

*William Blair*

# **William Blair SICAV**

**Consolidated Extract Prospectus for Investors in Switzerland**

**4 December 2025**

Luxembourg



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**If you are in any doubt about the contents, you should consult your stockbroker, solicitor, accountant or other financial advisor. No person is authorised to give any information other than that contained in the Prospectus, or any of the documents referred to herein that are available for public inspection at the registered office of the Company.**

The Company is registered in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg as an undertaking for collective investment in transferable securities (a "UCITS") with multiple compartment pursuant to Part I of the Luxembourg law of 17 December 2010 on undertakings for collective investment ("UCIs"), as may be amended from time to time (the "UCI Law") and the Council Directive 2009/65/EC (the "UCITS Directive") as amended. However, such registration does not imply a positive assessment by the the *Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier* ("CSSF") of the contents of the Prospectus or of the quality of the Shares offered for sale. Any representation to the contrary is unauthorised and unlawful.

The Company has appointed a Management Company in accordance with Part I of the UCI Law, as further detailed below.

The Prospectus does not constitute an offer to anyone or solicitation by anyone in any jurisdiction in which such an offer or solicitation is unlawful or in which the person making such an offer or solicitation is not qualified to do so.

Any information given by any person not mentioned in the Prospectus should be regarded as unauthorised. The information contained in the Prospectus is considered to be accurate at the date of its publication. To reflect material changes, the Prospectus may be updated from time to time and potential subscribers should enquire of the Company as to the issue of any later Prospectus.

The distribution of the Prospectus and the offering of the Shares may be restricted in certain jurisdictions. It is the responsibility of any persons in possession of the Prospectus and any persons wishing to subscribe for Shares pursuant to the Prospectus to inform themselves of, and to observe, all applicable laws and regulations of any relevant jurisdictions. Potential subscribers or purchasers of Shares should inform themselves as to the possible tax consequences, the legal requirements and any foreign exchange restrictions or exchange control requirements which they might encounter under the laws of the countries of their citizenship, residence or domicile and which might be relevant to the subscription, purchase, holding or sale of Shares.

The Company also publishes the Key Information Documents (the "KIDs") or the key investor information documents (the "KIIDs"), which include information about the essential characteristics of each Class of Shares of a Fund in order to enable investors to understand the nature and the risks of an investment in each Class of Shares of a Fund and to make their investment decision on an informed basis.

Subscriptions for Shares can be accepted only on the basis of the current Prospectus, the KIDs and the KIIDs. The Company will produce an annual report (the "**Annual Report**") containing the audited accounts and un-audited semi-annual reports (a "**Semi-Annual Report**"). Following the publication of the first of either report, the current Prospectus at that date will be valid only if accompanied by such Annual Report or Semi-annual Report. These reports in their latest version form an integral part of the Prospectus.

#### **NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF CHILE**

The offer of Shares of the Funds deals with securities that are not registered in the Securities Registry (*Registro de Valores*) or in the Foreign Securities Registry (*Registro de Valores Extranjeros*) kept by the *Superintendencia de Valores y Seguros of Chile* ("**SVS**"), which are, therefore, not subject to the supervision of the SVS. Given that the securities are not registered, there is no obligation for the issuer to disclose in Chile public information about said securities. The securities may not be publicly offered as long as they are not registered in the corresponding Securities Registry kept by the SVS.

#### **NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF COLOMBIA**

This Prospectus does not have the purpose or the effect of initiating, directly or indirectly, the purchase of a product or the rendering of a service by the Funds to Colombian residents. The Funds and any related products and/or services may not be promoted or marketed in Colombia or to Colombian residents unless such promotion and marketing is made in compliance with Decree 2555 of 2010 and other applicable rules and regulations related to the promotion of foreign financial and/or securities related products or services in Colombia. Neither the Funds nor any related person or entity has received authorization or licensing from the Financial Superintendency of Colombia or any other governmental authority in Colombia to market or sell Shares of the Funds within Colombia.

#### **NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF HONG KONG**

**You are advised to exercise caution in relation to the offer. If you are in any doubt about any of the contents of this document, you should obtain independent professional advice.**

This document has not been delivered for registration to the Registrar of Companies in Hong Kong and its contents have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Hong Kong. Accordingly, the Shares may not be offered or sold in Hong Kong by means of this document or any other document, and this document must not be issued, circulated or distributed in Hong Kong other than (i) to "professional investors" as defined in the Securities and Futures Ordinance (Chapter 571 of the Laws of Hong Kong) (the "**SFO**") and the Securities and Futures (Professional Investor) Rules made thereunder; or (ii) in other circumstances which do not result in this document being a "prospectus" as defined in the Companies (Winding Up and Miscellaneous Provisions) Ordinance (Chapter 32 of the Laws of Hong Kong) (the "**CO**") or which do not constitute an offer to the public within the meaning of the CO.

None of this document or any advertisement, invitation or other document relating to the Shares may be issued, circulated or distributed, or be in the possession of any person for the purposes of issue, circulation or distribution, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, which is directed at, or the contents of which are likely to be accessed or read by, the public in Hong Kong (except if permitted to do so under the securities laws of Hong Kong) other than with respect to the Shares which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to "professional investors" as defined in the SFO and the Securities and Futures (Professional Investor) Rules made thereunder.

#### **NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF ISRAEL**

Shares of the Funds are only offered in the State of Israel based upon an exemption under the Israeli Securities Law, 1968 and the Joint Investment Trusts Law, 1994. The offering of Shares of the Funds does not therefore constitute an offer made to the public in Israel within the meaning given to it in such legislation (*i.e.*, the Shares of the Funds are being offered only to investors listed in the First Schedule of the Securities Law and to no more than thirty-five (35) retail investors).

Shares of the Funds have not been registered, and no "prospectus" has been issued under the Israel Securities Law, 1968 and the Shares of the Funds are not regulated under the provisions of the Joint Investment Trusts Law, 1994. Neither the Shares of the Funds nor this Prospectus have been approved by any Israeli authority. No action has been or will be taken in the State of Israel that would permit a public offering of the Shares of the Funds or distribution of the Prospectus to the public in Israel. It is the responsibility of any person wishing to purchase Shares of the Funds to satisfy himself as to the full observance of the laws of the State of Israel in connection with any such purchase, including obtaining any governmental or other consent, if required.

#### **NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF SINGAPORE**

The Funds and the offer of the Shares which are the subjects of this Prospectus do not relate to a collective investment scheme which is authorized under section 286 of the Securities and Futures Act (Cap. 289) (the "SFA") or recognized under section 287 of the SFA. Shares of the Funds are not allowed to be offered to the retail public.

This Prospectus and any other document or material issued in connection with the offer or sale of Shares is not a "prospectus" as defined in the SFA and has not and will not be lodged or registered as a "prospectus" with the Monetary Authority of Singapore ("MAS"). The MAS assumes no responsibility for the contents of this Prospectus, or any other document issued in connection with the offer or sale of the Shares. Accordingly, statutory liability under the SFA in relation to the content of prospectuses does not apply. Potential investors should carefully consider whether an investment in the Shares is suitable for them.

No offer of the Shares for subscription or purchase, or invitation to subscribe for or purchase the Shares, may be made, nor any document or other material (including but not limited to this Prospectus) relating to the Shares may be circulated or distributed, either directly or indirectly, to any person in Singapore other than: (i) to an institutional investor (as defined in section 4A of the SFA) pursuant to section 304 of the SFA; (ii) to a relevant person (as defined

in section 305(5) of the SFA) pursuant to section 305(1) of the SFA; (iii) on terms that the minimum consideration is the equivalent of Singapore dollars 200,000 in accordance with section 305(2) of the SFA; or (iv) otherwise pursuant to, and in accordance with the conditions of, any other exemption under the SFA.

Pursuant to section 305 of the SFA, read in conjunction with Regulation 32 of and the Sixth Schedule to the Securities and Futures (Offers of Investments) (Collective Investment Schemes) Regulations 2005, the Funds have been entered into the list of restricted schemes maintained by the MAS for the purposes of the offer of Shares in the Funds made or intended to be made to relevant persons (as defined in section 305(5) of the SFA), or, the offer of Shares in a Fund made or intended to be made in accordance with the conditions of section 305(2) of the SFA.

Where an offer is made to institutional investors pursuant to section 304 of the SFA, the following restrictions apply to Shares acquired pursuant to such an offer. Where such Shares are first sold to any person other than an institutional investor, the requirements of Subdivisions (2) and (3) of Division 2 to Part XIII of the SFA will apply to the offer resulting in such sale, save where: (i) the Shares acquired are of the same class as, or can be converted into, Shares of the same class as the other Shares in the Funds, an offer of which has previously been made in or accompanied by a Prospectus and which are listed on a securities exchange; or (ii) the Shares acquired are of the same class as other Shares in a Fund in respect of which an offer has previously been made in, or a listing has been accompanied by, an offer information statement or other document approved by a securities exchange, and which Shares are listed for quotation on the exchange.

Where an offer is made to accredited investors pursuant to section 305 of the SFA, the following restrictions apply to Shares acquired pursuant to such an offer. Where such Shares are first sold to any person other than: (i) an institutional investor; (ii) a relevant person; or (iii) on terms in accordance with section 305(2) of the SFA, the requirements of Subdivisions (2) and (3) of Division 2 to Part XIII of the SFA will apply to the offer resulting in such sale, save where: (a) the Shares acquired are of the same class as the other Shares in a Fund, an offer of which has previously been made in or accompanied by a Prospectus and which are listed on a securities exchange; or (b) the shares acquired are of the same class as other Shares in a Fund in respect of which an offer has previously been made in, or a listing has been accompanied by, an offer information statement or other document approved by a securities exchange, and which Shares are listed for quotation on the exchange.

Further, where the Shares are acquired pursuant to an offer made in reliance on section 305 of the SFA by: (i) a corporation (which is not an accredited investor, whose sole business is to hold investments and the entire share capital of which is owned by individuals each of whom is an accredited investor); or (ii) a trust (of which the trustee is not an accredited investor and whose sole purpose is to hold investments for the benefit of beneficiaries each of whom is an accredited investor), no securities of such a corporation and no rights and interests of the beneficiaries in such a trust (as the case may be) shall be transferred for a period of six (6) months from the time the corporation or trust (as the case may be) acquired the Shares, unless such transfers are in accordance with the conditions specifically provided in sections 305A(2) and 305A(3) of the SFA (as the case may be).

This Prospectus as well as any other document or material in connection with the offer or sale of the Shares is intended only for the person to whom the Prospectus or other material has been given, and the Shares are not being offered or sold, nor the subject of an invitation for subscription or purchase, to any person in Singapore except the addressee. Accordingly, without prior written consent, this Prospectus and any other document or material in connection with any offer or sale of the Shares must not be issued, circulated or distributed in Singapore except to the addressee.

#### **NOTICE TO RESIDENTS OF PERU**

The Shares of the Funds have not been and will not be approved by the Peruvian *Superintendencia del Mercado de Valores* (the "**SMV**") or any other regulatory agency in Peru, nor have they been registered under the Securities Market Law (*Ley del Mercado de Valores*), or any SMV regulations. The Shares may not be offered or sold within Peru except in private placement transactions.

<b>Table Of Contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
SECTION I – THE COMPANY AND ITS SERVICE PROVIDERS.....	9
Board of Directors.....	10
Management Company .....	11
Administration and Advisors .....	12
SECTION II – INVESTMENT POLICIES .....	13
SFDR Article 6 Disclosure.....	14
Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund .....	16
Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund .....	31
Emerging Markets Frontier Debt Fund .....	46
Emerging Markets Growth Fund.....	61
Emerging Markets Leaders Fund .....	76
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund .....	91
Global Leaders Fund.....	107
Global Leaders Sustainability Fund .....	121
U.S. All Cap Growth Fund.....	137
U.S. Large Cap Growth Fund.....	151
U.S. Small-Mid Cap Core Fund .....	165
U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund.....	180
SECTION IV – RISK FACTORS – ALL FUNDS.....	195
SECTION V – RISK MANAGEMENT .....	221
SECTION VI - INVESTING IN THE FUND .....	222
Information about Shares .....	223
Subscription for Shares .....	235
Dividend policy .....	244
Charges.....	246
Conversion of Shares .....	250
Redemption of Shares .....	252
SECTION VII - GENERAL INFORMATION.....	256

Appendix A – Investment Powers and Restrictions ..... 279

Appendix B – Investment Know How ..... 288

Appendix C – Net Asset Value ..... 300

Appendix D – Additional Information for Investors in the UK ..... 307

Appendix E – Additional Information For Investors In Germany ..... 315

Appendix F – Purposes and legal bases ..... 318

Appendix G – Recipients and countries of establishment..... 321

Appendix H – Retention Periods..... 323

Appendix I – Additional Information For Investors In Switzerland ..... 324

## SECTION I – THE COMPANY AND ITS SERVICE PROVIDERS

**William Blair SICAV** (Société d'investissement à capital variable)

31, Z.A. Bourmicht

L-8070 Bertrange

Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Luxembourg R.C.S.: B-98 806

## Board of Directors

Chair	Stephanie G. Braming Partner William Blair Investment Management, LLC  United States of America
Director	Cissie Citardi Partner William Blair & Company, L.L.C.  United States of America
Director	Thomas Ross Partner William Blair International, Ltd.  United Kingdom

## Management Company

The Company has appointed FundRock Management Company S.A., a "*société anonyme*" incorporated under the laws of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and having its registered office at Airport Center Building, 5 Heienhaff, L-1736 Senningerberg, as its management company (the "**Management Company**").

## Administration and Advisors

Depository and Paying Agent, Central Administration Agent (including Domiciliary Agent), Registrar and Transfer Agent	Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch 31, Z.A. Bourmicht L-8070 Bertrange Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Investment Manager	William Blair Investment Management, LLC 150 North Riverside Plaza Chicago, IL 60606 United States of America
Global Distributor	William Blair & Company, L.L.C. 150 North Riverside Plaza Chicago, IL 60606 United States of America
Sub-Custodian	Citibank, N.A. 388 Greenwich Street New York, New York, 10013 United States of America
Auditor	Ernst & Young S.A. 35 E, Avenue John F. Kennedy 1855 Luxembourg Grand Duchy of Luxembourg
Legal Advisor	Arendt & Medernach SA 41A, Avenue John F. Kennedy, 1855 Kirchberg Luxembourg Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg

## SECTION II – INVESTMENT POLICIES

The investment objective and policy of the Funds are described in each Fund’s summary. The Funds are managed in accordance with the investment restrictions specified in Appendix A, and the special investment and hedging techniques and instruments specified in Appendix B. The Company will provide the relevant shareholders with at least thirty (30) days’ prior notice of any change in its investment policy.

The Directors may decide to create further Funds with different investment objectives, and in such cases, the Prospectus will be updated accordingly. The Directors shall maintain for each Fund a separate pool of assets.

The Company and the Management Company will use a risk-management process that enables them to monitor and measure at any time the risk of the Funds’ portfolio positions and their contribution to the overall risk profile of the Company as further described under the section headed “*Risk Management*”. It will employ a process allowing for accurate and independent assessment of the value of OTC derivative instruments.

As used in this Prospectus, “**Regulation S Bonds**” refer to bonds exempt from registration in the United States under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “**1933 Act**”) pursuant to Regulation S promulgated under the 1933 Act.

## SFDR Article 6 Disclosure

*SFDR Article 6 Disclosure for :*

- *All Article 8 Funds*

The Investment Manager addresses sustainability risks by systematically integrating what it deems to be financially material ESG factors in its fundamental research. The assessment of potential sustainability risks is guided by a proprietary industry materiality framework that was developed internally by the Investment Manager.

Building on this materiality framework, the Investment Manager utilizes a qualitative ESG ratings system that is fully aligned with the Investment Manager's views on the ESG factors that affect investment performance.

It is the Investment Manager's belief that there exists a link between off-balance-sheet risk factors and a company's financial performance. The essence of corporate success lies in building intrinsic strengths in the management of human capital, financial resources, and stakeholder relationships, and delivering quality, innovation, service and value to customers. Companies that lead in these critical areas may produce better returns on capital over time with greater consistency and less risk. The Investment Manager believes that integrating an analysis of sustainability risks alongside traditional financial metrics in its fundamental research helps it make a more holistic assessment of corporate risk and opportunities and is commensurate with the pursuit of superior risk-adjusted returns.

Factors driving sustainability risks include climate change, natural resources stewardship, pollution and waste management. Social considerations include human capital management, customer well-being, supply chain management and community relations. From a governance perspective, the key focus is on board composition, minority shareholder treatment, management incentives and corporate culture

***SFDR Article 8 Disclosures can be found appended to the Fund Details in the relevant Annex II of the relevant Fund below***

*Principal adverse impact statement – Article 4 SFDR*

With respect to the Funds referenced above, for the purposes of Article 7(1) of the SFDR, the Management Company and Investment Manager do consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors when making investment decisions as further described in the relevant Annex II pertaining to the relevant Fund.

Potential investors should note that the investments of the Funds are subject to risks as described under the section headed "*Risk Factors – All Funds*".

SECTION III – SUMMARY OF EACH FUND

## Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund

**This Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics within the meaning of article 8 (1) SFDR**

**Investment objective:** The Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund seeks to provide risk-adjusted returns through investments in hard currency denominated debt issued in emerging market countries.

**Main investment strategies:** Under normal market conditions, the Fund will invest in Transferable Securities and fixed income Money Market Instruments issued by public or private issuers in developing countries, which are often referred to as "**emerging markets**." The majority of investments are to be carried out in South and Central America (including the Caribbean), Central Europe, Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and the Middle East. More specifically, investments will be made in countries where the Investment Manager is able to assess the specific political, economic and ESG risks. The Fund may invest in debt securities of any maturity or credit rating, including investment grade securities, below investment grade securities, and unrated securities. The Fund may also invest up to a maximum of 10% of the Fund's net assets in distressed or defaulted debt securities. Distressed securities are securities of issuers in extremely weak financial condition or which are perceived to have a deteriorating financial condition that will affect their future ability to meet their financial obligations. Defaulted securities are securities where the issuer is unable to make interest payments or to repay the principal in time.

A majority of investments will be in below investment grade securities and the Fund may invest on an ancillary basis in investment grade securities and unrated securities; it being specified that, with respect to unrated securities, the Investment Manager performs its own analysis to assess the credit quality of such securities.

For information purposes, under normal market conditions, the average rating of the Fund's portfolio will typically range between B- and B+.

For purposes of this Fund, "**Transferable Securities**," issued by the public and/or private sector, primarily include fixed rate bonds, floating rate bonds, bonds with warrants and convertible bonds, bonds resulting from the restructuring of syndicated loans or bank loans (e.g., "Brady" bonds) securitized and subordinated bonds. For purposes of this Fund, the term "**Money Market Instruments**" mainly, but not exclusively, includes investments in term deposits, commercial papers, short-term bonds, treasury certificates. This list is not exhaustive. The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in ancillary assets such as deposits at sight, as further described in paragraph 2) b) of Appendix A "*Investment Powers and Restrictions*".

Investments shall only be made in securities denominated in the currencies of Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development ("**OECD**") member countries. However, the Investment Manager shall, in principle, hedge the currency risk inherent in these investments. This may be carried out by hedging the currency risk in relation to the reference currency of assets denominated in currencies other than the Fund's reference currency, through the use of the techniques and financial instruments described in Appendix B to this Prospectus. Investors should be aware that any currency hedging process may not give a precise hedge. Furthermore, there is no guarantee that the hedging will be

totally successful. Investors in hedged share classes may have exposure to currencies other than the currency of the hedged share class.

**"Hard Currency"** refers to the Fund's investment currencies. The assets in which the Fund invests are denominated in the currencies of economically developed and politically stable countries that are members of the OECD.

For comparison purposes, the Fund is measured against the JPMorgan Emerging Markets Bond Index (EMBI) Global Diversified as its primary index. The Fund is actively managed within its objective and is not constrained by a benchmark.

The Fund may also invest, on an ancillary basis, in other Transferable Securities (including warrants on Transferable Securities up to a maximum of 10% of the Fund's net assets), CoCos (up to a maximum of 10% of the Fund's net assets), Money Market Instruments, Rule 144A and Regulation S Bonds, units of UCITS and other UCIs and deposits. However, investments in UCITS and UCIs may not exceed a total of 10% of the net assets. Where the Fund invests in warrants on Transferable Securities, note that the Fund's net asset value may fluctuate more than if the Fund was invested in the underlying assets because of the higher volatility of the value of the warrant.

The Fund may use derivatives for hedging purposes and for efficient portfolio management. The total value of the Fund's non-offset short position in derivatives for hedging purposes shall not exceed the total market value of the relevant securities held by the Fund and the risk exposure of the non-offset position in derivative held by the Fund for purpose of increase of investment efficiency shall not exceed forty percent (40%) of net asset value of the Fund. In more detail the Fund may use derivative financial instruments including, but not limited to, the following: (i) options and futures on Transferable Securities or Money Market Instruments; (ii) futures and options on indices; (iii) futures, options and interest rate swaps; (iv) performance swaps; (v) total return swaps (in respect of eligible assets under the UCI Law which fall within the Fund's investment policies and predominantly as a hedging mechanism to reduce the overall risk in the portfolio in case of market instability); (vi) forward currency contracts, currency futures contracts and transactions, currency call and put options and currency swaps; (vii) derivative financial instruments linked to credit risks, namely credit derivatives, such as credit default swaps, indices and baskets of securities. Occasionally, the Fund may use total return swaps to maintain market exposure or, as the case may be, to increase market exposure. For more information on the techniques and instruments that the Fund may use (pursuant to its investment policies outlined in this summary), please refer to Appendix B headed "*Investment Know How*".

The Fund will not actively invest in equities but may receive equities from a restructuring or other corporate action. Such equities are intended to be sold as soon as possible taking into account the best interests of the investors.

Investments made by the Fund are subject to specific factors, they cannot be compared to investments made in major industrialized countries. In the past, some developing countries have suspended or halted the payment of their external debt, including both the interest and the capital, with respect to issuers from the public and private sectors. These factors may also result in the positions held by the Fund becoming less liquid, or even illiquid.

The Investment Manager seeks to integrate material environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors within its investment process. The Investment Manager's assessment of current and prospective portfolio holdings integrates an analysis of applicable ESG factors. The Investment Manager believes a robust, disciplined research process helps to uncover mispricing in emerging markets debt, and the Fund's investment team integrates ESG factors in a structured, quantitative, and qualitative process that is designed to provide a holistic assessment of an issuer's opportunities and risks.

The Investment Manager's assessment of ESG factors for emerging market debt sovereign issuers is guided by a proprietary scoring model that incorporates data obtained from third party vendors it deems reliable and by publicly available sources. The Investment Manager embeds ESG factors in its valuation tools and relies on a multitude of inputs, including scores from its proprietary sovereign risk model, when choosing to invest in a country. The governance factors the Investment Manager seeks to capture systematically in this process include measures of political stability, government and regulatory effectiveness, institutional strength, levels of corruption and the rule of law. In considering environmental factors, the Investment Manager seeks to capture vulnerability to physical and economic impacts of climate change and other natural disasters, energy transition risk and energy security as well as natural resource management. The Investment Manager also considers social factors including living standards, income inequality, respect for human rights (including the right to life, the right to freedom of association and the right to health), poverty and income inequality, gender inequality, availability of and access to healthcare and education, personal safety and housing, food security, demographic change, employment rights and social cohesion.

The Investment Manager uses a proprietary scorecard to assess environmental, social and governance risks for emerging market corporate issuers. For each of the ESG pillars, the Investment Manager has identified material sustainability issues which include (but are not limited to) climate change, natural resources stewardship, workplace equality, working conditions, community engagement, customer protection, anti-corruption practices, board composition and transparency. These factors are assessed on a qualitative basis based on a company's disclosures and interactions with management. When assessing ESG risks for emerging market corporate issuers, the Investment Manager seeks to take into consideration not only whether issuers have addressed ESG issues through policies, but also whether they have i) identified points of improvement; ii) established concrete targets to improve them; and iii) exhibited an ability to deliver on these targets over time.

The Investment Manager seeks to emphasise issuers that are demonstrating progress in improving their sustainability practices as reflected in its ESG scores. Sovereign issuers that demonstrate extremely weak ESG scores in combination with sharp deterioration give rise to additional analysis to understand the potential risks associated with an investment. In instances where ESG scores fall below punitive levels, this may lead to the exclusion of sovereign issuers.

For exclusions refer to Annex II at the end of the summary of this Fund.

Sovereigns that demonstrate extremely weak ESG scores in combination with sharp deterioration give rise to additional analysis to understand the potential risks associated with an investment. In instances where ESG scores fall below punitive levels, this may lead to the exclusion of issuers by the Investment Manager.

The Investment Manager also uses engagement as a tool to promote environmental and social characteristics. The Investment Manager seeks to engage with issuers with the view of promoting best practices as well as addressing ESG developments. In addressing ESG developments, the Investment Manager will seek to prioritise engagement with issuers with a deteriorating track record and/or where deficiencies become evident through controversies and/or incidents. The Investment Manager seeks to engage with issuers throughout all stages of the investment cycle.

**Main risks of investing in the Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund:** The Fund may be subject to risks directly through investment in individual securities or indirectly through various instruments, including bonds, derivative instruments and other financial instruments. Additional risks associated with investment in the Fund are described under the section headed "*Risk Factors - All Funds*".

**THE FUND INVOLVES A HIGH LEVEL OF RISK, AND MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR EVERYONE.** Investors should consider the Fund only for the more aggressive portion of their portfolio. In addition, the Fund is intended for investors who can accept the risks entailed in investing in securities of emerging market countries. Of course, there can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its objective. The Fund is designed for long-term investors.

The share classes issued by the Fund are further described below in the section headed "*Classes of Shares*".

The market exposure for the Fund is calculated using a Relative Value-at-Risk (VaR) approach, as described in further detail under the section headed "*Risk Management*".

**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:** William Blair SICAV - Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund (the “Fund”)      **Legal entity identifier:** 549300I304F0KPO5IU53

**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?	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with an environmental objective:</b> ___% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> </ul>	<input type="checkbox"/> It <b>promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics</b> and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of <u>0</u> % of sustainable investments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> with a social objective</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with a social objective:</b> ___%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It promotes E/S characteristics, but <b>will not make any sustainable investments</b>



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

We seek to promote environmental and social characteristics throughout the investment process in accordance with the following three pillars:

1. Integration of E/S Characteristics (as defined below)
2. Engagement with issuers
3. Exclusion from investment

All investments are assessed by their exposure to and management of the following environmental and social characteristics (the “**E/S Characteristics**”):

- Environmental characteristics including vulnerability to physical and economic impacts of climate change and other natural disasters, climate change mitigation efforts, energy transition risk and energy security as well as natural resource management.
- Social characteristics including living standards, income inequality, respect for human rights (including the right to life, the right to freedom of association and the right to health), poverty and income inequality, gender inequality, availability of and access to healthcare and education, personal safety and housing, food security, demographic change, employment rights and social cohesion.

The Fund has not designated a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the E/S Characteristics promoted.

**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?***

William Blair Investment Management, LLC, the investment manager for the Fund (the “**Investment Manager**”), will use an internal sustainability score system to measure the promotion of the Fund’s E/S Characteristics with respect to each investment made by the Fund and across the portfolio.

In particular, the Investment Manager will use the scores that have been assigned to its investments to calculate the weighted average internal sustainability score that is applied to the Fund’s portfolio as a whole. This will be reassessed on a periodic basis to evaluate the Fund’s attainment of its promoted environmental and social characteristics over time.

