

## 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:

**Swisscanto (LU) Bond Fund Responsible Global Absolute Return**

Legal entity identifier: (LEI-Code):

**5493000621Y00HOW1538**

Version:

**October 2023**

**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 \_\_\_\_5% 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?***

The sub-fund pursues an investment strategy that considers environmental and social characteristics. These characteristics include exclusion criteria, the integration of ESG considerations with the investment process, the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>e intensity and sustainable investments.

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

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

The Portfolio Manager uses a range of data points to measure the attainment of the environmental and social characteristics promoted. It uses data from independent, third-party providers and proprietary qualitative and quantitative research in this process.

Sustainability indicators integrated with the investment process are then used to assess the attainment of the characteristics promoted:

#### **1. Exclusion criteria**

The Portfolio Manager uses exclusion criteria to identify an increased risk of harm to environmental and social characteristics. These exclusion criteria are also used to establish an investment universe focused more specifically on investments that are aligned with these values.

The following businesses/criteria result in the exclusion of companies:

- The production of weapons and munitions, including the following banned weapons:
  - Cluster bombs and munitions
  - Anti-personnel and landmines
  - Biological and chemical weapons
  - Nuclear weapons systems
  - Nuclear weapons material
  - Enriched uranium
  - Blinding laser weapons
  - Incendiary weapons
- Manufacturer of war technology (> 5% turnover)
- Behaviour-based exclusions including those included in the list of the SVVK-ASIR (Swiss association for the promotion of responsible capital investment)
- Breaches of the UN Global Compact\*
- Exploitative child labour
- Production of pornography
- Coal mining (excl. metals production, > 5% of turnover)\*\*
- Coal reserves (excl. metals production)\*\*

Exclusions for government issuers are performed in accordance with SVVK-ASIR. At the current time, the following countries are excluded:

- Afghanistan
- Belarus
- Iran
- Libya

- Myanmar
- North Korea
- Russia
- Sudan
- South Sudan
- Syria
- Venezuela
- Zimbabwe

The Portfolio Manager reserves the right to exclude additional countries for reasons of business policy.

- \* In the event of breaches by companies of the UN Global Compact principles (UN standard on human rights, labour rights, the environment and anti-corruption) that are uncovered by a screening based on the data of an external data provider, where appropriate, the Portfolio Manager will enter into dialogue with the company to urge them to change their behaviour. Any investments will be sold if there is no change in behaviour within an appropriate period of time. This is also the case if dialogue is considered inappropriate based on the severity of the breach.
- \*\* Green bonds and sustainable bonds do not require exclusion. For green and sustainable bonds, issuers must use the proceeds raised through the issue of the green or sustainable bond for specific purposes. If this is the case, green bonds are used to raise capital for specific activities to mitigate or prevent adverse impacts on the environment. Sustainable bonds are also used to raise capital for specific activities to mitigate or prevent adverse impacts on the environment and on society. Investments in green bonds or sustainable bonds thus make a contribution to a positive impact in relation to the relevant exclusion criteria.

## 2. ESG integration

The Portfolio Manager integrates environmental (E), social (S) and governance (G) factors for companies and governments into the investment process (ESG integration) in order to identify opportunities and risks prior to any investment decision. The assessment of the sustainability of a company or government regarding ESG criteria is carried out using proprietary ESG scores. These scores are calculated and measured using proprietary methods using data from independent, third-party providers and proprietary qualitative and quantitative research.

## 3. Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>e intensity

Additionally, the Portfolio Manager's investment activity is focused on a continuous reduction in the CO<sub>2</sub>e intensity of investments in accordance with the Paris Climate Agreement.

CO<sub>2</sub>e intensity for companies is defined as CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in relation to turnover (tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per USD million of turnover), and for government bonds as CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions in relation to economic value added (tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>e per USD million of gross domestic product). Greenhouse gases with a global warming effect are included in accordance with the international Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol) (measured in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents – CO<sub>2</sub>e). Data of independent third parties is used to calculate CO<sub>2</sub>e intensity. The Portfolio Manager uses this data to calculate the relevant CO<sub>2</sub>e intensity, taking

account of data availability and quality, any methodology discrepancies and special cases.

