it is able to recall the full amount of cash at any time 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 shall be used for the calculation of the NAV of the sub-fund.
- e) By way of derogation from above point b), a sub-fund may receive as part of a reverse repurchase agreement liquid transferable securities or money market instruments other than those that fulfil the requirements set out in point 1. provided that those assets comply with one of the following conditions:
  - i. They are issued or guaranteed by the European Union, a central authority or central bank of a Member State, the European Central Bank, the European Investment Bank, the European Stability Mechanism or the European Financial Stability Facility provided that a favourable assessment has been received regarding the credit quality assessment. The assets received as part of a reverse repurchase agreement in this respect shall be disclosed to the shareholders and shall fulfil the requirements of point 2 (ii) of Diversification Rules below.
  - ii. They are issued or guaranteed by a central authority or central bank of a Third Country, provided that a favourable assessment has been received regarding the credit quality assessment.
- f) The maximum proportion of assets that can be subject to reverse repurchase agreements and the expected proportion of assets that are subject to them are mentioned in Book 2 for each Money Market sub-fund.

## 6. Units or Shares of other MMFs

A Money Market sub-fund may acquire the units or shares of any other short-term and standard MMFs ('targeted MMF") provided that all of the following conditions are fulfilled:

- a) The targeted MMF is a standard or a short-term MMF authorised under Regulation 2017/1131;
- b) The targeted MMF does not hold units or shares in the acquiring sub-fund;
- c) 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;
- d) No more than 10 % of the assets of the targeted sub-fund are able, according to its fund rules or instruments of incorporation, to be invested in aggregate in units or shares of other sub-funds.

## 7. Ancillary liquid Assets

In addition to deposits with credit institutions, any Money Market sub-fund may hold ancillary liquid assets limited to bank deposits at sight (other than those mentioned hereinabove in point 2). The holding of such ancillary liquid assets could be justified, inter alia, in order to cover current or exceptional payments, in the case of sales, for the time necessary to reinvest in other Eligible Assets above.

## PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

A Money Market sub-fund shall not undertake any of the following activities:

- a) investing in assets other than Eligible Assets as defined above:
- b) short sale any of the following instruments: money market instruments, securitisations, ABCPs and units or shares of other MMFs;
- c) taking direct or indirect exposure to equity or commodities, including via derivatives, certificates representing them, indices based on them, or any other means or instrument that would give an exposure to them;
- d) entering into securities lending agreements or securities borrowing agreements, or any other agreement that would encumber the assets of the sub-fund;
- e) borrowing and lending cash.

## **DIVERSIFICATION RULES**

To ensure diversification, a Money Market sub-fund cannot invest more than a certain percentage of its assets in one issuer or single body. In this respect:

- 1. A Money Market sub-fund may invest no more than:
  - a) 5 % of its assets in money market instruments issued by the same body
  - b) 10 % of its assets in deposits (including ancillary liquid assets) made with the same credit institution.

## 2. By way of derogation from point 1.a):

- a) a Money Market sub-fund may invest up to 10 % of its assets in money market instruments, issued by the same body provided that the total value of such money market instruments, held by the sub-fund in each issuing body in which it invests more than 5 % of its assets does not exceed 40 % of the value of its assets;
- b) the CSSF may authorise a Money Market sub-fund to invest, in accordance with the principle of risk-spreading, up to 100 % of its assets in different money market instruments issued or guaranteed separately or jointly by a Sovereign Eligible Issuer provided that all of the following requirements are met:
  - the Money Market sub-fund holds money market instruments from at least six different issues by the issuer;
  - the Money Market sub-fund limits the investment in money market instruments from the same issue to a maximum of 30
    % of its assets.



- The aggregate risk exposure to the same counterparty of a Money Market sub-fund stemming from eligible OTC derivative transactions shall not exceed 5% of its assets;
- The aggregate amount of cash provided to the same counterparty of a Money Market sub-fund in reverse repurchase agreements shall not exceed 15% of its assets;
- 5. Notwithstanding the individual limits laid down in points 1.a) and 5, a Money Market sub-fund 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, issued by that body;
  - b) deposits made with that body;
  - c) OTC financial derivative instruments giving counterparty risk exposure to that body;
- 6. A Money Market sub-fund may:
  - a) acquire units or shares of short-term MMFs or other standard MMFs, provided that no more than 5 % of its assets are invested in units or shares of a single MMF;
  - b) in aggregate, invest no more than 10% of its assets in units or shares of other such MMFs;
- 7. Notwithstanding the individual limits laid down in point 1.a), a Money Market sub-fund 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.
  Where a Money Market sub-fund invests more than 5% of its assets in the bonds referred to in the paragraph above issued by a single issuer,
  - the total value of those investments shall not exceed 40% of the value of the assets of the sub-fund.

    Notwithstanding the individual limits laid down in point 1., a Money Market sub-fund 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 point 8. above.

  Where a sub-fund invests more than 5% of its assets in the bonds referred to in the paragraph above issued by a single issuer, the total value of those investments shall not exceed 60% of the value of the assets of the sub-fund, including any possible investment in assets referred to in point 8., respecting the limits set out therein.
- Companies which are included in the same group for the purposes of consolidated accounts under Directive 2013/34/EU 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 points
  1. to 6.
- 10. The maximum holding of ancillary liquid assets by a Money Market sub-fund is limited to 20% of its assets.

### **PORTFOLIO RULES**

The maximum WAM (interest rate risk) of the Money Market sub-funds of the Company will be 6 months.

The maximum WAL (credit risk) will be 12 months. This will be calculated on the basis of the legal maturity unless the sub-fund holds a put option. A Money Market sub-fund will only hold securities that, at the time of acquisition by the sub-fund, have an initial or residual maturity of up to 2 years, taking into account the related financial instruments or the applicable terms and conditions. The time to next reset of these securities will not exceed 397 days.

At least 7.5 % of the assets of the sub-fund are to be comprised of daily maturing assets, reverse repurchase agreements 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.

At least 15 % of its assets are to be comprised of weekly maturing assets, reverse repurchase agreements 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. Longer dated money market instruments or units or shares of other MMFs may be included within the weekly maturing assets up to a limit of 7.5 % of the sub-fund assets provided they are able to be redeemed and settled within five working days.

## LIMIT TO PREVENT CONCENTRATION OF OWNERSHIP

- 1. A Money Market sub-fund shall not hold more than 10% of the money market instruments issued by a single body.
- 2. This limit does not apply in respect of holdings of money market instruments issued or guaranteed by a Sovereign Eligible Issuer.



## APPENDIX 2 - TECHNIQUES, FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS, AND INVESTMENT POLICIES

### **I. GENERAL RULES**

# FINANCIAL DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS

#### 1. General Information

Without prejudice to any stipulations for one or more particular sub-funds, the Company is authorised, for each sub-fund and in conformity with the conditions set out below, to use financial derivative instruments for hedging, efficient portfolio management or trading (investment) purposes, in accordance with point 6 of Eligible Assets in Appendix 1 of the Prospectus (the "Appendix 1").

Each sub-fund may, in the context of its investment policy and within the limits defined in Appendix 1, invest in financial derivative instruments provided that the total risk to which the underlying assets are exposed does not exceed the investment limits stipulated in Diversification Rules of Appendix 1. When a sub-fund invests in financial derivative instruments based on an **index**, these investments are not necessarily combined with the Diversification Rules .

When a transferable security or a money market instrument comprises a derivative instrument, the derivative instrument must be taken into account for the application of the present provisions.

## Calculation of counterparty risk linked to OTC derivative instruments

In conformity with the Diversification Rules, the counterparty risk linked to OTC derivatives and efficient portfolio management techniques concluded by a sub-fund may not exceed 10% of its assets when the counterparty is a credit institution cited in point 5 of Eligible Assets in Appendix 1, or 5% of its assets in other cases.

The counterparty risk linked to OTC financial derivatives shall be based, as the positive mark to market value of the contract.

#### Valuation of OTC derivatives

The Management Company will establish, document, implement and maintain arrangements and procedures which ensure appropriate, transparent and fair valuation of OTC derivatives.

### **Efficient Portfolio Management techniques**

A sub-fund can use financial derivative instruments and Securities Financing Transactions for efficient portfolio management purpose provided that:

- (a) They are economically appropriate in that they are realised in a cost-effective way;
- (b) They are entered into for one or more of the following specific aims:
  - (i) reduction of risk;
  - (ii) reduction of cost;
  - (iii) generation of additional capital or income for a sub-fund with a level of risk which is consistent with the risk profile of the sub-fund and the Diversification Rules;
- (c) Their risks are adequately captured by the risk management process of the sub-fund.

Efficient portfolio management shall not:

- a) result in a change of the investment objective of the concerned sub-fund; or
- b) add substantial additional risks in comparison to the original risk policy of the sub-fund.

Direct and indirect operational costs/fees arising from efficient portfolio management techniques may be deducted from the revenue delivered to the concerned sub-funds. These costs and fees will not include hidden revenues.

The following information is disclosed in the annual report of the Company:

- a) the exposure of each sub-fund obtained through efficient portfolio management techniques;
- b) the identity of the counterparty(ies) to these efficient portfolio management techniques;
- c) the type and amount of collateral received by the sub-funds to reduce counterparty exposure; and
- d) the revenues arising from efficient portfolio management techniques for the entire reporting period together with the direct and indirect operational costs and fees incurred.

## 2. Types of Financial Derivative Instruments

In compliance with its investment policy as detailed in Book II, a sub-fund may use a range of core derivatives and/or additional derivatives as described below.

## 2.1. Core Derivatives

A sub-fund may use a range of core derivatives such as:

- (i) Foreign exchange swaps;
- (ii) Forwards, such as foreign exchange contracts;
- (iii) Interest Rate Swaps IRS;
- (iv) Financial Futures (on equities, interest rates, indices, bonds, currencies, commodity indices, or volatility indices);
- (v) Options (on equities, interest rates, indices, bonds, currencies, or commodity indices).

## 2.2. Additional Derivatives

A sub-fund may use a range of additional derivatives such as:

- (i) Credit Default Swap CDS (on Bonds, indices...), in order to express views on changes in perceived or actual creditworthiness of borrowers including companies, agencies, and governments, and the hedging of those risks;
- (ii) Total Return Swaps TRS (as defined in point 5 below);
- (iii) All other Swaps: Equity Basket Swaps, Commodity Index Swaps, variance and volatility swaps, inflation swaps;



- (iv) Equity Linked Notes ELN;
- (v) Contract For Difference CFD;
- (vi) Warrants;
- (vii) Swaptions;
- (viii) structured financial derivatives, such as credit-linked and equity-linked securities;
- (ix) To-be-announced (TBA).

## 3. Usage of Financial Derivative Instruments

A sub-fund may have recourse to derivatives as described below:

### 3.1. Hedging

Hedging aims at reducing such as but not limited to the credit risks, currency risks, market risks, interest rate (duration) risks, Inflation risks. Hedging occurs at a portfolio level or, in respect of currency, at share class level.

# 3.2. Efficient Portfolio Management (EPM)

Efficient portfolio management aims at using derivatives instead of a direct investment when derivatives are a cost effective way, the quickest way or the only authorized way to get exposure to particular market a particular security or an acceptable proxy to perform any ex-post exposure adjustment to a particular markets, sectors or currencies, managing duration, yield curve exposure or credit spread volatility in order to reach the investment objective of the sub-fund.

### 3.3. Investment

Investment purpose aims at using derivatives such as but not limited to enhance returns for the sub-fund, gaining on a particular markets, sectors or currencies and/or implementing investment strategies that can only be achieved through derivatives, such as a "long-short" strategy.

The table below sets out the main types of derivatives used for each sub-fund and what they are used for:

	Structural				Additional			tional Derivatives			Purpo	erivatives	
Sub-funds	use of derivative	VaR	Core	TRS	CDS	Other Swaps	Swaption	Warrant	CFD	others	hedging	EPM	investment
Aqua	No	No	Х								Х	Х	
Asia High Yield Bond	No	No	X		Х						Х	Χ	
Asia Tech Innovators	No	No	Х					Х			Х	Χ	
Belgium Equity	No	No	Х								Х	Х	
Brazil Equity	No	No	Х								Х	Χ	
China A-Shares	No	No	Х					Х			Х	Х	
China Equity	No	No	Х					Х			Х	Х	
Climate Impact	No	No	Х								Х	Х	
Consumer Innovators	No	No	Х								Х	Χ	
Disruptive Technology	No	No	Х								Х	Х	
Ecosystem Restoration	No	No	Х	Х		Х		Х			Х	Х	
Emerging Bond	Yes	Yes	Х		Х						Х	Х	
Emerging Bond Opportunities	No	No	Х	Х	Х	Х					Х	Х	
Emerging Markets Climate Solutions	No	No	Х			Х		Х			Х	Х	
Emerging Equity	No	No	Х								Х	Х	
Energy Transition	No	No	Х	Х		Х		Х			Х	Х	
Enhanced Bond 6M	No	No	Х		Х						Х	Х	
Environmental Absolute Return Thematic Equity (EARTH)	Yes	Yes	Х	Х		Х		Х	Х	ELN	Х	Х	Х
Euro Bond	No	No	Х								Х	Х	
Euro Bond Opportunities	Yes	Yes	Х	Х	Х	х	Х	Х		TBA	Х	Х	Х
Euro Corporate Bond	No	No	Х	Х	Х						Х	Х	Х
Euro Corporate Bond Opportunities	No	No	X		Х			Х			X	Х	
Euro Corporate Green Bond	No	No	Х	Х	Х						Х	Х	
Euro Defensive Equity	Yes	Yes	Х								Х	Х	
Euro Equity	No	No	Х								Х	Х	
Euro Flexible Bond	Yes	Yes	Х		Х	Х					Х	Х	Х
Euro Government Bond	No	No	Х								Х	Х	
Euro Government Green Bond	No	No	Х								X	Х	Х
Euro High Yield Bond	Yes	Yes	X	Х	Х						X	Х	
Euro High Yield Short Duration Bond	No	No	Х		Х						Х	Х	
Euro Inflation-Linked Bond	No	No	Х		Х	Х					Х	Х	
Euro Medium Term Bond	No	No	Х								Х	Х	
Euro Money Market	No	No	X								X		
Euro Short Term Corporate Bond Opportunities	Yes	Yes	X		Х						X	Х	Х
Europe Convertible	Yes	Yes	X					Х	Х		X	X	
Europe Equity	No	No	X						<u> </u>		X	X	
Europe Growth	No	No	X								X	X	
Europe High Conviction Bond	No	No	X		Х	Х					X	X	
Europe Real Estate Securities	No	No	X		_^	_^_					X	X	
Europe Small Cap	No	No	X					X			X	X	
Europe Small Cap Convertible	Yes	Yes	X					X			X	X	
Flexible Global Credit	Yes	Yes	X		X			_^			X	X	Х
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	Structural				Additional Derivatives					Purpose of derivatives			
Sub-funds	use of	VaR	Core	TRS	CDS	Other			CFD	othoro			
	derivative			IKS	CDS	Swaps	Swaption	Warrant	CFD	others	hedging	EPM	investment
Global Absolute Return Multi-Factor Bond	Yes	Yes	Х								Х	Х	Х
Global Bond Opportunities	Yes	Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		TBA	Х	Х	Х
Global Climate Solutions	No	No	Х			Х		Х			Х	Х	
Global Convertible	Yes	Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х	Х		Х	Х	<b></b>
Global Enhanced Bond 36M	Yes	Yes	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х	Х		TBA	Х	Х	Х
Global Environment	No	No	Х								Х	Х	ļ
Global High Yield Bond	No	No	Х		Х						Х	Χ	ļ
Global Inflation-Linked Bond	Yes	Yes	Х			Х					Х	Х	
Global Net Zero Transition Equity	No	No	Х								Х	Х	
Green Bond	No	No	Х								Х	Х	
Green Tigers	No	No	Х								Х	Χ	
Health Care Innovators	No	No	Х								Х	Χ	
Inclusive Growth	No	No	Х								Х	Χ	
India Equity	No	No	Х								Х	Х	I
Japan Equity	No	No	Х								Х	Χ	
Japan Small Cap	No	No	Х								Х	X	
Latin America Equity	No	No	Х								Х	Χ	
Local Emerging Bond	No	No	Х	Х	Х	Х					Х	Х	_
Multi-Asset Opportunities	No	No	Х	Х	Х	Х		Х		TBA	Х	Х	
Multi-Asset Thematic	Yes	No	Х	Х	Х	Х					Х	Х	
Nordic Small Cap	No	No	Х								Х		
RMB Bond	No	No	Х								Х	Х	
Russia Equity	No	No	Х								Х		
Seasons	Yes	No	Х	Х							Х	Х	Х
SMaRT Food	No	No	Х								Х		
Social Bond	No	No	Х		Х						Х	Х	
Sustainable Asian Cities Bond	No	No	Х		Х	Х					Х	Х	
Sustainable Asia ex-Japan Equity	No	No	Х								Х	Х	
Sustainable Enhanced Bond 12M	No	No	Х		Х					CLN	Х	Х	
Sustainable Euro Bond	No	No	Х								Х	Х	
Sustainable Euro Corporate Bond	No	No	Х		Х						Х	Х	
Sustainable Euro Low Vol Equity	No	No	Х									Х	
Sustainable Euro Multi-Factor Corporate Bond	Yes	Yes	Х		Х						Х	Х	
Sustainable Euro Multi-Factor Equity	No	No	Х								X	Х	
Sustainable Europe Dividend	No	No	Х					Х			Х	Х	
Sustainable Europe Multi-Factor Equity	No	No	Х								X	X	
Sustainable Europe Value	No	No	X								X	X	
Sustainable Global Corporate Bond	No	No	X		Х						X	X	
Sustainable Global Equity	No	No	X								X	^	
Sustainable Global Low Vol Equity	No	No	X								X		
Sustainable Global Multi-Factor Corporate Bond	Yes	Yes	X		Х						X	Х	
Sustainable Global Multi-Factor Equity	No	No	X								X	X	
Sustainable Global Multi-Factor High Yield Bond	Yes	Yes	X		Х						X	X	
Sustainable Japan Multi-Factor Equity	No No	No	X		<u> </u>						X	X	
Sustainable Multi-Asset Balanced	No	No	X								X	X	
Sustainable Multi-Asset Balanced Sustainable Multi-Asset Flexible	Yes	No	X	Х	Х				<b>-</b>		X	X	X
Sustainable Multi-Asset Flexible Sustainable Multi-Asset Growth	No Yes	No	X	<del>  ^</del>							X	X	
Sustainable Multi-Asset Stability	No	No	X		V						X	X	
Sustainable US Multi-Factor Corporate Bond	Yes	Yes No	X		Х				<u> </u>		X	X	
Sustainable US Multi-Factor Equity	No		X								X		
Sustainable US Value Multi-Factor Equity	No	No	X	V						-	X	X	
Target Risk Balanced	No	No	X	Х		Х			<u> </u>		X	X	
Turkey Equity	No	No	X								X	X	
US Growth	No	No	X								X	X	
US High Yield Bond	No	No	X		Х						X	X	
US Mid Cap	No	No	X								X	X	
USD Short Duration Bond	No	No	X								X	X	
US Small Cap	No	No	X					Х			X	Х	-
USD Money Market	No	No	Χ								Х		l

# 4. Global Exposure

# Determination of the global exposure

According to the Circular 11/512, the Management Company must calculate the sub-fund's global exposure at least **once a day**. The limits on global exposure must be complied with on an ongoing basis.