Please see the section below regarding the binding elements of the Fund’s investment strategy for further information on the internal sustainability score methodology.

- **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?**

Not applicable

- **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?**

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

**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,

Under the Fund's internal sustainability score system, investments are assessed against the E/S Characteristics. The E/S Characteristics will also include consideration of the adverse sustainability indicators set out in Annex I of the Regulatory Technical Standards for Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (the "SFDR Level 2 Measures").

For sovereign or quasi-sovereign issuers in particular, the Investment Manager will consider the following adverse sustainability indicators applicable to investments in sovereigns and supnationals: 15. GHG intensity; 16. Investee countries subject to social violations; and 20. Average human rights performance.

For investee companies in particular, the Investment Manager will consider all fourteen mandatory adverse sustainability indicators from Table 1, Annex I of the SFDR Level 2 Measures.

More information on how the Fund considers its adverse impacts will be made available in the dedicated SFDR annex of the annual report of the Fund.

No



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The investment strategy for this financial product with respect to environmental or social characteristics utilizes during the pre-investment review exclusion of certain investments, the assignment of ESG scores to investments, which are then input into the investment process and scorecard ranking of investments. Existing investments are monitored and where appropriate the Investment Manager will seek to engage with the issuer. Each of these components is further described in the question 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.*"?

● ***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?***

1. *Pre-investment – Exclusions:* The Fund will incorporate industry-standard third-party screening tools to apply an exclusion criteria to its investible universe.

The Fund will not invest in the following:

- a. Corporates and (quasi) sovereigns that violate United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) principles and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises ;
  - b. companies and quasi sovereigns that generate revenue from controversial sectors from the manufacture or production of civilian firearms and Controversial Weapons(as described further in Appendix B)
  - c. companies that derive greater than 5% of annual revenues (turnover) from extraction/production of thermal coal;
  - d. energy companies that produce more than 5% of their energy production from coal;
  - e. companies that generate revenue from tobacco or palm oil production.
2. *Pre-investment – Sustainability score assignment:* The Investment Manager will obtain quantitative data on issuers directly from the issuer/national sources and from third-party data providers and public sources in relation to the E/S Characteristics (as set out above).

The Fund's Investment Committee will assess such quantitative data in combination with qualitative factors that are reasonably deemed relevant (such as level of performance and direction of travel), to assign each of its investments with a score.

3. *Pre-investment – Sustainability scores input in investment process:* The score assigned to each issuer of its performance against the E/S Characteristics are incorporated in the investment process along with an assessment of the issuer's financial and/or macroeconomic performance as well as of the valuations and technical factors of its securities. The Fund embeds the E/S Characteristics in the Investment Manager's quantitative valuation tools which rely on a multitude of inputs, including scores from its proprietary sovereign risk model, when choosing to invest in a country. These scores directly determine the size and conviction levels of each position. The Fund's tilting is as a result informed by the performance of an issuer against sustainability measures, which include the E/S Characteristics mentioned above

4. *(For quasi-sovereign and corporate issuers only) Pre-investment – Scorecard ranking:* Issuers are ranked in accordance with their assigned score from the Fund’s internal ESG scorecard system. These scores inform the size and conviction levels of each position.
5. *During investment – Monitoring:* Throughout the investment period, the Fund will collect information on its investments / the issuers in relation to their performance against the E/S Characteristics. The assigned ESG score for the Fund’s investments will be regularly re-assessed and updated to take into account of any new relevant information or developments.

On a quarterly basis, the Investment Committee will assess the latest score for each issuer and may reconsider the allocation of the Fund’s portfolio accordingly. An investment’s consistent deterioration in performance against E/S Characteristics beyond certain thresholds, may lead to exclusion from the Fund’s portfolio.

6. *During investment – Engagement:* Where the Investment Manager identifies opportunities for an issuer to improve its performance against the Fund’s internal sustainability score system, the Investment Manager will seek to engage with the issuer to promote: (i) best practices for ESG policies; and (ii) improvement on identified deficiencies or deteriorating performance against the E/S Characteristics.

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

The negative screen is designed to exclude issuers in controversial sectors. It is not possible to know on a forward-looking basis what the specific array of deleterious effects might be and/or the percentage of companies that the Fund might otherwise invest in that may produce such effects. Therefore, the Fund is not committed to reducing the universe of potential investments by any specific rate. The overall scope of investments considered by the Fund and the rate at which this will be reduced will ultimately depend on external market factors.

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

At the pre-investment stage, the Investment Manager will also consider good governance practices when assessing quantitative data on issuers.

The Investment Manager will assess such quantitative data in combination with qualitative factors that are reasonably deemed relevant (such as level of performance and direction of travel), to assign each of its investments with a score against the Fund’s internal sustainability score system.

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

For sovereign issuers, the Investment Manager will assess countries across measures of political stability, government and regulatory effectiveness, institutional strength, levels of corruption and the rule of law.

For corporate issuers, the Investment Manager will look at the following 4 factors when assessing their governance practices.

1. *Corporate governance* – i.e. the CEO/chairman role, board composition analysis (including experience, % of independence, diversity, disclosures), compensation frameworks, and the role of the audit committee.
2. *Anti-corruption* – i.e. any policies and monitoring, whistleblower channels, disclosure of cases/conflicts of interest, and conflict resolution methods.
3. *Risk management* – i.e. the HSE/ESG oversight, adherence to global standards, such as the UN Global compact or commitment to SDGs, and the corporate’s audit history.
4. *Transparency* – the corporate’s disclosure quality, periodicity, and access to investors.

At the investment stage, the Investment Manager will continue to monitor and review data in respect of its investments and their good governance practices. The Fund will engage with the board of corporate issuers to seek to ensure that such boards are accountable for addressing good governance issues.

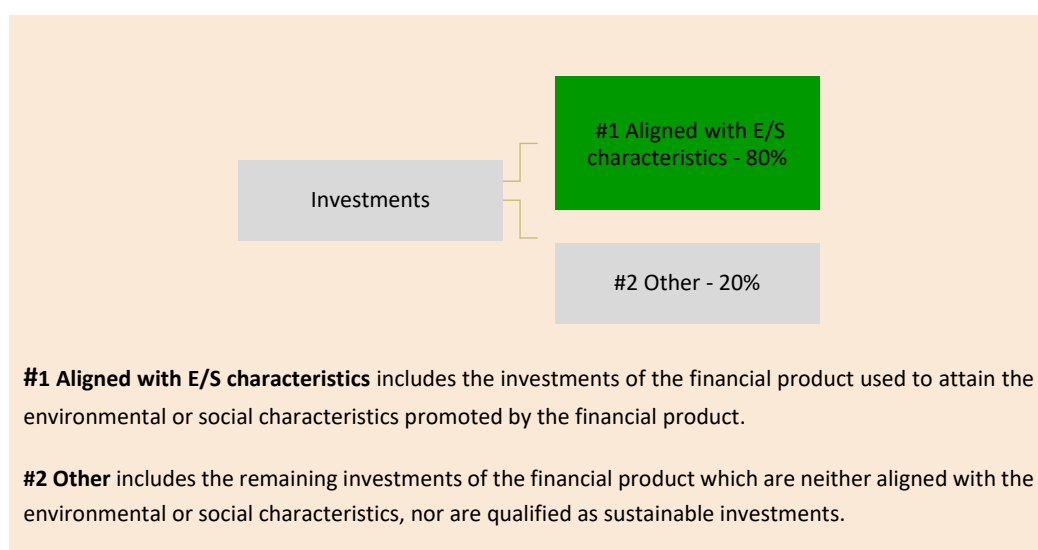
**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.



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

#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics: The Fund invests in hard currency fixed income instruments issued by sovereigns, (quasi) sovereigns and corporates in emerging markets. The opportunity set for each issuer includes all instruments. Labeled bonds (green, social and sustainability (linked) bonds) are included in the relative value analysis conducted for each issuer. We can and do therefore invest in these such instruments, however, do not target a minimum level of exposure to such instruments.

#2 Other, see below



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

With respect to derivatives used by the Fund no environmental or social safeguards are applied.



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

In relation to taxonomy aligned environmentally sustainable investments in accordance with Article 2 (17) of SFDR, the Fund does not commit to making a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, and hence such investments may currently not qualify as environmentally sustainable investments within the meaning of Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation. In that sense, no information can be provided on a substantial contribution to an environmental objective set out in Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation and in line with Articles 5 and 6 of the Taxonomy Regulation the extent to which the Investments underlying the Fund are in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation is therefore currently zero (0%).

The Investment Manager is keeping this situation under active review. Should the Investment Manager decide in the future to commit to making a minimum proportion of sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, , the Investment Manager will provide the descriptions referred to above, in which case this Annex will be updated accordingly.

- **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

<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 economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

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.

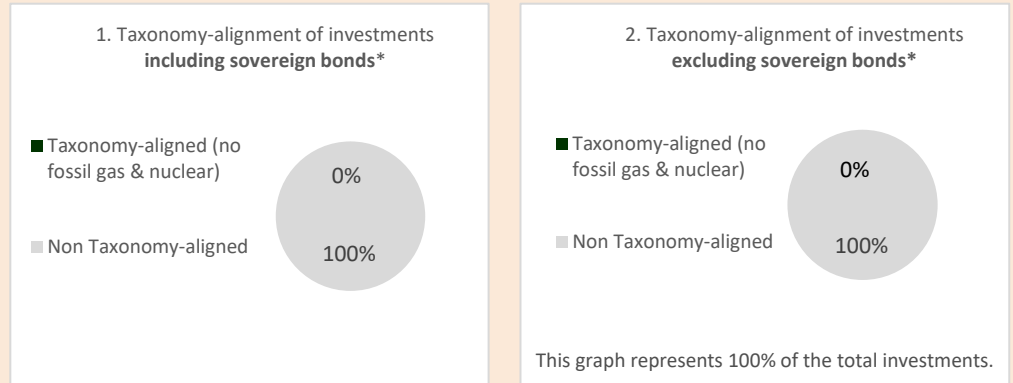
To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

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

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

*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%

The Fund does not commit to having any investments in “transitional and enabling” activities.



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

0%

As these include both environmental and social goals, it is not possible to set specific minimum shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

0% (see above).



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

“Other” investments also includes investments which are not aligned with the E/S characteristics, cash held by the Fund for liquidity and derivatives used by the Fund up to an amount of 20%. No environmental or social safeguards are applied to these investments



### 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?

Not applicable

- *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

#### Reference

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



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

More product-specific information can be found on the website:  
[https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor\\_services/sfdr.fs](https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor_services/sfdr.fs)

## Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund

**This Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics within the meaning of article 8 (1) SFDR**

**Investment objective:** The Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund seeks to provide risk-adjusted returns through investments in local currencies and local interest rates of emerging market countries.

**Main investment strategies:** Under normal market conditions, the Fund invests in a diversified portfolio comprised predominantly of fixed income securities, Money Market Instruments, derivatives and deposits, with strategic emphasis on emerging market interest rate duration exposure and/or emerging market currency risk exposure. Fixed income securities and Money Market Instruments will be predominantly issued by and/or denominated or having exposure in the currencies of developing countries (“**emerging markets**”) in Latin America, Asia, Central Europe, Eastern Europe, Africa and the Middle East. The Investment Manager will not invest in any securities rated below B- , by S&P or equivalent by Moody’s or other rating agency or if unrated, deemed by the Investment Manager to be of comparable quality, to the extent permitted by the VAG. Where more than one rating is available for a given instrument, the lower of the two best credit ratings shall be used to determine whether the instrument meets the aforementioned minimum rating requirements. Should any asset be downgraded to below the rating requirements, or the Investment Manager deems it to be below the rating requirements, it will generally be liquidated within 6 months, although it may, at the Investment Manager’s discretion continue to be held in the portfolio if the total value of these assets represents less than 3% of the Fund’s total assets and the Investment Manager considers that it is in the best interests of the Fund to do so for the purposes of seeking to achieve the investment objective.

The Fund may be exposed to various exchange rate risks linked to investments in securities denominated in currencies other than that of the Fund or in derivative instruments with underlying exchange rates or currencies. Furthermore, a maximum of 1/3 of the net assets of the Fund may be invested in fixed income Transferable Securities, derivatives and Money Market Instruments issued by other countries, including OECD member states. These investments will be denominated and have exposure to hard currencies (*e.g.*, Euro, US dollar, *etc.*).

The Fund may invest in structured products (*i.e.*, Transferable Securities as defined in Article 41(1) of the UCI Law), in order to access certain specific markets and to overcome problems linked to taxation and custody that arise when investing in the markets of developing countries.

For comparison purposes, the Fund is measured against the JPMorgan Government Bond Index-Emerging Market (GBI-EM) Global Diversified as its primary index. The Fund is actively managed within its objective and is not constrained by a benchmark.

The Fund may also invest, on an ancillary basis, in other Transferable Securities (including warrants on Transferable Securities up to a maximum of 10% of the Fund’s net assets), CoCos (up to a maximum of 10% of the Fund’s net assets) and asset-back securities (“**ABS**”)

(up to a maximum of 20% of the Fund's net assets), Rule 144A Transferable Securities, units of UCITS and other UCIs and deposits. However, investments in UCITS and UCIs may not exceed a total of 10% of the Fund's net assets. Where the Fund invests in warrants on Transferable Securities, the Fund's net asset value may fluctuate more than if the Fund were invested in the underlying assets because of the higher volatility of the value of the warrant.

The Fund may use financial derivative instruments for hedging purposes, for efficient portfolio management and/or as part of the investment strategy of the Fund. The Fund may therefore invest in all derivative financial instruments authorized by Luxembourg law, including but not limited to: (i) derivative financial instruments linked to market fluctuations (*e.g.*, call and put options), swaps and securities futures contracts, indices, baskets of securities or any other financial instruments and total return swaps that are derivative financial instruments linked to a swap agreement in which one party makes payments based on a set rate, either fixed or variable, while the other party makes payments based on the return of an underlying asset, which includes both the income it generates and any capital gains (in respect of eligible assets under the UCI Law which fall within the Fund's investment policies and predominantly as a hedging mechanism to reduce the overall risk in the portfolio in case of market instability); (ii) derivative financial instruments linked to exchange rate or currency fluctuations of all types (*e.g.*, currency futures contracts or currency call and put options, currency swaps, currency futures transactions and false risk cover through which the Fund carries out a cover transaction in its reference currency (index or reference currency) against exposure in a single currency by selling or buying another currency closely linked to its reference currency); (iii) derivative financial instruments linked to interest rate risks, (*e.g.*, call and put options on interest rates, interest rate swaps, future rate agreements, interest rate futures transactions, swaptions whereby a counterparty receives a fee in exchange for processing a future swap at a rate previously agreed should a certain contingent event arise (*e.g.*, where future rates are set according to a reference index, caps and floors and for which the seller in exchange for a premium paid in advance agrees to compensate the buyer if interest rates go above or below a strike price at certain pre-defined dates during the lifetime of the agreement)); (iv) derivative financial risks linked to credit risks, namely credit default derivatives (*e.g.*, credit default swaps, indices and baskets of securities); and (v) commodity-related derivatives (*e.g.*, derivative instruments referencing one or more commodity index). Occasionally, the Fund may use total return swaps to maintain market exposure or, as the case may be, to increase market exposure. For more information on the techniques and instruments that the Fund may use (pursuant to its investment policies outlined in this summary), please refer to Appendix B headed "*Investment Know How*".

The Fund may also invest in securities traded on Bond Connect, which is a market facilitating investment to the Chinese bond market.

**Main risks of investing in the Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund:** The Fund may be subject to risks directly through investment in individual securities or indirectly through various instruments, including bonds, derivative instruments and other financial instruments. Moreover, currency fluctuation may have a high impact on the Fund's performance. Additional risks associated with investment in the Fund are described under the section headed "*Risk Factors - All Funds*".

**THE FUND INVOLVES A HIGH LEVEL OF RISK, AND MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR EVERYONE.** Investors should consider the Fund only for the more aggressive portion of

their portfolio. In addition, the Fund is intended for investors who can accept the risks entailed in investing in securities of emerging market countries. Of course, there can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its objective. The Fund is designed for long-term investors.

The share classes issued by the Fund are further described below in the section headed "*Classes of Shares*".

The market exposure for the Fund is calculated using a Relative Value-at-Risk (VaR) approach, as described in further detail under the section headed "*Risk Management*".

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:** William Blair SICAV - Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund (the “Fund”) **Legal entity identifier:** 549300DFG7B6Y3X7DP02

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

**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.

### Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?

**Yes**

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:** \_\_\_%

**No**

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?

We seek to promote environmental and social characteristics throughout the investment process in accordance with the following three pillars:

1. Integration of E/S Characteristics (as defined below)
2. Engagement with issuers
3. Exclusion from investment

All investments are assessed by their exposure to and management of the following environmental and social characteristics (the “**E/S Characteristics**”):

- Environmental characteristics including vulnerability to physical and economic impacts of climate change and other natural disasters, climate change mitigation efforts, energy transition risk and energy security as well as natural resource management.
- Social characteristics including living standards, income inequality, respect for human rights (including the right to life, the right to freedom of association and the right to health), poverty and income inequality, gender inequality, availability of and access to healthcare and education, personal safety and housing, food security, demographic change, employment rights and social cohesion.

The Fund has not designated a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the E/S Characteristics promoted.

**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?***

William Blair Investment Management, LLC, the investment manager for the Fund (the “**Investment Manager**”), will use an internal sustainability score system to measure the promotion of the Fund’s E/S Characteristics with respect to each investment made by the Fund and across the portfolio.

In particular, the Investment Manager will use the scores that have been assigned to its investments to calculate the weighted average internal sustainability score that is applied to the Fund’s portfolio as a whole. This will be reassessed on a periodic basis to evaluate the Fund’s attainment of its promoted environmental and social characteristics over time.

Please see the section below regarding the binding elements of the Fund's investment strategy for further information on the internal sustainability score methodology.

- ***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?***

Not applicable

- ***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?***

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

**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,

Under the Fund’s internal sustainability score system, investments are assessed against the E/S Characteristics. The E/S Characteristics will also include consideration of the adverse sustainability indicators set out in Annex I of the Regulatory Technical Standards for Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (the “**SFDR Level 2 Measures**”).

For sovereign or quasi-sovereign issuers in particular, the Investment Manager will consider the following adverse sustainability indicators applicable to investments in sovereigns and supranationals: 15. GHG intensity; 16. Investee countries subject to social violations; and

20. Average human rights performance.

For investee companies in particular, the Investment Manager will consider all fourteen mandatory adverse sustainability indicators from Table 1, Annex I of the SFDR Level 2 Measures. More information on how the Fund considers its adverse impacts will be made available in the dedicated SFDR annex of the annual report of the Fund.

No



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The investment strategy for this financial product with respect to environmental or social characteristics utilizes during the pre-investment review exclusion of certain investments, the assignment of ESG scores to investments, which are then input into the investment process and scorecard ranking of investments. Existing investments are monitored and where appropriate the Investment Manager will seek to engage with the issuer. Each of these components is further described in the question 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.”?*

- ***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 elements described in this section refer to all types of investments / issuers in the Fund’s investible universe, except where otherwise indicated.

1. *Pre-investment – Exclusions:* The Fund will incorporate industry-standard third-party screening tools to apply an exclusion criteria to its investible universe.

The Fund will not invest in the following:

- a. Corporates and (quasi) sovereigns that violate United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) principles and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises ;
- b. companies and quasi-sovereigns that generate revenue from controversial sectors from the manufacture or production of civilian firearms and Controversial Weapons(as described further in Appendix B)
- c. companies that derive greater than 5% of annual revenues (turnover) from extraction/production of thermal coal;
- d. energy companies that produce more than 5% of their energy production from coal;
- e. companies that generate revenue from tobacco or palm oil production.

2. *Pre-investment – Sustainability score assignment:* The Investment Manager will obtain quantitative data on issuers directly from the issuer/national sources and from third- party data providers and public sources in relation to the E/S Characteristics (as set out above).

The Fund's Investment Committee will assess such quantitative data in combination with qualitative factors that are reasonably deemed relevant (such as level of performance and direction of travel), to assign each of its investments with a score.

3. *Pre-investment – Sustainability scores input in investment process:* The score assigned to each issuer of its performance against the E/S Characteristics are incorporated in the investment process along with an assessment of the issuer's financial and/or macroeconomic performance as well as of the valuations and technical factors of its securities. The Fund embeds the E/S Characteristics in the Investment Manager's quantitative valuation tools which rely on a multitude of inputs, including scores from its proprietary sovereign risk model, when choosing to invest in a country. These scores directly determine the size and conviction levels of each position. The portfolio tilting is as a result informed by the performance of an issuer against sustainability measures, which include the E/S Characteristics mentioned above.
4. *(For quasi-sovereign and corporate issuers only) Pre-investment – Scorecard ranking:* Issuers are ranked in accordance with their assigned score from the Fund's internal ESG scorecard system. These scores inform the size and conviction levels of each position.
5. *During investment – Monitoring:* Throughout the investment period, the Fund will collect information on its investments / the issuers in relation to their performance against the E/S Characteristics. The assigned ESG score for the Fund's investments will be regularly re-assessed and updated to take into account of any new relevant information or developments.

On a quarterly basis, the Investment Committee will assess the latest score for each issuer and may reconsider the allocation of the Fund's portfolio accordingly. An investment's consistent deterioration in performance against E/S Characteristics beyond certain thresholds, may lead to exclusion from the Fund's portfolio.

6. *During investment – Engagement:* Where the Investment Manager identifies opportunities for an issuer to improve its performance against the Fund's internal sustainability score system, the Investment Manager will seek to engage with the issuer to promote: (i) best practices for ESG policies; and (ii) improvement on identified deficiencies or deteriorating performance against the E/S Characteristics.

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

The negative screen is designed to exclude issuers in controversial sectors. It is not possible to know on a forward-looking basis what the specific array of deleterious effects might be and/or the percentage of companies that the Fund might otherwise invest in that may produce such effects. Therefore, the Fund is

not committed to reducing the universe of potential investments by any specific rate. The overall scope of investments considered by the Fund and the rate at which this will be reduced will ultimately depend on external market factors.

**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?***

At the pre-investment stage, the Investment Manager will also consider good governance practices when assessing quantitative data on issuers.

The Investment Manager will assess such quantitative data in combination with qualitative factors that are reasonably deemed relevant (such as level of performance and direction of travel), to assign each of its investments with a score against the Fund's internal sustainability score system.

For sovereign issuers, the Investment Manager will assess countries across measures of political stability, government and regulatory effectiveness, institutional strength, levels of corruption and the rule of law.

For corporate issuers, the Investment Manager will look at the following 4 factors when assessing their governance practices.

1. *Corporate governance* – i.e. the CEO/chairman role, board composition analysis (including experience, % of independence, diversity, disclosures), compensation frameworks, and the role of the audit committee.
2. *Anti-corruption* – i.e. any policies and monitoring, whistleblower channels, disclosure of cases/conflicts of interest, and conflict resolution methods.
3. *Risk management* – i.e. the HSE/ESG oversight, adhesion to global standards, such as the UN Global compact or commitment to SDGs, and the corporate's audit history.
4. *Transparency* – the corporate's disclosure quality, periodicity, and access to investors.

At the investment stage, the Investment Manager will continue to monitor and review data in respect of its investments and their good governance practices. The Fund will engage with the board of corporate issuers to seek to ensure that such boards are accountable for addressing good governance issues.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.



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

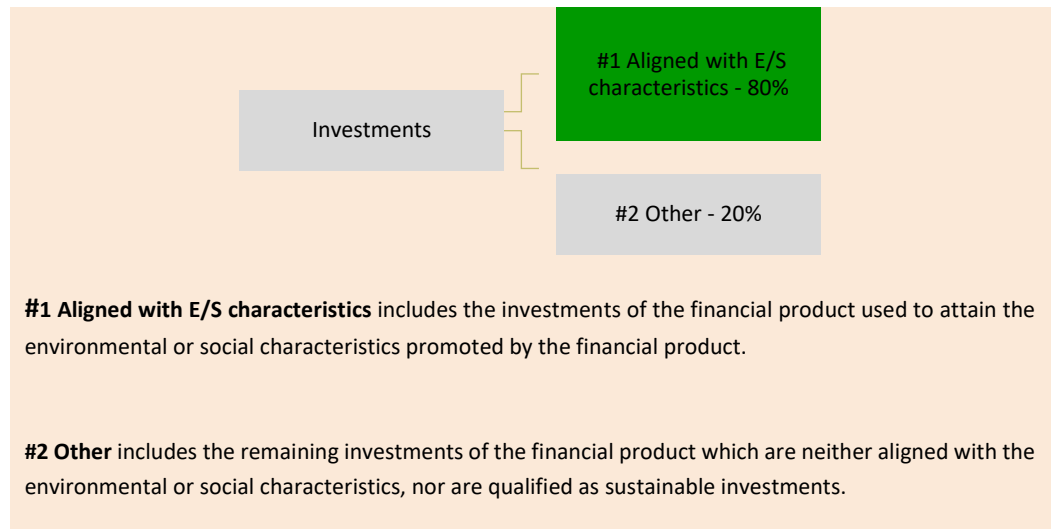
#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics: The Fund invests in fixed income instruments issued by sovereigns, quasi-sovereigns and corporates in emerging markets, predominantly denominated or having exposure in the currencies of developing countries. The opportunity set for each issuer includes all instruments. Labeled bonds (green, social and sustainability (linked) bonds) are included in the relative value analysis

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.

conducted for each issuer. We can and do therefore invest in these such instruments, however, do not target a minimum level of exposure to such instruments.

#2 Other: see below.



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

The Fund may use interest rate swaps to gain exposure to investments which form the portion of the portfolio which is aligned with the Fund’s E/S Characteristics. In such cases, the underlying issuer to which an exposure is gained will, as relevant to the type of issuer, be subject to the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the E/S Characteristics, as described above.

The Fund may also use derivatives to gain exposures to investments which form the portion of the portfolio which is not aligned with the E/S Characteristics, or for hedging purposes. With respect to such other derivatives, no environmental or social safeguards are applied.



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

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 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.

In relation to taxonomy aligned environmentally sustainable investments in accordance with Article 2 (17) of SFDR, the Fund does not commit to making a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, and hence such investments may currently not qualify as environmentally sustainable investments within the meaning of Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation. In that sense, no information can be provided on a substantial contribution to an environmental objective set out in Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation, and in line with Articles 5 and 6 of the Taxonomy Regulation, the extent to which the Investments underlying the Fund are in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation is therefore currently zero (0%).

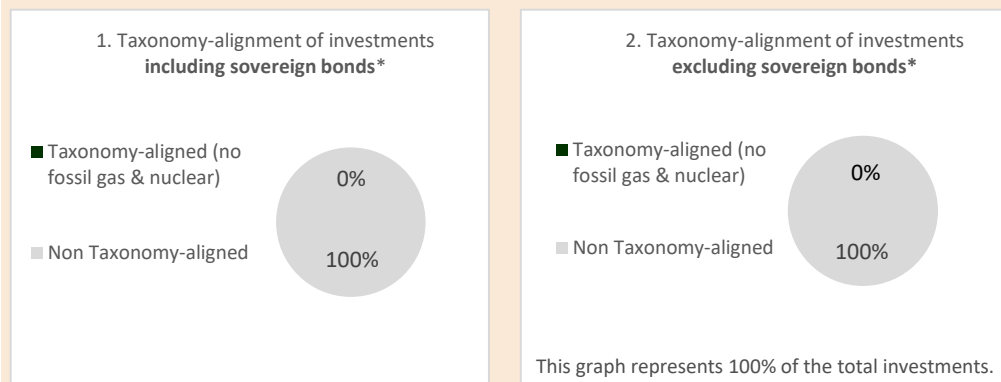
The Investment Manager is keeping this situation under active review. Should the Investment Manager decide in the future to commit to making a minimum proportion of sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the Investment Manager will provide the descriptions referred to above, in which case this Annex will be updated accordingly.

### ● Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>2</sup>?

- Yes:  
 In fossil gas     In nuclear energy  
 No

<sup>2</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 economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

**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%

The Fund does not commit to having any investments in “transitional and enabling” activities

 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?**

0%

As these include both environmental and social goals, it is not possible to set specific minimum shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

0% (see above).



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

“Other” investments includes investments which are not aligned with the E/S Characteristics (whether or not exposure to such investments is gained via derivatives), cash held by the Fund for liquidity purposes and derivatives used by the Fund for hedging and investment purposes up to an amount of 20%. No environmental or social safeguards are applied to these investments.



**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?**

Not applicable

- ***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

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



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

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**  
[https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor\\_services/sfdr.fs](https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor_services/sfdr.fs)

## Emerging Markets Frontier Debt Fund

**This Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics within the meaning of article 8 (1) SFDR**

**Investment objective:** The Emerging Markets Frontier Debt Fund seeks to provide risk-adjusted total returns through investments in local and hard currency denominated debt issued in and/or by emerging market frontier countries.

**Main investment strategies:** The Fund will invest in Transferable Securities and fixed income Money Market Instruments issued by public or private issuers in developing countries, which are often referred to as frontier markets. Frontier market countries are normally low or middle-income developing countries. Typically, frontier market countries' economies are smaller and in early stages of development and expected to grow faster than emerging or developed economies. Frontier market countries typically have lower markets capitalization, less liquidity, and lower credit ratings than emerging markets. Fixed income instruments of frontier markets are governed by a combination of both international and local law.

The Fund invests predominantly in a combination of primarily local currency and hard currency denominated government debt, and currency instruments from frontier countries in Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Africa. The Fund may also invest, on an ancillary basis, in corporate debt securities in these geographic areas. More specifically, investments will be made in countries where the Investment Manager is able to assess the specific political, economic and ESG risks. The Fund may invest in debt securities of any maturity. The Fund will invest primarily in below investment grade securities and may invest on an ancillary basis in investment grade securities and unrated securities (it being specified that, with respect to unrated securities, the Investment Manager performs its own analysis to assess the credit quality of such securities). This includes investments up to a maximum of 10% of the Fund's net assets in distressed or defaulted debt securities. Distressed securities are securities of issuers in extremely weak financial condition or which are perceived to have a deteriorating financial condition that will affect their future ability to meet their financial obligations. Defaulted securities are securities where the issuer is unable to make interest payments or to repay the principal in time. The 10% distressed and defaulted securities limit includes both securities that were distressed when the Fund purchased them and holdings that become distressed through market conditions while being held by the Fund. For information purposes, under normal market conditions, the average rating of the Fund's portfolio will typically range between B- and B+.

For purposes of this Fund, "Transferable Securities," issued by the public and/or private sector, primarily include fixed rate bonds, floating rate bonds, bonds with warrants and convertible bonds, bonds resulting from the restructuring of syndicated loans or bank loans (e.g., "Brady" bonds) securitized and subordinated bonds. For purposes of this Fund, the term "Money Market Instruments" mainly, but not exclusively, includes investments in term deposits, commercial papers, short-term bonds, treasury certificates and credit linked notes. This list is not exhaustive. The Fund may invest up to 20% of its net assets in ancillary assets such as deposits at sight, as further described in paragraph 2) b) of Appendix A "Investment Powers and Restrictions".

The Fund is actively managed within its objective and is not constrained by a benchmark.

The Fund may also invest, on an ancillary basis, in other transferable securities (including warrants on Transferable Securities up to a maximum of 10% of the Fund's net assets), CoCos (up to a maximum of 10% of the Fund's net assets), Money Market Instruments, Rule 144A and Regulation S Bonds, units of UCITS and other UCIs and deposits. However, investments in UCITS and UCIs may not exceed a total of 10% of the net assets. Where the Fund invests in warrants on Transferable Securities, note that the Fund's net asset value may fluctuate more than if the Fund was invested in the underlying assets because of the higher volatility of the value of the warrant.

The Fund may use derivatives for hedging purposes and for efficient portfolio management and/or as part of the investment strategy of the Fund. The Fund may therefore invest in all derivative financial instruments authorized by Luxembourg law, including but not limited to the following: (i) options and futures on Transferable Securities or Money Market Instruments; (ii) futures and options on indices; (iii) futures, options and interest rate swaps; (iv) performance swaps; (v) total return swaps (in respect of eligible assets under the UCI Law which fall within the Fund's investment policies and predominantly as a hedging mechanism to reduce the overall risk in the portfolio in case of market instability); (vi) forward currency contracts, currency futures contracts and transactions, currency call and put options and currency swaps; (vii) derivative financial instruments linked to credit risks, namely credit derivatives, such as credit default swaps, indices and baskets of securities. Occasionally, the Fund may use total return swaps to maintain market exposure or, as the case may be, to increase market exposure. For more information on the techniques and instruments that the Fund may use (pursuant to its investment policies outlined in this summary), please refer to Appendix B headed "Investment Know How".

The Fund will not actively invest in equities but may receive equities from a restructuring or other corporate action. Such equities are intended to be sold as soon as possible taking into account the best interests of the investors.

The Investment Manager seeks to integrate material environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors within its investment process. The Investment Manager's assessment of current and prospective portfolio holdings integrates an analysis of applicable ESG factors. The Investment Manager believes a robust, disciplined research process helps to uncover mispricing in emerging markets debt, and the Fund's investment team integrates ESG factors in a structured, quantitative, and qualitative process that is designed to provide a holistic assessment of an issuer's opportunities and risks.

The Investment Manager's assessment of ESG factors for emerging market debt sovereign issuers is guided by a proprietary scoring model that incorporates data obtained from third party vendors it deems reliable and by publicly available sources. The Investment Manager embeds ESG factors in its valuation tools and relies on a multitude of inputs, including scores from its proprietary sovereign risk model, when choosing to invest in a country. The governance factors the Investment Manager seeks to capture systematically in this process include measures of political stability, government and regulatory effectiveness, institutional strength, levels of corruption and the rule of law. In considering environmental factors, the Investment Manager seeks to capture vulnerability to physical and economic impacts of climate change and other natural disasters, energy transition risk and energy security as well as natural resource management. The Investment Manager also considers social factors including living standards, income inequality, respect for human rights

(including the right to life, the right to freedom of association and the right to health), poverty and income inequality, gender inequality, availability of and access to healthcare and education, personal safety and housing, food security, demographic change, employment rights and social cohesion.

The Investment Manager uses a proprietary scorecard to assess environmental, social and governance risks for emerging market corporate issuers. For each of the ESG pillars, the Investment Manager has identified material sustainability issues which include (but are not limited to) climate change, natural resources stewardship, workplace equality, working conditions, community engagement, customer protection, anti-corruption practices, board composition and transparency. These factors are assessed on a qualitative basis based on a company's disclosures and interactions with management. When assessing ESG risks for emerging market corporate issuers, the Investment Manager seeks to take into consideration not only whether issuers have addressed ESG issues through policies, but also whether they have i) identified points of improvement; ii) established concrete targets to improve them; and iii) exhibited an ability to deliver on these targets over time.

The Investment Manager seeks to emphasise issuers that are demonstrating progress in improving their sustainability practices as reflected in its ESG scores. Sovereign issuers that demonstrate extremely weak ESG scores in combination with sharp deterioration give rise to additional analysis to understand the potential risks associated with an investment. In instances where ESG scores fall below punitive levels, this may lead to the exclusion of sovereign issuers.

For exclusions refer to Annex II at the end of the summary of this Fund.

Sovereigns that demonstrate extremely weak ESG scores in combination with sharp deterioration give rise to additional analysis to understand the potential risks associated with an investment. In instances where ESG scores fall below punitive levels, this may lead to the exclusion of issuers by the Investment Manager.

The Investment Manager also uses engagement as a tool to promote environmental and social characteristics. The Investment Manager seeks to engage with issuers with the view of promoting best practices as well as addressing ESG developments. In addressing ESG developments, the Investment Manager will seek to prioritise engagement with issuers with a deteriorating track record and/or where deficiencies become evident through controversies and/or incidents. The Investment Manager seeks to engage with issuers throughout all stages of the investment cycle.

**Main risks of investing in the Emerging Markets Frontier Debt Fund:** Investments made by the Fund are subject to specific factors, they cannot be compared to investments made in major industrialized countries. In the past, some developing countries have suspended or halted the payment of their external debt, including both the interest and the capital, with respect to issuers from the public and private sectors. These factors may also result in the positions held by the Fund becoming less liquid, or even illiquid. The Fund may be subject to risks directly through investment in individual securities or indirectly through various instruments, including bonds, derivative instruments and other financial instruments. Additional risks associated with investment in the Fund are described under the section headed "Risk Factors - All Funds".

**THE FUND INVOLVES A HIGH LEVEL OF RISK, AND MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR EVERYONE.**

Investors should consider the Fund only for the more aggressive portion of their portfolio. In addition, the Fund is intended for investors who can accept the risks entailed in investing in securities of emerging market countries. Of course, there can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its objective. The Fund is designed for long-term investors.

The share classes issued by the Fund are further described below in the section headed "Classes of Shares".

The market exposure for the Fund is calculated using the Commitment Approach, as described in further detail under the section headed "Risk Management".

**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:** William Blair SICAV – Emerging Markets Frontier Debt Fund (the “Fund”)      **Legal entity identifier:** 9845001F3C1CA573H697

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

**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.

Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?	
<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <b>Yes</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with an environmental objective:</b> ____%</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> </ul> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with a social objective:</b> ____%</p>	<p><input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <b>No</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It <b>promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics</b> and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of <u>0</u>% of sustainable investments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> with a social objective</li> </ul> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It promotes E/S characteristics, but <b>will not make any sustainable investments</b></p>



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

We seek to promote environmental and social characteristics throughout the investment process in accordance with the following three pillars:

1. Integration of E/S Characteristics (as defined below)
2. Engagement with issuers
3. Exclusion from investment

All investments are assessed by their exposure to and management of the following environmental and social characteristics (the “**E/S Characteristics**”):

- Environmental characteristics including vulnerability to physical and economic impacts of climate change and other natural disasters, climate change mitigation efforts, energy transition risk and energy security as well as natural resource management.
- Social characteristics including living standards, income inequality, respect for human rights (including the right to life, the right to freedom of association and the right to health), poverty and income inequality, gender inequality, availability of and access to healthcare and education, personal safety and housing, food security, demographic change, employment rights and social cohesion.

The Fund has not designated a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the E/S Characteristics promoted.

**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?***

William Blair Investment Management, LLC, the investment manager for the Fund (the “**Investment Manager**”), will use an internal sustainability score system to measure the promotion of the Fund’s E/S Characteristics with respect to each investment made by the Fund and across the portfolio.

In particular, the Investment Manager will use the scores that have been assigned to its investments to calculate the weighted average internal sustainability score that is applied to the Fund’s portfolio as a whole. This will be reassessed on a periodic basis to evaluate the Fund’s attainment of its promoted environmental and social characteristics over time.

Please see the section below regarding the binding elements of the Fund’s investment strategy for further information on the internal sustainability score methodology.

- ***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?***

Not applicable

- ***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?***

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

**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,

Under the Fund's internal sustainability score system, investments are assessed against the E/S Characteristics. The E/S Characteristics will also include consideration of the adverse sustainability indicators set out in Annex I of the Regulatory Technical Standards for Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (the "**SFDR Level 2 Measures**").

For sovereign or quasi-sovereign issuers in particular, the Investment Manager will consider the following adverse sustainability indicators applicable to investments in sovereigns and supranationals: 15. GHG intensity; 16. Investee countries subject to social violations; and

20. Average human rights performance.

For investee companies in particular, the Investment Manager will consider all fourteen mandatory adverse sustainability indicators from Table 1, Annex I of the SFDR Level 2 Measures.

More information on how the Fund considers its adverse impacts will be made available in the dedicated SFDR annex of the annual report of the Fund.

No



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The investment strategy for this financial product with respect to environmental or social characteristics utilizes during the pre-investment review exclusion of certain investments, the assignment of ESG scores to investments, which are then input into the investment process and scorecard ranking of investments. Existing investments are monitored and where appropriate the Investment Manager will seek to engage with the issuer. Each of these components is further described in the question 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.*”?

- ***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 elements described in this section refer to all types of investments / issuers in the Fund’s investible universe, except where otherwise indicated.

1. *Pre-investment – Exclusions:* The Fund will incorporate industry-standard third-party screening tools to apply an exclusion criteria to its investible universe.

The Fund will not invest in the following:

- a) Corporates and (quasi) sovereigns that violate United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) principles and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises ;
  - b) companies and quasi-sovereigns that generate revenue from controversial sectors from the manufacture or production of civilian firearms and Controversial Weapons(as described further in Appendix B)
  - c) companies that derive greater than 5% of annual revenues (turnover) from extraction/production of thermal coal;
  - d) energy companies that produce more than 5% of their energy production from coal;
  - e) companies that generate revenue from tobacco or palm oil production.
2. *Pre-investment – Sustainability score assignment:* The Investment Manager will obtain quantitative data on issuers directly from the issuer/national sources and from third- party data providers and public sources in relation to the E/S Characteristics (as set out above).

The Fund's Investment Committee will assess such quantitative data in combination with qualitative factors that are reasonably deemed relevant (such as level of performance and direction of travel), to assign each of its investments with a score.

*Pre-investment – Sustainability scores input in investment process:* The score assigned to each issuer of its performance against the E/S Characteristics are incorporated in the investment process along with an assessment of the issuer's financial and/or macroeconomic performance as well as of the valuations and technical factors of its securities. The Fund embeds the E/S Characteristics in the Investment Manager's quantitative valuation tools which rely on a multitude of inputs, including scores from its proprietary sovereign risk model, when choosing to invest in a country. These scores directly determine the size and conviction levels of each position. The portfolio tilting is as a result informed by the performance of an issuer against sustainability measures, which include the E/S Characteristics mentioned above

*(For quasi-sovereign and corporate issuers only) Pre-investment – Scorecard ranking:* Issuers are ranked in accordance with their assigned score from the Fund's internal ESG scorecard system. These scores inform the size and conviction levels of each position.

*During investment – Monitoring:* Throughout the investment period, the Fund will collect information on its investments / the issuers in relation to their performance against the E/S Characteristics. The assigned ESG score for the Fund's investments will be regularly re-assessed and updated to take into account of any new relevant information or developments.

On a quarterly basis, the Investment Committee will assess the latest score for each issuer and may reconsider the allocation of the Fund's portfolio accordingly. An investment's consistent deterioration in performance against E/S Characteristics beyond certain thresholds, may lead to exclusion from the Fund's portfolio.

6. *During investment – Engagement:* Where the Investment Manager identifies opportunities for an issuer to improve its performance against the Fund's internal sustainability score system, the Investment Manager will seek to engage with the issuer to promote: (i) best practices for ESG policies; and (ii) improvement on identified deficiencies or deteriorating performance against the E/S Characteristics.

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

The negative screen is designed to exclude issuers in controversial sectors. It is not possible to know on a forward-looking basis what the specific array of deleterious effects might be and/or the percentage of companies that the Fund might otherwise invest in that may produce such effects. Therefore, the Fund is not committed to reducing the universe of potential investments by any specific rate. The overall scope of investments considered by the Fund and the rate at which this will be reduced will ultimately depend on external market factors.

**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?**

At the pre-investment stage, the Investment Manager will also consider good governance practices when assessing quantitative data on issuers.

The Investment Manager will assess such quantitative data in combination with qualitative factors that are reasonably deemed relevant (such as level of performance and direction of travel), to assign each of its investments with a score against the Fund's internal sustainability score system.

For sovereign issuers, the Investment Manager will assess countries across measures of political stability, government and regulatory effectiveness, institutional strength, levels of corruption and the rule of law.

For corporate issuers, the Investment Manager will look at the following 4 factors when assessing their governance practices.

1. *Corporate governance* – i.e. the CEO/chairman role, board composition analysis (including experience, % of independence, diversity, disclosures), compensation frameworks, and the role of the audit committee.
2. *Anti-corruption* – i.e. any policies and monitoring, whistleblower channels, disclosure of cases/conflicts of interest, and conflict resolution methods.
3. *Risk management* – i.e. the HSE/ESG oversight, adherence to global standards, such as the UN Global compact or commitment to SDGs, and the corporate's audit history.
4. *Transparency* – the corporate's disclosure quality, periodicity, and access to investors.

At the investment stage, the Investment Manager will continue to monitor and review data in respect of its investments and their good governance practices. The Fund will engage with the board of corporate issuers to seek to ensure that such boards are accountable for addressing good governance issues.



**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

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

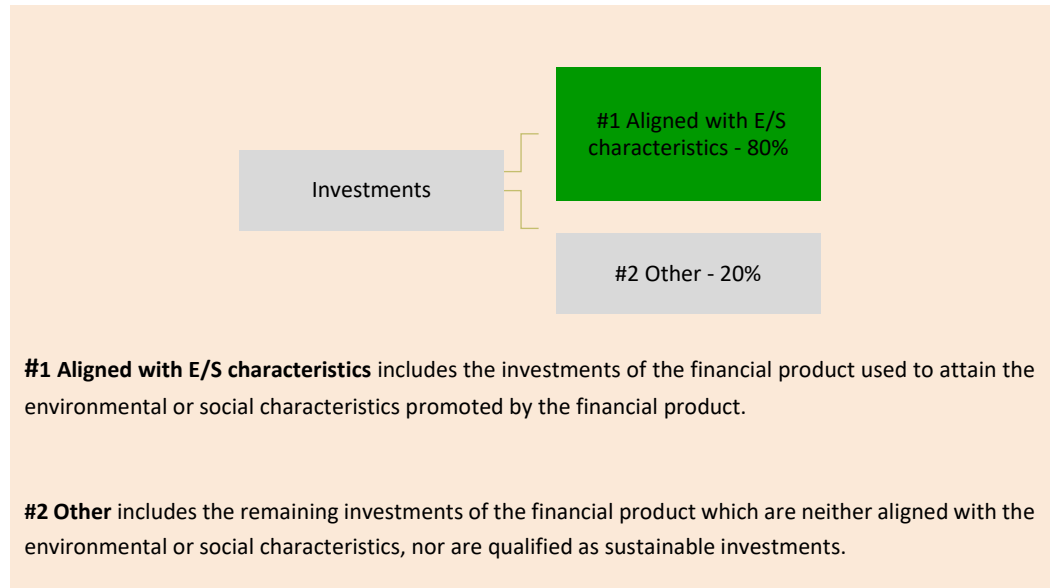
#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics: The Fund invests in local and hard currency denominated debt issued in and/or by emerging market frontier countries. The opportunity set for each issuer includes all

instruments. Labeled bonds (green, social and sustainability (linked) bonds) are included in the relative value analysis conducted for each issuer. We can and do therefore invest in these such instruments, however, do not target a minimum level of exposure to such instruments.

#2 Other: see below.

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 Fund may use interest rate swaps to gain exposure to investments which form the portion of the portfolio which is aligned with the Fund’s E/S Characteristics. In such cases, the underlying issuer to which an exposure is gained will, as relevant to the type of issuer, be subject to the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the E/S Characteristics, as described above.

The Fund may also use derivatives to gain exposures to investments which form the portion of the portfolio which is not aligned with the E/S Characteristics, or for hedging purposes. With respect to such other derivatives, no environmental or social safeguards are applied.

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



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

In relation to taxonomy aligned environmentally sustainable investments in accordance with Article 2 (17) of SFDR, the Fund does not commit to making a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, and hence such investments may currently not qualify as environmentally sustainable investments within the meaning of Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation. In that sense, no information can be provided on a substantial contribution to an environmental objective set out in Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation, and in line with Articles 5 and 6 of the Taxonomy Regulation, the extent to which the Investments underlying the Fund are in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation is therefore currently zero (0%).

The Investment Manager is keeping this situation under active review. Should the Investment Manager decide in the future to commit to making a minimum proportion of sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy, the Investment Manager will provide the descriptions referred to above, in which case this Annex will be updated accordingly.

● **Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>3</sup>?**

Yes:

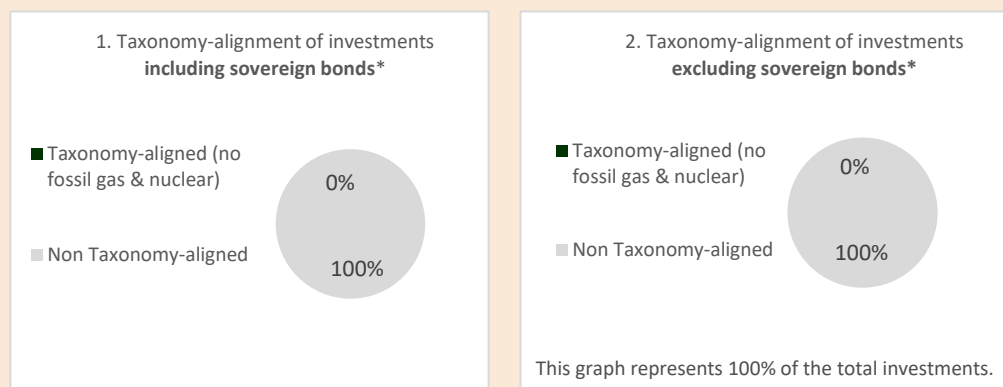
In fossil gas       In nuclear energy

No

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<sup>3</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 economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

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%

The Fund does not commit to having any investments in “transitional and enabling” activities.

 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?**

0%

As these include both environmental and social goals, it is not possible to set specific minimum shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

0% (see above).



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

“Other” investments includes investments which are not aligned with the E/S Characteristics (whether or not exposure to such investments is gained via derivatives), cash held by the Fund for liquidity purposes and derivatives used by the Fund for hedging and investment purposes up to an amount of 20%. No environmental or social safeguards are applied to these investments.



**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?**

Not applicable

- ***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

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



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

More product-specific information can be found on the website: [https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor\\_services/sfdr.fs](https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor_services/sfdr.fs)

## Emerging Markets Growth Fund

**This Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics within the meaning of article 8 (1) SFDR**

**Investment objective:** The Emerging Markets Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

**Main investment strategies:** Under normal market conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets in emerging markets securities. The Fund invests primarily in a diversified portfolio of equity securities, including common stocks and other forms of equity investments (*e.g.*, securities convertible into common stocks), issued by emerging market companies of all sizes, that the Investment Manager believes have above-average growth, profitability and quality characteristics. Emerging market companies, for purposes of the Fund, are companies organized under the laws of an emerging market country or that have securities traded principally on an exchange or over-the-counter in an emerging market country. Currently, emerging markets include every country in the world except the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and most Western European countries. The Fund's investments are normally allocated among at least six different countries and no more than 50% of the Fund's equity holdings may be invested in securities of issuers in one country at any given time. The Fund may invest in equity securities through initial public offerings (IPOs) and private placements.

For comparison purposes, the Fund is measured against the MSCI Emerging Markets IMI (net) as its primary index. The Fund is actively managed within its objective and is not constrained by a benchmark.

The Fund may use techniques and instruments, for hedging purposes only (*e.g.*, hedge against the risk of unfavourable stock market movements, interest rate fluctuations, fluctuation of currencies) by *e.g.* entering into forward foreign currency transactions, provided that the Fund shall ensure a correlation between the techniques and instruments and the securities or currencies being hedged. The Fund will not duplicate the composition of an index and/or enter into OTC derivative transactions, as referred to in Appendix A headed "*Investment Powers and Restrictions*". To a limited extent the Fund may invest in warrants and convertible securities. For more information on the techniques and instruments that the Fund may use (pursuant to its investment policies outlined in this summary), please refer to Appendix B headed "*Investment Know How*".

**Main risks of investing in the Emerging Markets Growth Fund:** The Fund's returns will vary, and investors could lose money by investing in the Fund. Because the Fund invests most of its assets in equity securities of emerging market companies, the primary risk is that the value of the equity securities it holds might decrease in response to the activities of those companies or market and economic conditions. In addition, there is the risk that individual securities may not perform as expected or a strategy used by the Investment Manager may fail to produce its intended result. Different investment styles (*e.g.*, growth vs. value, quality bias, market capitalization focus) tend to shift in and out of favor depending on market conditions and investor sentiment, and at times when the investment style used by the

Investment Manager for the Fund is out of favor, the Fund may underperform other equity funds that use different investment styles. Non-U.S. investments often involve additional risks, including political instability, differences in financial reporting standards and less stringent regulation of securities markets. These risks may be greatly increased in emerging market countries because the securities of emerging market companies may be subject to greater volatility and less liquidity than companies in more developed markets. Because the securities held by the Fund usually will be denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, changes in foreign currency exchange rates may adversely affect the value of the Fund's investments. The currencies of emerging market countries may experience a devaluation relative to the U.S. dollar, and continued devaluations may adversely affect the value of the Fund's assets denominated in such currencies. Many emerging market countries have experienced substantial rates of inflation for many years, and continued inflation may adversely affect the economies and securities markets of such countries. The Fund is expected to incur operating expenses that are higher than those of funds investing exclusively in U.S. equity securities due to the higher custodial fees associated with non-U.S. securities investments. In addition, the Fund may invest in the securities of small capitalized ("**small cap**") companies, which may be more volatile and less liquid than securities of large capitalized ("**large cap**") companies. Small cap companies may also be traded in low volumes. This can increase volatility and increase the risk that the Fund will not be able to sell the security on short notice at a reasonable price. To the extent the Fund invests a significant portion of its assets in one country, the Fund will be more vulnerable to the risks of adverse economic or political forces in that country. To the extent that a significant portion of the Fund's shares are held by a limited number of shareholders or their affiliates, there is a risk that the share trading activities of these shareholders could disrupt the Fund's investment strategies, which could have adverse consequences for the Fund and other shareholders (*e.g.*, by requiring the Fund to sell investments at inopportune times or causing the Fund to maintain larger-than-expected cash positions pending acquisition of investments). The Fund's investments in IPOs are subject to high volatility and are of limited availability. Securities acquired through private placements may be classified as illiquid and difficult to value. Additional risks associated with investment in the Fund are described under the section headed "*Risk Factors - All Funds*".

**THE FUND INVOLVES A HIGH LEVEL OF RISK, AND MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR EVERYONE.** Investors should consider the Fund only for the more aggressive portion of their portfolio. In addition, the Fund is intended for investors who can accept the risks entailed in investing in securities of emerging market countries. Of course, there can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its objective. The Fund is designed for long-term investors.