#### **4. Sustainable investments**

The Portfolio Manager also invests in the securities of companies and specific-purpose bonds (e.g. social, green or sustainable bonds), which, based on its assessment, make a contribution to sustainable objectives (sustainable investment within the meaning of Article 2(17) SFDR) relating to one or more of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (hereinafter the “SDGs”). The products and services of companies (hereinafter “sustainable solutions”) and specific-purpose bonds are assessed with regards to their contribution to the SDGs using the data of independent third-party providers. The turnover of companies is used to examine the proportion of business that has a positive or negative impact on one or more of the objectives. For the specific-purpose bonds of companies, supranational entities and governments, we assess whether the proceeds have a positive impact on one or more of the SDGs.

Investments that no longer comply with the characteristics described in points 1-2 and 4 are removed from the portfolio by an appropriate deadline. If a sub-fund no longer complies with the characteristics described in point 3, the Portfolio Manager adjusts the portfolio by changing the weighting of the various securities or by replacing holdings with securities with lower CO<sub>2</sub>e intensity, in accordance with the annual targets. The Portfolio Manager ensures that the corresponding guideline is complied with on average over the year.

The sub-fund does not use a reference benchmark to measure the described environmental and social characteristics.

#### **● 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 Portfolio Manager uses its SDG research to focus on securities which, based on its assessment, make a positive contribution to the SDGs. This means, for example, a company or specific-purpose bond (e.g. a social, green or sustainable bond) offering products and/or services that make a contribution to one or more of the SDGs.

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

***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

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

The sub-fund also considers adverse impacts on sustainability factors (principal adverse impacts (hereinafter "PAIs")). The mandatory indicators in Annex I of the commission delegated regulation (EU) 2022/1288 supplementing Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (hereafter "Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/2088") are used for this purpose. Issuers categorised by the Portfolio Manager as causing significant harm on the basis of PAIs are not included in 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:*

Any breaches of the following standards are considered when analysing investments for inclusion as sustainable investments: the UN Global Compact (UNGC), UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP), and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions. Serious breaches of these standards result in the exclusion of any sustainable investments of the issuer.

*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 sub-fund considers principal adverse impacts (PAIs) on sustainability indicators. The mandatory indicators in Annex I to Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 are used for this purpose. The PAIs are taken into account in the investment process via the use of sustainable investments, exclusion criteria, the reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>e intensity and ESG integration, and directly in the calculation of PAI scores.
- The Portfolio Manager uses the data of third-party providers. Where this is not possible, the Portfolio Manager will make reasonable efforts to obtain the data directly or to estimate this data in the best way possible.
- The information regarding PAIs required under Article 11(2) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 is published in the Annual Report.

- ☐ No



***What investment strategy does this financial product follow?***

The fund invests at least 51% of its assets in fixed or variable-interest securities issued by private and public-sector debtors (incl. emerging markets). An opportunistic approach is taken to the selection and weighting of the individual securities and investment types, i.e. depending on the assessment of the current market assessment.

- ***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 Portfolio Manager considers the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the sub-fund in the daily management of the portfolio. Implementation of the approach-specific limits are considered by the Portfolio Manager when taking investment decisions on portfolio construction, and continuous compliance is ensured as part of ongoing portfolio monitoring.

**1. Exclusion criteria**

The consideration of sustainability aspects includes the definition of exclusion criteria for business activities that the Portfolio Manager judges to be high-risk (see above). The exclusion criteria are verified at least once a year for any changes or new information and adjusted accordingly.

**2. ESG integration**

As part of the investment process, the Portfolio Manager follows an approach which integrates environmental, social and governance (ESG) aspects. This means that environmental and/or social characteristics are automatically considered in addition to

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

traditional financial analysis when selecting investments, in order to guarantee a positive contribution to ESG criteria and where applicable investment returns. There are therefore limited investments in ESG laggards. ESG laggards are companies within a specific sector or industry branch with particularly poor ESG scores versus their peers on the basis of proprietary ESG scores.