It is the responsibility of the Management Company to select an appropriate methodology to calculate the global exposure. More specifically, the selection should be based on the self-assessment by the Management Company of the sub-fund's risk profile resulting from its investment policy (including its use of financial derivative instruments).



Risk measurement methodology according to the sub-fund's risk profile

The sub-funds are classified after a self-assessment of their risk profile resulting from their investments policy including their inherent derivative investment strategy that determines two risk measurements methodologies:

- The advanced risk measurement methodology such as the Value-at-Risk (VaR) approach to calculate global exposure where:
  - (a) The sub-fund engages in complex investment strategies which represent more than a negligible part of the sub-funds' investment policy;
  - (b) The sub-fund has more than a negligible exposure to exotic financial derivative instruments; or
  - (c) The commitment approach doesn't adequately capture the market risk of the portfolio.

### The sub-fund(s) under VaR are listed in point 4.2.

- The commitment approach methodology to calculate the global exposure should be used in every other case.

## 4.1. Commitment approach methodology

- The commitment conversion methodology for **standard derivatives** is always the market value of the equivalent position in the underlying asset. This may be replaced by the notional value or the price of the futures contract where this is more conservative.
- For **non-standard derivatives**, an alternative approach may be used provided that the total amount of the financial derivative instruments represents a negligible portion of the sub-fund's portfolio;
- For structured sub-funds, the calculation method is described in the ESMA/2011/112 guidelines.

A financial derivative instrument is not taken into account when calculating the commitment if it meets both of the following conditions:

- (a) The combined holding by the sub-fund of a financial derivative instrument relating to a financial asset and cash which is invested in risk free assets is equivalent to holding a cash position in the given financial asset.
- (b) The financial derivative instrument is not considered to generate any incremental exposure and leverage or market risk.

The sub-fund's total commitment to financial derivative instruments, limited to 100 % of the portfolio's total net value, is quantified as the sum, as an absolute value, of the individual commitments, after possible netting and hedging arrangements.

### 4.2. VaR (Value at Risk) methodology

The global exposure is determined on a daily basis by calculating, the maximum potential loss at a given confidence level over a specific time period under normal market conditions.

Given the sub-fund's risk profile and investment strategy, the relative VaR approach or the absolute VaR approach can be used:

- In the **relative VaR approach**, a leverage free reference portfolio reflecting the investment strategy is defined and the sub-fund's VaR cannot be greater than twice the reference portfolio VaR.
- The **absolute VaR approach** concerns sub-funds investing in multi-asset classes and that do not define any investment target in relation to a benchmark but rather as an absolute return target; the level of the absolute VaR is strictly limited to 20%.

The VaR limits should always be set according to the defined risk profile.

To calculate VaR, the following parameters must be used: a 99% degree of confidence, a holding period of one month (20 days), an actual (historical) observation period for risk factors of at least 1 year (250 days)

The Management Company carries out a monthly **back testing** program and reports on a quarterly basis the excessive number of outlier to the senior management.

The Management Company calculates **stress tests** on a monthly basis in order to facilitate the management of risks associated with possible abnormal movements of the market.

The sub-funds using the VaR methodology, their reference portfolio and leverage levels are listed below.

The expected leverage is defined as the sum of the absolute value of the derivatives notionals (without any netting or hedging arrangement) divided by NAV (notionals methodology).

However, there are possibilities that sub-funds deviate from the expected level disclosed below and reach higher leverage levels during their life time.

Sub-funds	VaR approach	Reference Portfolio	Expected leverage
Emerging Bond	Relative	JPM EMBI Global Diversified	0.60
Environmental Absolute Return Thematic Equity (EARTH)	Absolute	-	2.50
Euro Bond Opportunities	Absolute		4.50
Euro Defensive Equity	Relative	MSCI EMU	1.00
Euro Flexible Bond	Absolute	-	3.00
Euro High Yield Bond	Relative	ICE BofAML BB-B European Currency Non-Financial High Yield Constrained	0.50
Euro Short Term Corporate Bond Opportunities	Absolute	-	2.00
Europe Convertible	Relative	Refinitiv Europe Hedged Convertible Bond (EUR)	1.00
Europe Small Cap Convertible	Relative	Refinitiv Europe Convertible Bond (EUR)	1.00
Flexible Global Credit	Absolute	-	4.00
Global Absolute Return Multi-Factor Bond	Absolute	-	4.00
Global Bond Opportunities	Absolute		6.00
Global Convertible	Relative	Refinitiv Global Focus Hedged Convertible Bond (USD)	1.50
Global Enhanced Bond 36M	Absolute	-	8.00
Global Inflation-Linked Bond	Relative	Bloomberg WLD Government Inflation Linked All Mat (EUR HD)	2.50
Sustainable Euro Multi-Factor Corporate Bond	Relative	ICE BofAML Euro Corporate Index	1.60
Sustainable Global Multi-Factor Corporate Bond	Relative	Bloomberg Global Aggregate Corporate Index USD Hedged	1.60



Sub-funds	VaR approach	Reference Portfolio	Expected leverage
Sustainable Global Multi-Factor High Yield Bond	Relative	ICE BofAML Global High Yield Constrained Index USD Hedged	1.40
Sustainable US Multi-Factor Corporate Bond	Relative	ICE BofAML US Corporate Index	1.60

### 4.3. Global Exposure for Feeder sub-funds:

The global exposure of a Feeder sub-fund will be calculated by combining its own exposure through financial derivative instruments, with either:

- a) the Master actual exposure through financial derivative instruments in proportion to the Feeder investment into the Master; or
- b) the Master potential maximal global exposure related to financial derivative instruments as defined by the Master' management rules, or Articles of Association in proportion to the Feeder investment into the Master.

#### 5. TRS

When a sub-fund enters into a TRS or invests in other financial derivative instruments with similar characteristics, its assets will also comply with the provisions of Appendix 1. The underlying exposures of the TRS or other financial derivative instruments with similar characteristics shall be taken into accounts to calculate the Diversification Rules laid down in Appendix 1.

When a sub-fund enters into TRS or invests in financial derivative instruments with similar characteristics, the underlying strategy and composition of the investment portfolio or index are described in Book II and the following information will be disclosed in the annual report of the Company:

- a) The identification of the counterparty(ies) of the transactions;
- b) The underlying exposure obtained through financial derivative instruments;
- c) The type and amount of collateral received by the sub-funds to reduce counterparty exposure.

The counterparty does not assume any discretion over the composition or management of the sub-funds' investment portfolio or over the underlying of the financial derivative instruments, and its approval is not required in relation to any sub-fund investment portfolio transaction.

## Policy on sharing of return generated by TRS

The return of the swap transaction, being the spread between the two legs of the transaction, is completely allocated to the sub-fund when positive, or completely charged to the sub-fund when negative. There are neither costs nor fees specific to the swap transaction charged to the sub-fund that would constitute revenue for the Management Company or another party.

# List of sub-funds using TRS

The sub-funds that may be use TRS, the conditions under which these TRS may be used, their purposes, as well as the expected and maximum proportion of assets that can be subject to them, are:

Cub funds	TRS/ NAV		Tune of TDC	Condition	Durmaga	
Sub-funds	Expected	Maximum	Type of TRS	Condition	Purposes	
Ecosystem Restoration	50%	75%	unfunded and funded	Permanent (1)	Hedging, EPM	
Emerging Bond Opportunities	2%	10%	unfunded and funded	Temporary (2)	Hedging, EPM	
Energy Transition	50%	75%	unfunded and funded	Permanent (1)	Hedging, EPM	
Environmental Absolute Return Thematic Equity (EARTH)	50%	75%	unfunded and funded	Permanent (1)	Hedging, EPM, investment	
Euro Bond Opportunities	7%	30%	unfunded and funded	Permanent (1)	Hedging, EPM, investment	
Euro Corporate Bond	10%	30%	unfunded	Temporary (2)	Hedging, EPM	
Euro Corporate Green Bond	0%	20%	unfunded	Temporary (2)	Hedging, EPM	
Euro High Yield Bond	8%	10%	unfunded	Permanent (1)	Hedging, EPM, investment	
Global Bond Opportunities	6%	30%	unfunded and funded	Permanent (1)	Hedging, EPM, investment	
Global Convertible	5%	20%	unfunded and funded	Temporary (2)	Hedging, EPM, investment	
Global Enhanced Bond 36M	20%	30%	unfunded and funded	Temporary (2)	Hedging, EPM, investment	
Local Emerging Bond	2%	10%	unfunded and funded	Temporary (2)	Hedging, EPM	
Multi-Asset Opportunities	25%	40%	unfunded and funded	Temporary (2)	Hedging, EPM	
Multi-Asset Thematic	25%	40%	unfunded	Temporary (2)	Hedging, EPM	
Seasons	77%	80%	unfunded	Permanent (1)	Hedging, EPM, investment	
Sustainable Multi-Asset Flexible	10%	40%	unfunded	Temporary (2	Hedging, EPM, investment	
Target Risk Balanced	25%	40%	unfunded	Temporary (2)	Hedging, EPM	

- (1) Achievement of the investment objectives
- (2) Maintain cost efficient exposure in case of adverse market conditions (e.g. liquidity constraints, market turmoil's, etc.)

The expected proportion mentioned in the above table is defined as the sum of the absolute values of TRS nominals (with neither netting nor hedging arrangement) divided by the NAV. It is not a limit and the actual percentage may vary over time depending on factors including, but not limited to, market conditions. A higher level reflected by the maximum could be reached during the life of the sub-fund and the Prospectus will be modified accordingly.

# **SECURITIES FINANCING TRANSACTIONS ("SFT")**

In accordance with the Regulation 2015/2365 and Circulars 08/356 and 14/592, the Company may enter in securities financing transaction for the purpose of generating additional income.



## List of sub-funds using SFT

The sub-funds that may use SFT, the expected and maximum proportion of assets that can be subject to them, provided that the proportions are indicative only, may vary over time depending on factors including, but not limited to, market conditions.

Market conditions may be either classified as being "normal market conditions" or "stressed market conditions". Under normal market conditions, where no adverse event impact the markets, the "expected" levels of SFT described in the above table will be used. Under stressed market conditions (such as, but not limited to, liquidity constraints, market turmoil...), up to the maximum level indicated in the above table may be used".

Sub-funds	Repurchase / Reverse Repurchase Transactions / NAV				
	Expected	Maximum			
Euro Bond Opportunities	5%	10%			
Euro High Yield Bond	5% <sup>(1)</sup>	10% <sup>(1)</sup>			
Euro Inflation-Linked Bond	10%(2)	15% <sup>(2)</sup>			
Global Bond Opportunities	5%	10%			
Global Inflation-Linked Bond	10% <sup>(2)</sup>	15% <sup>(2)</sup>			

- (1) Reverse Repurchase Transactions only
- (2) Repurchase Transactions only

# Policy on sharing of return generated by SFT

Unless otherwise provided below, the return of SFT, being the difference of market values between the two legs of the transactions, is completely allocated to the sub-fund when positive, or completely charged to the sub-fund when negative. There are neither costs nor fees specific to SFT charged to the sub-fund that would constitute an income for the Management Company or another party.

#### Conflict of Interest

When appointed SFT providers are members of BNP Paribas group, the Management Company, shall take care to avoid any resulting conflicts of interest (especially additional remuneration for the group) in order to ensure that the agreements are entered into at arm's length in the best interest of the concerned sub-funds.

### Repurchase transactions / Reverse Repurchase transactions

A Repurchase transaction consists of a forward transaction at the maturity of which the sub-fund has the obligation to repurchase the asset sold and the buyer (the counterparty) the obligation to return the asset received under the transaction.

A Reverse Repurchase transaction consists of a forward transaction at the maturity of which the seller (counterparty) has the obligation to repurchase the asset sold and the sub-fund the obligation to return the asset received under the transaction.

However, the involvement, on a temporary basis, of a sub-fund in such agreements is subject to the following rules:

- a) Each sub-fund may buy or sell securities with repurchase options only if the counterparties in these agreements are first-rank financial institutions specialising in this type of transaction; and
- b) During the lifetime of a reverse repurchase agreement, a sub-fund may not sell the securities forming the subject of the contract until the counterparty's repurchase option has been exercised or the reverse repurchase term has expired.

In addition, each sub-fund must ensure that the value of the reverse repurchase transaction is at a level that the sub-fund is capable at all times to meet its redemption obligation towards shareholders.

Eligible securities for reverse repurchase transaction:

- a) Short-term bank certificates;
- b) Money market instruments;
- c) Bonds issued or guaranteed by a member of state of the OECD or by their local authorities or by supranational institutions and undertakings of a community, regional or worldwide nature;
- d) Money market UCIs (daily calculation and S&P AAA rated or equivalent);
- e) Bonds issued by non-governmental issuers offering an adequate liquidity;
- f) Shares listed or dealt on a regulated market of the EU or on a stock exchange of a member state of the OECD, provided that they are included in a main index.

## Limits for reverse repurchase transactions

The securities which are the subject of reverse repurchase transactions must be compliant with the investment policy of the Company and must together with the other securities which the Company holds in its portfolio, globally comply with the investment restrictions of the Company.

A sub-fund that enters into a reverse repurchase agreement will ensure that:

- At any time the sub-fund may recall the full amount of cash or 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 of the sub-fund.
- At any time the sub-fund may recall any securities subject to the repurchase agreement or terminate the repurchase agreement into which it has entered.
- Fixed-term repurchase and 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 sub-fund.

# Limits for repurchase transactions

The assets received must be considered as collateral.



#### Securities Lending

The Company will not enter into securities lending transactions.

### MANAGEMENT OF COLLATERAL IN RESPECT OF OTC DERIVATIVES AND SFT

Assets received from counterparties in respect of Financial Derivative Instruments and Securities Financial Transactions other than currency forwards constitute collateral in accordance with the Regulation 2015/2365 and Circular 14/592.

All collateral used to reduce counterparty risk exposure will comply with the following criteria at all times:

#### Liauidity

Any collateral received other than cash will be highly liquid and dealt in on a regulated market or multilateral trading facility with transparent pricing in order to be sold quickly at a price that is close to pre-sale valuation. Collateral received will also comply with the Limit To Prevent Concentration of Ownership of Appendix 1.

#### Valuation

Collateral received will be valued on at least a daily basis, according to mark-to-market, and assets that exhibit high price volatility will not be accepted as collateral unless suitably conservative haircuts are in place, dependant on the issuer's credit quality and the maturity of the received securities.

#### Risks

Risks linked to the management of collateral, such as operational and legal risks, will be identified, managed and mitigated by the risk management process.

### Safe-keeping (also for securities subject to TRS and SFT)

Where there is a title transfer, the collateral received will be held by the Depositary. For other types of collateral arrangement, the collateral can be held by a third party depositary which is subject to prudential supervision, and which is unrelated to the provider of the collateral.

#### Enforcement

Collateral received will be capable of being fully enforced at any time without reference to or approval from the counterparty. The Company must ensure that it is able to claim its right on the collateral in case of the occurrence of any event requiring the execution thereof. Therefore the collateral must be available at all time either directly or through the intermediary of the counterparty, in such a manner that the Company is able to appropriate or realise the securities given as collateral without delay if the counterparty fails to comply with its obligation to return the securities.

## Collateral diversification (asset concentration)

Collateral should be sufficiently diversified in terms of country, markets and issuers. The criterion of sufficient diversification with respect to issuer concentration is considered to be respected if the sub-fund receives from a counterparty of efficient portfolio management and overthe-counter financial derivative transactions a basket of collateral with a maximum exposure to a given issuer of 20% of its net asset value. When a sub-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. By way of derogation, a sub-fund may be fully collateralised in different transferable securities and money market instruments issued or guaranteed by any European Union Member State, one or more of its local authorities, a third country part of the OECD, Brazil, People's Republic of China, India, Russia, Singapore and South Africa, or a public international body to which one or more European Union Member States belong. Such a sub-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 sub-fund' net asset value.