**Investment Process:** In choosing investments, the Investment Manager performs fundamental company analysis and focuses on stock selection. The Investment Manager generally seeks equity securities, including common stocks, of emerging market companies that historically have had superior growth, profitability and quality relative to local markets and relative to companies within the same industry worldwide, and that are expected to continue such performance. Such companies generally will exhibit superior business

fundamentals, including leadership in their field, quality products or services, distinctive marketing and distribution, pricing flexibility and revenue from products or services consumed on a steady, recurring basis. These business characteristics should be accompanied by management that is shareholder return-oriented and that uses conservative accounting policies. Companies with above-average returns on equity, strong balance sheets and consistent, above-average earnings growth will be the primary focus. Stock selection will take into account both local and global comparisons.

The Investment Manager will vary the Fund's sector and geographic diversification based upon the Investment Manager's ongoing evaluation of economic, market and political trends throughout the world. In making decisions regarding country allocation, the Investment Manager will consider such factors as the conditions and growth potential of various economies and securities markets, currency exchange rates, technological developments in the various countries and other pertinent financial, social, national and political factors.

The share classes issued by the Fund are further described below in the section headed "*Classes of Shares*".

The global exposure of the Fund is determined by using the commitment approach in accordance with the most recent applicable guidelines of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), as described in further detail under the section headed "*Risk Management*".

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: William Blair – Emerging Markets Growth Fund (“Fund”)      Legal entity identifier: 7XDVULH1RS7ET3FKQR87

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

**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.

Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ___%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with a social objective: ___%</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It <b>promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics</b> and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of <u>5</u> % of sustainable investments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with a social objective</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> It promotes E/S characteristics, but <b>will not make any sustainable investments</b>



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

The Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics by managing the overall sustainability profile of the Fund's investment portfolio.

In particular, the Fund integrates what it deems to be financially material ESG factors (the "ESG Factors") into its investment due diligence and selection process. The result is that 50% or more of the Fund's portfolio will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors and/or whose products or services are aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

The ESG Factors may include the following characteristics:

### Environment

- Carbon footprint
- Greenhouse gas emission intensity
- Natural resources stewardship
- Pollution and waste management

### Social

- Human capital management
- Customer well-being
- Supply chain management
- Community relations

### Governance

- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Board composition (e.g., board gender diversity)
- Minority shareholder treatment
- Management incentives
- Corporate culture.

The Fund has not designated a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the E/S Characteristics promoted.

**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?***

William Blair Investment Management, LLC, the investment manager for the Fund (the “**Investment Manager**”), will use internal ESG scores to measure the promotion of the Fund’s ESG Factors with respect to each investment made by the Fund and across the portfolio.

In particular, the Investment Manager will use the ESG scores that it has assigned to the Fund’s underlying investments to calculate the percentage of the Portfolio that is aligned with above-average, industry-relative ESG practices and/or products and services aligned with positive environmental and social outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

- ***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?***

As explained further below, the Fund will not be targeting EU Taxonomy-aligned sustainable investments.

However, to the extent that the Fund’s investments are in companies with products or services that contribute to positive sustainability outcomes, such investments may contribute towards: climate change adaptation and mitigation (such as decarbonization and energy efficiency) or transition to a circular economy and pollution prevention and control (such as waste reduction).

In addition, the Fund’s sustainable investments may contribute towards social objectives, such as promoting financial inclusion or health and wellness.

- ***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 Investment Manager’s analysis of sustainable investments seeks to assess both: (i) the positive contribution (if any) that a company may make to the promotion of environmental or social

characteristics; as well as (ii) the negative impact (if any) that a company's activities may have on environmental or social characteristics.

As such, the Investment Manager seeks to identify companies that may significantly harm environmental or social characteristics through proprietary analysis and external data. For example, the risk of significant harm is addressed through the application of screening criteria that seek to assess potential misalignment of investee companies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and global norms-related controversies. When identified, such companies will not count towards the Fund's minimum proportion of 5% in sustainable investments.

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

The mandatory adverse sustainability indicators from Table 1, Annex I of the Regulatory Technical Standards for Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (the “**SFDR Level 2 Measures**”) are taken into account to the extent that they are relevant to the assessment of an investee company from the Investment Manager's perspective.

The relevance/materiality of any particular indicator for adverse impacts on sustainability factors may differ from one company to another depending upon multiple factors, including the location of the company, the business conducted by the company and the industry in which the company sits.

The Investment Manager may also use its judgment to determine at what level an adverse sustainability indicator would be considered as excessively harmful for the purposes of identifying its sustainable investments.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

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

Companies deemed to be in violation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are excluded from the portfolio (see Investment Strategy section below on page 4).

The Investment Manager also seeks to exclude investments in companies involved in controversies related to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (see list of ESG Factors on page 1 above).

**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,

In determining whether a particular investment contributes to environmental or social characteristics, the Investment Manager will, where relevant to an investment, take into account applicable PAI indicators.

In addition, the Fund will consider PAI to inform its investment universe as follows:

- Number 14: Exposure to Controversial Weapons (as described further in Appendix B) is taken into account through the Investment Manager’s investment exclusion rule.
- Number 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises is implemented through the investment restriction of severe controversies.

See section on “How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?” for how principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered.

No



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The investment strategy for this financial product with respect to environmental or social characteristics utilizes during the pre-investment review exclusion of certain investments, data collection on ESG factors, an ESG score assignment and consideration of ESG factors. Each of these components is further described in the question 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.*”?

- ***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 incorporates its exclusion policy, quantitative/qualitative assessment of the ESG Factors and the resulting proprietary ESG scores into its investment decision making process on a consistent and continuous basis as follows:

### *Exclusions*

The Investment Manager will incorporate industry accepted screening tools from vendors that it deems to be reliable to adopt the following binding list of exclusions:

- *Controversial Weapons*: companies involved in activities related to Controversial Weapons (as further described in Appendix B)
- *Tobacco*: companies engaged in tobacco manufacturing
- *Global norms*: companies that violate United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) principles and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.
- *Thermal coal mining or thermal coal power generation*: companies that derive a significant portion of their revenues from thermal coal mining or thermal coal power generation.

### *Data collection on ESG Factors*

Sustainability data for the ESG Factors are sourced from third party data vendors (who themselves use a combination of company reported data as well as estimates based on industry norms) and data obtained directly through the Investment Manager’s own review of and engagement with a company.

### *Scores assignment*

The assessment of the ESG Factors is guided by a proprietary industry materiality framework that is developed internally by the Investment Manager.

Companies are assessed against the quantitative value of data points for the ESG Factors where available (for example the actual level of carbon emissions) as well as the qualitative impact of these data points for the ESG Factors (for example, a company may have high carbon emissions but has a plan to transition to lower carbon emissions over an identifiable period of time).

The Investment Manager utilizes qualitative ESG scores that reflect the Investment Manager's views on the ESG Factors and how they may affect company performance and /or environmental / social factors more broadly.

At the company level, the Investment Manager's investment team will assign proprietary ESG scores on a scale of 1 to 5 for the three following measures: (1) Environmental factors; (2) Social factors; and (3) Governance factors, with score of 1 being "significantly above average" and 5 being "significantly below average" based on relevant industry peers. In some instances there will be insufficient data to assign scores, in which case the investment will not count towards the 50% or more of the Fund's portfolio that will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors.

### *Consideration of ESG Factors*

The Investment Manager seeks to rely on its proprietary ESG scores to attain exposure of at least 50% of the Fund's portfolio in companies with above average ESG practices. For at least 50% of the Fund's portfolio, an individual investment must score above average in respect of: (1) Environmental factors or (2) Social factors, and such individual investment must not score below average for Environmental, Social or Governance factors, or must have products and services that are deemed to be aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

This may include, for example, companies whose products or services promote decarbonization, health and wellness, or financial inclusion.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of the investment strategy.

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

Governance factors are assessed systematically for every company in which the fund invests based primarily on proprietary research including, but not limited to, interactions with management, as

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

well as externally sourced inputs including third-party governance ratings and data, controversies research and/or proxy voting research as deemed relevant.

Governance considerations may include, but are not limited to, (i) sound management structures (having due regard to the topics of board composition and minority shareholders treatment) (ii) employee relations (taking into account management incentives and the relevant investee companies' corporate culture) as well as to matters of (iii) remuneration of staff and (iv) tax compliance (including penalties, fines or other liability arising from breaches of applicable tax law). Proprietary governance scores are assigned by the Investment Manager's investment team during the due diligence process.



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

#### Asset allocation

describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

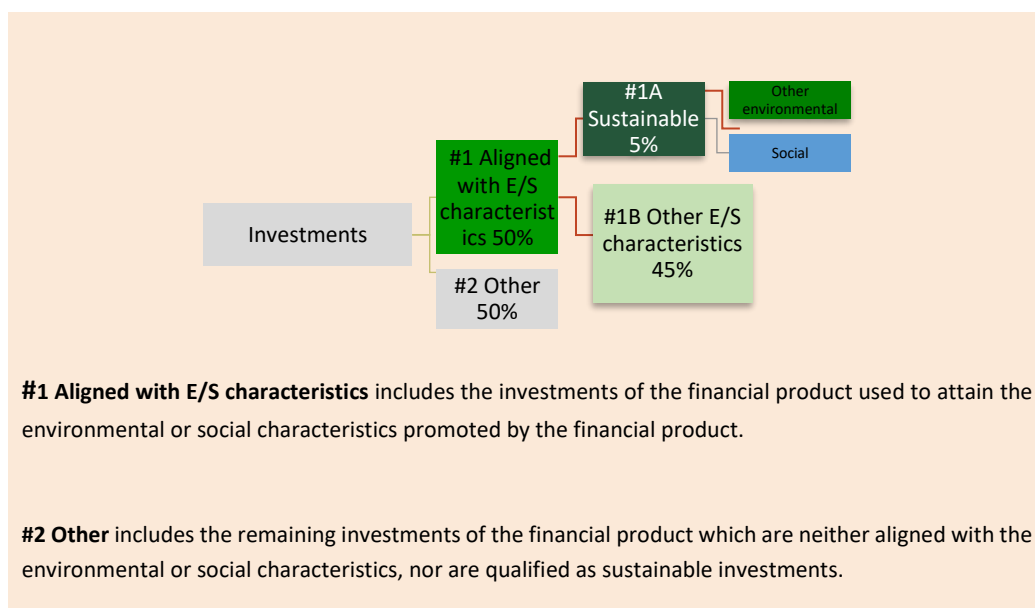
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities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

#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics: Minimum proportion of investments used to attain the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the fund is 50%.

#1A Sustainable: Minimum proportion of sustainable investments is 5%. This category covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives

#1B Other E/S characteristics: This category covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments and the minimum proportion of these investments is 45%.

#2 Other: see response below



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

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 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.

With respect to derivatives used by the Fund no environmental or social safeguards are applied.



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

In relation to taxonomy aligned environmentally sustainable investments in accordance with article 2 (17) of SFDR, the Fund does not commit to making a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, and hence such investments may currently not qualify as environmentally sustainable investments within the meaning of article 3 the Taxonomy Regulation. In that sense, no information can be provided on a substantial contribution to an environmental objective set out in Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation and in line with article 5 and 6 of the Taxonomy Regulation the extent to what the Investments underlying the Fund are in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation is therefore currently zero (0%).

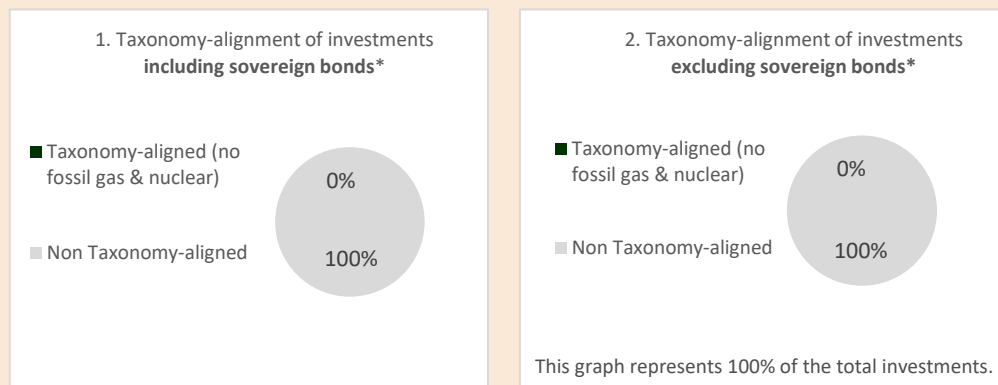
The Investment Manager is keeping this situation under active review and Investments of the Fund will be a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, the investment Manager will provide the descriptions referred to above, in which case this Annex will be updated accordingly.

- **Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>4</sup>?**

- Yes:  
 In fossil gas     In nuclear energy  
 No

<sup>4</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 economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

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%

The Fund does not commit to having any investments in “transitional and enabling” activities.

 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?**

1% is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

1% is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

“Other” investments include companies with quality growth attributes where the materiality of ESG Factors is generally low, from both a risk and opportunity perspective, where the Investment Manager believes the stock presents an attractive risk/reward opportunity. Such investments would still be subject to the exclusion list set out above.

“Other” investments also include cash held by the Fund for liquidity and derivatives used by the Fund. No environmental or social safeguards are applied to these investments.



### 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?

Not applicable

- ***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

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



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

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**  
[https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor\\_services/sfdr.fs](https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor_services/sfdr.fs)

## Emerging Markets Leaders Fund

**This Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics within the meaning of article 8 (1) SFDR**

**Investment objective:** The Emerging Markets Leaders Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

**Main investment strategies:** Under normal market conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets in emerging markets securities. The Fund invests primarily in a diversified portfolio of equity securities, including common stocks and other forms of equity investments (*e.g.*, securities convertible into common stocks), issued by emerging market companies of all sizes, that the Investment Manager believes have above-average growth, profitability and quality characteristics. Under normal market conditions, the Fund typically holds a limited number of securities, (*i.e.*, 50-80 securities). The Investment Manager seeks investment opportunities in companies at different stages of development, ranging from large, well-established companies to smaller companies at earlier stages of development, that are leaders in their country, industry or globally in terms of products, services or execution. Emerging market companies, for purposes of the Fund, are companies organized under the laws of an emerging market country or that have securities traded principally on an exchange or over-the-counter in an emerging market country. Currently, emerging markets include every country in the world except the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and most Western European countries. The Fund's investments are normally allocated among at least six different countries and no more than 50% of the Fund's equity holdings may be invested in securities of issuers in one country at any given time. The Fund may invest in equity securities through initial public offerings (IPOs) and private placements.

For comparison purposes, the Fund is measured against the MSCI Emerging Markets Index (net) as its primary index. The Fund is actively managed within its objective and is not constrained by a benchmark.

The Fund may use techniques and instruments for hedging purposes only (*e.g.*, hedge against the risk of unfavourable stock market movements, interest rate fluctuations, fluctuation of currencies) by *e.g.* entering into forward foreign currency transactions, provided that the Fund shall ensure a correlation between the techniques and instruments and the securities or currencies being hedged. For more information on the techniques and instruments that the Fund may use (pursuant to its investment policies outlined in this summary), please refer to Appendix B headed "*Investment Know How*".

The Fund will not duplicate the composition of an index and/or enter into OTC derivative transactions, as referred to in Appendix A headed "*Investment Powers and Restrictions*". To a limited extent the Fund may invest in warrants and convertible securities.

**Main risks of investing in the Emerging Markets Leaders Fund:** The Fund's returns will vary, and investors could lose money by investing in the Fund. Because the Fund invests most of its assets in equity securities of emerging market companies, the primary risk is that the value of the equity securities it holds might decrease in response to the activities of those companies or market and economic conditions. In addition, there is the risk that individual securities may not perform as expected or a strategy used by the Investment Manager may fail to produce its intended result. Because the Fund may focus its investments in a limited number of securities, its performance may be more volatile than a fund that invests in a greater number of securities. Different investment styles (*e.g.*, growth vs. value, quality bias, market capitalization focus) tend to shift in and out of favor depending on market conditions and investor sentiment, and at times when the investment style used by the Investment Manager for the Fund is out of favor, the Fund may underperform other equity funds that use different investment styles. Non-U.S. investments often involve additional risks, including political instability, differences in financial reporting standards and less stringent regulation of securities markets. These risks may be greatly increased in emerging market countries because the securities of emerging market companies may be subject to greater volatility and less liquidity than companies in more developed markets. Because the securities held by the Fund usually will be denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, changes in foreign currency exchange rates may adversely affect the value of the Fund's investments. The currencies of emerging market countries may experience a devaluation relative to the U.S. dollar, and continued devaluations may adversely affect the value of the Fund's assets denominated in such currencies. Many emerging market countries have experienced substantial rates of inflation for many years, and continued inflation may adversely affect the economies and securities markets of such countries. The Fund is expected to incur operating expenses that are higher than those of funds investing exclusively in U.S. equity securities due to the higher custodial fees associated with non-U.S. securities investments. In addition, the Fund may invest in the securities of small cap companies, which may be more volatile and less liquid than securities of large cap companies. Small cap companies may also be traded in low volumes. This can increase volatility and increase the risk that the Fund will not be able to sell the security on short notice at a reasonable price. To the extent the Fund invests a significant portion of its assets in one country, the Fund will be more vulnerable to the risks of adverse economic or political forces in that country. To the extent that a significant portion of the Fund's shares are held by a limited number of shareholders or their affiliates, there is a risk that the share trading activities of these shareholders could disrupt the Fund's investment strategies, which could have adverse consequences for the Fund and other shareholders (*e.g.*, by requiring the Fund to sell investments at inopportune times or causing the Fund to maintain larger-than-expected cash positions pending acquisition of investments). The Fund's investments in IPOs are subject to high volatility and are of limited availability. Securities acquired through private placements may be classified as illiquid and difficult to value. Additional risks associated with investment in the Fund are described under the section headed "*Risk Factors-All Fund*".

**THE FUND INVOLVES A HIGH LEVEL OF RISK, AND MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR EVERYONE.** Investors should consider the Fund only for the more aggressive portion of their portfolio. In addition, the Fund is intended for investors who can accept the risks entailed in investing in securities of emerging market countries. Of course, there can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its objective. The Fund is designed for long-term investors. **Investment Process:** In choosing investments, the Investment Manager performs fundamental company analysis and focuses on stock selection. The Investment Manager generally seeks equity securities, including common stocks, of emerging market companies that historically have had superior growth, profitability and quality relative to local markets and relative to companies within the same industry worldwide, and that are expected to continue such performance. Such companies generally will exhibit superior business fundamentals, including leadership in their field, quality products or services, distinctive marketing and distribution, pricing flexibility and revenue from products or services consumed on a steady, recurring basis. These business characteristics should be accompanied by management that is shareholder return-oriented and that uses conservative accounting policies. Companies with above-average returns on equity, strong balance sheets and consistent, above-average earnings growth at reasonable valuation levels will be the primary focus. Stock selection will take into account both local and global comparisons.

The Investment Manager will vary the Fund's sector and geographic diversification based upon the Investment Manager's ongoing evaluation of economic, market and political trends throughout the world. In making decisions regarding country allocation, the Investment Manager will consider such factors as the conditions and growth potential of various economies and securities markets, currency exchange rates, technological developments in the various countries and other pertinent financial, social, national and political factors.

The share classes issued by the Fund are further described below in the section headed "*Classes of Share*".

The global exposure of the Fund is determined by using the commitment approach in accordance with the most recent applicable guidelines of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), as described in further detail under the section headed "*Risk Management*".

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: William Blair – Emerging Markets Leaders Fund (“Fund”)      Legal entity identifier: SPIT76C4ZY87P82PPF36

**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?**

<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <b>Yes</b>	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ___%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with a social objective: ___%</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It <b>promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics</b> and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of <u>5</u> % of sustainable investments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with a social objective</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> It promotes E/S characteristics, but <b>will not make any sustainable investments</b>



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

The Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics by managing the overall sustainability profile of the Fund’s investment portfolio.

In particular, the Fund integrates what it deems to be financially material ESG factors (the “**ESG Factors**”) into its investment due diligence and selection process. The result is that 50% or more of the Fund’s

portfolio will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors and/or whose products or services are aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

The ESG Factors may include the following characteristics:

#### Environment

- Carbon footprint
- Greenhouse gas emission intensity
- Natural resources stewardship
- Pollution and waste management

#### Social

- Human capital management
- Customer well-being
- Supply chain management
- Community relations

#### Governance

- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Board composition (e.g., board gender diversity)
- Minority shareholder treatment
- Management incentives
- Corporate culture.

The Fund has not designated a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the E/S Characteristics promoted.

**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?***

William Blair Investment Management, LLC, the investment manager for the Fund (the “**Investment Manager**”), will use internal ESG scores to measure the promotion of the Fund’s ESG Factors with respect to each investment made by the Fund and across the portfolio.

In particular, the Investment Manager will use the ESG scores that it has assigned to the Funds underlying investments to calculate the percentage of the Portfolio that is aligned with above-average, industry-relative ESG practices and/or products and services aligned with positive environmental and social outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

- ***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?***

As explained further below, the Fund will not be targeting EU Taxonomy-aligned sustainable investments.

However, to the extent that the Fund's investments are in companies with products or services that contribute to positive sustainability outcomes, such investments may contribute towards: climate change adaptation and mitigation (such as decarbonization and energy efficiency) or transition to a circular economy and pollution prevention and control (such as waste reduction).

In addition, the Fund's sustainable investments may contribute towards social objectives, such as promoting financial inclusion or health and wellness.

**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?***

The Investment Manager's analysis of sustainable investments seeks to assess both: (i) the positive contribution (if any) that a company may make to the promotion of environmental or social characteristics; as well as (ii) the negative impact (if any) that a company's activities may have on environmental or social characteristics.

As such, the Investment Manager seeks to identify companies that may significantly harm environmental or social characteristics through proprietary analysis and external data. For example, the risk of significant harm is addressed through the application of screening criteria that seek to assess potential misalignment of investee companies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and global norms-related controversies. When identified, such companies will not count towards the Fund's minimum proportion of 5% in sustainable investments

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

The mandatory adverse sustainability indicators from Table 1, Annex I of the Regulatory Technical Standards for Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (the “**SFDR Level 2 Measures**”) are taken into account to the extent that they are relevant to the assessment of an investee company from the Investment Manager’s perspective.

The relevance/materiality of any particular indicator for adverse impacts on sustainability factors may differ from one company to another depending upon multiple factors, including the location of the company, the business conducted by the company and the industry in which the company sits.

The Investment Manager may also use its judgment to determine at what level an adverse sustainability indicator would be considered as excessively harmful for the purposes of identifying its sustainable investments.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

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

Companies deemed to be in violation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are excluded from the portfolio (see Investment Strategy section below on page 4).

The Investment Manager also seeks to exclude investments in companies involved in controversies related to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (see list of ESG Factors on page 1 above).

*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,

In determining whether a particular investment contributes to environmental or social characteristics, the Investment Manager will, where relevant to an investment, take into account applicable PAI indicators.

In addition, the Fund will consider PAI to inform its investment universe as follows:

- Number 14: Exposure to Controversial Weapons (as described further in Appendix B) is taken into account through the Investment Manager's investment exclusion rule.
- Number 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises is implemented through the investment restriction of severe controversies.

See section on *"How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?"* for how principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered.

No



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The investment strategy for this financial product with respect to environmental or social characteristics utilizes during the pre-investment review exclusion of certain investments, data collection on ESG factors, an ESG score assignment and consideration of ESG factors. Each of these components is further described in the question 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.?"

- ***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 incorporates its exclusion policy, quantitative/qualitative assessment of the ESG Factors and the resulting proprietary ESG scores into its investment decision making process on a consistent and continuous basis as follows:

#### *Exclusions*

The Investment Manager will incorporate industry accepted screening tools from vendors that it deems to be reliable to adopt the following binding list of exclusions:

- *Controversial Weapons*: companies involved in activities related to Controversial Weapons (as further described in Appendix B)
- *Tobacco*: companies engaged in tobacco manufacturing
- *Global norms*: companies that violate *United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) principles and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises*.
- *Thermal coal Companies that derive greater than 5% of annual revenues (turnover) from extraction/production of thermal coal;*
- Energy companies that produce more than 5% of their energy production from coal

#### *Data collection on ESG Factors*

Sustainability data for the ESG Factors are sourced from third party data vendors (who themselves use a combination of company reported data as well as estimates based on industry norms) and data obtained directly through the Investment Manager's own review of and engagement with a company.

#### *Scores assignment*

The assessment of the ESG Factors is guided by a proprietary industry materiality framework that is developed internally by the Investment Manager.

Companies are assessed against the quantitative value of data points for the ESG Factors where available (for example the actual level of carbon emissions) as well as the qualitative impact of these data points for the ESG Factors (for example, a company may have high carbon emissions but has a plan to transition to lower carbon emissions over an identifiable period of time).

The Investment Manager utilizes qualitative ESG scores that reflect the Investment Manager's views on the ESG Factors and how they may affect company performance and /or environmental / social factors more broadly.

At the company level, the Investment Manager's investment team will assign proprietary ESG scores on a scale of 1 to 5 for the three following measures: (1) Environmental factors; (2) Social factors; and (3) Governance factors, with score of 1 being "significantly above average" and 5 being "significantly below average" based on relevant industry peers. In some instances there will be insufficient data to assign scores, in which case the investment will not count towards the 50% or more of the Fund's portfolio that will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors.

#### *Consideration of ESG Factors*

The Investment Manager seeks to rely on its proprietary ESG scores to attain exposure of at least 50% of the Fund's portfolio in companies with above average ESG practices. For at least 50% of the Fund's portfolio, an individual investment must score above average in respect of: (1) Environmental factors or (2) Social factors, and such individual investment must not score below average for Environmental, Social or Governance factors, or must have products and services that are deemed to be aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

This may include, for example, companies whose products or services promote decarbonization, health and wellness, or financial inclusion.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of the investment strategy.

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

Governance factors are assessed systematically for every company in which the fund invests based primarily on proprietary research including, but not limited to, interactions with management, as well as externally sourced inputs including third-party governance ratings and data, controversies research and/or proxy voting research as deemed relevant.

Governance considerations may include, but are not limited to, (i) sound management structures (having due regard to the topics of board composition and minority shareholders treatment) (ii) employee relations (taking into account management incentives and the relevant investee companies' corporate culture) as well as to matters of (iii) remuneration of staff and (iv) tax compliance (including penalties, fines or other liability arising from breaches of applicable tax law). Proprietary governance scores are assigned by the Investment Manager's investment team during the due diligence process.

**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.

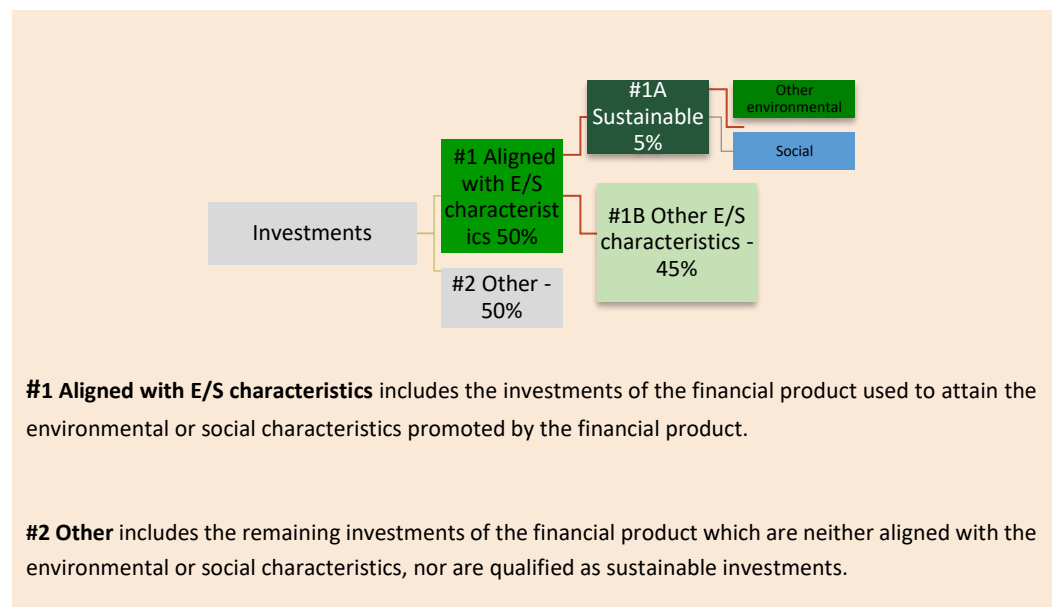
Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **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.

