

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).

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

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 EU the 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 0% 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?

1. Identification and analysis of a company’s environmental characteristics including, but not limited to, physical risks of climate change and human capital management.
2. Responsible business practices in accordance with UN Global Compact and OECD Principles for businesses.
3. Minimum environmental standards through exclusion of business activities that are deemed harmful to the environment.
- 4.Active consideration of environmental issues through engagement and proxy voting.
5. Analysis of the share of investment involved in controversial weapons.

The sub-fund aims to have a higher ESG rating than the Bloomberg US Aggregate (the “Reference Benchmark”), calculated as a weighted average of the ESG ratings of the issuers of the sub-fund’s investments, versus the weighted average of the ESG ratings of the Reference Benchmark constituents. The Reference Benchmark has not been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental or social characteristics of the sub-fund.

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

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

Sustainability indicators are a key consideration in our investment decision making process.

The primary sustainability indicator is the use of HSBC Asset Management's Proprietary ESG ratings system, to measure the attainment of the ESG characteristics promoted by the sub-fund, which includes:

- E, S and G Pillar Scores, relative to the benchmark or its sector

- ESG Score, relative to the benchmark or its sector

The sub-fund includes the identification and analysis of an issuer's ESG credentials ("ESG Credentials") as an integral part of the investment decision making process with the aim of reducing sustainability risk and enhancing returns. ESG Credentials may include, but are not limited to:

- environmental and social factors, including but not limited to physical risks of climate change and human capital management, that may have a material impact on a security issuer's financial performance and valuation
- corporate governance practices that protect minority investor interests and promote long term sustainable value creation.

ESG Credentials are proprietary to HSBC, subject to ongoing research and may change over time as new criteria are identified.

The sub-fund also considers the Principal Adverse Impacts that are listed below:

- Greenhouse gas intensity of investee companies (Scope 1 & Scope 2)
- Violation of UNGC and OECD principles
- Share of investment involved in controversial weapons

In addition, the sub-fund will not invest in securities of companies with specified involvement in specific Excluded Activities, that are listed below.

- **What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?**

The sub-fund aims to identify and analyse a company's ESG credentials as an integral part of the investment decision making process through portfolio construction with the aim of reducing sustainability risk and enhancing returns. By considering the ESG Credentials of potential investments the Investment Adviser can aim to meet the objective of having an improved ESG score compared to the Reference Benchmark.

- **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?**

Do no significant harm analysis is completed as part of HSBC Asset Management's (HSBC) standard investment process for sustainable assets, which will include the consideration of Principal Adverse Impacts.

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

The Investment Adviser will review all SFDR mandatory Principal Adverse Impacts to assess the relevance to the sub-fund. HSBC's Responsible Investment Policy sets out the approach taken to identify and respond to principal adverse sustainability impacts and how HSBC considers ESG sustainability risks as these can adversely impact the securities the sub-funds invest in. HSBC uses third party screening providers to identify companies and governments with a poor track record in managing ESG risks and, where potential material risks are identified, HSBC also carry out further due diligence. Sustainability impacts, including the relevant Principal Adverse Impacts, identified by screening are a key consideration in the investment decision making process and, in turn, this also supports the advice given to clients.

The approach taken, as set out above, means that among other things the following points are scrutinised:

- companies' commitment to lower carbon transition, adoption of sound human rights principles and employees' fair treatment, implementation of rigorous supply chain management practices aiming, among other things, at alleviating child and forced labour. HSBC also pay a great attention to the robustness of corporate governance and

**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.

political structures which include the level of board independence, respect of shareholders' rights, existence and implementation of rigorous anti-corruption and bribery policies as well as audit trails; and  
- governments' commitment to availability and management of resources (including population trends, human capital, education and health), emerging technologies, government regulations and policies (including climate change, anti-corruption and bribery), political stability and governance.

The specific Principal Adverse Impacts for this sub-fund are as set out above.