The collateral received by a sub-fund 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.

## Stress testing

For all the sub-funds receiving collateral for at least 30% of their assets, the Management Company will set up, in accordance with the Circular 14/592, an appropriate stress testing policy to ensure regular stress tests under normal and exceptional liquidity conditions to assess the liquidity risk attached to the collateral.

## Haircut policy

The Management Company will set up, in accordance with the Circular 14/592, a clear haircut policy adapted for each class of assets received as collateral

## Acceptable Collateral - Public regulatory grid

Asset Class	Minimum Rating accepted	Margin required / NAV	Cap by asset class / NAV	Cap by Issuer / NAV
Cash (EUR, USD, GBP or other Valuation Currency)		[100 - 110%]	100%	
Fixed Income				
Eligible OECD Government Bonds	BBB	[100 - 115%]	100%	20%
Eligible Supra & Agencies	AA-	[100 - 110%]	100%	20%
Other Eligible Countries Government Bonds	BBB	[100 - 115%]	100%	20%
Eligible OECD Corporate Bonds	A	[100 - 117%]	100%	20%
Eligible OECD Corporate Bonds	BBB	[100 - 140%]	[10% - 30%]	20%
Eligible OECD Convertible Bonds	A	[100 - 117%]	[10% - 30%]	20%
Eligible OECD Convertible Bonds	BBB	[100 - 140%]	[10% - 30%]	20%
Money Market Units (1)	UCITS IV	[100 - 110%]	100%	20%
CD's (eligible OECD and other eligible countries)	Α	[100 - 107%]	[10% - 30%]	20%



Eligible indices & Single equities linked	[100% - 140%]	100%	20%
Securitization (2)	[100% - 132%]	100%	20%

- (1) Only Money Markets funds managed by BNPP AM. Any other UCITS eligible only upon ad-hoc approval by BNPP AM Risk
- (2) Subject to conditions and ad-hoc approval by BNPP AM Risk

## Applicable limits

# (i) Limits applicable to non-cash collateral

In accordance with ESMA guidelines, non-cash collateral received by the Company should not be sold, re-invested or pledged.

Given the high quality of the acceptable collateral and the high quality nature of the selected counterparties, there is no maturity constraints applicable to the collateral received.

### (ii) Limits applicable to cash collateral

Cash collateral received should only be:

- placed on deposit with entities prescribed in Eligible Assets;
- invested in high-quality government bonds;
- used for the purpose of reverse repurchase transactions provided the transactions are with credit institutions subject to prudential supervision and the sub-fund is able to recall at any time the full amount of cash on accrued basis;
- invested in short-term money market funds as defined in Regulation 2017/1131.

The financial assets other than bank deposit and units of UCIs that the Company has acquired by reinvesting the cash collateral must not be issued by an entity affiliated to the counterparty;

The financial assets acquired via the reinvestment of the cash collateral must not be kept with the counterparty, except if it is legally segregated from the counterparty's assets;

The financial assets acquired via the reinvestment of the cash collateral may not be pledged unless the Company has sufficient liquidities to be able to return the received collateral in the form of cash.

Reinvested cash collateral limits applicable may lead to several risks such as currency exchange risk, counterparty risk, issuer risk, valuation and settlement risk, which can have an impact on the performance of the sub-fund concerned

Exposures arising from the reinvestment of collateral received by the Company shall be taken into account within the diversification limits applicable under the Appendix 1.

#### Criteria used to select Counterparties

The Company will enter into transactions with counterparties which the Management Company believes to be creditworthy. They may be related companies at BNP Paribas Group.

Counterparties will be selected by the Management Company with respect for the following criteria:

- leading financial institutions;
- sound financial situation;
- ability to offer a range of products and services corresponding to the requirements of the Management Company;
- ability to offer reactivity for operational and legal points;
- ability to offer competitive price; and
- quality of the execution.

Approved counterparties are required to have a minimum rating of investment grade for OTC derivative counterparties provided however that credit quality assessment of counterparties does not rely only on external credit ratings. Alternative quality parameters are considered such as internal credit analysis assessment and liquidity and maturity of collateral selected. While there are no predetermined legal status or geographical criteria applied in the selection of the counterparties, these elements are typically taken into account in the selection process. Furthermore counterparties should comply with prudential rules considered by the CSSF as equivalent to EU prudential rules. The selection counterparties do not assume any discretion over the composition or management of the sub-funds' investment portfolios or over the underlying of the financial derivative instruments, and their approval is not required in relation to any sub-fund investment portfolio transaction.

The Company' annual report contains details regarding:

- a) the list of appointed counterparties to efficient portfolio management techniques and OTC derivatives;
- b) the identity of the issuer where collateral received has exceeded 20% of the assets of a sub-fund;
- c) whether a sub-fund has been fully collateralised.

## II. SPECIFIC RULES FOR MONEY MARKET SUB-FUNDS

# MANAGEMENT OF COLLATERAL IN RESPECT OF OTC DERIVATIVES AND REVERSE REPURCHASE AGREEMENTS

Assets received from counterparties in respect of reverse repurchase agreements constitute collateral.

In addition to the provisions set out in point 5 of Appendix 1 – II SPECIFIC RULES FOR MONEY MARKET SUB-FUNDS, all collateral used to reduce counterparty risk exposure will comply with the following criteria at all times.

## Liquidity

Any collateral received other than cash will be highly liquid and dealt in on a regulated market or multilateral trading facility with transparent pricing in order to be sold quickly at a price that is close to pre-sale valuation. Collateral received will also comply with the provisions of the Appendix 1 and in accordance with the investment policy of the sub-fund.

## Valuation

Collateral received will be valued on at least a daily basis, according to mark-to-market, and assets that exhibit high price volatility will not be accepted as collateral unless suitably conservative haircuts are in place, dependant on the issuer's credit quality and the maturity of the received securities.

Risks



Risks linked to the management of collateral, such as operational and legal risks, will be identified, managed and mitigated by the risk management process.

## Safe-keeping

Where there is a title transfer, the collateral received will be held by the Depositary. For other types of collateral arrangement, the collateral can be held by a third party depositary which is subject to prudential supervision, and which is unrelated to the provider of the collateral.

#### Enforcement

Collateral received will be capable of being fully enforced at any time without reference to or approval from the counterparty. The Company must ensure that it is able to claim its right on the collateral in case of the occurrence of any event requiring the execution thereof. Therefore the collateral must be available at all time either directly or through the intermediary of the counterparty, in such a manner that the Company is able to appropriate or realise the securities given as collateral without delay if the counterparty fails to comply with its obligation to return the securities.

### Acceptable Collateral for Reverse Repurchase Agreements- Public regulatory grid

Acceptable collateral is under the form of:

- eligible money market instruments and liquid transferable securities or other money market instruments as described in Appendix 1 point 1 (Eligible assets) and point 5.5 (Reverse Repurchase agreements),
- eligible Government Bonds, as described in Article 17.7 of the Regulation 2017/1131;

and has received a favourable assessment pursuant to the Internal Credit Quality process, if applicable.

Asset Class	Minimum Rating accepted	Haircut required	Cap by asset class / NAV	Cap by Issuer / NAV
Cash (EUR, USD, GBP and other Valuation Currency)		[0 - 10%]	100%	
Eligible OECD Government Bonds	BBB	[0 - 15%]	100%	100%
Eligible Supra & Public debt collateral	AA-	[0 - 10%]	100%	100%
Other Eligible Countries Government Bonds	BBB	[0 - 15%]	100%	100%
Eligible OECD Corporate Bonds	Α	[0 - 17%]	100%	10%
CD's (eligible OECD and other eligible countries)	Α	[0 - 7%]	[10% - 30%]	10%

### STRESS TESTING

Each money market sub-fund shall have in place sound stress testing processes that are able to identify possible events or future changes in economic conditions which could have unfavourable effects on the sub-fund.

The Investment Manager shall:

- Assess possible impacts on the sub-fund generated by those events or changes
- Conduct regular stress testings for different possible scenarios
- Conduct stress test with a frequency determined by the Board of Directors but at least on a bi-annual basis.

Stress tests shall be

- Based on objective criteria
- Consider the effects of severe plausible scenarios

Stress tests shall take into consideration reference parameters that include the following factors:

- (a) Hypothetical changes in the level of liquidity of the assets held in the portfolio of the sub-fund;
- (b) Hypothetical changes in the level of credit risk of the assets held in the portfolio of the sub-fund, including credit events and rating events;
- (c) Hypothetical movements of the interest rates and exchange rates;
- (d) Hypothetical levels of redemption;
- (e) Hypothetical widening or narrowing of spreads among indices to which interest rates of portfolio securities are tied;
- (f) Hypothetical macro systemic shocks affecting the economy as a whole.

In case of vulnerability revealed by those tests, the Investment Manager shall draw up an extensive report and a proposed action plan. Where necessary, the Investment Manager shall immediately take action by:

- Strengthening the robustness of the sub-fund
- Reinforcing the liquidity of the sub-fund and/or the quality of the assets of the sub-fund

# COUNTERPARTIES

The Company will enter into transactions with counterparties which the Management Company believes to be creditworthy. They may be related companies at BNP Paribas Group. Counterparties will be selected by the Management Company with respect for the following criteria:

- Leading financial institutions;
- Sound financial situation;
- Ability to offer a range of products and services corresponding to the requirements of the Management Company;
- Ability to offer reactivity for operational and legal points;
- Ability to offer competitive price and the quality of the execution. Approved counterparties are required to have a minimum rating of investment grade for OTC derivative counterparties provided however that credit quality assessment of counterparties does not rely only on external credit ratings. Alternative quality parameters are considered such as internal credit analysis assessment and liquidity and maturity of collateral selected. While there are no predetermined legal status or geographical criteria applied in the selection of the counterparties, these elements are typically taken into account in the selection process. Furthermore counterparties will comply with prudential rules considered by the CSSF as equivalent to EU prudential rules. The selected counterparties do not assume any discretion over the composition or management of the sub-funds' investment portfolios or over the underlying of the financial derivative instruments, and their approval is not being required in relation to any sub-fund investment portfolio transaction.



The Company's annual report contains details regarding:

- a) The list of appointed counterparties to efficient portfolio management techniques and OTC derivatives will be disclosed in the periodical reports of the Company.
- b) The identity of the issuer where collateral received has exceeded 20% of the assets of a sub-fund;
- c) Whether a sub-fund has been fully collateralised.



## **APPENDIX 3 – INVESTMENT RISKS**

Investors must read the Prospectus carefully before investing in any of the sub-funds.

The value of the Shares will increase as the value of the securities owned by any sub-fund increases and will decrease as the value of the sub-fund's investments decreases. In this way, investors participate in any change in the value of the securities owned by the relevant sub-fund(s). In addition to the factors that affect the value of any particular security that a sub-fund owns, the value of the sub-fund's shares may also change with movements in the stock and bond markets as a whole. Investors are also warned that sub-fund performance may not be in line with the stated "Investment objective" and that the capital they invest (after subscription commissions have been deducted) may not be returned to them in full.

A sub-fund may own securities of different types, or from different asset classes (e.g. equities, bonds, money market instruments, financial derivative instruments) depending on the sub-fund's investment objective. Different investments have different types of investment risk. The sub-funds also have different kinds of risks, depending on the securities they hold. This "Investment Risks" section contains explanations of the various types of investment risks that may be applicable to the sub-funds. Please refer to the Book II of this Prospectus for details as to the principal risks applicable to each sub-fund. Investors should be aware that other risks may also be relevant to the sub-funds from time to time.

#### I. GENERAL RISKS

This section explains some of the risks that apply to all the sub-funds. It does not aim to be a complete explanation and other risks may also be relevant from time to time. In particular, the Company's performance may be affected by changes in market and/or economic and political conditions, and in legal, regulatory and tax requirements. No guarantee or representation is made that the investment program will be successful and there can be no assurance that the sub-fund(s)' investment objective(s) will be achieved. Also, past performance is no guide to future performance, and the value of investments may go down as well as up. Changes in rates of exchange between currencies may cause the value of a Fund's investments to diminish or increase.

The Company or any of its sub-funds may be exposed to risks that are outside of their control – for example legal and regulatory risks from investments in countries with unclear and changing laws or the lack of established or effective avenues for legal redress or as a result of the registration of the sub-funds in non-EU jurisdictions, the sub-funds may be subject, without any notice to the shareholders in the sub-funds concerned, to more restrictive regulatory regimes potentially preventing the sub-funds from making the fullest possible use of the investment limits. Regulators and self-regulatory organizations and exchanges are authorized 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. The sub-funds may be exposed to the risk of terrorist actions, to 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. Investors are reminded that in certain circumstances their right to redeem Shares may be suspended as further described in the Book I.

The Company or any of its Funds may be exposed to operational risks, being the risk that operational processes, including those related to the safekeeping of assets, valuation and transaction processing may fail, resulting in losses. Potential causes of failure may arise from human errors, physical and electronic system failures and other business execution risks as well as external events.

Unmanaged or unmitigated sustainability risks can impact the returns of financial products. For instance, should an environmental, social or governance event or condition occur, it could cause an actual or a potential material negative impact on the value of an investment. The occurrence of such event or condition may lead as well to the reshuffle of a sub-fund investment strategy, including the exclusion of securities of certain issuers

Specifically, the likely impact from sustainability risks can affect issuers via a range of mechanisms including: 1) lower revenue; 2) higher costs; 3) damage to, or impairment of, asset value; 4) higher cost of capital; and 5) fines or regulatory risks. Due to the nature of sustainability risks and specific topics such as climate change, the chance of sustainability risks impacting the returns of financial products is likely to increase over longer-term time horizons.

## II. SPECIFIC RISKS

## Alternative Investment Strategies Risks

Alternative investment strategies involve risks that depend on the type of investment strategy: investment risk (specific risk), model risk, portfolio construction risk, valuation risk (when OTC derivative), counterparty risk, credit risk, liquidity risk, leverage risk (risk that losses exceed the initial investment), financial derivative instruments short selling risk (cf. risks due to short selling via financial derivative instruments).

## Cash Collateral Reinvestment Risk

Cash received as collateral may be reinvested, in compliance with the diversification rules specified in the Art. 43 (e) of CSSF Circular 14/592 exclusively in eligible risk free assets. There is a risk that the value on return of the reinvested cash collateral may not be sufficient to cover the amount required to be repaid to the counterparty. In this circumstance, the sub-fund would be required to cover the shortfall.

## Collateral Management Risk

Collateral may be used to mitigate counterparty risk. There is a risk that the collateral taken, especially where it is in the form of securities, when realized does not raise sufficient cash to settle the counterparty's liability. This may be due to factors including inaccurate collateral pricing, adverse market movements in the value of collateral, a deterioration in the credit rating of the issuer of the collateral, or the illiquidity of the market in which the collateral is traded. Please also refer to "Liquidity Risk" below in respect of liquidity risk which may be particularly relevant when collateral takes the form of securities. Where a sub-fund is in turn required to post collateral with a counterparty, there is a risk that the value of the collateral placed is higher than the cash or investments received by the sub-fund. In either case, where there are delays or difficulties in recovering assets or cash, collateral posted with counterparties, or realising collateral received from counterparties, the sub-funds may face difficulties in meeting redemption or purchase requests or in meeting delivery or purchase obligations under other contracts.

## **Commodity Related Exposure Risk**

A sub-fund's exposure to investments in commodities related instruments presents unique risks. Investing in commodities related instruments, including trading in commodities indices and financial derivative instruments related to commodities, can be extremely volatile. Market prices of commodities may fluctuate rapidly based on numerous factors, including: changes in supply and demand relationships (whether actual, perceived, anticipated, unanticipated or unrealised), weather, agriculture, trade, domestic and foreign political and economic events and policies, diseases, pestilence, technological developments, monetary and other governmental policies.



### **Concentration Risk**

Some sub-funds may have an Investment Policy that invests a large portion of the assets in a limited number of issuers, industries, sectors or a limited geographical area. Being less diversified, such sub-funds may be more volatile than broadly diversified sub-funds and carry a greater risk of loss.

## **Contingent Convertible Risk**

Contingent convertible securities ("Cocos") are a form of hybrid debt security that are intended to either automatically convert into equity or have their principal written down upon the occurrence of certain "triggers" linked to regulatory capital thresholds or where the issuing banking institution's regulatory authorities considers this to be necessary. CoCos will have unique equity conversion or principal write-down features which are tailored to the issuing banking institution and its regulatory requirements. Some additional risks associated with CoCos are set forth below:

- Trigger level risk: Trigger levels differ and determine exposure to conversion risk depending on the capital structure of the issuer. The conversion triggers will be disclosed in the prospectus of each issuance. The trigger could be activated either through a material loss in capital as represented in the numerator or an increase in risk weighted assets as measured in the denominator.
- Capital structure inversion risk: Contrary to classic capital hierarchy, CoCos investors may suffer a loss of capital when equity holders do not, e.g. when a high trigger principal write-down CoCos is activated. These cuts against the normal order of capital structure hierarchy where equity holders are expected to suffer the first loss. This is less likely with a low trigger CoCos when equity holders will already have suffered loss. Moreover, high trigger CoCos may suffer losses not at the point of gone concern but conceivably in advance of lower trigger CoCos and equity.
- Liquidity and concentration risks: In normal market conditions CoCos comprise mainly realisable investments which can be readily sold. The structure of the instruments is innovative yet untested. In a stressed environment, when the underlying features of these instruments will be put to the test, it is uncertain how they will perform. In the event a single issuer activates a trigger or suspends coupons it is not known whether the market will view the issue as an idiosyncratic or systemic event. In the latter case, potential price contagion and volatility to the entire asset class is possible. Furthermore, in an illiquid market, price formation may be increasingly stressed. While diversified from an individual company perspective the nature of the universe means that the sub-fund may be concentrated in a specific industry sector and the Net Asset Value of the sub-fund may be more volatile as a result of this concentration of holdings relative to a sub-fund which diversifies across a larger number of sectors.
- Valuation risk: The attractive return on this type of instrument may not be the only criterion guiding the valuation and the investment decision.
   It should be viewed as a complexity and risk premium, investors have to fully consider the underlying risks.
- Call extension risk: as CoCos can be issued as perpetual instruments, investors may not be able to recover their capital if expected on call date or indeed at any date.
- Risk of coupon cancellation: with certain types of CoCo Bonds, the payment of coupons is discretionary and may be cancelled by the issuer at any time and for an indeterminate period.