**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics:** Minimum proportion of investments used to attain the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the fund is 50%.

**#1A Sustainable:** Minimum proportion of sustainable investments is 5%. This category covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives

**#1B Other E/S characteristics:** This category covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments and the minimum proportion of these investments is 45%.



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

With respect to derivatives used by the Fund no environmental or social safeguards are applied.

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 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.



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

In relation to taxonomy aligned environmentally sustainable investments in accordance with article 2 (17) of SFDR, the Fund does not commit to making a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, and hence such investments may currently not qualify as environmentally sustainable investments within the meaning of article 3 the Taxonomy Regulation. In that sense, no information can be provided on a substantial contribution to an environmental objective set out in Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation and in line with article 5 and 6 of the Taxonomy Regulation the extent to what the Investments underlying the Fund are in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation is therefore currently zero (0%).

The Investment Manager is keeping this situation under active review and Investments of the Fund will be a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, the investment Manager will provide the descriptions referred to above, in which case this Annex will be updated accordingly.

### ● Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>5</sup>?

Yes:

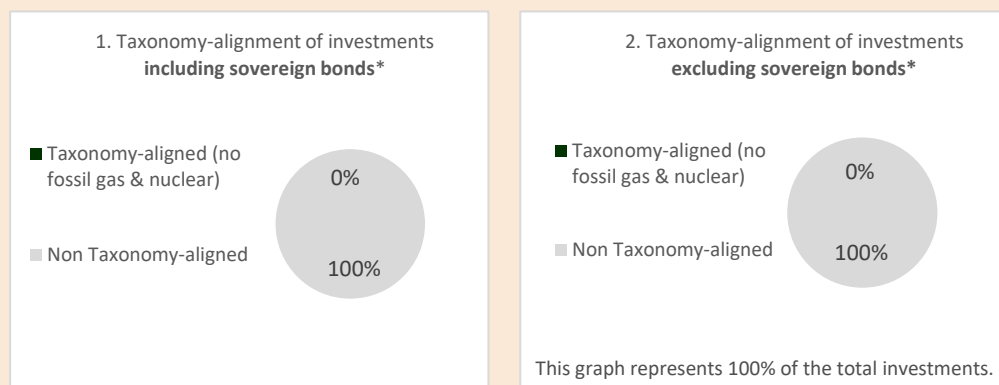
In fossil gas

In nuclear energy

No

<sup>5</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 economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

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%

The Fund does not commit to having any investments in “transitional and enabling” activities.



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

1% is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.

 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 socially sustainable investments?

1% is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

“Other” investments include companies with quality growth attributes where the materiality of ESG Factors is generally low, from both a risk and opportunity perspective, where the Investment Manager believes the stock presents an attractive risk/reward opportunity. Such investments would still be subject to the exclusion list set out above.

“Other” investments also include cash held by the Fund for liquidity and derivatives used by the Fund. No environmental or social safeguards are applied to these investments



### 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?

Not applicable

- *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

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



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

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**  
[https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor\\_services/sfdr.fs](https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor_services/sfdr.fs)

## Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund

**This Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics within the meaning of article 8 (1) SFDR**

**Investment objective:** The Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation measured in US\$.

**Main investment strategies:** Under normal market conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets in equity securities of emerging market small cap companies. The Fund invests primarily in a diversified portfolio of equity securities, including common stocks and other forms of equity investments (*e.g.*, securities convertible into common stocks), issued by emerging market small cap companies that the Investment Manager believes have above average growth, profitability and quality characteristics. For purposes of the Fund, the Investment Manager considers a company to be a small cap company if it has a float adjusted market capitalization at the time of purchase no larger than the greater of \$5 billion or the largest capitalized company included in the MSCI Emerging Markets Small Cap Index (net). Securities of companies whose float adjusted market capitalization no longer meets this definition of small cap after purchase may continue to be held in the Fund. Emerging market companies, for purposes of the Fund, are companies organized under the laws of an emerging market country or that have securities traded principally on an exchange or over-the-counter in an emerging market country. Currently, emerging markets include every country in the world except the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and most Western European countries. The Fund's investments are normally allocated among at least six different countries and no more than 50% of the Fund's equity holdings may be invested in securities of issuers in one country at any given time. The Fund may invest in equity securities through initial public offerings (IPOs) and private placements.

For comparison purposes, the Fund is measured against the MSCI Emerging Markets Small Cap Index (Net) as its primary index. The Fund is actively managed within its objective and is not constrained by a benchmark.

The Fund may use techniques and instruments, for hedging purposes only (*e.g.*, hedge against the risk of unfavourable stock market movements, interest rate fluctuations, fluctuation of currencies) by *e.g.* entering into forward foreign currency transactions, provided that the Fund shall ensure a correlation between the techniques and instruments and the securities or currencies being hedged. The Fund will not duplicate the composition of an index and/or enter into OTC derivative transactions, as referred to in Appendix A headed "Investment Powers and Restrictions". To a limited extent the Fund may invest in warrants and convertible securities which are described in Appendix B. For more information on the techniques and instruments that the Fund may use (pursuant to its investment policies outlined in this summary), please refer to Appendix B headed "*Investment Know How*".

**Main risks of investing in the Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund:** The Fund's returns will vary, and investors could lose money by investing in the Fund. Because the Fund invests most of its assets in equity securities of emerging market small cap companies, the primary risk is that the value of the equity securities it holds might decrease in response to the activities of those companies or market and economic conditions. In addition, there is the risk that individual securities may not perform as expected or a strategy used by the Investment Manager may fail to produce its intended result. Different investment styles (*e.g.*, growth vs. value, quality bias, market capitalization focus) tend to shift in and out of favor depending on market conditions and investor sentiment, and at times when the investment style used by the Investment Manager for the Fund is out of favor, the Fund may underperform other equity funds that use different investment styles. Non-U.S. investments often involve additional risks, including political instability, differences in financial reporting standards and less stringent regulation of securities markets. These risks may be greatly increased in emerging market countries because the securities of emerging market companies may be subject to greater volatility and less liquidity than companies in more developed markets. Because the securities held by the Fund usually will be denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, changes in foreign currency exchange rates may adversely affect the value of the Fund's investments. The currencies of emerging market countries may experience a devaluation relative to the U.S. dollar, and continued devaluations may adversely affect the value of the Fund's assets denominated in such currencies. Many emerging market countries have experienced substantial rates of inflation for many years, and continued inflation may adversely affect the economies and securities markets of such countries. The Fund is expected to incur operating expenses that are higher than those of funds investing exclusively in U.S. equity securities due to the higher custodial fees associated with non-U.S. securities investments. In addition, the Fund invests primarily in the securities of small cap companies, which may be more volatile and less liquid than securities of large companies. Small cap companies may be traded in low volumes. This can increase volatility and increase the risk that the Fund will not be able to sell the security on short notice at a reasonable price. These risks are intensified for investments in micro cap companies (*i.e.*, for purposes of this Fund this term refers to companies with market capitalizations of \$250 million or less). To the extent the Fund invests a significant portion of its assets in one country, the Fund will be more vulnerable to the risks of adverse economic or political forces in that country. To the extent that a significant portion of the Fund's shares are held by a limited number of shareholders or their affiliates, there is a risk that the share trading activities of these shareholders could disrupt the Fund's investment strategies, which could have adverse consequences for the Fund and other shareholders (*e.g.*, by requiring the Fund to sell investments at inopportune times or causing the Fund to maintain larger-than-expected cash positions pending acquisition of investments). The Fund's investments in IPOs are subject to high volatility and are of limited availability. Securities acquired through private placements may be classified as illiquid and difficult to value. Additional risks associated with investment in the Fund are described under the section headed "*Risk Factors - All Funds*".

**THE FUND INVOLVES A HIGH LEVEL OF RISK, AND MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR EVERYONE.** Investors should consider the Fund only for the more aggressive portion of their portfolio. In addition, the Fund is intended for investors who can accept the risks entailed in investing in securities of emerging market countries. Of course, there can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its objective. The Fund is designed for long-term investors.

**Investment Process:** In choosing investments, the Investment Manager performs fundamental company analysis and focuses on stock selection. The Investment Manager generally seeks equity securities, including common stocks, of emerging market companies that historically have had superior growth, profitability and quality relative to local markets and relative to companies within the same industry worldwide, and that are expected to continue such performance. Such companies generally will exhibit superior business fundamentals, including leadership in their field, quality products or services, distinctive marketing and distribution, pricing flexibility and revenue from products or services consumed on a steady, recurring basis. These business characteristics should be accompanied by management that is shareholder return-oriented and that uses conservative accounting policies. Companies with above-average returns on equity, strong balance sheets and consistent, above-average earnings growth will be the primary focus. Stock selection will take into account both local and global comparisons.

The Investment Manager will vary the Fund's sector and geographic diversification based upon the Investment Manager's ongoing evaluation of economic, market and political trends throughout the world. In making decisions regarding country allocation, the Investment Manager will consider such factors as the conditions and growth potential of various economies and securities markets, currency exchange rates, technological developments in the various countries and other pertinent financial, social, national and political factors.

The share classes issued by the Fund are further described below in the section headed "*Classes of Shares*".

The global exposure of the Fund is determined by using the commitment approach in accordance with the most recent applicable guidelines of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), as described in further detail under the section headed "*Risk Management*".

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: William Blair – Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund (“Fund”)      Legal entity identifier: 549300IBQB4X2E0PK793

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

**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.

Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>	<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ___%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with a social objective: ___%</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It <b>promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics</b> and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of <b>5%</b> of sustainable investments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with a social objective</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> It promotes E/S characteristics, but <b>will not make any sustainable investments</b>



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

The Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics by managing the overall sustainability profile of the Fund's investment portfolio.

In particular, the Fund integrates what it deems to be financially material ESG factors (the "ESG Factors") into its investment due diligence and selection process. The result is that 40% or more of the Fund's portfolio will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors and/or whose products or services are aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

The ESG Factors may include the following characteristics :

### Environment

- Carbon footprint
- Greenhouse gas emission intensity
- Natural resources stewardship
- Pollution and waste management

### Social

- Human capital management
- Customer well-being
- Supply chain management
- Community relations

### Governance

- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Board composition (e.g., board gender diversity)
- Minority shareholder treatment
- Management incentives
- Corporate culture.

The Fund has not designated a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the E/S characteristics promoted.

**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?***

William Blair Investment Management, LLC, the investment manager for the Fund (the “**Investment Manager**”), will use internal ESG scores to measure the promotion of the Fund’s ESG Factors with respect to each investment made by the Fund and across the portfolio.

In particular, the Investment Manager will use the ESG scores that it has assigned to the Fund’s underlying investments to calculate the percentage of the Portfolio that is aligned with above-average, industry-relative ESG practices and/or products and services aligned with positive environmental and social outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

- ***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?***

As explained further below, the Fund will not be targeting EU Taxonomy-aligned sustainable investments.

However, to the extent that the Fund’s investments are in companies with products or services that contribute to positive sustainability outcomes, such investments may contribute towards: climate change adaptation and mitigation (such as decarbonization and energy efficiency) or transition to a circular economy and pollution prevention and control (such as waste reduction).

In addition, the Fund’s sustainable investments may contribute towards social objectives, such as promoting financial inclusion or health and wellness.

- ***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 Investment Manager’s analysis of sustainable investments seeks to assess both: (i) the positive contribution (if any) that a company may make to the sustainable investment objectives defined

**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.

above ; as well as (ii) the negative impact (if any) that a company's activities may have on those sustainable objectives.

As such, the Investment Manager seeks to identify companies that may significantly harm environmental or social characteristics through proprietary analysis and external data. For example, the risk of significant harm is addressed through the application of screening criteria that seek to assess potential misalignment of investee companies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and global norms-related controversies. When identified, such companies will not count towards the Fund's minimum proportion of 5% in sustainable investments.

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

The mandatory adverse sustainability indicators from Table 1, Annex I of the Regulatory Technical Standards for Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (the “**SFDR Level 2 Measures**”) are taken into account to the extent that they are relevant to the assessment of an investee company from the Investment Manager's perspective.

The relevance/materiality of any particular indicator for adverse impacts on sustainability factors may differ from one company to another depending upon multiple factors, including the location of the company, the business conducted by the company and the industry in which the company sits.

The Investment Manager may also use its judgment to determine at what level an adverse sustainability indicator would be considered as excessively harmful for the purposes of identifying its sustainable investments.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

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

Companies deemed to be in violation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are excluded from the portfolio (see Investment Strategy section below on page 4).

The Investment Manager also seeks to exclude investments in companies involved in controversies related to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (see list of ESG Factors on page 1 above).

*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,

In determining whether a particular investment contributes to environmental or social objectives, the Investment Manager will, where relevant to an investment, take into account applicable PAI indicators.

In addition, the Fund will consider PAI to inform its investment universe as follows:

- Number 14: Exposure to Controversial Weapons (as described further in Appendix B) is taken into account through the Investment Manager’s investment exclusion rule.
- Number 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises is implemented through the investment restriction of severe controversies.

See section on “How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?” for how principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered.

No



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The investment strategy for this financial product with respect to environmental or social characteristics utilizes during the pre-investment review exclusion of certain investments, data collection on ESG factors, an ESG score assignment and consideration of ESG factors. Each of these components is further described in the question 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.*”?

- ***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 incorporates its exclusion policy, quantitative/qualitative assessment of the ESG Factors and the resulting proprietary ESG scores into its investment decision making process on a consistent and continuous basis as follows:

### *Exclusions*

The Investment Manager will incorporate industry accepted screening tools from vendors that it deems to be reliable to adopt the following binding list of exclusions:

- *Controversial Weapons*: companies involved in activities related to Controversial Weapons (as further described in Appendix B)
- *Tobacco*: companies engaged in tobacco manufacturing
- *Global norms*: companies that violate United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) principles and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.
- *Thermal coal mining or thermal coal power generation*: companies that derive a significant portion of their revenues from thermal coal mining or thermal coal power generation.

### *Data collection on ESG Factors*

Sustainability data for the ESG Factors are sourced from third party data vendors (who themselves use a combination of company reported data as well as estimates based on industry norms) and data obtained

directly through the Investment Manager's own review of and engagement with a company. *Scores assignment*

The assessment of the ESG Factors is guided by a proprietary industry materiality framework that is developed internally by the Investment Manager.

Companies are assessed against the quantitative value of data points for the ESG Factors where available (for example the actual level of carbon emissions) as well as the qualitative impact of these data points for the ESG Factors (for example, a company may have high carbon emissions but has a plan to transition to lower carbon emissions over an identifiable period of time).

The Investment Manager utilizes qualitative ESG scores that reflect the Investment Manager's views on the ESG Factors and how they may affect company performance and /or environmental / social factors more broadly.

At the company level, the Investment Manager's investment team will assign proprietary ESG scores on a scale of 1 to 5 for the three following measures: (1) Environmental factors; (2) Social factors; and (3) Governance factors, with score of 1 being "significantly above average" and 5 being "significantly below average" based on relevant industry peers. In some instances there will be insufficient data to assign scores, in which case the investment will not count towards the 4% or more of the Fund's portfolio that will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors.

#### *Consideration of ESG Factors*

The Investment Manager seeks to rely on its proprietary ESG scores to attain exposure of at least 40% of the Fund's portfolio in companies with above average ESG practices. For at least 40% of the Fund's portfolio, an individual investment must score above average in respect of: (1) Environmental factors or (2) Social factors, and such individual investment must not score below average for Environmental, Social or Governance factors, or must have products and services that are deemed to be aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

This may include, for example, companies whose products or services promote decarbonization, health and wellness, or financial inclusion.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of the investment strategy.

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

Governance factors are assessed systematically for every company in which the fund invests based primarily on proprietary research including, but not limited to, interactions with management, as well as

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

externally sourced inputs including third-party governance ratings and data, controversies research and/or proxy voting research as deemed relevant.

Governance considerations may include, but are not limited to, (i) sound management structures (having due regard to the topics of board composition and minority shareholders treatment) (ii) employee relations (taking into account management incentives and the relevant investee companies' corporate culture) as well as to matters of (iii) remuneration of staff and (iv) tax compliance (including penalties, fines or other liability arising from breaches of applicable tax law). Proprietary governance scores are assigned by the Investment Manager's investment team during the due diligence process.



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

#### Asset allocation

describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

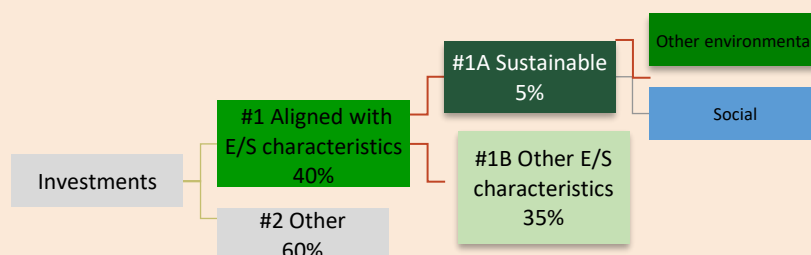
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities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

#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics: Minimum proportion of investments used to attain the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the fund is 40%.

#1A Sustainable: Minimum proportion of sustainable investments is 5%. This category covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives

#1B Other E/S characteristics: This category covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments and the minimum proportion of these investments is 35%.

#2 Other: see response below



**#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?***

With respect to derivatives used by the Fund no environmental or social safeguards are applied.

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 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.



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

In relation to taxonomy aligned environmentally sustainable investments in accordance with article 2 (17) of SFDR, the Fund does not commit to making a minimum proportion of sustainable investments as environmentally sustainable investments within the meaning of article 3 the Taxonomy Regulation. In that sense, no information can be provided on a substantial contribution to an environmental objective set out in Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation and in line with article 5 and 6 of the Taxonomy Regulation the extent to what the Investments underlying the Fund are in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation is therefore currently zero (0%).

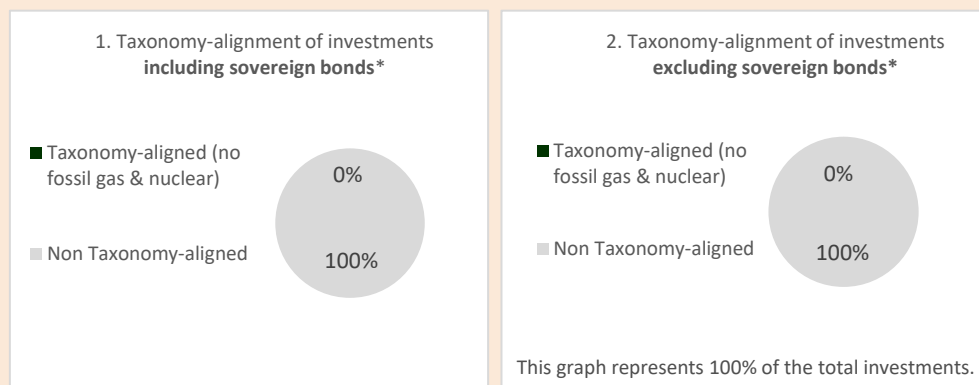
The Investment Manager is keeping this situation under active review and Investments of the Fund will be a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, the investment Manager will provide the descriptions referred to above, in which case this Annex will be updated accordingly.

● **Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>6</sup>?**

- Yes:  
 In fossil gas     In nuclear energy  
 No

<sup>6</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 economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

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%

The Fund does not commit to having any investments in “transitional and enabling” activities.

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?**

1% is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

1% is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

“Other” investments include companies with quality growth attributes where the materiality of ESG Factors is generally low, from both a risk and opportunity perspective, where the Investment Manager believes the stock presents an attractive risk/reward opportunity. Such investments would still be subject to the exclusion list set out above.

“Other” investments also include cash held by the Fund for liquidity and derivatives used by the Fund. No environmental or social safeguards are applied to these investments



### 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?

Not applicable

- *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

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



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

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

[https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor\\_services/sfdr.fs](https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor_services/sfdr.fs)

## Global Leaders Fund

### **This Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics within the meaning of article 8 (1) SFDR**

**Investment Objective:** The Global Leaders Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation measured in US\$.

**Main investment strategies:** Under normal market conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in a diversified portfolio of equity securities, including common stocks and other forms of equity investments (*e.g.*, securities convertible into common stocks), issued by companies of all sizes worldwide, that the Investment Manager believes have above-average growth, profitability and quality characteristics. The Investment Manager seeks investment opportunities in companies at different stages of development, ranging from large, well-established companies to smaller companies at earlier stages of development, that are leaders in their country, industry or globally in terms of products, services or execution. The Fund's investments are normally allocated among at least six different countries. Normally, the Fund's investments will be divided among the United States, Continental Europe, the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan and the markets of the Pacific Basin. The Fund may invest the greater of 30% of its net assets or twice the emerging markets component of the MSCI All Country World Investable Market Index (IMI) (net) in emerging markets, which includes every country in the world except the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and most Western European countries. The Fund may invest in equity securities through initial public offerings (IPOs) and private placements.

For comparison purposes, the Fund is measured against the MSCI All Country World (IMI) Index (net) as its primary index. The Fund is actively managed within its objective and is not constrained by a benchmark.

The Fund may use techniques and instruments for hedging purposes only (*e.g.*, hedge against the risk of unfavourable stock market movements, interest rate fluctuations, fluctuation of currencies) by *e.g.* entering into forward foreign currency transactions, provided that the Fund shall ensure a correlation between the techniques and instruments and the securities or currencies being hedged. The Fund will not duplicate the composition of an index and/or enter into OTC derivative transactions, as referred to in Appendix A headed "*Investment Powers and Restrictions*". To a limited extent the Fund may invest in warrants and convertible securities. For more information on the techniques and instruments that the Fund may use (pursuant to its investment policies outlined in this summary), please refer to Appendix B headed "*Investment Know How*".

**Main risk of investing in the Global Leaders Fund:** The Fund's returns will vary, and investors could lose money by investing in the Fund. Because the Fund invests most of its assets in equity securities of companies throughout the world, the primary risk is that the value of the equity securities it holds might decrease in response to the activities of those companies or market and economic conditions. In addition, there is the risk that individual

securities may not perform as expected or a strategy used by the Investment Manager may fail to produce its intended result. Different investment styles (*e.g.*, growth vs. value, quality bias, market capitalization focus) tend to shift in and out of favor depending on market conditions and investor sentiment, and at times when the investment style used by the Investment Manager for the Fund is out of favor, the Fund may underperform other equity funds that use different investment styles. Non-U.S. investments often involve additional risks, including political instability, differences in financial reporting standards and less stringent regulation of securities markets. Because the securities held by the Fund usually will be denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, changes in foreign currency exchange rates may adversely affect the value of the Fund's investments. The Fund is expected to incur operating expenses that are higher than those of funds investing exclusively in U.S. equity securities due to the higher custodial fees associated with non-U.S. securities investments. These non-U.S. investment risks are magnified in less-established, emerging markets. In addition, the Fund may invest in the securities of smaller companies, which may be more volatile and less liquid than securities of large companies. Smaller companies may be traded in low volumes. This can increase volatility and increase the risk that the Fund will not be able to sell the security on short notice at a reasonable price. To the extent the Fund invests a significant portion of its assets in one country, the Fund will be more vulnerable to the risks of adverse economic or political forces in that country. To the extent that a significant portion of the Fund's shares are held by a limited number of shareholders or their affiliates, there is a risk that the share trading activities of these shareholders could disrupt the Fund's investment strategies, which could have adverse consequences for the Fund and other shareholders (*e.g.*, by requiring the Fund to sell investments at inopportune times or causing the Fund to maintain larger-than-expected cash positions pending acquisition of investments). The Fund's investments in IPOs are subject to high volatility and are of limited availability. Securities acquired through private placements may be classified as illiquid and difficult to value. Additional risks associated with investment in the Fund are described under the section headed "*Risk Factors - All Funds*".

**THE FUND INVOLVES A HIGH LEVEL OF RISK, AND MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR EVERYONE.** Investors should consider the Fund only for the more aggressive portion of their portfolio. In addition, the Fund is intended for investors who can accept the risks entailed in investing in foreign securities. Of course, there can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its objective. The Fund is designed for long-term investors.

**Investment Process:** In choosing investments, the Investment Manager performs fundamental company analysis and focuses on stock selection. The Investment Manager generally seeks equity securities, including common stocks, of companies that historically have had superior growth, profitability and quality relative to local markets and relative to companies within the same industry worldwide, and that are expected to continue such performance. Such companies generally will exhibit superior business fundamentals, including leadership in their field, quality products or services, distinctive marketing and distribution, pricing flexibility and revenue from products or services consumed on a steady, recurring basis. These business characteristics should be accompanied by

management that is shareholder return-oriented and that uses conservative accounting policies. Companies with above-average returns on equity, strong balance sheets and consistent, above-average earnings growth will be the primary focus. Stock selection will take into account both local and global comparisons.

The Investment Manager will vary the Fund's sector and geographic diversification based upon the Investment Manager's ongoing evaluation of economic, market and political trends throughout the world. In making decisions regarding country allocation, the Investment Manager will consider such factors as the conditions and growth potential of various economies and securities markets, currency exchange rates, technological developments in the various countries and other pertinent financial, social, national and political factors.

The share classes issued by the Fund are further described below in the section headed "*Classes of Shares*".

The global exposure of the Fund is determined by using the commitment approach in accordance with the most recent applicable guidelines of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), as described in further detail under the section headed "*Risk Management*".

**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:** William Blair – Global Leaders Fund (“Fund”)      **Legal entity identifier:** Q17XOUL1R0X7ABFN3B33

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

**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.

Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with an environmental objective:</b> ___% <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with a social objective:</b> ___%	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It <b>promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics</b> and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of <u>5</u> % of sustainable investments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with a social objective</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> It promotes E/S characteristics, but <b>will not make any sustainable investments</b>



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

The Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics by managing the overall sustainability profile of the Fund's investment portfolio.

In particular, the Fund integrates what it deems to be financially material ESG factors (the "ESG Factors") into its investment due diligence and selection process. The result is that 50% or more of the Fund's portfolio will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors and/or whose products or services are aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

The ESG Factors may include the following characteristics:

### Environment

- Carbon footprint
- Greenhouse gas emission intensity
- Natural resources stewardship
- Pollution and waste management

### Social

- Human capital management
- Customer well-being
- Supply chain management
- Community relations

### Governance

- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Board composition (e.g., board gender diversity)
- Minority shareholder treatment
- Management incentives
- Corporate culture.

The Fund has not designated a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the E/S Characteristics promoted.

**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?***

William Blair Investment Management, LLC, the investment manager for the Fund (the “**Investment Manager**”), will use internal ESG scores to measure the promotion of the Fund’s ESG Factors with respect to each investment made by the Fund and across the portfolio.

