



Pre-Contractual Sustainability Disclosure for Emerging Markets Equity

Product name:
Emerging Markets Equity

Publication date: 29 April 2023

Legal entity identifier:

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

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not lay down a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

Environmental and/or social characteristics

Does this financial product have a sustainable 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 will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective**: __%

☐ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of __% of sustainable investments

☐ 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 promotes E/S characteristics, **but will not make any sustainable investments**



What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?

Sustainability indicators measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

The environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Fund are as follows:

- To reduce the impact of the Fund on Climate Change (relative to the appropriate broad market benchmark);
- To increase the Fund’s exposure to companies with improved sustainability and lower ESG risk scores (relative to the appropriate broad market benchmark).

The Fund has designated Solactive ILIM Sustainable Emerging Market- Equity Index NTR (the “Index”) as a reference benchmark to determine whether the Fund is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes.

What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?

The indicators used to measure the outcomes of this approach are:

Reduce the impact of Climate Change

- > Reduction in carbon intensity of the portfolio versus the appropriate broad market benchmark.
- > Reduction in fossil fuel involvement of the portfolio versus the appropriate broad market benchmark.

Increase the Fund’s exposure to companies with improved sustainability and lower ESG risk scores (relative to the appropriate broad market benchmark).

- > Reduction in the overall ESG risk scores versus the appropriate broad market benchmark.

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?

N/A - This Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments or investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

While this Fund is designed to consider and contribute to the sustainability of our environment and society within the provisions of Article 8 of the SFDR, it is not specifically designed to make “sustainable investments” as defined under SFDR or to make investments which qualify as “environmentally sustainable” under the EU Taxonomy.

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?

N/A - This Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments or investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?

N/A- the Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments

How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:

N/A - This Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments or investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

Principal adverse impacts

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

The EU Taxonomy sets out a “do not significant harm” principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.

The “do no significant harm” principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.



Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?

☒ Yes

Yes,

The Fund aims to reduce negative impacts to the environment and society. These negative impacts are also called adverse impacts, whereby the most significant adverse impacts are referred to as principal adverse impacts ("PAI").

Where possible and feasible and in line with the nature of the investments, a number of adverse impacts are structurally and systematically considered as part of this Fund's investment decision making. This consideration occurs before making investment decisions and thereafter as part of the Investment Manager's ongoing monitoring and management of that investment, where an investment is made.

The Investment Manager considers the following key PAIs in its decision making:

Impact on climate change:

- > Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- > Carbon footprint
- > Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector

Impact on society:

- > Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- > Exposure to controversial weapons (antipersonnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons)

Investment decisions result in more capital allocation to companies with improved PAI indicators as a result of the ESG data integration.

The Fund's annual financial statements will disclose how PAI have been considered on sustainability factors.

Further details on the principal adverse impacts can be found at www.ilim.com.

☐ No



What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

The investment strategy guides investment decisions based on factors such as investments objectives and risk tolerance.

The Fund is a passive product and follows the Index and is a very high risk fund. This Index is designed to deliver equity market returns with enhanced exposure to more sustainable companies and a better alignment to the low carbon transition economy. The Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics alongside other factors.

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 Investment Manager's Responsible Investment Framework is incorporated where possible into the Index which the Fund tracks. For the equity exposures, the following approach is applied within the Index which is detailed in the Investment Manager's Responsible Investment Framework as follows:

1. The Index excludes the securities of companies which exhibit poor behaviour (UN Global Compact Violators) and those involved in activities such as the manufacturing of Controversial Weapons and Tobacco.
2. The Index integrates security level ESG risk ratings and PAI indicators within the Investment Manager's equity investments to ensure a material improvement in these aggregate characteristics compared to broad market benchmark. These enhancements are achieved by overweighting securities that rank favourably across these metrics and underweighting laggards.

What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?

N/A – there is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of investments.

What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?

The Investment Manager utilises independent third party data providers to make assessments on governance practices in the companies which the Investment Manager invests. The Investment Manager assesses good governance practices in investee companies through a number of measures which include:

- > ESG Risk scores
- > alignment with the UN Global Compact
- > involvement in severe controversies.

Good governance practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.