#### Counterparty Risk

Counterparty risk is the risk to each party of a contract that the counterparty will fail to perform its contractual obligations and/or to respect its commitments under the term of such contract, whether due to insolvency, bankruptcy or other cause. When over-the-counter (OTC) or other bilateral contracts are entered into (inter alia OTC derivatives, repurchase agreements, security lending, etc.), the Company may find itself exposed to risks arising from the solvency of its counterparties and from their inability to respect the conditions of these contracts. If counterparty does not live up to its contractual obligations, it may affect investor returns.

## Credit Risk

Credit risk, a fundamental risk relating to all fixed income securities as well as Money Market Instruments, is the risk that an issuer will fail to make principal and interest payments when due. Issuers with higher credit risk typically offer higher yields for this added risk. Conversely, issuers with lower credit risk typically offer lower yields. Generally, government securities are considered to be the safest in terms of credit risk, while corporate debt, especially those with poorer credit ratings, have the highest credit risk. Changes in the financial condition of an issuer, changes in economic and political conditions specific to an issuer (particularly a sovereign or supranational issuer), are all factors that may have an adverse impact on an issuer's credit quality and security values. Related to credit risk is the risk of downgrade by a rating agency. Rating agencies such as Standard & Poor's, Moody's and Fitch, among others, provide ratings for a wide array of fixed income securities (corporate, sovereign, or supranational) which are based on their creditworthiness. The agencies may change their ratings from time due to financial, economic, political, or other factors, which, if the change represents a downgrade, can adversely impact the value of the affected securities.

## **Currency Exchange Risk**

This risk is present in each sub-fund having positions denominated in currencies that differ from its Accounting Currency. If the currency in which a security is denominated appreciates in relation to the Accounting Currency of the sub-fund, the exchange value of the security in the Accounting Currency will appreciate; conversely, a depreciation of the denomination currency will lead to a depreciation in the exchange value of the security. When the manager is willing to hedge the currency exchange risk of a transaction, there is no guarantee that such operation will be completely effective.

## **Custody Risk**

Assets of the Company are safe kept by the Custodian and Investors are exposed to the risk of the custodian not being able to fully meet its obligation to restitute in a short timeframe all of the assets of the Company in the case of bankruptcy of the Custodian. The assets of the Company will be identified in the Custodian's books as belonging to the Company. Securities and debt obligations held by the Custodian will be segregated from other assets of the Custodian which mitigates but does not exclude the risk of non-restitution in case of bankruptcy. However, no such segregation applies to cash which increases the risk of non-restitution in case of bankruptcy. The Custodian does not keep all the assets of the Company itself but uses a network of Sub-Custodians which are not part of the same group of companies as the Custodian. Investors are also exposed to the risk of bankruptcy of the Sub-Custodians. A sub-fund may invest in markets where custodial and/or settlement systems are not fully developed.



## **Derivatives Risk**

The Company may use various derivative instruments to reduce risks or costs or to generate additional capital or income in order to meet the investment objectives of a sub-fund. Certain sub-funds may also use derivatives extensively and/or for more complex strategies as further described in their respective investment objectives. While the prudent use of derivatives can be beneficial, derivatives also involve risks different from, and, in certain cases, greater than, the risks associated with more traditional investments. The use of derivatives may give rise to a form of leverage, which may cause the Net Asset Value of these sub-funds to be more volatile and/or change by greater amounts than if they had not been leveraged, since leverage tends to exaggerate the effect of any increase or decrease in the value of the respective sub-funds' portfolio securities. Before investing in Shares, investors must ensure to understand that their investments may be subject to the following risk factors relating to the use of derivative instruments:

- Market risk: Where the value of the underlying asset of a derivative instrument changes, the value of the instrument will become positive or negative, depending on the performance of the underlying asset. For non-option derivatives the absolute size of the fluctuation in value of a derivative will be very similar to the fluctuation in value of the underlying security or reference index. In the case of options, the absolute change in value of an option will not necessarily be similar to the change in value of the underlying because, as explained further below, changes in options values are dependent on a number of other variables.
- Liquidity risk: If a derivative transaction is particularly large or if the relevant market is illiquid, it may not be possible to initiate a transaction or liquidate a position at an advantageous price.
- Counterparty risk: When OTC derivative contracts are entered into, the sub-funds may be exposed to risks arising from the solvency and liquidity of its counterparts and from their ability to respect the conditions of these contracts. The sub-funds may enter into forwards, options and swap contracts, or use other derivative techniques, each of which involves the risk that the counterpart will fail to respect its commitments under the terms of each contract. In order to mitigate the risk, the Company will ensure that the trading of bilateral OTC derivative instruments is conducted on the basis of strict selection and review criteria.
- Settlement risk: Settlement risk exists when a derivative instrument is not settled in a timely manner, thereby increasing counterparty risk prior to settlement and potentially incurring funding costs that would otherwise not be experienced. Should the settlement never occur the loss incurred by the sub-fund will correspond to the difference in value between the original and the replacement contracts. If the original transaction is not replaced, the loss incurred by the sub-fund will be equal to the value of the contract at the time it becomes void.
- Other risks: Other risks in using derivative instruments include the risk of mispricing or improper valuation. Some derivative instruments, in particular OTC derivative instruments, do not have prices observable on an exchange and so involve the use of formulae, with prices of underlying securities or reference indices obtained from other sources of market price data. OTC options involve the use of models, with assumptions, which increases the risk of pricing errors. Improper valuations could result in increased cash payment requirements to counterparties or a loss of value to the sub-funds. Derivative instruments do not always perfectly or even highly correlate or track the value of the assets, rates or Indices they are designed to track. Consequently, the sub-funds' use of derivative instruments may not always be an effective means of, and sometimes could be counterproductive to, furthering the sub-funds' investment objective. In adverse situations, the sub-funds' use of derivative instruments may become ineffective and the sub-funds may suffer significant losses.

Total Return Swaps (TRS) represent a combined market and credit default derivative and their value will change as a result of fluctuations in interest rates as well as credit events and credit outlook. A TRS involves that receiving the total return is similar in risk profile to actually owning the underlying reference security(ies). Furthermore, these transactions may be less liquid than interest rate swaps as there is no standardisation of the underlying reference index and this may adversely affect the ability to close out a TRS position or the price at which such a close out is transacted. The swap contract is an agreement between two parties and therefore each party bears the other's counterparty risk and collateral is arranged to mitigate this risk. All the revenues arising from TRS will be returned to the relevant sub-fund.

## **Distressed Securities Risk**

Distressed securities may be defined as debt securities that are officially in restructuring or in payment default and whose rating (by at least one of the major rating agencies) is lower than CCC-. Investment in distressed securities may cause additional risks for a sub-fund. Such securities are regarded as predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and principal or maintain other terms of the offer documents over any long period of time. They are generally unsecured and may be subordinated to other outstanding securities and creditors of the issuer. Whilst such issues are likely to have some quality and protective characteristics, these are outweighed by large uncertainties or major risk exposure to adverse economic conditions. Therefore, a sub-fund may lose its entire investment, may be required to accept cash or securities with a value less than its original investment and/or may be required to accept payment over an extended period of time. Recovery of interest and principal may involve additional cost for the relevant sub-fund.

## **SFT Risks**

Efficient portfolio management techniques, such as repurchase and reverse repurchase transactions and securities lending, involve certain risks. Investors must notably be aware that:

- In the event of the failure of the counterparty with which cash of a sub-fund has been placed, there is the risk that collateral received may yield less than the cash placed out, whether because of inaccurate pricing of the collateral, adverse market movements, a deterioration in the credit rating of issuers of the collateral, or the illiquidity of the market in which the collateral is traded.
- Locking cash in transactions of excessive size or duration, delays in recovering cash placed out, or difficulty in realizing collateral may restrict the ability of the sub-fund to meet sale requests, security purchases or, more generally, reinvestment.
- Repurchase transactions will, as the case may be, further expose a sub-fund to risks similar to those associated with financial derivative instruments, which risks are described above.
- In a reverse repurchase transaction, a sub-fund could incur a loss if the value of the purchased securities has decreased in value relative to the value of the cash or margin held by the relevant sub-fund.

## **Emerging Markets Risk**

A sub-fund may invest in less developed or emerging markets. These markets may be volatile and illiquid and the investments of the sub-fund in such markets may be considered speculative and subject to significant delays in settlement. Practices in relation to settlement of securities transactions in emerging markets involve higher risks than those in developed markets, in part because the sub-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 sub-fund is unable to acquire or dispose of a security. The risk of significant fluctuations in the net asset value and of the suspension of redemptions in those sub-funds may be higher than for sub-funds investing in major world markets. In addition, there may be a higher than usual risk of political, economic, social and religious instability and adverse changes in government regulations and laws in emerging markets and assets could be compulsorily acquired without adequate compensation. The assets of a sub-fund investing in such markets, as well as the income derived from the sub-fund, may also be affected unfavourably by fluctuations in currency rates



and exchange control and tax regulations and consequently the net asset value of Shares of that sub-fund may be subject to significant volatility. Some of these markets may not be subject to accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards and practices comparable to those of more developed countries and the securities markets of such countries may be subject to unexpected closure.

#### Extra-financial criteria Investment Risk

An extra-financial approach may be implemented in a different way by management companies when setting investment management objectives for financial products, in particular in view of the absence of common or harmonized labels at European Level. This also means that it may be difficult to compare strategies integrating extra-financial criteria to the extent that the selection and weightings applied to select investments may be based on metrics that may share the same name but have different underlying meanings. In evaluating a security based on the extra-financial criteria, the Investment Manager may also use data sources provided by external extra-financial research providers. Given the evolving nature of the extra-financial field, these data sources may for the time being be incomplete, inaccurate, unavailable or updated. Applying responsible business conduct standards as well as extra-financial criteria in the investment process may lead to the exclusion of securities of certain issuers. Consequently, the sub-fund's financial performance may at times be better or worse than the performance of relatable funds that do not apply such standards. In addition, the proprietary methodologies used to take into account ESG non-financial criteria may be subject to reviews in the event of regulatory developments or updates that may lead, in accordance with the applicable regulations, to the increase or decrease of the classification of products, of the indicators used or of the minimum investment commitment levels set.

## **Equity Risk**

The risks associated with investments in equity (and similar instruments) include significant fluctuations in prices, negative information about the issuer or market and the subordination of a Company's shares to its bonds. Moreover, such fluctuations are often exacerbated in the short-term. The risk that one or more companies suffer a downturn or fail to grow can have a negative impact on the performance of the overall portfolio at a given time. There is no guarantee that investors will see an appreciation in value. The value of investments and the income they generate may go down as well as up and it is possible that investors will not recover their initial investment.

Some Funds may invest in initial public offerings ("IPOs"). IPO risk is the risk that the market values of IPO shares may experience high volatility from factors such as the absence of a prior public market, unseasoned trading, the limited number of shares available for trading and limited information about the issuer. Additionally, a sub-fund may hold IPO shares for a very short period of time, which may increase a sub-fund's expenses. Some investments in IPOs may have an immediate and significant impact on a sub-fund's performance.

sub-funds investing in growth stocks may be more volatile than the market in general and may react differently to economic, political and market developments and to specific information about the issuer. Growth stocks traditionally show higher volatility than other stocks, especially over short periods. These stocks may also be more expensive in relation to their profits than the market in general. Consequently, growth stocks may react with more volatility to variations in profit growth.

## **Hedge Share Class Contagion Risk**

Where a Hedged or Return Hedged share class is available in a sub-fund, the use of derivatives that are specific to this share-class may have an adverse impact on other share-classes of the same sub-fund. In particular, the use of a derivative overlay in a currency risk hedged share class introduces potential counterparty and operational risks for all investors in the sub-fund. This could lead to a risk of contagion to other share classes, some of which might not have any derivative overlay in place.

## **High Yield Bond Risk**

When investing in fixed income securities rated below investment grade, there is a higher risk that such the issuer is unable or unwilling to meet its obligations, therefore exposing the sub-fund to a loss corresponding to the amount invested in such security.

## Market Risk

Market risk is a general risk that affects all investments. Price for financial instruments are mainly determined by the financial markets and by the economic development of the issuers, who are themselves affected by the overall situation of the global economy and by the economic and political conditions prevailing in each relevant country.

## Legal Risk

There is a risk that agreements and derivatives techniques are terminated due, for instance, to bankruptcy, illegality, change in tax or accounting laws. In such circumstances, a sub-fund may be required to cover any losses incurred. Furthermore, certain transactions are entered into on the basis of complex legal documents. Such documents may be difficult to enforce or may be the subject to a dispute as to interpretation in certain circumstances. Whilst the rights and obligations of the parties to a legal document may be governed by Luxembourg law, in certain circumstances (insolvency proceedings) other legal systems may take priority which may affect the enforceability of existing transactions. The use of derivatives may also expose a sub-fund to 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.

## Liquidity Risk

Liquidity risk takes two forms: asset side liquidity risk and liability side liquidity risk. Asset side liquidity risk refers to the inability of a sub-fund to sell a security or position at its quoted price or market value due to such factors as a sudden change in the perceived value or credit worthiness of the position, or due to adverse market conditions generally. Liability side liquidity risk refers to the inability of a sub-fund to meet a redemption request, due to the inability of the sub-fund to sell securities or positions in order to raise sufficient cash to meet the redemption request. Markets where the sub-fund's securities are traded could also experience such adverse conditions as to cause exchanges to suspend trading activities. Reduced liquidity due to these factors may have an adverse impact on the Net Asset Value of the sub-fund and on the ability of the sub-fund to meet redemption requests in a timely manner.

# Real Estate Related Exposure Risk

Sub-funds may indirectly invest in the real estate sector via transferable securities and/or real estate funds. Real estate values rise and fall in response to a variety of factors, including local, regional and national economic conditions, interest rates and tax considerations. When economic growth is slow, demand for property decreases and prices may decline. Property values may decrease because of overbuilding, increases in property taxes and operating expenses, changes in zoning laws, environmental regulations or hazards, uninsured casualty or condemnation losses, or general decline in neighbourhood values.



### Risks Related to Investments in Some Countries

Investments in some countries (e.g. China, Greece, India, Indonesia, Japan, Saudi Arabia and Thailand) involve risks linked to restrictions imposed on foreign investors and counterparties, higher market volatility and lack of liquidity. Consequently, some shares may not be available to the subfund due to the number of foreign shareholders authorized or if the total investment permitted for foreign shareholders has been reached. In addition, the repatriation by foreign investors of their share, capital and/or dividends may be restricted or require the approval of the government. The Company will only invest if it considers that the restrictions are acceptable. However, no guarantee can be given that additional restrictions will not be imposed in future.

## **Securitised Products Risk**

Sub-Fund investing in securitised products, such as Mortgage-Backed Securities (MBS) and other Asset-Backed Securities (ABS), are exposed to the following risks:

- Interest rate risk: Prices may fall as interest rates rise due to fixed coupon rates.
- Prepayment risk: The risk that the mortgage holder (the borrower) will pay back the mortgage before its maturity date, which reduces the amount of interest the investor would have otherwise received. Prepayment, in this sense, is a payment in excess of the scheduled principal payment. This situation may arise if the current market interest rate falls below the interest rate of the mortgage, since the homeowner is more likely to refinance the mortgage. Unanticipated prepayments can change the value of some securitised products.
- Term structure risk: Monthly principal cash flows cause a laddered structure. The value of securities can be affected by a steepening or flattening of the yield curve.
- Credit risk: While the agency market has little or no credit risk, the non-agency market has varying levels of credit risk.
- Default risk and downgrading risk: It can be due to the borrower's failure to make timely interest and principal payments when due. Default may result from a borrower's failure to meet other obligations as well as the maintenance of collateral as specified in the Prospectus. An investor's indicator of a security's default can be its credit rating. Because of the credit enhancements required for Asset Backed Securities (ABS) by the rating agencies, the senior tranches are mostly rated triple-A, the highest rating available. The B, C and any lower tranches of an ABS issue are lower-rated or unrated and are designed to absorb any losses before the senior tranches. Prospective buyers of these classes of an issue must decide if the increased risk of default is balanced by the higher returns these classes pay.
- Liquidity risk: The market for privately (non Agency) issued MBS is smaller and less liquid than the market for Agency MBS. The Company
  will only invest in securitised products that the Investment Manager trusts to be liquid.
- Legal Risk: Non-mortgage related ABS may not have the benefit of any legal title on the underlying assets and recoveries on repossessed
  collateral may not, in some cases, be available to support payments on these securities.