In particular, the Investment Manager will use the ESG scores that it has assigned to the Fund's underlying investments to calculate the percentage of the Portfolio that is aligned with above-average, industry-relative ESG practices and/or products and services aligned with positive environmental and social outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

- ***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?***

As explained further below, the Fund will not be targeting EU Taxonomy-aligned sustainable investments.

However, to the extent that the Fund’s investments are in companies with products or services that contribute to positive sustainability outcomes, such investments may contribute towards: climate change adaptation and mitigation (such as decarbonization and energy efficiency) or transition to a circular economy and pollution prevention and control (such as waste reduction).

In addition, the Fund’s sustainable investments may contribute towards social objectives, such as promoting financial inclusion or health and wellness.

- ***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 Investment Manager’s analysis of sustainable investments seeks to assess both: (i) the positive contribution (if any) that a company may make to the promotion of environmental or social characteristics; as well as (ii) the negative impact (if any) that a company’s activities may have on environmental or social characteristics.

As such, the Investment Manager seeks to identify companies that may significantly harm environmental or social characteristics through proprietary analysis and external data. For example, the risk of significant harm is addressed through the application of screening criteria that

**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.

seek to assess potential misalignment of investee companies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and global norms-related controversies. When identified, such companies will not count towards the Fund's minimum proportion of 5% in sustainable investments.

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

The mandatory adverse sustainability indicators from Table 1, Annex I of the Regulatory Technical Standards for Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (the “**SFDR Level 2 Measures**”) are taken into account to the extent that they are relevant to the assessment of an investee company from the Investment Manager's perspective.

The relevance/materiality of any particular indicator for adverse impacts on sustainability factors may differ from one company to another depending upon multiple factors, including the location of the company, the business conducted by the company and the industry in which the company sits.

The Investment Manager may also use its judgment to determine at what level an adverse sustainability indicator would be considered as excessively harmful for the purposes of identifying its sustainable investments.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

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

Companies deemed to be in violation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are excluded from the portfolio (see Investment Strategy section below on page 4).

The Investment Manager also seeks to exclude investments in companies involved in controversies related to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (see list of ESG Factors on page 1 above).

*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,

In determining whether a particular investment contributes to environmental or social characteristics, the Investment Manager will, where relevant to an investment, take into account applicable PAI indicators.

In addition, the Fund will consider PAI to inform its investment universe as follows:

- Number 14: Exposure to Controversial Weapons (as described further in Appendix B) is taken into account through the Investment Manager’s investment exclusion rule.
- Number 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises is implemented through the investment restriction of severe controversies.

See section on “*How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*” for how principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered.

No



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The investment strategy for this financial product with respect to environmental or social characteristics utilizes during the pre-investment review exclusion of certain investments, data collection on ESG factors, an ESG score assignment and consideration of ESG factors. Each of these components is further described in the question 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.”?

- ***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 incorporates its exclusion policy, quantitative/qualitative assessment of the ESG Factors and the resulting proprietary ESG scores into its investment decision making process on a consistent and continuous basis as follows:

### *Exclusions*

The Investment Manager will incorporate industry accepted screening tools from vendors that it deems to be reliable to adopt the following binding list of exclusions:

- *Controversial Weapons*: companies involved in activities related to Controversial Weapons (as further described in Appendix B)
- *Tobacco*: companies engaged in tobacco manufacturing
- *Global norms*: companies that violate United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) principles and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.
- *Thermal coal mining or thermal coal power generation*: companies that derive a significant portion of their revenues from thermal coal mining or thermal coal power generation.

### *Data collection on ESG Factors*

Sustainability data for the ESG Factors are sourced from third party data vendors (who themselves use a combination of company reported data as well as estimates based on industry norms) and data obtained directly through the Investment Manager’s own review of and engagement with a company.

### *Scores assignment*

The assessment of the ESG Factors is guided by a proprietary industry materiality framework that is developed internally by the Investment Manager.

Companies are assessed against the quantitative value of data points for the ESG Factors where available (for example the actual level of carbon emissions) as well as the qualitative impact of these data points for the ESG Factors (for example, a company may have high carbon emissions but has a plan to transition to lower carbon emissions over an identifiable period of time).

The Investment Manager utilizes qualitative ESG scores that reflect the Investment Manager's views on the ESG Factors and how they may affect company performance and /or environmental / social factors more broadly.

At the company level, the Investment Manager's investment team will assign proprietary ESG scores on a scale of 1 to 5 for the three following measures: (1) Environmental factors; (2) Social factors; and (3) Governance factors, with score of 1 being "significantly above average" and 5 being "significantly below average" based on relevant industry peers. In some instances there will be insufficient data to assign scores, in which case the investment will not count towards the 50% or more of the Fund's portfolio that will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors.

### *Consideration of ESG Factors*

The Investment Manager seeks to rely on its proprietary ESG scores to attain exposure of at least 50% of the Fund's portfolio in companies with above average ESG practices. For at least 50% of the Fund's portfolio, an individual investment must score above average in respect of: (1) Environmental factors or (2) Social factors, and such individual investment must not score below average for Environmental, Social or Governance factors, or must have products and services that are deemed to be aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

This may include, for example, companies whose products or services promote decarbonization, health and wellness, or financial inclusion

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of the investment strategy.

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

Governance factors are assessed systematically for every company in which the fund invests based primarily on proprietary research including, but not limited to, interactions with management, as well as externally sourced inputs including third-party governance ratings and data, controversies research and/or proxy voting research as deemed relevant.

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

Governance considerations may include, but are not limited to, (i) sound management structures (having due regard to the topics of board composition and minority shareholders treatment) (ii) employee relations (taking into account management incentives and the relevant investee companies' corporate culture) as well as to matters of (iii) remuneration of staff and (iv) tax compliance (including penalties, fines or other liability arising from breaches of applicable tax law). Proprietary governance scores are assigned by the Investment Manager's investment team during the due diligence process.



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

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics: Minimum proportion of investments used to attain the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the fund is 50%.

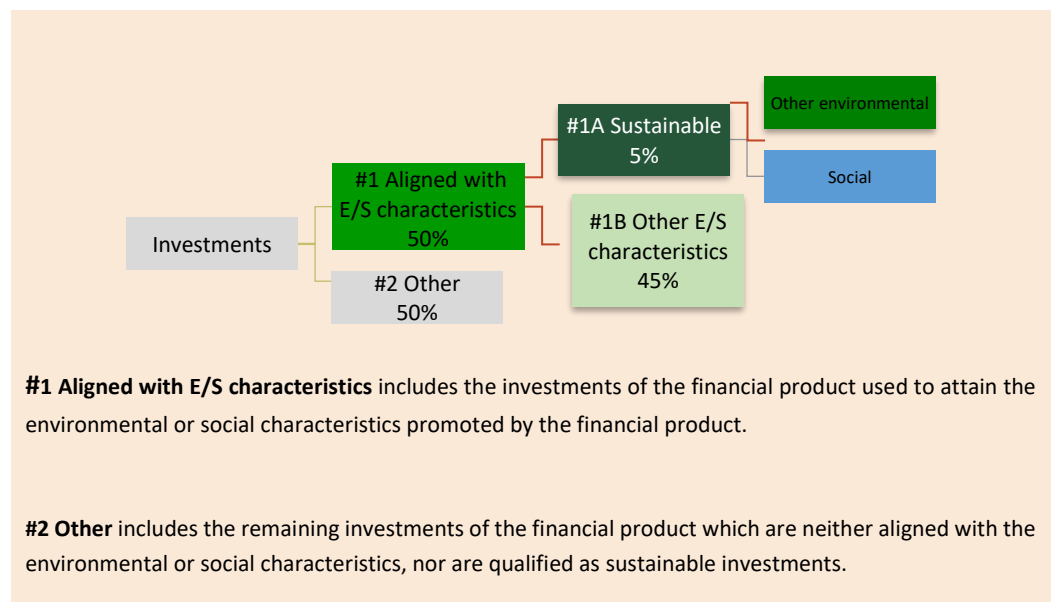
#1A Sustainable: Minimum proportion of sustainable investments is 5%. This category covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives

#1B Other E/S characteristics: This category covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments and the minimum proportion of these investments is 45%.

#2 Other: see response below

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?**

With respect to derivatives used by the Fund no environmental or social safeguards are applied



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

In relation to taxonomy aligned environmentally sustainable investments in accordance with article 2 (17) of SFDR, the Fund does not commit to making a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, and hence such investments may currently not qualify as environmentally sustainable investments within the meaning of article 3 the Taxonomy Regulation. In that sense, no information can be provided on a substantial contribution to an environmental objective set out in Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation and in line with article 5 and 6 of the Taxonomy Regulation the extent to what the Investments underlying the Fund are in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation is therefore currently zero (0%).

The Investment Manager is keeping this situation under active review and Investments of the Fund will be a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, the investment Manager will provide the descriptions referred to above, in which case this Annex will be updated accordingly.

● **Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>7</sup>?**

Yes:

In fossil gas

In nuclear energy

No

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<sup>7</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 economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

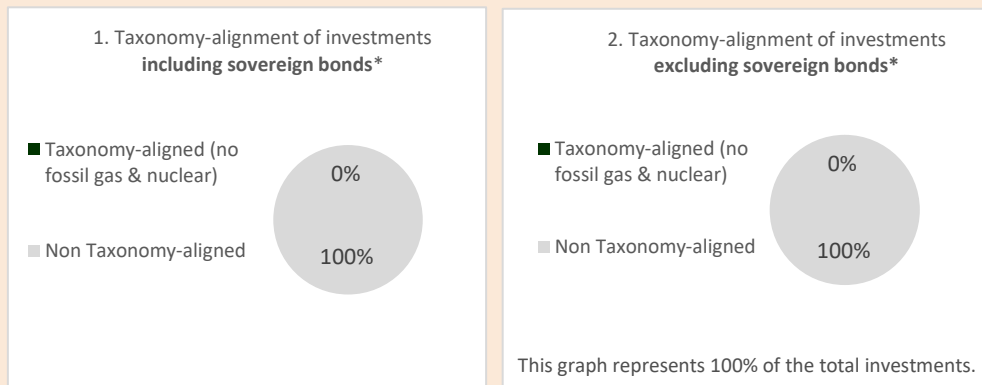
To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

**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.

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

*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%

The Fund does not commit to having any investments in “transitional and enabling” activities.



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

1% is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

1% is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

“Other” investments include companies with quality growth attributes where the materiality of ESG Factors is generally low, from both a risk and opportunity perspective, where the Investment Manager believes the stock presents an attractive risk/reward opportunity. Such investments would still be subject to the exclusion list set out above.

“Other” investments also include cash held by the Fund for liquidity and derivatives used by the Fund. No environmental or social safeguards are applied to these investments



**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?**

Not applicable

- *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:**

[https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor\\_services/sfdr.fs](https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor_services/sfdr.fs)

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

## Global Leaders Sustainability Fund

**This Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics within the meaning of article 8 (1) SFDR**

**Investment Objective:** The Global Leaders Sustainability Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation measured in US\$.

**Main investment strategies:** Under normal market conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its total assets in a diversified portfolio of equity securities, including common stocks and other forms of equity investments (*e.g.*, securities convertible into common stocks), issued by companies of all sizes worldwide, that the Investment Manager believes have above-average growth, profitability and quality characteristics, including positive sustainability. The Investment Manager seeks investment opportunities in companies at different stages of development, ranging from large, well-established companies to smaller companies at earlier stages of development, that are leaders in their country, industry or globally in terms of products, services or execution. In pursuing these opportunities, the Investment Manager will seek to avoid companies that do not respect global norms and conventions, and companies that derive a significant portion of their revenues from activities that the Investment Manager deems not to be compliant with sustainable investment principles, including, but not limited to, revenues drawn from tobacco, alcohol, weapons, adult entertainment, gambling, palm oil or fossil fuel enterprises. Companies that manufacture cluster munitions are also excluded.

The Fund's investments are normally allocated among at least six different countries. Normally, the Fund's investments will be divided among the United States, Continental Europe, the United Kingdom, Canada, Japan and the markets of the Pacific Basin. The Fund may invest the greater of 30% of its net assets or twice the emerging markets component of the MSCI All Country World Index (ACWI) Investable Market Index (IMI) (net) in emerging markets, which includes every country in the world except the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Singapore and most Western European countries. The Fund may invest in equity securities through initial public offerings (IPOs) and private placements. To the extent that the Fund invests in equity securities of companies domiciled in, or exercising the predominant part of their activity in the PRC, the Fund may invest through Stock Connect, which is a program developed for the purposes of mutual stock market access between Hong Kong and China, in China A-Shares.

For comparison purposes, the Fund is measured against the MSCI ACWI IMI (net) as its primary index. The Fund is actively managed within its objective and is not constrained by a benchmark.

The Fund may use techniques and instruments for hedging purposes only (*e.g.*, hedge against the risk of unfavourable stock market movements, interest rate fluctuations, fluctuation of currencies) by *e.g.* entering into forward foreign currency transactions, provided that the Fund shall ensure a correlation between the techniques and instruments and the securities or currencies being hedged. The Fund will not duplicate the composition

of an index and/or enter into OTC derivative transactions, as referred to in Appendix A headed "*Investment Powers and Restrictions*". To a limited extent, the Fund may invest in warrants and convertible securities. For more information on the techniques and instruments that the Fund may use (pursuant to its investment policies outlined in this summary), please refer to Appendix B headed "*Investment Know How*".

**Main risks of investing in the Global Leaders Sustainability Fund:** The Fund's returns will vary, and investors could lose money by investing in the Fund. Because the Fund invests most of its assets in equity securities of companies throughout the world, the primary risk is that the value of the equity securities it holds might decrease in response to the activities of those companies or market and economic conditions. In addition, there is the risk that individual securities may not perform as expected or a strategy used by the Investment Manager may fail to produce its intended result. Different investment styles (*e.g.*, growth vs. value, quality bias, market capitalization focus) tend to shift in and out of favor depending on market conditions and investor sentiment, and at times when the investment style used by the Investment Manager for the Fund is out of favor, the Fund may underperform other equity funds that use different investment styles. Non-U.S. investments often involve additional risks, including political instability, differences in financial reporting standards and less stringent regulation of securities markets. Because the securities held by the Fund usually will be denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar, changes in foreign currency exchange rates may adversely affect the value of the Fund's investments. The Fund is expected to incur operating expenses that are higher than those of funds investing exclusively in U.S. equity securities due to the higher custodial fees associated with non-U.S. securities investments. These non-U.S. investment risks are magnified in less-established, emerging markets. In addition, the Fund may invest in the securities of smaller companies, which may be more volatile and less liquid than securities of large companies. Smaller companies may be traded in low volumes. This can increase volatility and increase the risk that the Fund will not be able to sell the security on short notice at a reasonable price. To the extent the Fund invests a significant portion of its assets in one country, the Fund will be more vulnerable to the risks of adverse economic or political forces in that country. To the extent that a significant portion of the Fund's shares are held by a limited number of shareholders or their affiliates, there is a risk that the share trading activities of these shareholders could disrupt the Fund's investment strategies, which could have adverse consequences for the Fund and other shareholders (*e.g.*, by requiring the Fund to sell investments at inopportune times or causing the Fund to maintain larger-than-expected cash positions pending acquisition of investments). The Fund's investments in IPOs are subject to high volatility and are of limited availability. Securities acquired through private placements may be classified as illiquid and difficult to value. Additional risks associated with investment in the Fund are described under the section headed "*Risk Factors - All Funds*".

**THE FUND INVOLVES A HIGH LEVEL OF RISK, AND MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR EVERYONE.** Investors should consider the Fund only for the more aggressive portion of their portfolio. In addition, the Fund is intended for investors who can accept the risks

entailed in investing in foreign securities. Of course, there can be no assurance that the Fund will achieve its objective. The Fund is designed for long-term investors.

**Investment Process:** In choosing investments, the Investment Manager performs fundamental company analysis and focuses on stock selection. The Investment Manager generally seeks equity securities, including common stocks, of companies that historically have had superior growth, profitability and quality relative to local markets and relative to companies within the same industry worldwide, and that are expected to continue such performance. Such companies generally will exhibit superior business fundamentals, including leadership in their field, quality products or services, distinctive marketing and distribution, pricing flexibility and revenue from products or services consumed on a steady, recurring basis. These business characteristics should be accompanied by management that is shareholder return-oriented and that uses conservative accounting policies. The Investment Manager believes that companies demonstrating positive sustainability characteristics, such as managing the business for the long-term, recognising the importance of its stakeholders, including customers, employees and suppliers, and respecting the environment, are more likely to generate higher returns on invested capital over time. In addition, the Investment Manager believes that when aligned with other drivers of growth, positive sustainability characteristics can increase the magnitude and duration of growth, which is often under appreciated by the market. Companies with above-average returns on equity, strong balance sheets and consistent, above-average earnings growth will be the primary focus. Stock selection will take into account both local and global comparisons. In determining whether or not to invest based upon these principles, the Investment Manager will incorporate industry accepted screening tools from vendors that it deems to be reliable.

The Investment Manager will vary the Fund's sector and geographic diversification based upon the Investment Manager's ongoing evaluation of economic, market and political trends throughout the world. In making decisions regarding country allocation, the Investment Manager will consider such factors as the conditions and growth potential of various economies and securities markets, currency exchange rates, technological developments in the various countries and other pertinent financial, social, national and political factors.

The share classes issued by the Fund are further described below in the section headed "*Classes of Shares*".

The global exposure of the Fund is determined by using the commitment approach in accordance with the most recent applicable guidelines of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), as described in further detail under the section headed "*Risk Management*".

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

**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.

**Product name:** William Blair – Global Leaders Sustainability Fund (“Fund”) **Legal entity identifier:** 5493006S5YKGBSI0NW18

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

### Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?

**Yes**

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: \_\_\_%**

**No**

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



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

The Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics by managing the overall sustainability profile of the Fund’s investment portfolio.

In particular, the Fund integrates what it deems to be financially material ESG factors (the “**ESG Factors**”) into its investment due diligence and selection process. The result is that 80% or more of the Fund’s

portfolio will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors and/or whose products or services are aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

The ESG Factors may include the following characteristics:

#### Environment

- Carbon footprint
- Greenhouse gas emission intensity
- Natural resources stewardship
- Pollution and waste management

#### Social

- Human capital management
- Customer well-being
- Supply chain management
- Community relations

#### Governance

- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Board composition (e.g., board gender diversity)
- Minority shareholder treatment
- Management incentives
- Corporate culture.

The Fund has not designated a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the E/S Characteristics promoted.

**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?***

William Blair Investment Management, LLC, the investment manager for the Fund (the “**Investment Manager**”), will use internal ESG scores to measure the promotion of the Fund’s ESG Factors with respect to each investment made by the Fund and across the portfolio.

In particular, the Investment Manager will use the ESG scores that it has assigned to the Fund's underlying investments to calculate the percentage of the Portfolio that is aligned with above-average, industry-relative ESG practices and/or products and services aligned with positive environmental and social outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

- ***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?***

As explained further below, the Fund will not be targeting EU Taxonomy-aligned sustainable investments.

However, to the extent that the Fund’s investments are in companies with products or services that contribute to positive sustainability outcomes, such investments may contribute towards: climate change adaptation and mitigation (such as decarbonization and energy efficiency) or transition to a circular economy and pollution prevention and control (such as waste reduction).

In addition, the Fund’s sustainable investments may contribute towards social objectives, such as promoting financial inclusion or health and wellness.

**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?***

The Investment Manager’s analysis of sustainable investments seeks to assess both: (i) the positive contribution (if any) that a company may make to the promotion of environmental or social characteristics; as well as (ii) the negative impact (if any) that a company’s activities may have on environmental or social characteristics.

As such, the Investment Manager seeks to identify companies that may significantly harm environmental or social characteristics through proprietary analysis and external data. For example, the risk of significant harm is addressed through the application of screening criteria that seek to assess potential misalignment of investee companies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and global norms-related controversies. When identified, such companies will not count towards the Fund’s minimum proportion of 50% in sustainable investments.

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

The mandatory adverse sustainability indicators from Table 1, Annex I of the Regulatory Technical Standards for Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (the “**SFDR Level 2 Measures**”) are taken into account to the extent that they are relevant to the assessment of an investee company from the Investment Manager’s perspective.

The relevance/materiality of any particular indicator for adverse impacts on sustainability factors may differ from one company to another depending upon multiple factors, including the location of the company, the business conducted by the company and the industry in which the company sits.

The Investment Manager may also use its judgment to determine at what level an adverse sustainability indicator would be considered as excessively harmful for the purposes of identifying its 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:*

Companies deemed to be in violation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are excluded from the portfolio (see Investment Strategy section below on page 4).

The Investment Manager also seeks to exclude investments in companies involved in controversies related to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (see list of ESG Factors on page 1 above).

*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,

In determining whether a particular investment contributes to environmental or social characteristics, the Investment Manager will take into account applicable PAI indicators to the extent the Investment Manager deems them to be relevant to an investment and where data is available:

Number 1: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Number 2: Carbon Footprint

Number 3: GHG Intensity of Investee Companies

Number 5: Share of Non-Renewable Energy Consumption and Production

Number 7: Activities Negatively Affecting Biodiversity-Sensitive Areas

Number 11: Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

Number 13: Board Gender Diversity

Additional indicator

Number 4: Investments in Companies without Carbon Emission Reduction Initiatives

Number 8: Exposure to Areas of High Water Stress

In addition, the Fund will consider PAI to inform its investment universe as follows:

- Number 4: Exposure to Companies Active in the Fossil Fuel Sector is considered through the Investment Manager's investment exclusion rule.
- Number 14: Exposure to Controversial Weapons (as described further in Appendix B) is taken into account through the Investment Manager's investment exclusion rule.
- Number 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises is implemented through the investment restriction of severe controversies.

See section on “How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?” for how principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered.

No



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

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

The investment strategy for this financial product with respect to environmental or social characteristics utilizes during the pre-investment review exclusion of certain investments, data collection on ESG factors, an ESG score assignment and consideration of ESG factors. Each of these components is further described in the question 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.”?

- ***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 incorporates its exclusion policy, quantitative/qualitative assessment of the ESG Factors and the resulting proprietary ESG scores into its investment decision making process on a consistent and continuous basis as follows:

#### *Exclusions*

The Investment Manager will incorporate industry accepted screening tools from vendors that it deems to be reliable to adopt the following binding list of exclusions:

- Exclusions based on EU Regulation 2020/1818 (“Paris Aligned Benchmark Exclusions”) with data being provided by a reputable third party: Any amendment to the Paris Aligned Benchmark Exclusions will be adopted at time of becoming binding. The exclusions at the time of publication of this prospectus entail:
  - Companies involved in activities related to Controversial Weapons (as described further in Appendix B)
  - Companies involved in the cultivation and production of tobacco or deriving a significant portion of their revenues from tobacco distribution;
  - Companies in violation of the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) principles or the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises;

- Companies that derive 1 % or more of their revenues from exploration, mining, extraction, distribution or refining of hard coal and lignite;
- Companies that derive 10 % or more of their revenues from the exploration, extraction, distribution or refining of oil fuels;
- Companies that derive 50 % or more of their revenues from the exploration, extraction, manufacturing or distribution of gaseous fuels; Companies that derive 50 % or more of their revenues from electricity generation with a GHG intensity of more than 100 g CO<sub>2</sub> e/kWh.
- Alcohol: companies that derive a significant portion of their revenues from business activities involving alcoholic products
- Adult Entertainment: companies that derive a significant portion of their revenues from adult entertainment
- Gambling: companies that derive a significant portion of their revenues from gambling-related business activities
- Palm Oil: companies that derive a significant portion of their revenues from palm oil production
- Global norms: companies that violate United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) principles and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

#### *Data collection on ESG Factors*

Sustainability data for the ESG Factors are sourced from third party data vendors (who themselves use a combination of company reported data as well as estimates based on industry norms) and data obtained directly through the Investment Manager's own review of and engagement with a company.

#### *Scores assignment*

The assessment of the ESG Factors is guided by a proprietary industry materiality framework that is developed internally by the Investment Manager.

Companies are assessed against the quantitative value of data points for the ESG Factors where available (for example the actual level of carbon emissions) as well as the qualitative impact of these data points for the ESG Factors (for example, a company may have high carbon emissions but has a plan to transition to lower carbon emissions over an identifiable period of time).

The Investment Manager utilizes qualitative ESG scores that reflect the Investment Manager's views on the ESG Factors and how they may affect company performance and /or environmental / social factors more broadly.

At the company level, the Investment Manager's investment team will assign proprietary ESG scores on a scale of 1 to 5 for the three following measures: (1) Environmental factors; (2) Social factors; and (3) Governance factors, with score of 1 being "significantly above average" and 5 being "significantly below average" based on relevant industry peers. In some instances there will be insufficient data to assign scores, in which case the investment will not count towards the 80% or more of the Fund's portfolio that will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors.

#### *Consideration of ESG Factors*

The Investment Manager seeks to rely on its proprietary ESG scores to attain exposure of at least 80% of the Fund's portfolio in companies with above average ESG practices. For at least 80% of the Fund's portfolio, an individual investment must score above average in respect of: (1) Environmental factors or (2) Social factors, and such individual investment must not score below average for Environmental, Social or Governance factors, or must have products and services that are deemed to be aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

This may include, for example, companies whose products or services promote decarbonization, health and wellness, or financial inclusion.

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

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of the investment strategy.

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

Governance factors are assessed systematically for every company in which the fund invests based primarily on proprietary research including, but not limited to, interactions with management, as well as externally sourced inputs including third-party governance ratings and data, controversies research and/or proxy voting research as deemed relevant.

Governance considerations may include, but are not limited to, (i) sound management structures (having due regard to the topics of board composition and minority shareholders treatment) (ii) employee relations (taking into account management incentives and the relevant investee companies' corporate culture) as well as to matters of (iii) remuneration of staff and (iv) tax compliance (including penalties, fines or other liability arising from breaches of applicable tax law). Proprietary governance scores are assigned by the Investment Manager's investment team during the due diligence process.



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

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics: Minimum proportion of investments used to attain the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the fund is 80%.

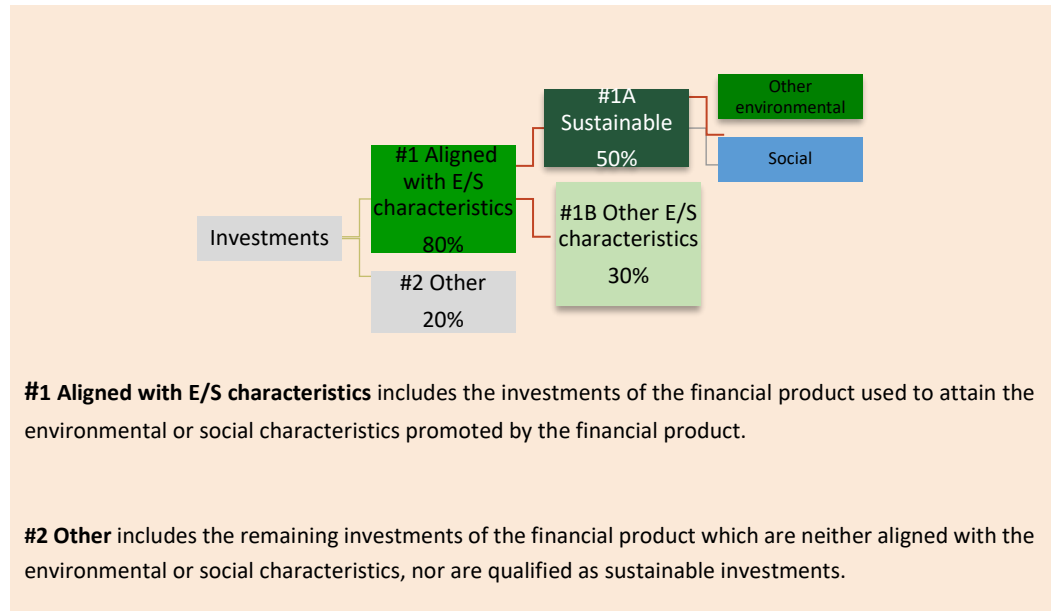
#1A Sustainable: Minimum proportion of sustainable investments is 50%. This category covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives

#1B Other E/S characteristics: This category covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments and the minimum proportion of these investments is 30%.