The weight of all positions in ESG Laggards of the Sub-Fund shall not exceed 20% of the weight of the portfolio.

### **3. Reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>e intensity**

The Portfolio Manager's investment activity targets a continuous reduction in the CO<sub>2</sub>e intensity of investments as follows:

The Portfolio Manager defines a guideline for the average CO<sub>2</sub>e intensity of the sub-fund's assets on an annual basis. The Portfolio Manager defines the respective guideline each year on the basis of the target value for the global reduction of CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions (at least 4% annually), which is based on the Paris Climate Agreement of 12 December 2015. The guideline for the average CO<sub>2</sub>e intensity of the sub-fund's assets is calculated by discounting the CO<sub>2</sub>e intensity of the assets included in the reference benchmark as at the end of 2019 annually by the target value (4%) and global economic growth. The Portfolio Manager uses a rolling arithmetic average of nominal economic growth over the last three years to calculate economic growth.

### **4. Sustainable investments**

The Portfolio Manager invests inter alia in securities which, based on its assessment, make a positive contribution to the SDGs. The sustainable solutions of companies and specific-purpose bonds are examined with regards to their contribution to the SDGs using the data of independent third-party providers. For this purpose, a proprietary model examines around 800 product and service solutions for their contribution to one or more of the SDG targets. This results in a matrix with approximately 70 solutions for the 169 SDG targets or the 17 SDGs. For this assessment, we verify what proportion of a company's turnover has a positive or negative impact on one or more of the SDGs. Qualitatively, this impact is divided into five categories and ranges from strongly positive, positive, neutral, negative to strongly negative. The contribution made to the SDGs is classified in one of five categories: strongly positive, positive, neutral, negative or strongly negative. For example, in the automotive sector, we consider electric vehicles to be a more climate-friendly transportation option (strongly positive) than hybrid vehicles (positive). Turnover is also classified according to its contribution to environmental or social objectives. Only turnover classified as making a positive or strongly positive contribution to the SDGs is categorised as sustainable investment. The specific-purpose bonds of companies, supranational entities and governments qualify as sustainable investments if the proceeds have a positive impact on one or more of the SDGs. The turnover of issuers causing significant harm to environmental or social sustainable investment objectives cannot be included in the proportion of sustainable investment.

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

The fund follows an active investment strategy and does not use a reference universe. It is not possible to quantify the minimum rate to reduce the scope of eligible investments.

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

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

Good governance is considered when analysing investments by verifying compliance with the following global standards: the UN Global Compact (UNGC), UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP), and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Conventions.

In the event of breaches by companies that are uncovered by a screening based on the data of an external data provider, where appropriate, the Portfolio Manager will enter into dialogue with the company to urge them to change their behaviour. Any investments will be sold if there is no change in behaviour within an appropriate period of time. This is also the case if dialogue is considered inappropriate based on the severity of the breach.