HSBC's Responsible Investment Policy is available on the website at:  
[www.assetmanagement/hsbc/about-us/responsible-investing/policies](http://www.assetmanagement/hsbc/about-us/responsible-investing/policies)

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

HSBC is committed to the application and promotion of global standards. Key areas of focus for HSBC's Responsible Investment Policy are the ten principles of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC). These principles include non-financial risks such as human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption. HSBC is also a signatory of the UN Principles of Responsible Investment. This provides the framework used in HSBC's approach to investment by identifying and managing sustainability risks. Companies in which the sub-fund invests will be expected to comply with the UNGC and related standards. Companies having clearly violated one, or with at least two presumed violations, of the ten principles of the UNGC are systematically excluded. The sub-fund conducts enhanced due diligence on companies that are considered to be non-compliant with the UN Global Compact Principles, or are considered to be high risk as determined by the HSBC's proprietary ESG ratings. Companies are also evaluated in accordance with international standards like the OECD Guidelines.

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.



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

- ☒ Yes, the approach taken to consider Principal Adverse Impacts means that, among other things, HSBC will scrutinise companies' commitment to lower-carbon transition, adoption of sound human rights principles and employees' fair treatment, and implementation of rigorous supply chain management practices such as those aiming to alleviate child and forced labour. HSBC also pays attention to the robustness of corporate governance and political structures which include the level of board independence, respect of shareholders' rights, existence and implementation of rigorous anti-corruption and bribery policies, as well as audit trails. Governments' commitment to availability and management of resources (including population trends, human capital, education and health), emerging technologies, government regulations and policies (including climate change, anti-corruption and bribery), political stability and governance will also be taken into account.

The sub-fund also considers the Principal Adverse Impacts that are listed below:

- Greenhouse gas intensity of investee companies (Scope 1 & Scope 2)

- Violation of UNGC and OECD principles
- Share of investment involved in controversial weapons

How Principal Adverse Impacts were considered will be included in the sub-fund's year-end report and accounts.

☐ No



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

The sub-fund invests for total return primarily in a diversified portfolio of Investment Grade rated fixed income (e.g. bonds) and other similar securities from around the world, denominated in US dollars, while promoting ESG characteristics within the meaning of Article 8 of SFDR.

Asset classes may include but are not limited to developed markets sovereigns, developed markets investment grade corporate securities, developed markets high yield corporate securities and Emerging Markets securities. The sub-fund will however, seek to invest primarily in securities issued in developed markets.

The sub-fund includes the identification and analysis of an issuer's ESG credentials ("ESG Credentials") as an integral part of the investment decision making process with the aim of reducing sustainability risk and enhancing returns. ESG Credentials may include, but are not limited to:

- environmental and social factors, including but not limited to physical risks of climate change and human capital management, that may have a material impact on a security issuer's financial performance and valuation
- corporate governance practices that protect minority investor interests and promote long term sustainable value creation.

ESG Credentials are proprietary to HSBC, subject to ongoing research and may change over time as new criteria are identified. Notwithstanding the Excluded Activities as detailed below, the inclusion of an issuer in the sub-fund's investment universe is at the discretion of the Investment Adviser. Issuers with improving ESG Credentials may be included when their credentials are still limited.

The sub-fund will not invest in bonds issued by issuers with specified involvement in specific excluded activities ("Excluded Activities" as detailed below).

ESG Credentials, Excluded Activities and the need for enhanced due diligence may be identified and analysed by using, but not exclusively, HSBCs proprietary ESG Materiality Framework and ratings, fundamental qualitative research and corporate engagement. The Investment Adviser may rely on expertise, research and information provided by well-established financial data providers.

The sub-fund is actively managed and does not track a benchmark. The sub-fund has an internal or external target to outperform the Reference Benchmark, Bloomberg US Aggregate.

This investment strategy is implemented through HSBC's investment process on a continuous basis by way of ongoing review and compliance monitoring of the binding elements as set out below.

- **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?**

Binding elements for this sub-fund are as follows:

- The sub-fund aims to have a higher ESG rating than the Reference Benchmark, calculated as a weighted average of the ESG ratings of the issuers of the sub-fund's

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

investments, versus the weighted average of the ESG ratings of the Reference Benchmark constituents.