#### More detailed risk warnings:

- About MBS and ABS: The yield characteristics of MBS and other ABS differ from traditional debt securities. A major difference is that the principal amount of the obligation generally may be prepaid at any time because the underlying assets generally may be prepaid at any time. As a result, if an ABS is purchased at a premium, a prepayment rate that is faster than expected will reduce the yield to maturity, while a prepayment rate that is slower than expected will have the opposite effect of increasing the yield to maturity. Conversely, if an ABS is purchased at a discount, faster than expected prepayments will increase the yield to maturity. Generally, pre-payments on fixed-rate mortgage loans will increase during a period of falling interest rates and decrease during a period of rising interest rates. MBS and ABS may also decrease in value as a result of increases in interest rates and, because of prepayments, may benefit less than other fixed income securities from declining interest rates. Reinvestment of prepayments may occur at lower interest rates than the original investment, thus adversely affecting a sub-fund's yield. Actual prepayment experience may cause the yield of ABS to differ from what was assumed when the Company purchased the security.
- About Collateralised Mortgage Obligation (MBO), Collateralised Bond Obligation (CBO), Collateralised Debt Obligation (CDO) and Collateralised Loan Obligation (CLO). Classes or tranches may be specially structured in a manner that provides any of a wide variety of investment characteristics, such as yield, effective maturity and interest rate sensitivity. As market conditions change, however, and especially during periods of rapid or unanticipated changes in market interest rates, the attractiveness of some CDO tranches and the ability of the structure to provide the anticipated investment characteristics may be significantly reduced. These changes can result in volatility in the market value, and in some instances reduced liquidity, of the CDO tranches. Certain tranches of CMOs are structured in a manner that makes them extremely sensitive to changes in prepayments rates. IO (Interest Only) and PO (Principal Only) tranches are examples of this. IO tranches are entitled to receive all or a portion of the interest, but none (or only a nominal amount) of the principal payments, from the underlying mortgage assets. If the mortgage assets underlying of an IO experience greater than anticipated principal prepayments, the total amount of interest payments allocable to the IO Class, and therefore the yield to investors, generally will be reduced. In some instances, an investor in an IO may fail to recover all of its initial investment, even when the securities are government guaranteed or considered to be of the highest quality (rated AAA or the equivalent). Conversely, PO Classes are entitled to receive all or a portion of the principal payments, but none of the interest, from the underlying mortgage assets. PO Classes are purchased at substantial discounts from par, and the yield to investors will be reduced if principal prepayments are slower than expected. Some IOs and POs, as well as other CMO tranches, are structured to have special protections against the effect of prepayments. However, these structural protections normally are effective only within certain ranges of prepayments rates and thus will not protect investors in all circumstances. Inverse floating rate CMO Classes also may be extremely volatile. These tranches pay interest at a rate that decreases when a specified index of market rates increases.

## Small Cap, Specialised or Restricted Sectors Risk

Sub-Funds investing in small caps or specialised or restricted sectors are likely to be subject to a higher than average volatility due to a high degree of concentration, greater uncertainty because less information is available, there is less liquidity, or due to greater sensitivity to changes in market conditions. Smaller companies may lack depth of management, be unable to generate funds necessary for growth or development, have limited product lines or be developing or marketing new products or services for which markets are not yet established and may never become established. Smaller companies may be particularly affected by interest rate increases, as they may find it more difficult to borrow money to continue or expand operations, or may have difficulty in repaying any loans which are floating-rate.

## Swing Pricing Risk

The actual cost of purchasing or selling the underlying investments of a sub-fund may be different from the carrying value of these investments in the sub-fund's valuation. The difference may arise due to dealing and other costs (such as taxes) and/or any spread between the buying and selling prices of the underlying investments. These dilution costs can have an adverse effect on the overall value of a sub-fund and thus the net asset value per share may be adjusted in order to avoid disadvantaging the value of investments for existing shareholders.



## **Tracking Error Risk**

The performance of the sub-fund may deviate from the actual performance of the underlying index due to factors including but not limited to liquidity of the index constituents, possible stock suspensions, trade band limits decided by the stock exchanges, changes in taxation of capital gains and dividends, discrepancies between the tax rates applied to the sub-fund and to the index on capital gains and dividends, limitations or restrictions on foreign investors ownership of shares imposed by the governments, fees and expenses, changes to the underlying index and operational inefficiencies. In addition, the sub-fund may not be able to invest in certain securities included in the underlying index or invest in them in the exact proportions they represent of the index due to legal restrictions imposed by the governments, a lack of liquidity on stock exchanges or other reasons. There could be other factors which can impact the Tracking Error.

#### Warrant Risk

Warrants are complex, volatile, high-risk instruments. One of the principal characteristics of warrants is the "leverage effect" whereby a change in the value of the underlying asset can have a disproportionate effect on the value of the warrant. There is no guarantee that, in the event of an illiquid market, it will be possible to sell the warrant on a secondary market.

## III. SPECIFIC RISKS RELATED TO INVESTMENTS IN MAINLAND CHINA

Certain sub-funds may invest in Chinese domestic securities market, i.e. China A-Shares, debt instruments traded on the China Interbank Bond market and other permitted domestic securities in accordance with the investment policies of the relevant sub-fund. Investing in the PRC ("People's Republic of China") carries a high degree of risk. Apart from the usual investment risks, investing in the PRC is also subject to certain other inherent risks and uncertainties.

### Government intervention and restriction risk:

The economy of China, which has been in a state of transition from a planned economy to a more market oriented economy, differs from the economies of most developed countries in many respects, including the level of government involvement, state of development, growth rate, control of foreign exchange and allocation of resources. Such interventions or restrictions by the PRC government may affect the trading of Chinese domestic securities and have an adverse effect of the relevant sub-funds,

The PRC government has in recent years implemented economic reform measures emphasising the utilisation of market forces in the development of the PRC's economy and a high level of management autonomy. However, there can 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 adjustment and modification of those economic policies may have an adverse impact on the securities markets in the PRC as well as on overseas companies which trade with or invest in the PRC.

Moreover, the PRC government may intervene in the economy, possible interventions include restrictions on investment in companies or industries deemed sensitive to relevant national interests. In addition, the PRC government may also intervene in the financial markets by, such as but not limited to, the imposition of trading restrictions or the suspension of short selling for certain stocks. Such interventions may induce a negative impact on the market sentiment which may in turn affect the performance of the sub-funds. Investment objective of the sub-funds may be failed to achieve as a result.

The PRC legal system may not have the level of consistency or predictability as in other countries with more developed legal systems. Due to such inconsistency and unpredictability, if the sub-funds were to be involved in any legal dispute in the PRC, it may experience difficulties in obtaining legal redress or in enforcing its legal rights. Thus, such inconsistency or future changes in legislation or the interpretation thereof may have adverse impact upon the investments and the performance of the sub-funds in the PRC.

## PRC Political, Economic and Social Risks:

The economy of the PRC has experienced significant growth in the past twenty years, but growth has been uneven both geographically and among various sectors of the economy. Economic growth has also been accompanied by periods of high inflation. The PRC government may from time to time adopt corrective measures to control inflation and restrain the rate of economic growth, which may also have an adverse impact on the capital growth and performance of the sub-funds. Further, political changes, social instability and adverse diplomatic developments in the PRC could result in the imposition of additional government restrictions including the expropriation of assets, confiscatory taxes or nationalisation of some or all of the investments held by the underlying securities in which the sub-funds may invest.

## Government control of cross-border currency conversion and future movements in exchange rates:

Currently, the RMB is traded in two different and separated markets, i.e. one in the Mainland China, and one outside the Mainland China (primarily in Hong Kong). The two RMB markets operate independently where the flow between them is highly restricted. Though the CNH is a proxy's of the CNY, they do not necessarily have the same exchange rate and their movement may not be in the same direction. This is because these currencies act in separate jurisdictions, which leads to separate supply and demand conditions for each, and therefore separate but related currency markets. While the RMB traded outside the Mainland China, the CNH, is subject to different regulatory requirements and is more freely tradable, the RMB traded in the Mainland China, the CNY, is not a freely convertible currency and is subject to foreign exchange control policies of and repatriation restrictions imposed by the central government of the Mainland China, that could possibly be amended from time to time, which will affect the ability of the sub-funds to repatriate monies. Investors should also note that such restrictions may limit the depth of the RMB market available outside of Mainland China. If such policies or restrictions change in the future, the position of the sub-funds or its Shareholders may be adversely affected. Generally speaking, the conversion of CNY into another currency for capital account transactions is subject to SAFE ("State Administration of Foreign Exchange") approvals. Such conversion rate is based on a managed floating exchange rate system which allows the value of CNY to fluctuate within a regulated band based on market supply and demand and by reference to a basket of currencies. Any divergence between CNH and CNY may adversely impact investors who intend to gain exposure to CNY through investments in a sub-fund.

## Accounting and Reporting Standards:

PRC companies which may issue RMB securities to be invested by the sub-funds are required to follow 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. As the disclosure and regulatory standards in China are less stringent than in more developed markets, there might be substantially less publicly available information about Chinese issuers. Therefore, less information may be available to the sub-funds and other investors. For example, there are differences in the valuation methods of properties and assets and in the requirements for disclosure of information to investors.



#### PRC Taxation Risk:

Investment in the sub-funds may involve risks due to uncertainty in tax laws and practices in the PRC. According to PRC tax laws, regulations and policies ("PRC Tax Rules"), a non-PRC tax resident enterprise (such as FIIs and certain eligible foreign institutional investors) without a permanent establishment or place in the PRC (such as FIIs) will generally be subject to withholding income tax of 10% on its PRC sourced income, subject to below elaboration:

### Capital gain

According to a tax circular issued by the Ministry of Finance of the PRC ("MoF"), SAT and CSRC dated 31 October 2014, capital gain derived from the transfer of PRC equity investment assets such as China A-Shares on or after 17 November 2014 is temporarily exempt from PRC income tax. However, capital gain realised by FIIs prior to 17 November 2014 is subject to PRC income tax in accordance with the provisions of the laws. The MoF, the SAT and the CSRC also issued joint circulars in 2014 and 2016 to clarify the taxation of the Stock Connect, in which capital gain realized from the transfer of China A-Shares via Stock Connect is temporarily exempt from PRC income tax.

Based on verbal comments from the PRC tax authorities, gains realized by foreign investors (including FIIs) from investment in PRC debt securities are non-PRC sourced income and thus should not be subject to PRC income tax. However, there are no written tax regulations issued by the PRC tax authorities to confirm that interpretation. As a matter of practice, the PRC tax authorities have not levied PRC income tax on capital gains realised by FIIs from the trading of debt securities, including those traded via CIBM.

#### Dividend

Under the current PRC Tax Rules, non-PRC tax resident enterprises are subject to PRC withholding income tax on cash dividends and bonus distributions from PRC enterprises. The general rate applicable is 10%, subject to reduction under an applicable double tax treaty and agreement by the PRC tax authorities.

#### Interest

Unless a specific exemption is applicable, non-PRC tax resident enterprises are subject to PRC withholding tax on the payment of interests on debt instruments issued by PRC tax resident enterprises, including bonds issued by enterprises established within the PRC. The general withholding tax rate applicable is 10%, subject to reduction under an applicable double tax treaty and agreement by the PRC tax authorities.

Interest derived from government bonds issued by the in-charge Finance Bureau of the State Council and/or local government bonds approved by the State Council is exempt from income tax under PRC Tax Rules.

According to a tax circular jointly issued by the Ministry of Finance of the PRC ("MoF") and the State Administration of Taxation of the PRC ("SAT") on 7 November 2018, foreign institutional investors are temporarily exempt from PRC income tax with respect to bond interest income derived in the PRC bond market for the period from 7 November 2018 to 6 November 2021. However, there is no guarantee that such temporary tax exemption will continue to apply, will not be repealed and imposed on a retrospective basis, or that no new tax regulations and practice in China specifically relating to the PRC bond market will not be promulgated in the future.

#### Value-added tax ("VAT")

VAT at 6% shall be levied on the difference between the selling and buying prices of those marketable securities starting from 1 May 2016. According to the latest PRC Tax Rules, the gains derived from trading of marketable securities (including A-shares and other PRC listed securities) are exempted from VAT. In addition, deposit interest income and interest received from government bonds and local government bonds are also exempt from VAT.

According to a tax circular, foreign institutional investors are temporarily exempt from VAT with respect to bond interest income derived in the PRC bond market for the period from 7 November 2018 to 6 November 2021. However, there is no guarantee that such temporary tax exemption will continue to apply, will not be repealed and imposed on a retrospective basis, or that no new tax regulations and practice in China specifically relating to the PRC bond market will not be promulgated in the future.

Dividend income or profit distributions on equity investment derived from PRC are not included in the taxable scope of VAT.

There are no specific PRC Tax Rules which govern the taxation of gains on the disposal of other investments, and the current practice of exemption may not be consistently applied to all such investments and is based on verbal comments and practice of the tax administration. The PRC Tax Rules may not be interpreted and applied as consistent and transparent as those of more developed countries and may vary from city to city and in some cases certain taxes which could be considered payable are not actively enforced for collection, nor is any mechanism provided for payment. Moreover, the existing PRC Tax Rules and practices may be changed or amended in the future, e.g.: the PRC government may abolish temporary tax incentives that are currently offered to foreign investors, and they may be changed with retrospective effect and could be applied along with penalties and / or late payment interest. Such new PRC Tax Rules may operate to the advantage or disadvantage of the investors.

Tax provisions could be made for the sub-funds. In light of the uncertainty and in order to meet the potential tax liability, the Company reserves the right to adjust such provision as deemed necessary. Investors should be aware that the net asset value of the sub-funds on any Valuation Day may not accurately reflect Chinese tax liabilities. Depending on the tax liabilities payable, it may bring positive or negative impact to the performance and net asset value of the sub-funds. In the event penalties or late payment interest could be applicable due to factors such as retrospective amendments, changes in practice or uncertain regulations, this could impact the net asset value at the time of settlement with the PRC tax authorities. In the case where the amount of tax provisions made is less than the tax liabilities payable, the amount of shortfall will be deducted from the sub-fund's assets and affecting the sub-fund's net asset value adversely. In the opposite case where the amount of tax provisions made is more than the tax liabilities payable, the release of extra tax provision will affect the sub-fund's net asset value positively. This will only benefit existing investors. Investors who have redeemed their Shares before the tax liabilities amount is determined will not be entitled to any part of such release of extra tax provision.

# Specific risks related to investments in Mainland China equity securities

In common with other emerging markets, the Chinese market may be faced with relatively low transaction volumes, and endure periods of lack of liquidity or considerable price volatility. The existence of a liquid trading market for China A-Shares may depend on whether there is supply of, and demand for, such China A-Shares. The price at which securities may be purchased or sold by the sub-funds and the net asset value of the sub-funds may be adversely affected if trading volumes on markets for China A-Shares (Shanghai Stock Exchange and Shenzhen Stock Exchange) are limited or absent. The China A-Share market may be more volatile and unstable (for example, due to government intervention or in the case where a particular stock resumes trading at a very different level of price after its suspension). Market volatility and settlement difficulties in the China A-Share markets may also result in significant fluctuations in the prices of the securities traded on such markets and thereby may affect the value of the sub-funds. Subscriptions and redemptions of Shares in the sub-funds may also be disrupted accordingly.



#### Trading limitations Risk

Trading band limits are imposed by the stock exchanges in the PRC on China A-Shares, where trading in any China A-Share on the relevant stock exchange may be suspended if the trading price of the security has increased or decreased to the extent beyond the trading band limit. Considering that PRC securities markets can be frequently affected by trading halts and low trading volume, investors should be aware that A-share markets are more likely to suffer from illiquidity and greater price volatility, which is mostly due to greater government restriction and control relating to A-share markets. A suspension (or a sequence of suspensions) will render the management of the securities involved complicated or make it impossible for the Investment Manager to liquidate positions and/or sell its positions at a favourable price at the worst moment.

# Risks related to FII investments

### Regulatory Risks:

The FII regime is governed by FII Regulations. FII Regulations may be amended from time to time. It is not possible to predict how such changes could affect the relevant sub-fund.

Rules on investment restrictions and rules on repatriation of principal and profits, imposed by the Chinese government may be applicable to the FII as a whole and not only to the investments made by the relevant sub-fund and may have an adverse effect on the sub-fund's liquidity and performance

A FII sub-Fund may invest in securities and investments permitted to be held or made under the relevant FII Regulations through institutions that have obtained FII status in China. Should such FII status be lost, a FII sub-fund may no longer be able to invest directly in China or may be required to dispose of its investments in the Chinese domestic securities markets, which could have an adverse effect on its performance or result in a significant loss.

### Investment Restrictions and Repatriation Risks:

A FII sub-fund may be impacted by the rules and restrictions under the FII Regulations (including investment restrictions, limitations on foreign ownership or holdings), which may have an adverse impact on its performance and/or its liquidity. The SAFE regulates and monitors the repatriation of funds out of the PRC by FIIs pursuant to the FII Regulations. Repatriations by FIIs in respect of an open-ended fund, such as the FII sub-funds, are not subject to repatriation restrictions or prior approval. There is no assurance, however, that PRC rules and regulations will not change or that repatriation restrictions will not be imposed in the future. Although the relevant FII Regulations have recently been revised to relax regulatory restrictions on the onshore capital management by FIIs (including removing investment quota limit and simplifying process for repatriation of investment proceeds), it is a very new development therefore subject to uncertainties as to how well it will be implemented in practice, especially at such an early stage.

Any restrictions on repatriation of the invested capital and net profits may impact on the FII sub-funds' ability to meet redemption requests from the Shareholders. In extreme circumstances, the FII sub-funds may incur significant loss due to limited investment capabilities, or may not be able fully to implement or pursue its investment objectives or strategies, due to FII investment restrictions, illiquidity of the PRC's securities markets, and delay or disruption in execution of trades or in settlement of trades.