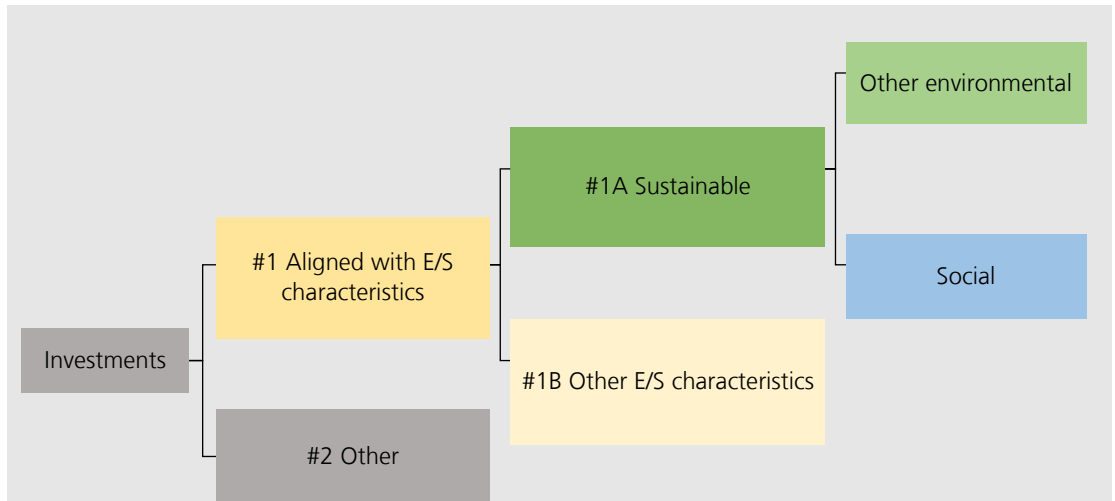


#### Asset allocation

describes the share of investments in specific assets.

### *What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?*

The Portfolio Manager ensures that at least 67% of the net assets of the sub-fund pursue the promoted environmental and social characteristics in accordance with the table below (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). The Portfolio Manager restricts investments in other assets (#2 Other) that do not pursue environmental and/or social characteristics to 33% of the sub-fund's net assets



**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category #1 Aligned with E/S characteristics covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

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

Derivatives are only used to a limited extent for hedging purposes and do not pursue environmental or social characteristics.



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

0% of the portfolio. The fund does not pursue a sustainable investment aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

### Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU taxonomy<sup>1</sup>?

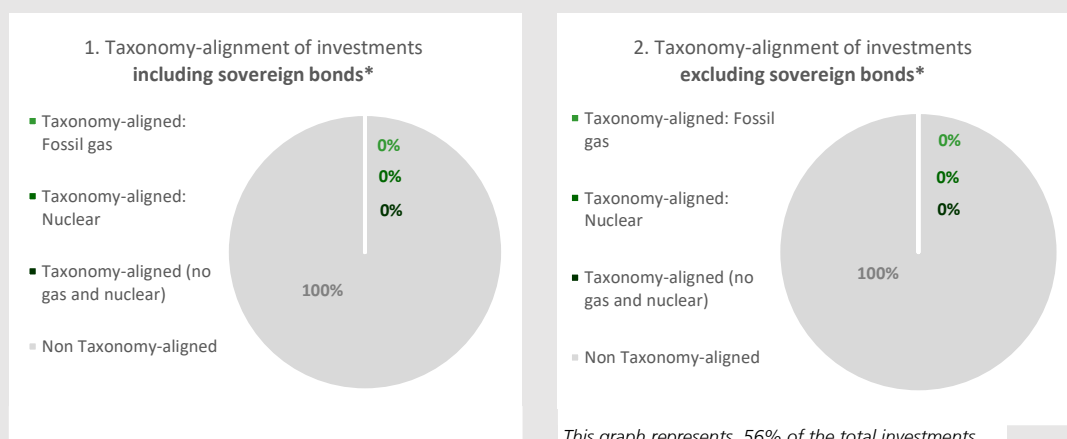
- ☐ Yes  
☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy
- ☒ No

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to fully 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 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 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.

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

0% of the portfolio.

<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 any EU Taxonomy objective – see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

 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?***

2.5% of the portfolio.



***What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?***

2.5% of the portfolio.



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

This sub-fund may invest up to 33% of net sub-fund assets in assets that do not align with environmental and/or social characteristics (#2 Other). These assets may include any investments covered by the specific investment policy, including derivatives for hedging purposes and cash, and are used to pursue the investment strategy of the sub-fund. For these investments, minimum environmental and social safeguards are not generally applied.



***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?***

A specific index is not designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether the financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics it promotes.



***Where can I find more product specific information online?***

More product-specific information can be found on the website:  
<https://products.swisscanto.com/products/product/LU0957587206>.