- The sub-fund includes the identification and analysis of an issuer's ESG credentials ("ESG Credentials") as an integral part of the investment decision making process with the aim of reducing sustainability risk and enhancing returns. ESG Credentials are set out above.
- Excluded Activities and specified involvement are proprietary to HSBC and include, but are not limited to:
  - Issuers involved in the production of controversial weapons or their key components. Controversial weapons include but are not limited to anti-personnel mines, depleted uranium weapons and white phosphorous when used for military purposes. This exclusion is in addition to the banned weapons policy.
  - Issuers involved in the production of tobacco.
  - Issuers with more than 10% revenue generated from thermal coal extraction and do not have a clearly defined, credible plan to reduce exposure to below 10%.
  - Issuers with more than 10% revenue generated from coal-fired power generation and do not have a clearly defined, credible plan to reduce exposure to below 10%.
- The sub-fund conducts enhanced due diligence on bond issuers that are considered to be non-compliant with the UN Global Compact Principles, or are considered to be high risk as determined by the HSBC's proprietary ESG ratings.

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

The sub-fund does not have a committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of investments however, its investment universe is naturally reduced on the basis of its Excluded Activities as set out above.

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

Governance is assessed against criteria specified in the investment process which includes, among other things, business ethics, culture and values, corporate governance and bribery and corruption. Controversies and reputational risks are assessed through enhanced due diligence as well as screening which are used to identify companies that are considered to have low governance scores. Those companies will then be subjected to further review, action and/or engagement.

Good corporate governance has long been incorporated in HSBC's proprietary fundamental company research. HSBC's Stewardship team meets with companies regularly to improve our understanding of their business and strategy, signal support or concerns we have with management actions and promote best practice. HSBC believes that good corporate governance ensures that companies are managed in line with the long-term interests of their investors.

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

The sub-fund invests for total return primarily in a diversified portfolio of Investment Grade rated fixed income (e.g. bonds) and other similar securities from around the world, denominated in US dollars. It aims to do this with a higher ESG rating than the Bloomberg US Aggregate (the "Reference Benchmark"), calculated as a weighted average of the ESG ratings of the issuers of the sub-fund's investments, versus the weighted average of the ESG ratings of the Reference Benchmark constituents.

Asset classes may include but are not limited to developed markets sovereigns, developed markets investment grade corporate securities, developed markets high yield corporate securities and Emerging Markets securities though the sub-fund will

**Good governance**

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



**Asset allocation**

describes the share of investments in specific assets.

seek to invest primarily in securities issued in developed markets.

The sub-fund may invest significantly (up to 50% of its net assets) in Asset Backed Securities ("ABS") and Mortgage Backed Securities ("MBS"), including those backed by the government of the United States of America.

Notwithstanding the above, the sub-fund may hold other investments including cash for the purposes of liquidity management and financial derivative instruments. The sub-fund may use financial derivative instruments for hedging purposes and efficient portfolio management purposes. The sub-fund may also invest in financial derivative instruments such as futures, options, swaps (including, but not limited to, credit default swaps) and forward currency contracts. The sub-fund intends to use such financial derivative instruments, inter alia, for the purposes of managing interest and credit risks and currency positioning but also to enhance return when the Investment Adviser believes the investment in financial derivative instruments will assist the sub-fund in achieving its investment objectives. The sub-fund does not intend to use financial derivative instruments extensively for investment purposes. Financial derivative instruments may also be used for efficient portfolio management purposes.

The sub-fund does not commit to holding a minimum percentage of sustainable investments.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