#2 Other: see response below

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?**

With respect to derivatives used by the Fund no environmental or social safeguards are applied.



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

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 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.

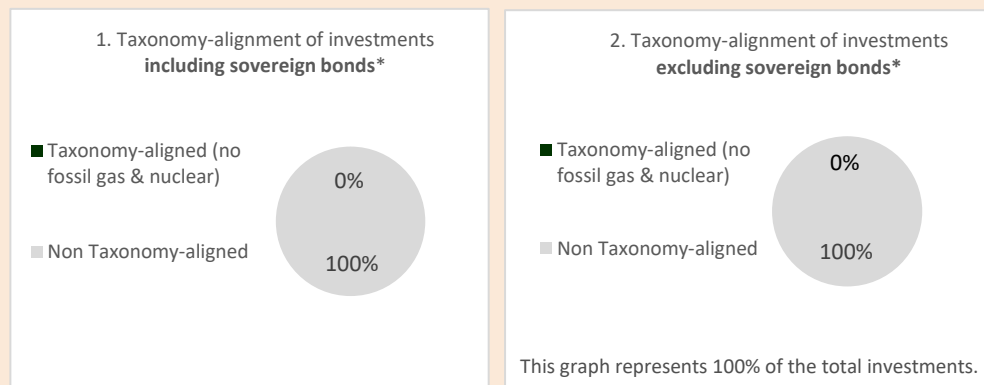
In relation to taxonomy aligned environmentally sustainable investments in accordance with article 2 (17) of SFDR, the Fund does not commit to making a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, and hence such investments may currently not qualify as environmentally sustainable investments within the meaning of article 3 the Taxonomy Regulation. In that sense, no information can be provided on a substantial contribution to an environmental objective set out in Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation and in line with article 5 and 6 of the Taxonomy Regulation the extent to what the Investments underlying the Fund are in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation is therefore currently zero (0%).

The Investment Manager is keeping this situation under active review and Investments of the Fund will be a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, the investment Manager will provide the descriptions referred to above, in which case this Annex will be updated accordingly.

- **Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>8</sup>?**
  - Yes:
    - In fossil gas
    - In nuclear energy
  - No

<sup>8</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 economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

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%

The Fund does not commit to having any investments in transitional and enabling” activities.

 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?**

1% is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy. 50% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

1% is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments. 50% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

“Other investments” include companies that do not meet the Investment Manager’s previously described criteria for the promotion of environmental and/or social characteristics, but which have improving ESG practices as determined by the Investment Manager based on its qualitative assessment. “Other” investments also include companies with quality growth attributes where the materiality of ESG Factors is generally low, from both a risk and opportunity perspective, where the Investment Manager believes the stock presents an attractive risk/reward opportunity. Such investments would still be subject to the exclusion list set out above.

“Other” investments also include cash held by the Fund for liquidity and derivatives used by the Fund. No environmental or social safeguards are applied to these investments.



### 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?

Not applicable

- ***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

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

- ***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:**  
[https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor\\_services/sfdr.fs](https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor_services/sfdr.fs)

## U.S. All Cap Growth Fund

This Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics within the meaning of article 8 (1) SFDR

**Investment objective:** The U.S. All Cap Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

**Main investment strategies:** The Fund invests primarily in a diversified portfolio of common equity securities, including common stocks and other forms of equity investments (*e.g.*, securities convertible into common stocks), of U.S. companies of all sizes that are expected to exhibit quality growth characteristics.

The Fund invests primarily in equity securities issued by small, medium, and large-capitalisation companies. The Fund may invest in equity securities through initial public offerings (IPOs) and private placements.

For comparison purposes, the U.S. All Cap Growth Fund is measured against the Russell 3000 Growth Index. The Fund is actively managed within its objective and is not constrained by a benchmark.

The Fund may use techniques and instruments for hedging purposes only (*e.g.*, hedge against the risk of unfavourable stock market movements, interest rate fluctuations, fluctuation of currencies) by *e.g.* entering into forward foreign currency transactions, provided that the Fund shall ensure a correlation between the techniques and instruments and the securities or currencies being hedged. The Fund will not duplicate the composition of an index and/or enter into OTC derivative transactions, as referred to in Appendix A headed "*Investment Powers and Restrictions*". To a limited extent the Fund may invest in warrants and convertible securities. For more information on the techniques and instruments that the Fund may use (pursuant to its investment policies outlined in this summary), please refer to Appendix B headed "*Investment Know How*".

**Main risks of investing in the U.S. All Cap Growth Fund:** The Fund's returns will vary, and investors could lose money by investing in the Fund. Because the Fund invests most of its assets in equity securities, the primary risk is that the value of the equity securities it holds might decrease in response to the activities of those companies or market and economic conditions. In addition, there is the risk that individual securities may not perform as expected or a strategy used by the Investment Manager may fail to produce its intended result. Different investment styles (*e.g.*, growth vs. value, quality bias, market capitalization focus) tend to shift in and out of favor depending on market conditions and investor sentiment, and at times when the investment style used by the Investment Manager for the Fund is out of favor, the Fund may underperform other equity funds that use different investment styles. The securities of smaller capitalized companies may be more volatile and less liquid than the securities of larger capitalized companies. In addition, smaller capitalized companies may be traded in low volumes. This can increase volatility and increase the risk that the Fund will not be able to sell the security on short notice at a reasonable price. The Fund's investments in IPOs are subject to high volatility and are of

limited availability. Securities acquired through private placements may be classified as illiquid and difficult to value. To the extent that the Fund focuses its investments in particular industries, asset classes or sectors of the economy, any market changes affecting companies in those industries, asset classes or sectors may impact the Fund's performance. To the extent that a significant portion of the Fund's shares are held by a limited number of shareholders or their affiliates, there is a risk that the share trading activities of these shareholders could disrupt the Fund's investment strategies, which could have adverse consequences for the Fund and other shareholders (*e.g.*, by requiring the Fund to sell investments at inopportune times or causing the Fund to maintain larger-than-expected cash positions pending acquisition of investments). The Fund is designed for long-term investors. Additional risks associated with investment in the Fund are described under the section headed "*Risk Factors - All Funds*".

**Investment Process:** In choosing investments, the Investment Manager performs fundamental company analysis and focuses on stock selection. The Investment Manager will look for companies with strong management teams, competitive advantages and attractive industry structures that position them for potential strong returns over time. The Investment Manager evaluates the extent to which a company meets the quality growth criteria set forth below. All of the criteria are evaluated relative to the valuation of the security. The weight given to a particular investment criterion will depend upon the circumstances, and Fund holdings may not meet all of the following criteria:

- (a) the company should be, or should have the expectation of becoming, a significant provider in the primary markets it serves;
- (b) the company should have some distinctive attribute to present or potential competitors (this may, for example, take the form of proprietary products or processes, a unique distribution system, an entrenched brand name or an especially strong financial position relative to its competition);
- (c) the company should participate in an industry expected to grow rapidly due to economic factors or technological change or should grow through market share gains in its industry; and
- (d) the company should have a strong management team.

The share classes issued by the Fund are further described below in the section headed "*Classes of Shares*".

The global exposure of the Fund is determined by using the commitment approach in accordance with the most recent applicable guidelines of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), as described in further detail under the section headed "*Risk Management*".

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: William Blair – U.S. All Cap Growth Fund (“Fund”)      Legal entity identifier: 549300EDFBS71U7PUY58

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

### Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?

Yes

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**: \_\_\_%

No

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**

**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.



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

The Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics by managing the overall sustainability profile of the Fund's investment portfolio.

In particular, the Fund integrates what it deems to be financially material ESG factors (the "ESG Factors") into its investment due diligence and selection process. The result is that 50% or more of the Fund's portfolio will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors and/or whose products or services are aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

The ESG Factors may include the following characteristics:

### Environment

- Carbon footprint
- Greenhouse gas emission intensity
- Natural resources stewardship
- Pollution and waste management

### Social

- Human capital management
- Customer well-being
- Supply chain management
- Community relations

### Governance

- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Board composition (e.g., board gender diversity)
- Minority shareholder treatment
- Management incentives
- Corporate culture.

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

The Fund has not designated a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the E/S Characteristics promoted.

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

William Blair Investment Management, LLC, the investment manager for the Fund (the “**Investment Manager**”), will use internal ESG scores to measure the promotion of the Fund’s ESG Factors with respect to each investment made by the Fund and across the portfolio.

In particular, the Investment Manager will use the ESG scores that it has assigned to the Fund's underlying investments to calculate the percentage of the Portfolio that is aligned with above-average, industry-relative ESG practices and/or products and services aligned with positive environmental and social outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

- ***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?***

As explained further below, the Fund will not be targeting EU Taxonomy-aligned sustainable investments.

However, to the extent that the Fund’s investments are in companies with products or services that contribute to positive sustainability outcomes, such investments may contribute towards: climate change adaptation and mitigation (such as decarbonization and energy efficiency) or transition to a circular economy and pollution prevention and control (such as waste reduction).

In addition, the Fund’s sustainable investments may contribute towards social objectives, such as promoting financial inclusion or health and wellness.

- ***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 Investment Manager’s analysis of sustainable investments seeks to assess both: (i) the positive contribution (if any) that a company may make to the promotion of environmental or social characteristics; as well as (ii) the negative impact (if any) that a company’s activities may have on environmental or social characteristics.

As such, the Investment Manager seeks to identify companies that may significantly harm environmental or social characteristics through proprietary analysis and external data. For example, the risk of significant harm is addressed through the application of screening criteria that

**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.

seek to assess potential misalignment of investee companies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and global norms-related controversies. When identified, such companies will not count towards the Fund's minimum proportion of 20% in sustainable investments.

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

The mandatory adverse sustainability indicators from Table 1, Annex I of the Regulatory Technical Standards for Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (the “**SFDR Level 2 Measures**”) are taken into account to the extent that they are relevant to the assessment of an investee company from the Investment Manager's perspective.

The relevance/materiality of any particular indicator for adverse impacts on sustainability factors may differ from one company to another depending upon multiple factors, including the location of the company, the business conducted by the company and the industry in which the company sits.

The Investment Manager may also use its judgment to determine at what level an adverse sustainability indicator would be considered as excessively harmful for the purposes of identifying its sustainable investments.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

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

Companies deemed to be in violation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are excluded from the portfolio (see Investment Strategy section below on page 4).

The Investment Manager also seeks to exclude investments in companies involved in controversies related to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (see list of ESG Factors on page 1 above).

*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,

In determining whether a particular investment contributes to environmental or social characteristics, the Investment Manager will, where relevant to an investment, take into account applicable PAI indicators.

In addition, the Product will consider PAI to inform its investment universe as follows:

- Number 14: Exposure to Controversial Weapons (as described further in Appendix B) is taken into account through the Investment Manager’s investment exclusion rule.
- Number 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises is implemented through the investment restriction of severe controversies.

See section on “*How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*” for how principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered.

No



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The investment strategy for this financial product with respect to environmental or social characteristics utilizes during the pre-investment review exclusion of certain investments, data collection on ESG factors, an ESG score assignment and consideration of ESG factors. Each of these components is further described in the question 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.”?

- ***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 incorporates its exclusion policy, quantitative/qualitative assessment of the ESG Factors and the resulting proprietary ESG scores into its investment decision making process on a consistent and continuous basis as follows:

### *Exclusions*

The Investment Manager will incorporate industry accepted screening tools from vendors that it deems to be reliable to adopt the following binding list of exclusions:

- *Controversial Weapons: companies involved in activities related to Controversial Weapons (as further described in Appendix B)*
- *Tobacco: companies engaged in tobacco manufacturing*
- *Global norms: companies that violate United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) principles and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.*
- *Thermal coal mining or thermal coal power generation: companies that derive a significant portion of their revenues from thermal coal mining or thermal coal power generation.*

### *Data collection on ESG Factors*

Sustainability data for the ESG Factors are sourced from third party data vendors (who themselves use a combination of company reported data as well as estimates based on industry norms) and data obtained directly through the Investment Manager’s own review of and engagement with a company.

### *Scores assignment*

The assessment of the ESG Factors is guided by a proprietary industry materiality framework that is developed internally by the Investment Manager.

Companies are assessed against the quantitative value of data points for the ESG Factors where available (for example the actual level of carbon emissions) as well as the qualitative impact of these data points for the ESG Factors (for example, a company may have high carbon emissions but has a plan to transition to lower carbon emissions over an identifiable period of time).

The Investment Manager utilizes qualitative ESG scores that reflect the Investment Manager's views on the ESG Factors and how they may affect company performance and /or environmental / social factors more broadly.

At the company level, the Investment Manager's investment team will assign proprietary ESG scores on a scale of 1 to 5 for the three following measures: (1) Environmental factors; (2) Social factors; and (3) Governance factors, with score of 1 being "significantly above average" and 5 being "significantly below average" based on relevant industry peers. In some instances there will be insufficient data to assign scores, in which case the investment will not count towards the 70% or more of the Fund's portfolio that will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors.

### *Consideration of ESG Factors*

The Investment Manager seeks to rely on its proprietary ESG scores to attain exposure of at least 50% of the Fund's portfolio in companies with above average ESG practices. For at least 50% of the Fund's portfolio, an individual investment must score above average in respect of: (1) Environmental factors or (2) Social factors, and such individual investment must not score below average for Environmental, Social or Governance factors, or must have products and services that are deemed to be aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

This may include, for example, companies whose products or services promote decarbonization, health and wellness, or financial inclusion.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of the investment strategy.

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

Governance factors are assessed systematically for every company in which the fund invests based primarily on proprietary research including, but not limited to, interactions with management, as well as externally sourced inputs including third-party governance ratings and data, controversies research and/or proxy voting research as deemed relevant.

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

Governance considerations may include, but are not limited to, (i) sound management structures (having due regard to the topics of board composition and minority shareholders treatment) (ii) employee relations (taking into account management incentives and the relevant investee companies' corporate culture) as well as to matters of (iii) remuneration of staff and (iv) tax compliance (including penalties, fines or other liability arising from breaches of applicable tax law). Proprietary governance scores are assigned by the Investment Manager's investment team during the due diligence process.



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

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics:** Minimum proportion of investments used to attain the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the fund is 50% of assets under management.

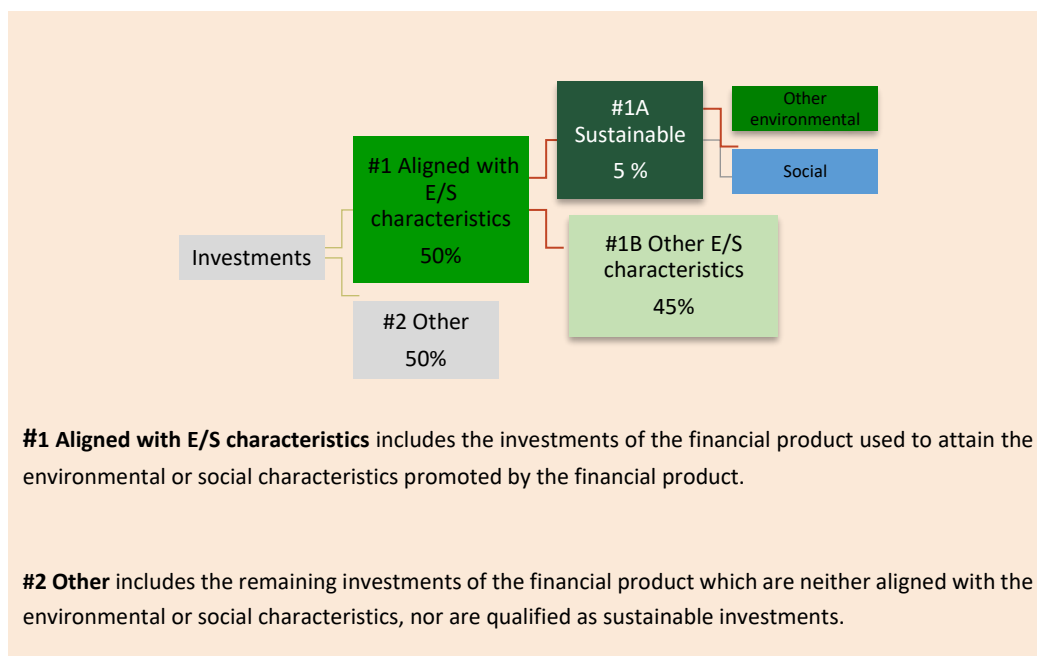
**#1A Sustainable:** Minimum proportion of sustainable investments is 5% of total asset under management. This category covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives

**#1B Other E/S characteristics:** This category covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments and the minimum proportion of these investments is 45%.

**#2 Other:** see response below

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?**

With respect to derivatives used by the Fund no environmental or social safeguards are applied.

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 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.



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

In relation to taxonomy aligned environmentally sustainable investments in accordance with article 2 (17) of SFDR, the Fund does not commit to making a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, and hence such investments may currently not qualify as environmentally sustainable investments within the meaning of article 3 the Taxonomy Regulation. In that sense, no information can be provided on a substantial contribution to an environmental objective set out in Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation and in line with article 5 and 6 of the Taxonomy Regulation the extent to what the Investments underlying the Fund are in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation is therefore currently zero (0%).

The Investment Manager is keeping this situation under active review and Investments of the Fund will be a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, the investment Manager will provide the descriptions referred to above, in which case this Annex will be updated accordingly.

- **Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>9</sup>?**

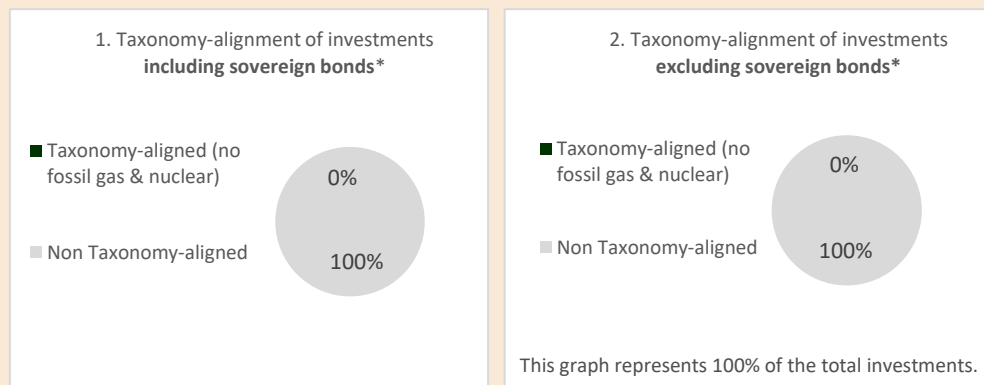
Yes:

In fossil gas       In nuclear energy

No

<sup>9</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 economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

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%

The Fund does not commit to having any investments in “transitional and enabling” activities.

 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?**

1% is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

1% is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

“Other” investments include companies with quality growth attributes where the materiality of ESG Factors is generally low, from both a risk and opportunity perspective, where the Investment Manager believes the stock presents an attractive risk/reward opportunity. Such investments would still be subject to the exclusion list set out above.

“Other” investments also include cash held by the Fund for liquidity and derivatives used by the Fund. No environmental or social safeguards are applied to these investments



### 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?

Not applicable

- *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

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



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

More product-specific information can be found on the website:  
[https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor\\_services/sfdr.fs](https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor_services/sfdr.fs)

## U.S. Large Cap Growth Fund

**This Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics within the meaning of article 8 (1) SFDR**

**Investment objective:** The U.S. Large Cap Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

**Main investment strategies:** Under normal circumstances, the Fund invests at least 80% of its net assets in stocks of large capitalized ("large cap") companies in the U.S. The Fund invests primarily in a diversified portfolio of equity securities, including common stocks and other forms of equity investments (*e.g.*, securities convertible into common stocks), of large cap U.S. growth companies that are expected to exhibit quality growth characteristics. For purposes of the Fund, the Investment Manager considers a company to be a large cap company if it has a market capitalization no smaller than the smallest capitalized company included in the Russell 1000® Index at the time of the Fund's investment. Securities of companies whose market capitalizations no longer meet this definition after purchase may continue to be held in the Fund. To a limited extent, the Fund may also purchase stocks of companies with business characteristics and growth prospects similar to large cap companies, but that may have market capitalizations below the market capitalization of the smallest member of the Russell 1000® Index. The Fund may invest in newly created companies both through initial public offerings ("IPOs") and private placements.

For comparison purposes, the U.S. Large Cap Growth Fund is measured against the Russell 1000® Growth Index as primary index. The Fund is actively managed within its objective and is not constrained by a benchmark.

The Fund may use techniques and instruments for hedging purposes only (*e.g.*, hedge against the risk of unfavourable stock market movements, interest rate fluctuations, fluctuation of currencies) by *e.g.* entering into forward foreign currency transactions, provided that the Fund shall ensure a correlation between the techniques and instruments and the securities or currencies being hedged. The Fund will not duplicate the composition of an index and/or enter into OTC derivative transactions, as referred to in Appendix A headed "*Investment Powers and Restrictions*". To a limited extent the Fund may invest in warrants and convertible securities. For more information on the techniques and instruments that the Fund may use (pursuant to its investment policies outlined in this summary), please refer to Appendix B headed "*Investment Know How*".

**Main risks of investing in the U.S. Large Cap Growth Fund:** The Fund's returns will vary, and investors could lose money by investing in the Fund. Because the Fund invests most of its assets in equity securities of large cap U.S. growth companies, the primary risk is that the value of the equity securities it holds might decrease in response to the activities of those companies or market and economic conditions. In addition, there is the risk that individual securities may not perform as expected or a strategy used by the Investment Manager may fail to produce its intended result. Different investment styles (*e.g.*, growth vs. value, quality bias, market capitalization focus) tend to shift in and out of favor depending on market

conditions and investor sentiment, and at times when the investment style used by the Investment Manager for the Fund is out of favor, the Fund may underperform other equity funds that use different investment styles. The Fund's investments in IPOs are subject to high volatility and are of limited availability. Securities acquired through private placements may be classified as illiquid and difficult to value. To the extent that the Fund focuses its investments in particular industries, asset classes or sectors of the economy, any market changes affecting companies in those industries, asset classes or sectors may impact the Fund's performance. To the extent that a significant portion of the Fund's shares are held by a limited number of shareholders or their affiliates, there is a risk that the share trading activities of these shareholders could disrupt the Fund's investment strategies, which could have adverse consequences for the Fund and other shareholders (*e.g.*, by requiring the Fund to sell investments at inopportune times or causing the Fund to maintain larger-than-expected cash positions pending acquisition of investments). The Fund is designed for long-term investors. Additional risks associated with investment in the Fund are described under the section headed "*Risk Factors - All Funds*".

**Investment Process:** In choosing investments, the Investment Manager performs fundamental company analysis and focuses on stock selection. The Investment Manager evaluates the extent to which a company meets the quality growth criteria set forth below. All of the criteria are evaluated relative to the valuation of the security. The weight given to a particular investment criterion will depend upon the circumstances, and Fund holdings may not meet all of the following criteria:

- (a) the company should be, or should have the expectation of becoming, a significant provider in the primary markets it serves;
- (b) the company should have some distinctive attribute relative to present or potential competitors (this may, for example, take the form of proprietary products or processes, a unique distribution system, an entrenched brand name or an especially strong financial position relative to its competition);
- (c) the company should participate in an industry expected to grow rapidly due to economic factors or technological change or should grow through market share gains in its industry; and
- (d) the company should have a strong management team.

The share classes issued by the Fund are further described below in the section headed "*Classes of Shares*".

The global exposure of the Fund is determined by using the commitment approach in accordance with the most recent applicable guidelines of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), as described in further detail under the section headed "*Risk Management*".

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: William Blair – U.S. Large Cap Growth Fund (“Fund”)      Legal entity identifier: 549300MNF9BTNJOAE718

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

**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.

### Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?

Yes

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**: \_\_\_%

No

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 Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics by managing the overall sustainability profile of the Fund’s investment portfolio.

In particular, the Fund integrates what it deems to be financially material ESG factors (the “**ESG Factors**”) into its investment due diligence and selection process. The result is that 50% or more of the Fund’s portfolio will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors and/or whose products or services are aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

The ESG Factors may include the following characteristics:

#### Environment

- Carbon footprint
- Greenhouse gas emission intensity
- Natural resources stewardship
- Pollution and waste management

#### Social

- Human capital management
- Customer well-being
- Supply chain management
- Community relations

#### Governance

- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Board composition (e.g., board gender diversity)
- Minority shareholder treatment
- Management incentives
- Corporate culture.

The Fund has not designated a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the E/S Characteristics promoted.

**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?***

William Blair Investment Management, LLC, the investment manager for the Fund (the “**Investment Manager**”), will use internal ESG scores to measure the promotion of the Fund’s ESG Factors with respect to each investment made by the Fund and across the portfolio.

In particular, the Investment Manager will use the ESG scores that it has assigned to the Fund's underlying investments to calculate the percentage of the Portfolio that is aligned with above-average, industry-relative ESG practices and/or products and services aligned with positive environmental and social outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

- ***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?***

As explained further below, the Fund will not be targeting EU Taxonomy-aligned sustainable investments.

However, to the extent that the Fund’s investments are in companies with products or services that contribute to positive sustainability outcomes, such investments may contribute towards: climate change adaptation and mitigation (such as decarbonization and energy efficiency) or transition to a circular economy and pollution prevention and control (such as waste reduction).

In addition, the Fund’s sustainable investments may contribute towards social objectives, such as promoting financial inclusion or health and wellness.

**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?***

The Investment Manager’s analysis of sustainable investments seeks to assess both: (i) the positive contribution (if any) that a company may make to the promotion of environmental or social characteristics; as well as (ii) the negative impact (if any) that a company’s activities may have on environmental or social characteristics.

As such, the Investment Manager seeks to identify companies that may significantly harm environmental or social characteristics through proprietary analysis and external data. For example, the risk of significant harm is addressed through the application of screening criteria that seek to assess potential misalignment of investee companies with the United Nations Sustainable

Development Goals and global norms-related controversies. When identified, such companies will not count towards the Fund's minimum proportion of 5% in sustainable investments.

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

The mandatory adverse sustainability indicators from Table 1, Annex I of the Regulatory Technical Standards for Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (the “**SFDR Level 2 Measures**”) are taken into account to the extent that they are relevant to the assessment of an investee company from the Investment Manager's perspective.

The relevance/materiality of any particular indicator for adverse impacts on sustainability factors may differ from one company to another depending upon multiple factors, including the location of the company, the business conducted by the company and the industry in which the company sits.