#### PRC Custodian Risks

The Investment Manager (in its capacity as a FII's licence holder) and the Depositary have appointed a local sub-custodian approved by Chinese authorities (the "PRC Custodian") to maintain the FII sub-funds' assets in custody in the PRC, pursuant to relevant laws and regulations. Onshore PRC securities are registered in the name of "the full name of the FII – the name of the FII sub-fund" in accordance with the relevant rules and regulations, and maintained by the PRC Custodian in electronic form via a securities account with the China Securities Depository and Clearing Corporation Limited ("ChinaClear") and cash shall be maintained in a cash account with the PRC Custodian.

The Depositary will make arrangements to ensure that the PRC Custodian has appropriate procedures to properly safe-keep the FII sub-funds' securities, including maintaining records that clearly show that such FII sub-funds' securities are recorded in the name of such FII sub-fund and segregated from the other assets of the PRC Custodian. Investors should however note that cash deposited in the cash account of the FII sub-funds with the PRC Custodian will not be segregated but will be a debt owing from the PRC Custodian to the FII sub-funds. Such cash will be comingled with cash belonging to other clients of the PRC Custodian. In the event of bankruptcy or liquidation of the PRC Custodian, the FII sub-funds will not have any proprietary rights to the cash deposited in such cash account, and will be treated and ranked an unsecured creditor, ranking pari passu with all other unsecured creditors, of the PRC Custodian. The FII sub-funds may face difficulty 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 FII sub-funds will suffer losses. Also, the FII sub-funds may incur losses due to the acts or omissions of the PRC Custodian in the execution or settlement of any transaction or in the transfer of any funds or securities.

# PRC Brokerage Risk:

The execution and settlement of transactions or the transfer of any funds or securities may be conducted by brokers ("PRC Brokers") appointed by the Investment Manager. Reasonably competitive commission rates and prices of securities will generally be sought to execute the relevant transactions in PRC markets. It is possible that, in circumstances where only a single PRC Broker is appointed where it is considered appropriate to do so by the Investment Manager, the FII sub-funds may not necessarily pay the lowest commission or spread available, but the transaction execution will be consistent with best execution standards and in the best interest of the Shareholders. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the II sub-funds, taking into account such factors as prevailing market conditions, price (including the applicable brokerage commission or dealer spread), size of order, difficulties of execution and operational facilities of the PRC Broker involved and the PRC Broker's ability to position efficiently the relevant block of securities.

## PRC Settlement Agent Risks

The PRC Settlement Agent is appointed to provide trading and agency services of CIBM investments for the FII sub-funds pursuant to the relevant laws and regulations. The FII sub-funds will have to rely on the PRC Settlement Agent to perform its duties. If the PRC Settlement Agent fails to perform any part of its duties, the CIBM transactions of the FII sub-funds may be affected.



## Risk related to Direct CIBM Access

#### Regulatory risk:

Participation in CIBM by foreign institutional investors (such as the sub-funds) is governed by rules and regulations as promulgated by the Mainland Chinese authorities, i.e., the People's Bank of China ("PBOC") and the State Administration of Foreign Exchange ("SAFE"). The relevant rules and regulations on investment in the CIBM is subject to change which may have potential retrospective effect. In the event that the relevant Mainland Chinese authorities suspend trading on the CIBM, the sub-fund's ability to invest in the CIBM will be limited and, after exhausting other trading alternatives, the sub-fund may suffer substantial losses as a result.

The regulations which regulate investments into CIBM by Direct CIBM Access are relatively new. The application and interpretation of the regulations are therefore relatively untested and there is uncertainty 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.

## Investment Restrictions and Repatriation Risks:

Investors should also note that investments in CIBM through Direct CIBM Access are subject to compliance with various rules and restrictions, which may have an adverse impact on its performance and/or its liquidity. PBOC and SAFE regulate and monitor the remittance and the repatriation of funds into and out of the Mainland China pursuant to the related regulations. Sub-funds may remit investment principal in RMB or foreign currency into Mainland China for investing in the CIBM. Where a sub-fund repatriates funds out of Mainland China, the ratio of RMB to foreign currency should generally match the original ratio when the investment principal was remitted into Mainland China. Repatriations of a sub-fund are not subject to prior approval. There is no assurance, however, that PRC rules and regulations will not change or that repatriation restrictions will not be imposed in the future. Any restrictions on repatriation may impact on the sub-funds' ability to meet redemption requests from the Shareholders. In extreme circumstances, the sub-funds may incur significant loss due to limited investment capabilities, or may not be able to fully implement or pursue its investment objectives or strategy.

### PRC Settlement Agent Risks:

The PRC Settlement Agent is appointed, in respect of Direct CIBM Access, as a settlement agent approved by the Chinese authorities to handle all aspects of Direct CIBM Access for the sub-funds, including but not limited to, trading and settlement agency services, related registrations with Chinese authorities, CIBM specific local and foreign currency account opening, as well as fund remittance and repatriation in relation to trading in the CIBM, pursuant to the relevant laws and regulations. The Company and its sub-funds will have to rely on the PRC Settlement Agent to perform its duties. If the PRC Settlement Agent fails to perform any part of its duties, the CIBM transactions of the sub-funds and fund remittance and repatriation may be affected.

### **Risks related to Stock Connect**

### Eligible securities

Stock Connect comprises a Northbound trading link and a Southbound trading link. Under the Northbound trading link, Hong Kong and overseas investors will be able to trade certain stocks listed on the Shanghai Stock Exchange ("SSE") and the Shenzhen Stock Exchange ("SZSE") markets. These include:

- 1. All the constituent stocks from time to time of the SSE 180 Index and SSE 380 Index
- All the constituent stocks from time to time of the SZSE Component Index and SZSE Small / Mid Cap Innovation Index with market capitalization at least RMB 6 billion
- 3. All the SZSE-listed China A-Shares and all the SSE-listed China A-Shares that are not included as constituent stocks of the relevant indices, which have corresponding H-Shares listed on Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited ("SEHK"), except the following:
  - (a) SSE/SZSE-listed shares which are not traded in RMB;
  - (b) SSE/SZSE-listed shares which are risk alert shares; and
  - (c) SZSE-listed shares which are under delisting arrangement.

It is expected that the list of eligible securities will be subject to review. If a stock is recalled from the scope of eligible securities for trading via Stock Connect, the stock can only be sold and cannot be bought. This may affect the investment portfolio or strategies of investors. Investors should therefore pay close attention to the list of eligible securities as provided and renewed from time to time by SSE, SZSE and SEHK.

## Differences in trading day:

Stock Connect will only operate on days when both the Mainland China 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 Mainland China market but the sub-funds cannot carry out any China A-Shares trading. The sub-funds may be subject to a risk of price fluctuations in China A-Shares during the time when Stock Connect is not trading as a result. This may adversely affect the sub-funds' ability to access mainland China and effectively pursue their investment strategies. This may also adversely affect the sub-funds' liquidity.

## Settlement and Custody:

The Hong Kong Securities Clearing Company Limited ("HKSCC") will be responsible for the clearing, settlement and the provision of depository, nominee and other related services of the trades executed by Hong Kong market participants and investors.

The China A-Shares traded through Stock Connect are issued in scripless form, so sub-funds will not hold any physical China A-Shares. Sub-funds should maintain the China A-Shares with their brokers' or custodians' stock accounts with CCASS (the Central Clearing and Settlement System operated by HKSCC for the clearing securities listed or traded on SEHK).

## Trading fees:

In addition to paying trading fees in connection with China A-Shares trading, the sub-funds may be subject to new fees which are yet to be determined by the relevant authorities.

## <u>Quota limitations:</u>

The Stock Connect is subject to quota limitations. In particular, once the Daily Quota is exceeded during the opening call session, new buy orders will be rejected (though investors will be allowed to sell their cross-boundary securities regardless of the quota balance). Therefore, quota limitations may restrict the sub-fund's ability to invest in China A-Shares through Stock Connect on a timely basis, and the sub-funds may not be able to effectively pursue its investment strategies.



#### Operational risk:

The Stock Connect provides a channel for investors from Hong Kong and overseas to access the China stock market directly. Market participants are able 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. Due to their recent implementation and the uncertainty about their efficiency, accuracy and security, 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 failed to function properly, trading in both markets through the program could be disrupted. The sub-fund's ability to access the China A-Share market (and hence to pursue its investment strategy) will be adversely affected. Consequently, investors in the China A-Share market should be aware of the economic risk of an investment in those shares, which may lead to a partial or total loss of the invested capital.

### Clearing and settlement risk:

The HKSCC and ChinaClear will establish the clearing links and each will become a participant of each other to facilitate clearing and settlement of cross-boundary trades. Should ChinaClear be declared as a defaulter, HKSCC's liabilities in trades under its market contracts with clearing participants will be limited to assisting clearing participants in pursuing their claims against ChinaClear. In that event, the sub-funds may suffer delay in the recovery process or may not be able to fully recover its losses from ChinaClear.

#### Regulatory risk:

The Stock Connect is novel in nature, and will be subject to regulations promulgated by regulatory authorities and implementation rules made by the stock exchanges in the PRC and Hong Kong from time to time. The regulations are untested and there is no certainty as to how they will be applied.

# Ownership of China A-Shares:

China A-Shares acquired by the sub-funds through the Stock Connect are recorded in the name of HKSCC in its omnibus account held with ChinaClear. The China A-Shares are held in custody under the depository of ChinaClear and registered in the shareholders' register of the relevant listed Companies. HKSCC will record such China A-Shares in the CCASS stock account of the clearing participant.

Under Hong Kong law, HKSCC will be regarded as the legal owner (nominee owner) of the China A-Shares, holding the beneficial entitlement to the China A-Shares on behalf of the relevant clearing participant.

Under PRC law there is a lack of a clear definition of, and distinction between, "legal ownership" and "beneficial ownership". The regulatory intention appears to be that the concept of 'nominee owner" is recognised under PRC laws and that the overseas investors should have proprietary rights over the China A-Shares. However, as the Stock Connect is a recent initiative there may be some uncertainty surrounding such arrangements. Accordingly, the sub-fund's ability to enforce its rights and interests in the China A-Shares may be adversely affected or suffer delay.

#### Investor compensation

Since the sub-funds will carry out Northbound trading through securities brokers in Hong Kong but not PRC brokers, they are not protected by the China Securities Investor Protection Fund (中國投資者保護基金) in the PRC.

Further information about Stock Connect is available online at the website: http://www.hkex.com.hk/eng/csm/chinaConnect.asp?LangCode=en

## Risk related to Bond Connect

## Regulatory risk:

Participation in CIBM by foreign institutional investors (such as the sub-funds) is governed by rules and regulations as promulgated by the Mainland Chinese authorities. The relevant rules and regulations is subject to change from time to time which may have potential retrospective effect. In the event that the relevant Mainland Chinese authorities suspend trading on the Bond Connect, the sub-fund's ability to invest in the CIBM will be limited and, after exhausting other trading alternatives, the sub-fund may suffer substantial losses as a result.

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.

## Operational risk:

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 the relevant systems fails to perform properly, trading through Bond Connect may be disrupted and a sub-fund's ability to pursue its investment strategy may be adversely affected.

## Settlement and Custody:

An offshore custody agent recognized by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (currently, the Central Moneymarkets Unit) shall open omnibus nominee accounts with the onshore custody agent recognised by the PBOC (currently, the China Central Depository & Clearing Co., Ltd and/or the Shanghai Clearing House). All debt securities traded by eligible foreign investors will be registered in the name of Central Moneymarkets Unit, which will hold such debt securities as a nominee owner. As such, the sub-fund is subject to the risks of default or errors on the part of such third parties.

## III. RISKS RELATED TO INVESTMENTS IN CNH SHARE CATEGORIES

## China Market Risk

Investing in the offshore RMB market (CNH) is subject to the risks of investing in emerging markets generally. Since 1978, the Chinese government has implemented economic reform measures which emphasize decentralisation and the utilisation of market forces in the development of the Chinese economy, moving from the previous planned economy system. However, many of the economic measures are experimental or unprecedented and may be subject to adjustment and modification.

Any significant change in China's political, social or economic policies may have a negative impact on investments in the China market. The regulatory and legal framework for capital markets and joint stock companies in mainland China may deviate from those of developed countries. Chinese accounting standards and practices may deviate from international accounting standards. The Chinese governments managed process of currency conversion and movements in the RMB exchange rates may adversely affect the operations and financial results of companies in mainland China.



#### RMB Currency Risk

Since 2005, the RMB exchange rate is no longer pegged to the US dollar. RMB has now moved to a managed floating exchange rate based on market supply and demand with reference to a basket of foreign currencies. The daily trading price of the RMB against other main currencies in the inter-bank foreign exchange market is allowed to float within a narrow band around the central parity published by the People's Bank of China. RMB convertibility from offshore RMB (CNH) to onshore RMB (CNY) is a managed currency process subject to foreign exchange control policies of and repatriation restrictions imposed by the Chinese government in coordination with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA). 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 pursued by the Chinese government from time-to-time as well as other external market forces.

Since 2005, foreign exchange control policies pursued by the Chinese government have resulted in the general appreciation of RMB (both CNH and CNY). This appreciation may or may not continue and there can be no assurance that RMB will not be subject to devaluation at some point. Any devaluation of RMB could adversely affect the value of investors' investments in the Portfolio.

The hedged share class participates in the CNH market, which allows investors to freely transact CNH outside of mainland China with approved banks in the Hong Kong market (HKMA approved banks). The Portfolio will have no requirement to remit CNH to CNY.



## APPENDIX 4 - LIQUIDATION, MERGER, TRANSFER AND SPLITTING PROCEDURES

### Liquidation, Merger, Transfer, and Splitting of Sub-funds

The Board of Directors shall have sole authority to decide on the effectiveness and terms of the following, under the limitations and conditions prescribed by the Law:

- 1) either the pure and simple liquidation of a sub-fund;
- 2) or the closure of a sub-fund (merging sub-fund) by transfer to another sub-fund of the Company;
- 3) or the closure of a sub-fund (merging sub-fund) by transfer to another UCI, whether incorporated under Luxembourg law or established in another member state of the European Union;
- 4) or the transfer to a sub-fund (receiving sub-fund) a) of another sub-fund of the Company, and/or b) of a sub-fund of another collective investment undertaking, whether incorporated under Luxembourg law or established in another member state of the European Union, and/or c) of another collective investment undertaking, whether incorporated under Luxembourg law or established in another member state of the European Union;
- 5) or the splitting of a sub-fund.

The splitting techniques will be the same as the merger one foreseen by the Law.

As an exception to the foregoing, if the Company should cease to exist as a result of such a merger, the effectiveness of this merger must be decided by a General Meeting of Shareholders of the Company resolving validly whatever the portion of the capital represented. The resolutions are taken by a simple majority of the votes expressed. The expressed votes do not include those attached to the shares for which the shareholder did not take part in the vote, abstained or voted white or no.

To avoid any investment breach due to the merger, and in the interest of the shareholders, the investment manager might need to rebalance the portfolio of the Merging sub-fund before the merger. Such rebalancing shall be compliant with the investment policy of the Receiving sub-fund.

In the event of the pure and simple liquidation of a sub-fund, the net assets shall be distributed between the eligible parties in proportion to the assets they own in said sub-fund. The assets not distributed at the time of the closure of the liquidation and normally within nine months of the date of the decision to liquidate shall be deposited with the Luxembourg *Caisse de Consignation* until the end of the legally specified limitation period.

Pursuant to this matter, the decision adopted at the level of a sub-fund may be adopted similarly at the level of a category or a class.

## Liquidation of a Feeder Sub-fund

A Feeder sub-fund will be liquidated:

- a) when the Master is liquidated, unless the CSSF grants approval to the feeder to:
  - invest at least 85% of its assets in units, or shares of another Master; or
  - amend its investment policy in order to convert into a non-Feeder.
- b) when the Master merges with another UCITS, or sub-fund or is divided into two or more UCITS, or sub-fund unless the CSSF grants approval to the feeder to:
  - continue to be a Feeder of the same Master or the Master resulting from the merger or division of the Master;
  - invest at least 85% of its assets in units, or shares of another Master; or
  - amend its investment policy in order to convert into a non-Feeder.

### Dissolution and Liquidation of the Company

The Board of Directors may, at any time and for any reason whatsoever, propose to the General Meeting the dissolution and liquidation of the Company. The General Meeting will give its ruling in accordance with the same procedure as for amendments to the Articles of Association.

If the Company's capital falls below two-thirds of the minimum legal capital, the Board of Directors may submit the question of the Company's dissolution to the General Meeting. The General Meeting, for which no quorum is applicable, will decide based on a simple majority of the votes of shareholders present or represented, account shall not be taken of abstentions.

If the Company's capital falls below one-quarter of the minimum legal capital, the Board of Directors shall submit the question of the Company's dissolution to the General Meeting. The General Meeting, for which no quorum is applicable, will decide based on a part of one-quarter of the votes of shareholders present or represented, account shall not be taken of abstentions.

In the event of the Company's dissolution, the liquidation will be conducted by one or more liquidators that may be individuals or legal entities. They will be appointed by the General Shareholders' Meeting, which will determine their powers and remuneration, without prejudice to the application of the Law.

The net proceeds of the liquidation of each sub-fund, category, or class will be distributed by the liquidators to the shareholders of each sub-fund, category, or class in proportion to the number of shares they hold in the sub-fund, category, or class.

In the case of straightforward liquidation of the Company, the net assets will be distributed to the eligible parties in proportion to the shares held in the Company. Net assets not distributed at the time of the closure of the liquidation and normally within a maximum period of nine months effective from the date of the liquidation will be deposited at the Luxembourg *Caisse de Consignation* until the end of the legally specified limitation period.