**- turnover**

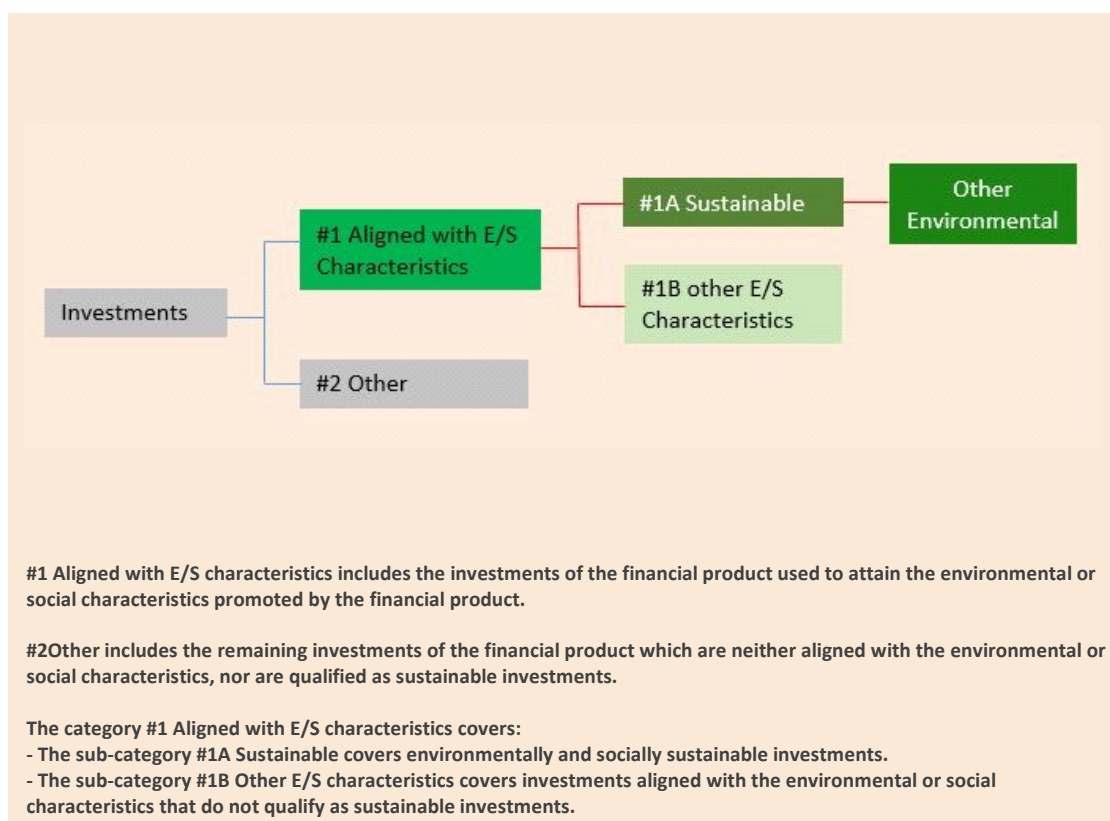
reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies

**- capital expenditure**

(CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.

**- operational expenditure**

(OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.



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

The sub-fund will not use derivatives to attain the environmental characteristics of the sub-fund.



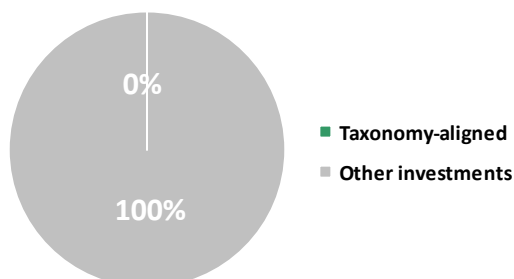
**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.



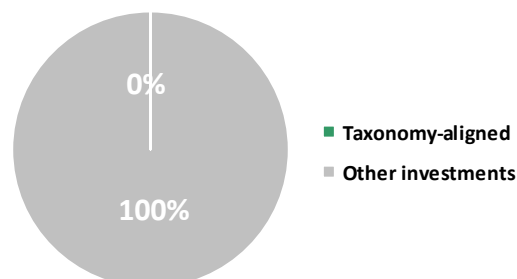
## To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

The sustainable investments within the sub-fund are not intending to be aligned with the EU Taxonomy, this is therefore assessed to be 0%. However, from time to time, the sub-fund may hold taxonomy aligned investments.

**1. Taxonomy -alignment of investments including sovereign bonds**



**2. Taxonomy -alignment of investments excluding sovereign bonds**



**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.

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

This is not applicable as the sub-fund does not have a specific minimum share of transitioning and enabling activities.



are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that do not take into account the criteria for environmentally sustainable economic



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

The sub-fund does not intend to commit to a minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy however, this does not mean that the investments held by the sub-fund are harmful to the environment or unsustainable.



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

The sub-fund does not commit to having a minimum share of socially sustainable investments, however, the Investment Adviser does look at the social characteristics, human and workforce rights, management behaviour and corporate social responsibility when assessing an issuer.



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

The sub-fund may hold cash and cash equivalents and financial derivative instruments may also be used as set out above including for the purposes of efficient portfolio management. The sub-fund may also hold investments that are not aligned for other reasons such as corporate actions and non-availability of data.



## Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?

No

**Reference benchmarks**  
are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote

- **How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?**  
N/A
- **How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?**  
N/A
- **How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?**  
N/A
- **Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?**  
N/A



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

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

More product-specific information can be found on the website:

[www.assetmanagement.hsbc.co.uk](http://www.assetmanagement.hsbc.co.uk)