

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 practices.

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

## 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

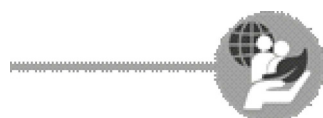
and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 5% of sustainable investments

☐ 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?

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 where HSBC Asset Management considers it appropriate to do so.
5. Analysis of the share of investment involved in controversial weapons.

The Bloomberg Euro Aggregate is the "Reference Benchmark" for the sub-fund and will be used to measure the sub-fund's ESG rating, calculated as a weighted average of the ESG ratings given to the issuers of the sub-fund's investments relative to the weighted average of the constituents of the Reference Benchmark, but has not been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental or social characteristics of the sub-fund.

### 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, which covers ESG, this is used to measure the attainment of the environmental characteristics promoted by the sub-fund which includes:

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

- Distinct E, S and G scores relative to the country, sector or benchmark
- Summary ESG score of the company or country relative to benchmark or 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 to reduce risk and enhance 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.

In addition, the sub-fund will not invest in bonds issued by issuers with specified involvement in specific excluded activities ("Excluded Activities"). Details of the Excluded Activities are provided below.

Principal Adverse Impacts are also considered by the sub-fund are:

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

● **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 sustainable investments made by this sub-fund are aligned to its environmental and social characteristics.

The sub-fund aims to identify and analyse a company's ESG credentials as an integral part of the investment decision making process to reduce sustainability risk and enhance 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?**

The principle of 'do no significant harm' to environmental or social objectives applies only to the underlying sustainable investments of the sub-fund. This principle is incorporated into the investment decision-making process, which includes 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

**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.

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 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.

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 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.

Principal Adverse Impacts are also considered by the sub-fund are:

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

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 aims to provide long term total return by investing in a portfolio of Euro denominated bonds while promoting ESG characteristics within the meaning of Article 8 of SFDR.

The sub-fund invests in normal market conditions a minimum of 90% of its net assets in Euro denominated Investment Grade rated fixed income and other similar securities which are either issued or guaranteed by governments, government agencies, supranational bodies or by companies which are domiciled in, based in, or carry out the larger part of their business in any country including developed markets and Emerging Markets.

The sub-fund aims to do this with a higher ESG rating, calculated as a weighted average of the ESG ratings given to the issuers of the sub-fund's investments, than the weighted average of the constituents of the Bloomberg Euro Aggregate (the "Reference Benchmark").

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.

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?**

The binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics are:

- The sub-fund aims to have a higher ESG rating, calculated as a weighted average of the ESG ratings given to the issuers of the sub-fund's investments, than the weighted average of the constituents of the Bloomberg Euro Aggregate.

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

- The sub-fund will not invest in bonds issued by issuers with specified involvement in specific excluded activities (“Excluded Activities”). 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.
  - 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 Investment Adviser may rely on expertise, research and information provided by well-established financial data providers to identify companies exposed to these Excluded Activities.
- The sub-fund will not invest in securities of companies that are considered non-compliant with the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Principles or have material exposure, exceeding a revenue exposure threshold, to specific excluded activities, as previously mentioned.

These exclusions are in addition to HSBC's banned weapons policy which is available at: [www.assetmanagement.hsbc.com/about-us/responsible-investing/policies](http://www.assetmanagement.hsbc.com/about-us/responsible-investing/policies)

#### ● **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 an committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of investments.

However, the sub-fund will not invest in equities and equity equivalent securities of companies that are considered non-compliant with the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Principles. However, in certain circumstances, HSBC may invest in companies or issuers that are in breach or suspected breach of UNGC violations if our engagement with the company or issuer shows that they are readily addressing the issue and have a valid action plan in place.

The sub-fund will also not invest in companies or issuers that have material exposure, exceeding a revenue exposure threshold, to specific excluded activities (“Excluded Activities”). These Excluded Activities are proprietary to HSBC and may include, but are not limited to, companies involved in the production of controversial weapons or their key components, companies involved in the production of tobacco, thermal coal fired power generation, thermal coal extraction and may change over time. Please note that the underlying companies and issuers that we invest in, may not have the same interpretation and standards as the HSBC Banned Weapons Policy or our Controversial Weapons definition.

#### ● **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

#### **Good governance**

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

that good corporate governance ensures that companies are managed in line with the long-term interests of their investors.