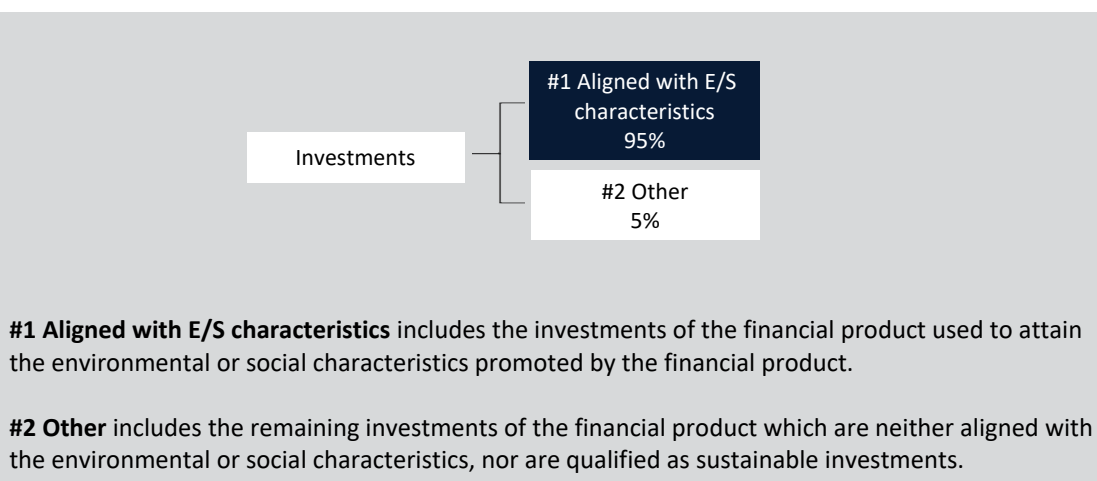
What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

Asset allocation describes the share of investments in specific assets.

The Fund invests in emerging market equities and may carry a small cash balance for liquidity purposes. At least 95% of investments are expected to be allocated to assets which promote E/S characteristics and up to 5% may be allocated to “other” investments which may comprise of a small cash balance for liquidity purposes or equity derivatives. However, in normal market conditions, the Investment Manager expects the investments used to meet the environmental and/or social characteristics is equal to circa 100%.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.



How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?

Although derivatives can be used in the investment strategy, derivatives are not used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.



To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

Although the fund promotes environmental and social characteristics, as at the date of this document, it is expected that the minimum proportion of investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy criteria will be 0% of the net assets of the Fund.

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

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.

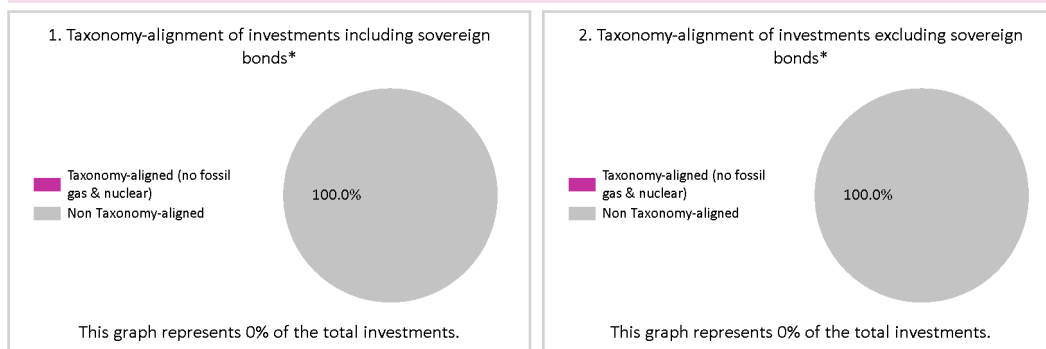
Enabling activities directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an

¹Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change (“climate change mitigation”) and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objectives - 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.

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.

The two graphs below show in purple 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

What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?

N/A



are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that do not take into account the criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.



What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

N/A - This Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments or investments aligned with the EU Taxonomy.



What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?

N/A - The Fund does not intend to make any investments in sustainable investments with a social objective



What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?

#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.



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?

The Index has been designated as a referenced benchmark to determine whether the Fund is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Fund. The Fund follows a passive indexation strategy and aims to replicate the Index. The Index is designed by the Investment Manager in co-ordination with the benchmark provider, Solactive, and is designed to promote the environmental and/or social characteristics of the Fund.

How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?

The Index is designed by the Investment Manager in co-ordination with the benchmark provider, Solactive, and is designed to promote the environmental and/or social characteristics of the Fund. It is a rules based benchmark which integrates ESG data to ensure the reference benchmark is continuously aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Fund. Through the passive indexation strategy of the Fund, the Fund aims to replicate the constituent weights of the Index.

How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?

The Fund follows a passive indexation strategy and aims to replicate the Index. As a result the investment strategy of the Fund is aligned with the methodology of the Index on a continuous basis.

How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?

The designated index promotes environmental and/or social characteristics due to the integration of ESG data. The broad market index does not consider the promotion of environmental and/or social characteristics and is weighted based on market capitalisation. The designated index is based on the constituents of the broad market index. Through a rules based methodology designed by the Investment Manager and applied by the benchmark provider to the broad market index, the designated index is formed. The broad market benchmark is the Solactive GBS Emerging Markets Large & Mid Cap Index.

Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?

The methodology pertaining to the Index is available at the below website link:

https://solactive.com/downloads/Solactive_ILIM_Sustainable_Index_Family.pdf

The methodology pertaining to the broad market benchmark is available at the below website link:

<https://solactive.com/downloads/Guideline-Solactive-GBS-Benchmark-Series.pdf>



Where can I find more product specific information online?

More product specific information can be found on the website

aibliffe-fundcentre.saolassurance.ie