The calculation of the net asset value, and all subscriptions, conversions and redemptions of shares in these sub-funds, categories, or classes will also be suspended throughout the liquidation period.

The General Meeting must be held within forty days of the date on which it is ascertained that the Company's net assets have fallen below the minimum legal threshold of two-thirds or one-quarter, as applicable.



## APPENDIX 5 – PRE-CONTRACTUAL DISCLOSURES FOR THE PRODUCTS REFERRED TO IN ARTICLE 8 AND 9 OF SFDR AND ARTICLE 5 AND 6 OF THE TAXONOMY REGULATION

Name of the sub-fund	SFDR Category	Minimum proportion of sustainable investments in the meaning of SFDR	To what minimum extent investments with an envirous aligned with the EU  Minimum percentage of investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy <sup>2</sup> Including sovereign bonds	nmental objective	Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?
BNP Paribas Funds Aqua	Art. 9	85%	2%	0%	Yes, through a dedicated PAI Approach as described in Book III
BNP Paribas Funds Asia High Yield Bond	Art. 8	15%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Asia Tech Innovators	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Belgium Equity	Art. 8	15%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Brazil Equity	Art. 8	23%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds China A-Shares	Art. 8	15%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds China Equity	Art. 8	15%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Climate Impact	Art. 9	85%	8%	0%	Yes, through a dedicated PAI Approach as described in Book III
BNP Paribas Funds Consumer Innovators	Art. 8	30%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Disruptive Technology	Art. 8	30%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Ecosystem Restoration	Art. 9	85%	1%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Emerging Bond	Art. 8	1%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Emerging Bond Opportunities	Art. 8	1%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Emerging Markets Climate Solutions	Art. 9	85%	1%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Emerging Equity	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Energy Transition	Art. 9	85%	10%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Enhanced Bond 6M	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Environmental Absolute Return Thematic Equity (EARTH)	Art. 8	55%	5%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Euro Bond	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Euro Bond Opportunities	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Euro Corporate Bond	Art. 8	40%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Euro Corporate Bond Opportunities	Art. 8	25%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Euro Corporate Green Bond	Art. 9	80%	0.5%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Euro Defensive Equity	Art. 8	50%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Euro Equity	Art. 8	35%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Euro Flexible Bond	Art. 8	15%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Euro Government Bond	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Euro Government Green Bond	Art. 9	80%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Euro High Yield Bond	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Euro High Yield Short Duration Bond	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Euro Inflation-Linked Bond	Art. 8	0%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach
BNP Paribas Funds Euro Medium Term Bond	Art. 8	25%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach



BNP Paribas Funds Euro Money Market	Art. 8	10%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Euro Short Term Corporate Bond Opportunities	Art. 8	25%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Europe Convertible	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI		
BNP Paribas Funds Europe Equity	Art. 8	45%	0%	0%	Approach Yes, through the General PAI		
BNP Paribas Funds Europe Growth	Art. 8	45%	0%	0%	Approach Yes, through the General PAI		
BNP Paribas Funds Europe High	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Approach Yes, through the General PAI		
Conviction Bond BNP Paribas Funds Europe Real Estate	Art. 8	50%	2%	0%	Approach Yes, through the General PAI		
Securities					Approach Yes, through the General PAI		
BNP Paribas Funds Europe Small Cap  BNP Paribas Funds Europe Small Cap	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Approach Yes, through the General PAI		
Convertible	Art. 8	10%	0%	0%	Approach Yes, through the General PAI		
BNP Paribas Funds Flexible Global Credit BNP Paribas Funds Global Absolute Return	Art. 8	26%	0%	0%	Approach		
Multi-Factor Bond	Art. 8	25%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Global Bond Opportunities	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Global Climate Solutions	Art. 9	85%	5%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Global Convertible	Art. 8	15%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Global Enhanced Bond 36M	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Global Environment				00/	Yes, through a dedicated PAI		
BNP Paridas Funds Glodal Environment	Art. 9	85%	2%	0%	Approach as described in Book		
BNP Paribas Funds Global High Yield Bond	Art. 8	10%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Global Inflation-Linked Bond	Art. 8	0%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Global Net Zero Transition Equity	Art 8	50%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Green Bond	Art. 9	80%	0.5%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
DND Daiber Funds Cores Times	A-+ 0	050/	20/	0%	Yes, through a dedicated PAI		
BNP Paribas Funds Green Tigers	Art. 9	85%	2%	0%	Approach as described in Book		
BNP Paribas Funds Health Care Innovators	Art. 8	30%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Inclusive Growth	Art. 8	51%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds India Equity	Art. 8	5%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Japan Equity	Art. 8	30%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Japan Small Cap	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Latin America Equity	Art. 8	31%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Local Emerging Bond	Art. 8	1%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI		
BNP Paribas Funds Multi-Asset	Art. 8	30%	0%	0%	Approach Yes, through the General PAI		
Opportunities  BNP Paribas Funds Multi-Asset Thematic	Art. 8	35%	2%	0%	Approach Corporate Mandatory		
				0%	Indicators: 4, 10 and 14 Yes, through the General PAI		
BNP Paribas Funds Nordic Small Cap	Art. 8	25%	0%	· ·	Approach Yes, through the General PAI		
BNP Paribas Funds RMB Bond	Art. 8	10% 0% 0%		Approach			
BNP Paribas Funds Russia Equity BNP Paribas Funds Seasons	Art. 8	0%	sub-fund closed	0%	Yes, through the General PAI		
BNP Paribas Funds SMaRT Food	Art. 9	85%	0%	0%	Approach Yes, through a dedicated PAI Approach as described in Book		
DVD D II E I O I I D I				00/	III Yes, through the General PAI		
BNP Paribas Funds Social Bond BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Asia ex-	Art. 9	80%	0%	0%	Approach Yes, through the General PAI		
Japan Equity BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Asian	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Approach Yes, through the General PAI		
Cities Bond	Art. 9	80%	0%	0%	Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Enhanced Bond 12M	Art. 8	50%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Euro Bond	Art. 8	50%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Euro Corporate Bond	Art. 8	60%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Euro Low Vol Equity	Art. 8	50%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Euro Multi- Factor Corporate Bond	Art. 8	37%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach		
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Euro Multi-	Art. 8	50%	2%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI		
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Europe	Art. 8	40%	0%	0%	Approach Yes, through the General PAI		
Dividend	ALC O	70/0	U/0	V /0	Approach		



BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Europe Multi-Factor Equity	Art. 8	50%	2%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Europe Value	Art. 8	35%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Global Corporate Bond	Art. 8	50%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Global Equity	Art. 8	35%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Global Low Vol Equity	Art. 8	40%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Global Multi-Factor Corporate Bond	Art. 8	36%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Global Multi-Factor Equity	Art. 8	40%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Global Multi-Factor High Yield Bond	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Japan Multi-Factor Equity	Art. 8	50%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Multi- Asset Balanced	Art. 8	35%	2%	0%	Corporate Mandatory Indicators: 4, 10 and 14	
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Multi- Asset Flexible	Art. 8	30%	0%	0%	Corporate Mandatory Indicators: 4, 10 and 14	
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Multi- Asset Growth	Art. 8	35%	2%	0%	Corporate Mandatory Indicators: 4, 10 and 14	
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable Multi- Asset Stability	Art. 8	35%	0%	0%	Corporate Mandatory Indicators: 4, 10 and 14	
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable US Multi- Factor Corporate Bond	Art. 8	35%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable US Multi- Factor Equity	Art. 8	37%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds Sustainable US Value Multi-Factor Equity	Art. 8	40%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds Target Risk Balanced	Art. 8	20%	0%	0%	Corporate Mandatory Indicators: 4, 10 and 14	
BNP Paribas Funds Turkey Equity	Art. 8	0%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds US Growth	Art. 8	25%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds US High Yield Bond	Art. 8	10%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds US Mid Cap	Art. 8	30%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds USD Short Duration Bond	Art. 8	10%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds US Small Cap	Art. 8	24%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	
BNP Paribas Funds USD Money Market	Art. 8	10%	0%	0%	Yes, through the General PAI Approach	

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The Management Company relies on third party data providers to disclose such information.



# **BOOK II**



## BNP Paribas Funds Global Net Zero Transition Equity short-named BNP Paribas Global Net Zero Transition Equity

#### Investment objective

Increase the value of its assets over the medium term by investing actively primarily in global equities.

#### Benchmark

The MSCI ACWI (NR) EUR benchmark is used for performance comparison only.

The sub-fund is not benchmark-constrained and its performance may deviate significantly from that of the benchmark.

#### Investment policy

At all times, the sub-fund invests 75% of its assets in equity and/or equity equivalent of companies selected based on fundamental driven investment process.

The sub-fund invests in global equities, seeking medium term capital appreciation.

The investment universe of the sub-fund is composed of companies within the BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT proprietary Net Zero Transition universe called "AAA proprietary universe": "Achieving Net Zero", "Aligned to Net Zero", "Aligning towards Net Zero".

- o The "Achieving Net Zero" concept refers to:
- companies with at least 50% of their turnover aligned with EU Taxonomy Climate Change Mitigation; or
- companies with at least 50% of their turnover aligned with climate-mitigation-linked SDGs\* and with no more than 20% of their turnover misaligned with any SDGs; or
- companies committed to net zero and whose current carbon performance is at (or close) to the one needed for its sector by 2050 to reach Net Zero global emissions.
- o The "Aligned to Net Zero" concept refers to:
- companies committed to net zero emissions by 2050 and that have a carbon reduction target assessed as </=1.5°C\*\*; or
- companies with at least 20% of their turnover aligned with EU Taxonomy Climate Change Mitigation; or
- companies with at least 20% of their turnover aligned with climate-mitigation-linked SDGs\* and with no more than 20% of their turnover misaligned with any SDGs.
- o The "Aligning Towards Net Zero" concept refers to companies that have a carbon reduction target assessed as below 2°C\*\*\* and not otherwise considered Achieving or Aligned.
- \* SDG target numbers: 7.2, 7.3, 7.b, 9.4
- \*\* 1.5DC temperature alignment is determined based on a variety of different inputs: SBti or SBTi tool using CDP data produces a </=1.5DC output for any assessed time frame; Companies assessed by TPI as having a Management Quality Level 4 & a short, medium or long term carbon performance at or below 1.5°C and Companies passing indicator 1 to 6 in the CA100+ benchmark (Structure and Methodologies | Climate Action 100+)
- \*\*\* 1.5DC to 2.0DC temperature alignment is determined based on a variety of different inputs: SBti or SBTi tool using CDP data produces a </=2DC output; Companies assessed by TPI as having at least a Management Quality Level of 3 & a short, medium or long term carbon performance between 1.5°C and 2DC and Companies passing indicator 1 to 3 in the CA100+ benchmark (Structure and Methodologies | Climate Action 100+), and via BNPPAM's enhanced ITR resulting in an alignment <2DC

The Investment Manager employs a behavioural finance investment philosophy where it believes that quality companies (earning over their cost of capital) with improving business momentum and that may have valuation support, tend to outperform. The Investment Manager then processes to select stocks within the "AAA proprietary universe".

In respect to the above investments limits, the sub-fund's investments into "China A-Shares" via the Stock Connect may reach up to 20% of its assets.

The sub-fund may be exposed for maximum 25% of its assets on emerging markets, including exposure to China.

The remaining portion, namely a maximum of 25% of its assets, may be invested in any other transferable securities and money market instruments, provided that investments in debt securities of any kind do not exceed 5% of its assets, and up to 10% of its assets may be invested in UCITS.

The sub-fund may hold ancillary liquid assets within the limits and conditions described in Book I, Appendix 1 – Eligible Assets, point 7.

## Sustainable Investment policy

The Investment Manager applies BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT's Sustainable Investment Policy, which takes into account Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria in the investment process of the sub-fund, falling under the Enhanced ESG category, as set out in Book I.

The investment manager applies a non-financial analysis on a minimum of 90% of the assets of the sub-fund (excluding ancillary liquid assets) based on the internal Proprietary ESG scoring framework as indicated in Book I.

The average portfolio ESG score of the sub-fund is higher than the one of the benchmark after eliminating at least 20% of securities with the lowest ESG Score.

## **Derivatives and Securities Financing Transactions**

Core financial derivative instruments may be used for efficient portfolio management and hedging as described in points 2 and 3 of Appendix 2 of Book I.



## BNP Paribas Funds Global Net Zero Transition Equity

short-named BNP Paribas Global Net Zero Transition Equity

#### Information relating to SFDR and Taxonomy Regulation

The sub-fund promotes environmental and / or social characteristics, provided that the companies in which the investments are made follow good governance practices, in accordance with article 8 of SFDR, and it will have a minimum proportion of its assets considered as sustainable investments within the meaning of SFDR.

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENTAL OR SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS RELATING TO THIS SUB-FUND IS AVAILABLE IN THE ANNEX OF THE PROSPECTUS SET OUT IN BOOK III.

A summary of the commitments is also available in Appendix 5 of Book I.

## Risk profile

Specific market risks:

- Extra-Financial Criteria Investment Risk
- Equity Risk
- Emerging market Risk

Specific risks related to investments in Mainland China

- Changes in PRC taxation risk
- · Risks related to Stock Connect

For an overview of generic risks, please refer to the Appendix 3 of Book I of the Prospectus.

## Investor type profile

This sub-fund is suitable for investors who:

- ✓ Are looking for a diversification of their investments in equities;
- Are willing to accept higher market risks in order to potentially generate higher long-term returns;
- ✓ Can accept significant temporary losses;
- ✓ Can tolerate volatility;
- √ Have an investment horizon of 5 years.

## **Accounting Currency**

**EUR** 

## Fees payable by the sub-fund

Category	Management (max)	Charity	Performance (max)	Distribution (max)	Other (max)	TAB (1)
Classic	1.50%	none	No	none	0.40%	0.05%
Classic Solidarity	1.45%	0.05%	No	none	0.40%	0.05%
N	1.50%	none	No	0.75%	0.40%	0.05%
Privilege	0.75%	none	No	none	0.25%	0.05%
Privilege Solidarity	0.70%	0.05%	No	none	0.25%	0.05%
I	0.75%	none	No	none	0.20%	0.01%
X	none	none	No	none	0.20%	0.01%

<sup>(1)</sup> Taxe d'abonnement. In addition, the Company may be subject to foreign UCl's tax, and/or other regulators levy, in the country where the sub-fund is registered for distribution.

The complete list of shares offered is available on the website www.bnpparibas-am.com

For each active share, a KID is available on the website www.bnpparibas-am.com

## Additional information

## Valuation Day:

For each day of the week on which banks are open for business in Luxembourg (a "Valuation Day"), there is a corresponding NAV which is dated the same day.

It is available at the Company's registered office, from local agents, and in any newspapers designated by the Board of Directors and the website www.bnpparibas-am.com

## Terms of subscription / conversion / redemption:

Subscription, redemption and conversion orders will be processed at an unknown net asset value in accordance with the rules set out below, only on Valuation Days, and the time mentioned is Luxembourg time.



## BNP Paribas Funds Global Net Zero Transition Equity short-named BNP Paribas Global Net Zero Transition Equity

Centralisation of orders (2)	Orders Trade Date	NAV calculation and publication date	Orders Settlement Date	
16:00 CET for STP orders, 12:00 CET for non STP orders on the Valuation Day (D)	Valuation Day (D)	Day after the Valuation Day (D+1)	Maximum three bank business days after the Valuation Day (D+3) <sup>(1)</sup>	

- (1) If the settlement day is a currency holiday, the settlement will occur the following business day.

  Each time the "Orders Settlement Date" occurs before or on the same day of the "NAV calculation and publication date", the "Orders Settlement Date" will instead happen the next bank business day following the "NAV calculation and publication date.
- (2) Centralisation for December 24 and 31 will be exceptionally advanced to 12:00 CET for STP orders due to an early closure of markets.

## Historical information:

## Sub-fund not yet launched at the date of this prospectus

#### Tayation<sup>3</sup>

Potential shareholders are recommended to seek full information in their country of origin, place of residence or domicile on the possible tax consequences associated with their investment.



Template 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: BNP PARIBAS FUNDS GLOBAL NET ZERO TRANSITION EQUITY

Legal entity identifier: XXX

## **ENVIRONMENTAL AND/OR SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS**

Does this financial product have a s	ustainable investment objective?
• • Yes	• No
It will make a minimum of sustainable investments 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	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  with an environmental objective in economic activities that 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

2020/852, establishing a list of environmentally sustainable economic activities. That Regulation does not lay down a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the

Taxonomy or not.

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU)

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.



# What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?

The financial product promotes environmental and social characteristics by assessing underlying investments against Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) criteria using an ESG internal proprietary methodology, and by investing in issuers that demonstrate good environmental, social and governance practices.

The financial product aims to improve its ESG profile and reduce its environmental footprint, as measured by greenhouse gas emissions, compared to its benchmark.

The ESG performance of an issuer is evaluated against a combination of environmental, social and governance factors which include but not limited to:

 Environmental: energy efficiency, reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases (GHG), treatment of waste;



- Social: respect of human rights and workers' rights, human resources management (workers' health and safety, diversity);
- o Governance: Board of Directors independence, managers' remuneration, respect of minority shareholders rights.

The exclusion criteria are applied with regard to issuers that are in violation of international norms and convention, or operate in sensitive sectors as defined by the Responsible Business Conduct Policy (RBC Policy).

Furthermore, the investment manager promotes better environmental and social outcomes through engagement with issuers and the exercise of voting rights according to the Stewardship policy, where applicable.