#### Asset allocation

describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

#### - turnover

reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies

#### - capital expenditure

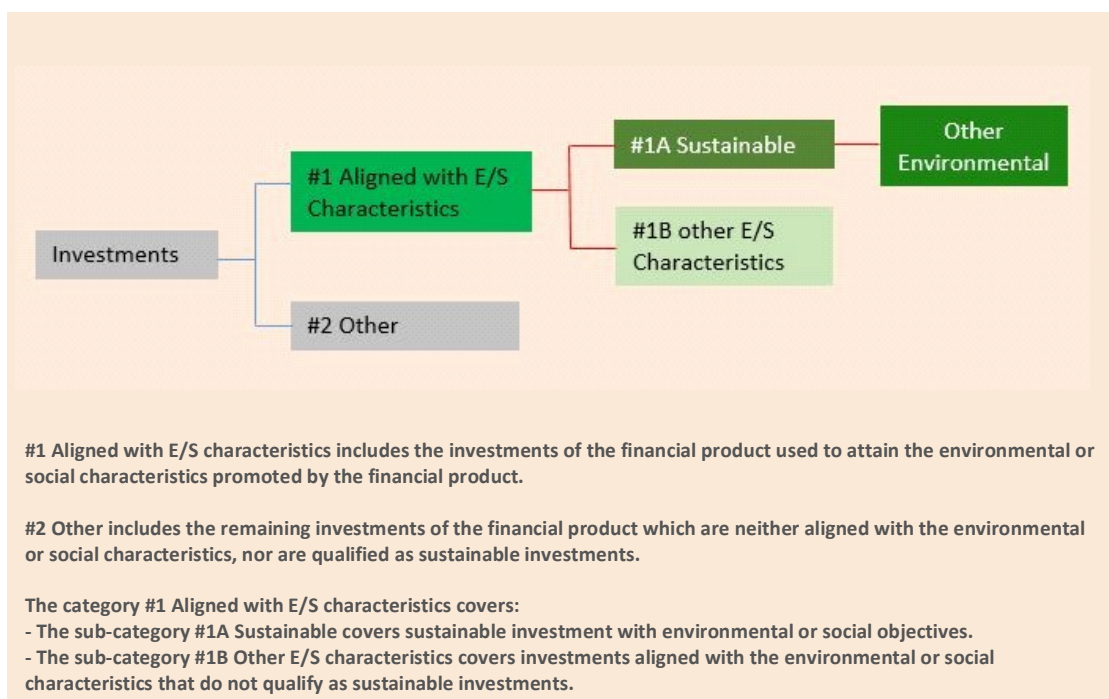
(CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.

#### - operational expenditure

(OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.

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

The sub-fund 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 (#1A Sustainable). The sub-fund will have a minimum proportion of 51% of investments that are aligned with the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product (#1 Aligned with E/S Characteristics). (#2 Other) includes cash, cash equivalents and financial derivatives instruments which may be used for efficient portfolio management.



#### ● 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 or social characteristics of the sub-fund.



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

The sub-fund does not currently intend to invest in sustainable investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy and the minimum share of taxonomy-aligned investments (including transitional and enabling activities) is therefore assessed to be 0%.

#### ● 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

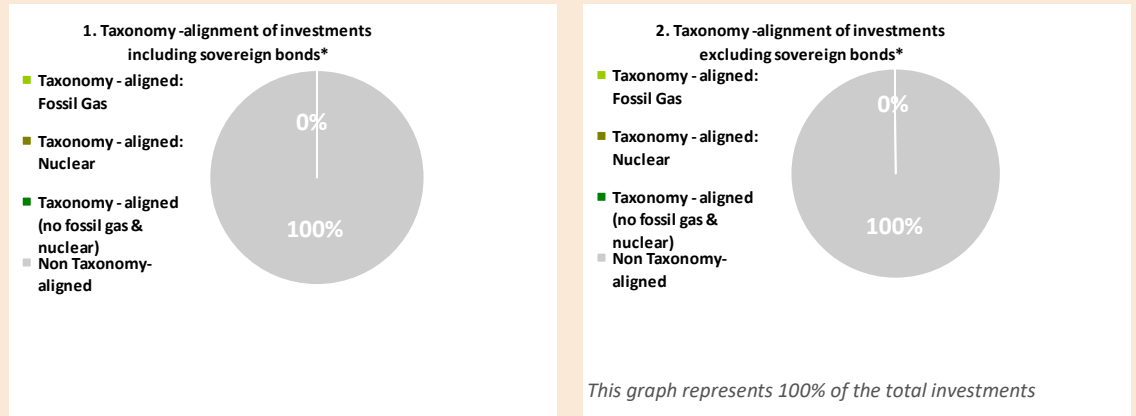
☒ No

1 Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective –see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

### Enabling activities

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

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.

**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?

Not applicable for this sub-fund.

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?

The sub-fund invests at least 5% in sustainable investments, with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.



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

Not applicable for this sub-fund.



### 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, financial derivative instruments may also be used for efficient portfolio management. This may also include investments that are not aligned for other reasons such as corporate actions and non-availability of data. Cash, cash equivalents and financial derivatives instruments are not considered as sustainable or environmental investments within the sub-fund, therefore no minimum environmental or social safeguards are 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?

No