No reference benchmark has been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

## What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?

The following sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the financial product:

- The percentage of the financial product's portfolio compliant with the RBC Policy;
- The percentage of the financial product's portfolio covered by ESG analysis based on the ESG internal proprietary methodology;
- The financial product shall have the weighted average ESG score of its portfolio higher than
  the weighted average ESG score of its benchmark, as defined after eliminating at least 20%
  of the securities with the lowest ESG score.
- The carbon footprint of the financial product versus that of financial product's benchmark;
- The Implied Temperature Rise (ITR) of the financial product;
- The percentage of the financial product's portfolio invested in "sustainable investments" as defined in Article 2 (17) of the SFDR regulation.

## 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 objectives of the sustainable investments made by the financial product are to finance companies that contribute to environmental and/or social objectives through their products and services, as well as their sustainable practices.

The internal methodology, as defined in the main part of the Prospectus, integrates several criteria into its definition of sustainable investments that are considered to be core components to qualify a company as sustainable. These criteria are complementary to each other. In practice, a company must meet at least one of the criteria described below in order to be considered as contributing to an environmental or social objective:

A company with an economic activity aligned with the EU Taxonomy objectives. A company
can be qualified as sustainable investment in case it has more than 20% of its revenues
aligned with the EU Taxonomy. A company qualifying as sustainable investment through this
criteria can for example contribute to the following environmental objectives: sustainable
forestry, environmental restoration, sustainable manufacturing, renewable energy, water
supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation, sustainable transportation,

Sustainability indicators measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.



- sustainable buildings, sustainable information and technology, scientific research for sustainable development;
- A company with an economic activity contributing to one or more United Nations Sustainable Development goals (UN SDG) targets. A company can be qualified as sustainable investment in case it has more than 20% of its revenues aligned with the SDGs and less than 20% of its revenues misaligned with the UN SDGs. A company qualifying as sustainable investment through this criteria can for example contribute to the following objectives:
  - a. Environmental: sustainable agriculture, sustainable management of water and sanitation, sustainable and modern energy, sustainable economic growth, sustainable infrastructure, sustainable cities, sustainable consumption and production patterns, fight against climate change, conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources, protection, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainable management of forests, fight against desertification, land degradation and biodiversity loss;
  - b. Social: no poverty, zero hunger, food security, healthy lives and well-being at all ages, inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities, gender equality, women and girls empowerment, availability of water and sanitation, access to affordable, reliable and modern energy, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work, resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization, reduced inequality, inclusive, safe and resilient cities and human settlements, peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions, global partnership for sustainable development.
- 3. A company operating in a high GHG emission sector that is transitioning its business model to align with the objective of maintaining the global temperature rise below 1.5°C. A company qualifying as sustainable investment through this criteria can for example contribute to the following environmental objectives: GHG emissions reduction, fight against climate change;
- 4. A company with best-in-class environmental or social practices compared to its peers within the relevant sector and geographical region. The E or S best performer assessment is based on the BNPP AM ESG scoring methodology. The methodology scores companies and assesses them against a peer group comprising companies in comparable sectors and geographical regions. A company with a contribution score above 10 on the Environmental or Social pillar qualifies as best performer. A company qualifying as sustainable investment through this criteria can for example contribute to the following objectives:
  - Environmental: fight against climate change, environmental risk management, sustainable management of natural resources, waste management, water management, GHG emissions reduction, renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, green infrastructure;
  - Social: health and safety, human capital management, good external stakeholder management (supply chain, contractors, data), business ethics preparedness, good corporate governance.

Green bonds, social bonds and sustainability bonds issued to support specific environmental and/or social projects are also qualified as sustainable investments provided that these debt securities receive an investment recommendation "POSITIVE" or "NEUTRAL" from the Sustainability Center following the issuer and underlying project assessment based on a proprietary Green/Social/Sustainability Bond Assessment methodology.

Companies identified as a sustainable investment should not significantly harm any other environmental or social objectives (the Do No Significant Harm "DNSH" principle) and should follow good governance practices. BNP Paribas Asset Management (BNPP AM) uses its proprietary methodology to assess all companies against these requirements.

More information on the internal methodology can be found on the website of the investment manager: <u>Sustainability documents - BNPP AM Corporate English (bnpparibas-am.com)</u>.



## 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 that the product partially intends to make should not significantly harm any environmental or social objective (DNSH Principle). In this respect, the investment manager commits to consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors by taking into account indicators for adverse impacts as defined in SFDR, and to not invest in companies that do not meet their fundamental obligations in line with the OECD Guidelines and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?

The investment manager ensures that throughout its investment process, the financial product takes into account all principal adverse impact indicators that are relevant to its investment strategy to select the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make by systematically implementing the sustainable investment pillars defined in the BNP Paribas Asset Management Global Sustainability Strategy (GSS) into its investment process: RBC policy, ESG integration guidelines, Stewardship, the forward-looking vision – the '3Es' (Energy transition, Environmental sustainability, Equality & Inclusive Growth).

The RBC policy establishes a common framework across investments and economic activities that help identify industries and behaviours presenting a high risk of adverse impacts in violation of international norms. As part of the RBC Policy, sector policies provide a tailored approach to identify and prioritize principal adverse impacts based on the nature of the economic activity, and in many cases, the geography in which these economic activities take place.

The ESG Integration Guidelines includes a series of commitments, which are material to consideration of principal adverse sustainability impacts, and guides the internal ESG integration process. The proprietary ESG scoring framework includes an assessment of a number of adverse sustainability impacts caused by companies in which we invest. Outcome of this assessment may impact the valuation models as well as the portfolio construction depending on the severity and materiality of adverse impacts identified.

Thus, the Investment Manager considers principal adverse sustainability impacts throughout the investment process through the use of the internal ESG scores and construction of the portfolio with an improved ESG profile compared to its benchmark.

The Forward-looking perspective defines a set of objectives and developed performance indicators to measure how the researches, portfolios and commitments are aligned on three issues, the "3Es" (Energy transition, Environmental sustainability, Equality & inclusive growth) and thus support investment processes.

Furthermore, the Stewardship team regularly identifies adverse impacts through ongoing research, collaboration with other long-term investors, and dialogue with NGOs and other experts.

As regards the sustainable investments that the financial product intends to make, the following principal adverse sustainability impacts are taken into account:

## Corporate mandatory indicators:

- 1. GreenHouse Gas (GHG) Emissions
- 2. Carbon footprint
- 3. GHG intensity of investee companies
- 4. Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- 5. Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
- 6. Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- 7. Activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive areas
- 8. Emissions to water
- 9. Hazardous waste ratio



Principal adverse

**impacts** are the

most significant

on sustainability

factors relating to environmental,

social and employee

matters, respect for

human rights, anti-

corruption and anti-

bribery matters.

negative impacts of

investment decisions

- 10. Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- 11. Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- 12. Unadjusted gender pay gap
- 13. Board gender diversity
- 14. Exposure to controversial weapons (anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

## Corporate voluntary indicators:

#### Environment

4. Investments in companies without carbon emission reduction initiatives

## **Social**

- 4. Lack of a supplier code of conduct
- 9. Lack of a human rights policy

## Sovereign mandatory indicators

- 15. GHG intensity
- 16. Investee countries subject to social violations

More detailed information on the manner in which principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered can be found in the BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT <u>SFDR disclosure</u> statement: sustainability risk integration and Principal Adverse Impacts considerations.

—— How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:

The investment universe of the financial product is periodically screened with a view to identify issuers that are potentially in violation or at risk of violation of the UN Global Compact Principles, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and UN Guiding Principles on Business & 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. This assessment is conducted within the BNPP AM Sustainability Centre on the basis of internal analysis and information provided by external experts, and in consultation with BNP Paribas Group CSR Team. If an issuer is found to be in serious and repeated violations of any of the principles, it will be placed on an "exclusion list" and will not be available for investment. Existing investments should be divested from the portfolio according to an internal procedure. If an issuer is at risk of violating any of the principles, it is placed on a "watch list" monitored, as appropriate.

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

The product considers principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors by systematically implementing the sustainable investment pillars defined in the GSS into its investment process. These pillars are covered by firm-wide policies that set criteria to identify, consider and prioritise as well as address or mitigate adverse sustainability impacts caused by issuers.

The RBC policy establishes a common framework across investments and economic activities that help identify industries and behaviours presenting a high risk of adverse impacts in violation of international norms. As part of the RBC Policy, sector policies provide a tailored approach to identify and prioritize principal adverse impacts based on the nature of the economic activity, and in many cases, the geography in which these economic activities take place.

The ESG Integration Guidelines includes a series of commitments, which are material to consideration of principal adverse sustainability impacts, and guides the internal ESG integration process. The proprietary ESG scoring framework includes an assessment of a number of adverse sustainability impacts caused by companies in which we invest. Outcome of this assessment may impact the valuation models as well as the portfolio construction depending on the severity and materiality of adverse impacts identified.

Thus, the Investment Manager considers principal adverse sustainability impacts throughout the investment process through the use of the internal ESG scores and construction of the portfolio with an improved ESG profile compared to its benchmark.

The Forward-looking perspective defines a set of objectives and developed performance indicators to measure how the researches, portfolios and commitments are aligned on three issues, the "3Es" (Energy transition, Environmental sustainability, Equality & inclusive growth) and thus support investment processes.

Furthermore, the Stewardship team regularly identifies adverse impacts through ongoing research, collaboration with other long-term investors, and dialogue with NGOs and other experts.

Actions to address or mitigate principal adverse sustainability impacts depend on the severity and materiality of these impacts. These actions are guided by the RBC Policy, ESG Integration Guidelines, and Engagement and Voting Policy which include the following provisions:

- Exclusion of issuers that are in violation of international norms and conventions and issuers
  that are involved in activities presenting an unacceptable risk to society and/or the
  environment;
- Engagement with issuers with the aim of encouraging them to improve their environmental, social and governance practices and, thus, mitigate potential adverse impacts;
- In case of equity holdings, voting at Annual General Meetings of companies the portfolio is invested in to promote good governance and advance environmental and social issues;
- Ensuring all securities included in the portfolio have supportive ESG research.
- Managing portfolios so that their aggregate ESG score is better than the relevant benchmark or universe.

Based on the above approach, and depending on the composition of the financial product's portfolio (i.e. the type of issuer), the financial product considers and addresses or mitigates the following principal adverse sustainability impacts:

## Corporate mandatory indicators:

- 1. GreenHouse Gas (GHG) Emissions
- 2. Carbon footprint
- 3. GHG intensity of investee companies



- 4. Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- 5. Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
- 6. Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
- 7. Activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive areas
- 8. Emissions to water
- 9. Hazardous waste ratio
- 10. Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- 11. Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- 12. Unadjusted gender pay gap
- 13. Board gender diversity
- 14. Exposure to controversial weapons (anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

## Corporate voluntary indicators:

### Environment

4. Investments in companies without carbon emission reduction initiatives

#### Social

- 4. Lack of a supplier code of conduct
- 9. Lack of a human rights policy

### Sovereign mandatory indicators

- 15. GHG intensity
- 16. Investee countries subject to social violations

More detailed information on the manner in which principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered can be found in the BNP PARIBAS ASSET MANAGEMENT SFDR disclosure statement: sustainability risk integration and Principal Adverse Impacts considerations.

In addition, information on how the principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors have been considered over the year will be available in the annual report of the financial product.



The investment **strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

To achieve the investment objective of the financial product, the investment manager takes into account at each step of its investment process the Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) criteria that the financial product promotes.

The investment universe of the financial product is thoroughly screened with a view to identify issuers that are in violation of the UN Global Compact Principles, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights. Issuers failing to meet their fundamental obligations in the areas of human and labour rights, environment and corruption are excluded from the investment universe. The in-house sector policies relating to companies operating in sensitive areas (controversial weapons, asbestos, mining, palm oil, etc.) are implemented in order to identify and exclude companies with the worst practices.

Then the Investment Manager integrates ESG ratings and criteria into the assessment of issuers. ESG ratings are built by BNP Paribas Asset Management's Sustainability Centre using a proprietary ESG methodology.

The investment manager constantly integrates the binding elements of the investment strategy described in the question below to construct an investment portfolio with a significantly improved ESG profile compared to its benchmark.



In addition, the Investment Manager relies on the internal sustainable investment methodology, as defined in the answer to the question "What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investments contribute to such objectives", to determine issuers that contribute to environmental and/or social objectives.

An extra-financial strategy may comprise methodological limitations such as the ESG Investment Risk as defined by the investment manager.

The elements of the investment strategy to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product as described below are systematically integrated throughout the investment process.

- 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 financial product shall comply with the RBC Policy by excluding companies involved in controversies due to poor practices related to human and labour rights, environment, and corruption, as well as companies operating in sensitive sectors (tobacco, coal, controversial weapons, asbestos,...), as these companies are deemed to be in violation of international norms, or to cause unacceptable harm to society and/or the environment.

More information on the RBC Policy, and in particular criteria relating to sectoral exclusions, can be found on the website of the investment manager: <u>Sustainability documents - BNPP</u> AM Corporate English (bnpparibas-am.com)

- The financial product shall have at least 90% of its assets (excluding ancillary liquid assets) covered by the ESG analysis based on the ESG internal proprietary methodology.
- The financial product shall have the weighted average ESG score of its portfolio higher than
  the weighted average ESG score of its benchmark, as defined after eliminating at least 20%
  of the securities with the lowest ESG score.
- The carbon footprint of the financial product shall be at least 30% lower than the carbon footprint of the financial product's benchmark;
- The Implied Temperature Rise (ITR) of the financial product shall remain below 2 degrees;
- The financial product shall invest at least 50% of its assets in "sustainable investments" as defined in Article 2 (17) of the SFDR regulation. Criteria to qualify an investment as "sustainable investment" are indicated in the above question "What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and does the sustainable investments contribute to such objectives" and the quantitative and qualitative thresholds are mentioned in the main part of the Prospectus.
- What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?

The financial product does not commit to a reduction of the scope of investments prior to the application of its investment strategy.

What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?

The ESG scoring framework assesses corporate governance through a core set of standard key performance indicators for all sectors supplemented by sector specific metrics.

The governance metrics and indicators to assess good governance practices such as sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance include but are not limited to:

## Good governance

practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.



- Separation of power (e.g. Split CEO/Chair),
- Board diversity,
- Executive pay (remuneration policy),
- Board Independence, and key committees independence
- Accountability of directors,
- Financial expertise of the Audit Committee,
- Respect of shareholders rights and absence of antitakeover devices
- The presence of appropriate policies (i.e. Bribery and corruption, whistle-blower),
- An assessment of prior negative incidents relating to governance.

The ESG analysis goes beyond the framework to look at a more qualitative assessment of how the insights from our ESG model are reflected in the culture and operations of investee companies. In some cases, the ESG analysts will conduct due diligence meetings to better understand the company's approach to corporate governance.



## What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

Asset allocation describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned

activities are

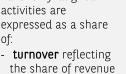
of:

At least 80% of the investments of the financial product will be used to meet the environmental or social characteristics promoted, in accordance with the binding elements of the investment strategy of the financial product.

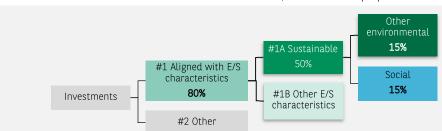
For the avoidance of doubt, such a proportion is solely a minimum commitment and the real percentage of the investments of the financial product that attained the promoted environmental or social characteristics will be available in the annual report

The minimum proportion of sustainable investments of the financial product is 50%.

The remaining proportion of the investments is mainly used as described under the question: "What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any



- **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.

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.

minimum environmental or social safeguards?"



How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?

Financial derivative instruments may be used for efficient portfolio management, hedging and/or investment purposes, if applicable. These instruments are not used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the product.



To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

Not applicable.

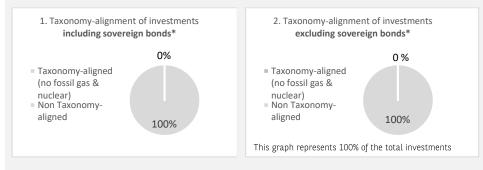
Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy¹?

Yes:

In fossil gas
In nuclear energy

No

The two graphs below show in green 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

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.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> 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 an 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.



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.

## What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?

Not applicable.





## What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

The minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy is 15%.

The minimum share is intentionally low as the objective of the investment manager is not to prevent the product from investing in taxonomy-aligned activities within the framework of the investment strategy of the product.

The Management Company is improving its Taxonomy-alignment data collection to ensure the accuracy and suitability of its Taxonomy sustainability-related disclosures. In the meantime, the financial product will invest in sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.



## What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?

The minimum share of socially sustainable investments within the financial product is 15%.



# What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?

The remaining proportion of the investments may include:

- the proportion of assets that are not used to meet the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product. These assets are used for investment purposes, or
- instruments which are mainly used for liquidity, efficient portfolio management, and/or hedging purposes, notably cash, deposits and derivatives.

In any case, the investment manager will ensure that those investments are made while maintaining the improvement of the ESG profile of the financial product. In addition, those investments are made in compliance with our internal processes, including the following minimum environmental or social safeguards:

- the risk management policy. The risk management policy comprises procedures as are necessary to enable the management company to assess for each financial product it manages the exposure of that product to market, liquidity, sustainability and counterparty risks. And
- the RBC policy, where applicable, through the exclusion of companies involved in controversies due to poor practices related to human and labour rights, environment, and corruption, as well as companies operating in sensitive sectors (tobacco, coal, controversial weapons, asbestos,...), as these companies are deemed to be in violation of international norms, or to cause unacceptable harm to society and/or the environment.





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 reference benchmark has been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

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: <a href="www.bnpparibas-am.com">www.bnpparibas-am.com</a> after choosing the relevant country and directly in the section "Sustainability-related disclosures" dedicated to the product.