The Investment Manager may also use its judgment to determine at what level an adverse sustainability indicator would be considered as excessively harmful for the purposes of identifying its sustainable investments.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

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

Companies deemed to be in violation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are excluded from the portfolio (see Investment Strategy section below on page 4).

The Investment Manager also seeks to exclude investments in companies involved in controversies related to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (see list of ESG Factors on page 1 above).

*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,

In determining whether a particular investment contributes to environmental or social characteristics, the Investment Manager will, where relevant to an investment, take into account applicable PAI indicators.

In addition, the Fund will consider PAI to inform its investment universe as follows:

- Number 14: Exposure to Controversial Weapons (as described further in Appendix B) is taken into account through the Investment Manager’s investment exclusion rule.
- Number 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises is implemented through the investment restriction of severe controversies.

See section on “*How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*” for how principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered.

No



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The investment strategy for this financial product with respect to environmental or social characteristics utilizes during the pre-investment review exclusion of certain investments, data collection on ESG factors, an ESG score assignment and consideration of ESG factors. Each of these components is further described in the question 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.”?

- ***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 incorporates its exclusion policy, quantitative/qualitative assessment of the ESG Factors and the resulting proprietary ESG scores into its investment decision making process on a consistent and continuous basis as follows:

### *Exclusions*

The Investment Manager will incorporate industry accepted screening tools from vendors that it deems to be reliable to adopt the following binding list of exclusions:

- *Controversial Weapons*: companies involved in activities related to Controversial Weapons (as further described in Appendix B).
- *Tobacco*: companies engaged in tobacco manufacturing
- *Global norms*: companies that violate United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) principles and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.
- *Thermal coal mining or thermal coal power generation*: companies that derive a significant portion of their revenues from thermal coal mining or thermal coal power generation.

### *Data collection on ESG Factors*

Sustainability data for the ESG Factors are sourced from third party data vendors (who themselves use a combination of company reported data as well as estimates based on industry norms) and data obtained directly through the Investment Manager’s own review of and engagement with a company.

### *Scores assignment*

The assessment of the ESG Factors is guided by a proprietary industry materiality framework that is developed internally by the Investment Manager.

Companies are assessed against the quantitative value of data points for the ESG Factors where available (for example the actual level of carbon emissions) as well as the qualitative impact of these data points for the ESG Factors (for example, a company may have high carbon emissions but has a plan to transition to lower carbon emissions over an identifiable period of time).

The Investment Manager utilizes qualitative ESG scores that reflect the Investment Manager's views on the ESG Factors and how they may affect company performance and /or environmental / social factors more broadly.

At the company level, the Investment Manager's investment team will assign proprietary ESG scores on a scale of 1 to 5 for the three following measures: (1) Environmental factors; (2) Social factors; and (3) Governance factors, with score of 1 being "significantly above average" and 5 being "significantly below average" based on relevant industry peers. In some instances there will be insufficient data to assign scores, in which case the investment will not count towards the 50% or more of the Fund's portfolio that will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors.

### *Consideration of ESG Factors*

The Investment Manager seeks to rely on its proprietary ESG scores to attain exposure of at least 50% of the Fund's portfolio in companies with above average ESG practices. For at least 50% of the Fund's portfolio, an individual investment must score above average in respect of: (1) Environmental factors or (2) Social factors, and such individual investment must not score below average for Environmental, Social or Governance factors, or must have products and services that are deemed to be aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

This may include, for example, companies whose products or services promote decarbonization, health and wellness, or financial inclusion.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of the investment strategy.

**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?**

Governance factors are assessed systematically for every company in which the fund invests based primarily on proprietary research including, but not limited to, interactions with management, as well as externally sourced inputs including third-party governance ratings and data, controversies research and/or proxy voting research as deemed relevant.

Governance considerations may include, but are not limited to, (i) sound management structures (having due regard to the topics of board composition and minority shareholders treatment) (ii) employee relations (taking into account management incentives and the relevant investee companies' corporate culture) as well as to matters of (iii) remuneration of staff and (iv) tax compliance (including penalties, fines or other liability arising from breaches of applicable tax law). Proprietary governance scores are assigned by the Investment Manager's investment team during the due diligence process.



**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

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

#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics: Minimum proportion of investments used to attain the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the fund is 50%.

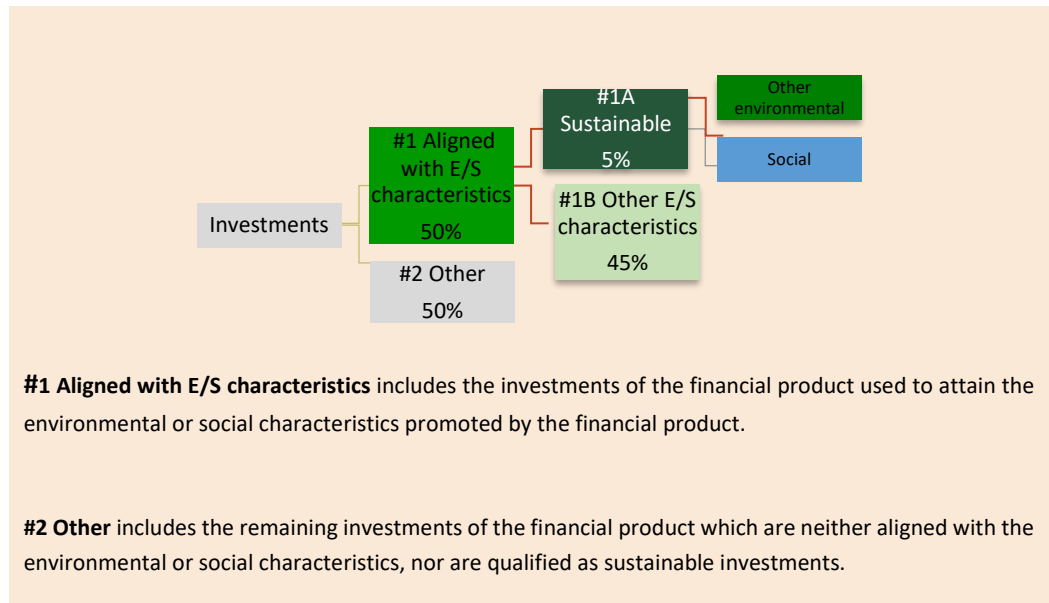
#1A Sustainable: Minimum proportion of sustainable investments is 5%. This category covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives

#1B Other E/S characteristics: This category covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments and the minimum proportion of these investments is 45%.

#2 Other: see response below

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?**

With respect to derivatives used by the Fund no environmental or social safeguards are applied.



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

In relation to taxonomy aligned environmentally sustainable investments in accordance with article 2 (17) of SFDR, the Fund does not commit to making a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, and hence such investments may currently not qualify as environmentally sustainable investments within the meaning of article 3 the Taxonomy Regulation. In that sense, no information can be provided on a substantial contribution to an environmental objective set out in Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation and in line with article 5 and 6 of the Taxonomy Regulation the extent to what the Investments underlying the Fund are in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation is therefore currently zero (0%).

The Investment Manager is keeping this situation under active review and Investments of the Fund will be a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, the investment Manager will provide the descriptions referred to above, in which case this Annex will be updated accordingly.

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.

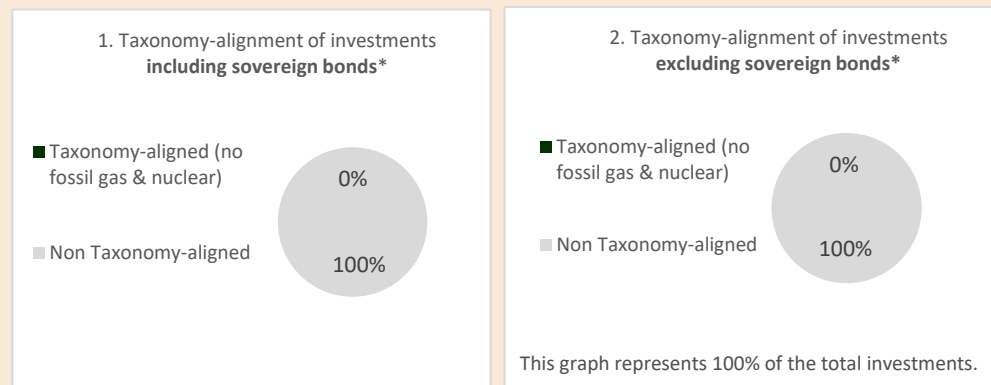
**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**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.

● **Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>10</sup>?**

- 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.

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

0%

The Fund does not commit to having any investments in “transitional and enabling” activities

<sup>10</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 economic 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?**

1% is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

1% is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

“Other” investments include companies with quality growth attributes where the materiality of ESG Factors is generally low, from both a risk and opportunity perspective, where the Investment Manager believes the stock presents an attractive risk/reward opportunity. Such investments would still be subject to the exclusion list set out above.

“Other” investments also include cash held by the Fund for liquidity and derivatives used by the Fund. No environmental or social safeguards are applied to these investments



**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?**

Not applicable

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

Not applicable

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

- ***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:**  
[https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor\\_services/sfdr.fs](https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor_services/sfdr.fs)

## U.S. Small-Mid Cap Core Fund

**This Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics within the meaning of article 8 (1) SFDR**

**Investment objective:** The U.S. Small-Mid Cap Core Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

**Main investment strategies:** Under normal market conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its total net assets in stocks of small cap and medium capitalized ("**mid cap**") companies in the United States ("**U.S.**"). The Fund invests primarily in a diversified portfolio of equity securities, including common stocks and other forms of equity investments (*e.g.*, securities convertible into common stocks), of small cap and mid cap U.S. companies that the Investment Manager deems to be of higher quality but undervalued by the marketplace. For purposes of the Fund, the Investment Manager considers a company to be a small cap or a mid cap company if it has a market capitalization no larger than the largest capitalized company in the Russell Midcap® Index at the time of the Fund's investment. Securities of companies whose market capitalization no longer meets this definition after purchase may continue to be held in the Fund. To a limited extent, the Fund may also purchase stocks of companies with business characteristics and quality attributes similar to the small and mid cap companies that are the primary investment targets of the Fund, but that may have market capitalizations above the market capitalization of the largest member of the Russell Midcap® Index. The Fund may invest in newly created companies both through initial public offerings ("**IPOs**") and private placements.

For comparison purposes, the U.S. Small-Mid Cap Core Fund is measured against the Russell 2500™ Total Index as primary index. The Fund is actively managed within its objective and is not constrained by a benchmark.

The Fund may use techniques and instruments for hedging purposes only (*e.g.*, hedge against the risk of unfavourable stock market movements, interest rate fluctuations, fluctuation of currencies) by *e.g.* entering into forward foreign currency transactions, provided that the Fund shall ensure a correlation between the techniques and instruments and the securities or currencies being hedged. The Fund will not duplicate the composition of an index and/or enter into OTC derivative transactions, as referred to in Appendix A headed "*Investment Powers and Restrictions*". To a limited extent the Fund may invest in warrants and convertible securities. For more information on the techniques and instruments that the Fund may use (pursuant to its investment policies outlined in this summary), please refer to Appendix B headed "*Investment Know How*".

**Main risks of investing in the U.S. Small-Mid Cap Core Fund:** The Fund's returns may vary, and investors could lose money by investing in the Fund. Because the Fund invests most of its assets in equity securities of small cap and mid cap U.S. companies, the primary risk is that the value of the equity securities it holds might decrease in response to the activities of those companies or market and economic conditions. In addition, there is the risk that individual securities may not perform as expected or a strategy used by the

Investment Manager may fail to produce its intended result. Different investment styles (*e.g.*, growth vs. value, quality bias, market capitalization focus) tend to shift in and out of favor depending on market conditions and investor sentiment, and at times when the investment style used by the Investment Manager for the Fund is out of favor, the Fund may underperform other equity funds that use different investment styles. The securities of small cap and mid cap companies may be volatile and less liquid than securities of large cap companies. In addition, small and mid cap companies may be traded in low volumes. This can increase volatility and increase the risk that the Fund will not be able to sell the security on short notice at a reasonable price. To the extent that the Fund focuses its investments in particular industries, asset classes or sectors of the economy, any market changes affecting companies in those industries, asset classes or sectors may impact the Fund's performance. To the extent that a significant portion of the Fund's shares are held by a limited number of shareholders or their affiliates, there is a risk that the share trading activities of these shareholders could disrupt the Fund's investment strategies, which could have adverse consequences for the Fund and other shareholders (*e.g.*, by requiring the Fund to sell investments at inopportune times or causing the Fund to maintain larger-than-expected cash positions pending acquisition of investments). The Fund's investments in IPOs are subject to high volatility and are of limited availability. Securities acquired through private placements may be classified as illiquid and difficult to value. Additional risks associated with investment in the Fund are described under the section headed "*Risk Factors - All Funds*".

**THE FUND INVOLVES A HIGH LEVEL OF RISK AND MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR EVERYONE.** Investors should consider the Fund only for the more aggressive portion of their portfolio. The Fund is not intended to be a complete investment program. The Fund is designed for long-term investors.

**Investment Process:** In choosing investments, the Investment Manager performs fundamental company analysis and focuses on stock selection. The Investment Manager will look for companies with strong management teams, competitive advantages and/or attractive industry structures that position them for potential strong returns on capital over time. The Investment Manager evaluates the extent to which a company meets the quality criteria set forth below. All of the criteria are evaluated relative to the valuation of the security. The weight given to a particular investment criterion will depend upon the circumstances, and Fund holdings may not meet all of the following criteria:

- (a) the company should be, or should have the expectation of becoming, a significant provider in the primary markets it serves;
- (b) the company should have some distinctive attribute relative to present or potential competitors (this may, for example, take the form of proprietary products or processes, a unique distribution system, an entrenched brand name or an especially strong financial position relative to its competition); and
- (c) the company should have a strong management team.

The share classes issued by the Fund are further described below in the section headed "*Classes of Shares*".

The global exposure of the Fund is determined by using the commitment approach in accordance with the most recent applicable guidelines of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), as described in further detail under the section headed "*Risk Management*".

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: William Blair – U.S. Small-Mid Cap Core Fund (“Fund”) Legal entity identifier: 549300TBO62M3GOZJJ83

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

**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.

### Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?

**Yes**

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: \_\_\_%**

**No**

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 Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics by managing the overall sustainability profile of the Fund’s investment portfolio.

In particular, the Fund integrates what it deems to be financially material ESG factors (the “**ESG Factors**”) into its investment due diligence and selection process. The result is that 50% or more of the Fund’s portfolio will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors and/or whose products or services are aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

The ESG Factors may include the following characteristics :

#### Environment

- Carbon footprint
- Greenhouse gas emission intensity
- Natural resources stewardship
- Pollution and waste management

#### Social

- Human capital management
- Customer well-being
- Supply chain management
- Community relations

#### Governance

- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Board composition (e.g., board gender diversity)
- Minority shareholder treatment
- Management incentives
- Corporate culture.

The Fund has not designated a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the E/S Characteristics promoted.

**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?***

William Blair Investment Management, LLC, the investment manager for the Fund (the “**Investment Manager**”), will use internal ESG scores to measure the promotion of the Fund’s ESG Factors with respect to each investment made by the Fund and across the portfolio.

In particular, the Investment Manager will use the ESG scores that it has assigned to the Fund's underlying investments to calculate the percentage of the Portfolio that is aligned with above-average, industry-relative ESG practices and/or products and services aligned with positive environmental and social outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

- ***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?***

As explained further below, the Fund will not be targeting EU Taxonomy-aligned sustainable investments.

However, to the extent that the Fund’s investments are in companies with products or services that contribute to positive sustainability outcomes, such investments may contribute towards: climate change adaptation and mitigation (such as decarbonization and energy efficiency) or transition to a circular economy and pollution prevention and control (such as waste reduction).

In addition, the Fund’s sustainable investments may contribute towards social objectives, such as promoting financial inclusion or health and wellness.

**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?***

The Investment Manager’s analysis of sustainable investments seeks to assess both: (i) the positive contribution (if any) that a company may make to the promotion of environmental or social characteristics; as well as (ii) the negative impact (if any) that a company’s activities may have on environmental or social characteristics.

As such, the Investment Manager seeks to identify companies that may significantly harm environmental or social characteristics through proprietary analysis and external data. For example, the risk of significant harm is addressed through the application of screening criteria that seek to assess potential misalignment of investee companies with the United Nations Sustainable

Development Goals and global norms-related controversies. When identified, such companies will not count towards the Fund's minimum proportion of 5% in sustainable investments.

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

The mandatory adverse sustainability indicators from Table 1, Annex I of the Regulatory Technical Standards for Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (the “**SFDR Level 2 Measures**”) are taken into account to the extent that they are relevant to the assessment of an investee company from the Investment Manager's perspective.

The relevance/materiality of any particular indicator for adverse impacts on sustainability factors may differ from one company to another depending upon multiple factors, including the location of the company, the business conducted by the company and the industry in which the company sits.

The Investment Manager may also use its judgment to determine at what level an adverse sustainability indicator would be considered as excessively harmful for the purposes of identifying its sustainable investments.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

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

Companies deemed to be in violation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are excluded from the portfolio (see Investment Strategy section below on page 4).

The Investment Manager also seeks to exclude investments in companies involved in controversies related to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (see list of ESG Factors on page 1 above).

*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,

In determining whether a particular investment contributes to environmental or social characteristics, the Investment Manager will, where relevant to an investment, take into account applicable PAI indicators.

In addition, the Fund will consider PAI to inform its investment universe as follows:

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- Number 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises is implemented through the investment restriction of severe controversies.

See section on “How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?” for how principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered.

No



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The investment strategy for this financial product with respect to environmental or social characteristics utilizes during the pre-investment review exclusion of certain investments, data collection on ESG factors, an ESG score assignment and consideration of ESG factors. Each of these components is further described in the question 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.”?

- ***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 incorporates its exclusion policy, quantitative/qualitative assessment of the ESG Factors and the resulting proprietary ESG scores into its investment decision making process on a consistent and continuous basis as follows:

### *Exclusions*

The Investment Manager will incorporate industry accepted screening tools from vendors that it deems to be reliable to adopt the following binding list of exclusions:

- *Controversial Weapons*: companies involved in activities related to Controversial Weapons (as further described in Appendix B).
- *Tobacco*: companies engaged in tobacco manufacturing
- *Global norms*: companies that violate United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) principles and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.
- *Thermal coal mining or thermal coal power generation*: companies that derive a significant portion of their revenues from thermal coal mining or thermal coal power generation.

### *Data collection on ESG Factors*

Sustainability data for the ESG Factors are sourced from third party data vendors (who themselves use a combination of company reported data as well as estimates based on industry norms) and data obtained directly through the Investment Manager’s own review of and engagement with a company.

### *Scores assignment*

The assessment of the ESG Factors is guided by a proprietary industry materiality framework that is developed internally by the Investment Manager.

Companies are assessed against the quantitative value of data points for the ESG Factors where available (for example the actual level of carbon emissions) as well as the qualitative impact of these data points for the ESG Factors (for example, a company may have high carbon emissions but has a plan to transition to lower carbon emissions over an identifiable period of time).

The Investment Manager utilizes qualitative ESG scores that reflect the Investment Manager's views on the ESG Factors and how they may affect company performance and /or environmental / social factors more broadly.

At the company level, the Investment Manager's investment team will assign proprietary ESG scores on a scale of 1 to 5 for the three following measures: (1) Environmental factors; (2) Social factors; and (3) Governance factors, with score of 1 being "significantly above average" and 5 being "significantly below average" based on relevant industry peers. In some instances there will be insufficient data to assign scores, in which case the investment will not count towards the 50% or more of the Fund's portfolio that will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors.

### *Consideration of ESG Factors*

The Investment Manager seeks to rely on its proprietary ESG scores to attain exposure of at least 50% of the Fund's portfolio in companies with above average ESG practices. For at least 50% of the Fund's portfolio, an individual investment must score above average in respect of: (1) Environmental factors or (2) Social factors, and such individual investment must not score below average for Environmental, Social or Governance factors, or must have products and services that are deemed to be aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

This may include, for example, companies whose products or services promote decarbonization, health and wellness, or financial inclusion.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of the investment strategy.

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

Governance factors are assessed systematically for every company in which the fund invests based primarily on proprietary research including, but not limited to, interactions with management, as well as externally sourced inputs including third-party governance ratings and data, controversies research and/or proxy voting research as deemed relevant.

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

Governance considerations may include, but are not limited to, (i) sound management structures (having due regard to the topics of board composition and minority shareholders treatment) (ii) employee relations (taking into account management incentives and the relevant investee companies' corporate culture) as well as to matters of (iii) remuneration of staff and (iv) tax compliance (including penalties, fines or other liability arising from breaches of applicable tax law). Proprietary governance scores are assigned by the Investment Manager's investment team during the due diligence process.



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

### Asset allocation

describes the share of investments in specific assets.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

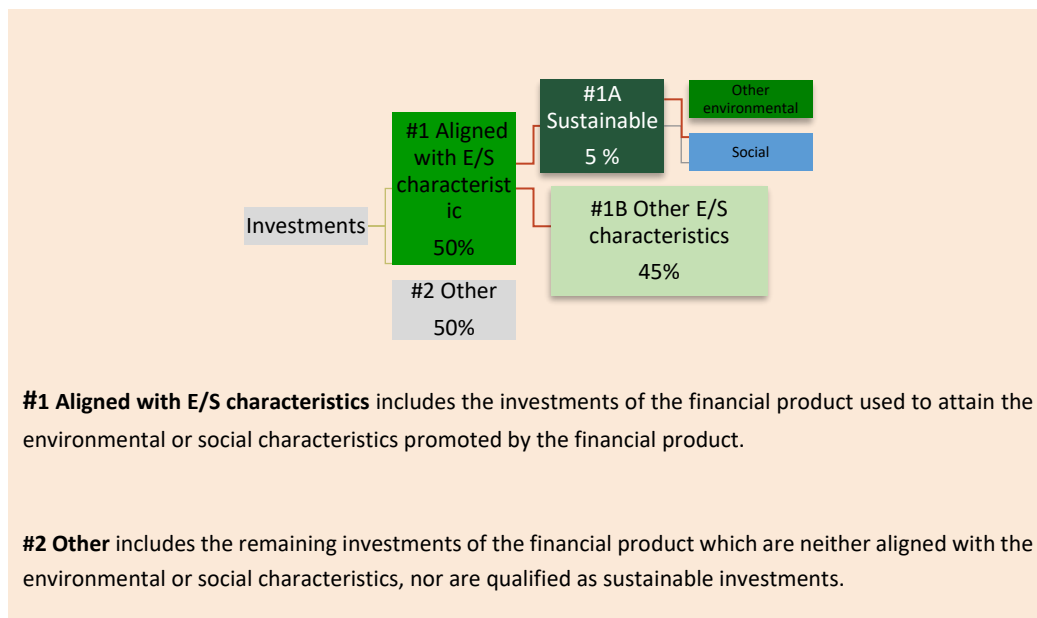
- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities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

#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics: Minimum proportion of investments used to attain the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the fund is 50%.

#1A Sustainable: Minimum proportion of sustainable investments is 5%. This category covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives

#1B Other E/S characteristics: This category covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments and the minimum proportion of these investments is 45%.

#2 Other: see response below



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

With respect to derivatives used by the Fund no environmental or social safeguards are applied.



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

In relation to taxonomy aligned environmentally sustainable investments in accordance with article 2 (17) of SFDR, the Fund does not commit to making a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, and hence such investments may currently not qualify as environmentally sustainable investments within the meaning of article 3 the Taxonomy Regulation. In that sense, no information can be provided on a substantial contribution to an environmental objective set out in Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation and in line with article 5 and 6 of the Taxonomy Regulation the extent to what the Investments underlying the Fund are in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation is therefore currently zero (0%).

The Investment Manager is keeping this situation under active review and Investments of the Fund will be a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, the investment Manager will provide the descriptions referred to above, in which case this Annex will be updated accordingly.

● **Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>11</sup>?**

Yes:

In fossil gas       In nuclear energy

No

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<sup>11</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 economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

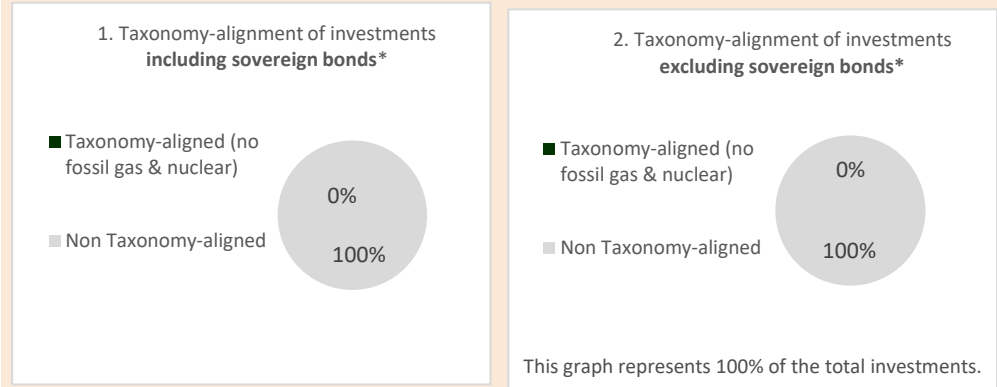
To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

**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.

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

*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%

The Fund does not commit to having any investments in “transitional and enabling” activities.



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

1% is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

1% is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

“Other” investments include companies with quality attributes where the materiality of ESG Factors is generally low, from both a risk and opportunity perspective, where the Investment Manager believes the stock presents an attractive risk/reward opportunity. Such investments would still be subject to the exclusion list set out above.

“Other” investments also include cash held by the Fund for liquidity and derivatives used by the Fund.

Such investments would still be subject to the exclusion list set out above.



### 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?

Not applicable

- *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

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



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

More product-specific information can be found on the website:  
[https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor\\_services/sfdr.fs](https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor_services/sfdr.fs)

## U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund

**This Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics within the meaning of article 8 (1) SFDR**

**Investment objective:** The U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund seeks long-term capital appreciation.

**Main investment strategies:** Under normal market conditions, the Fund invests at least 80% of its total net assets in stocks of small cap and mid cap companies in the U.S. The Fund invests primarily in a diversified portfolio of equity securities, including common stocks and other forms of equity investments (*e.g.*, securities convertible into common stocks), of small cap and mid cap U.S. growth companies that are expected to exhibit quality growth characteristics. For purposes of the Fund, the Investment Manager considers a company to be a small cap or a mid cap company if it has a market capitalization no larger than the largest capitalized company in the Russell Midcap® Index at the time of the Fund's investment. Securities of companies whose market capitalization no longer meets this definition after purchase may continue to be held in the Fund. To a limited extent, the Fund may also purchase stocks of companies with business characteristics and growth prospects similar to small and mid cap companies, but that may have market capitalizations above the market capitalization of the largest member of the Russell Midcap® Index. The Fund may invest in newly created companies both through initial public offerings ("**IPOs**") and private placements.

For comparison purposes, the U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund is measured against the Russell 2500™ Growth Index as primary index. The Fund is actively managed within its objective and is not constrained by a benchmark.

The Fund may use techniques and instruments for hedging purposes only (*e.g.*, hedge against the risk of unfavourable stock market movements, interest rate fluctuations, fluctuation of currencies) by *e.g.* entering into forward foreign currency transactions, provided that the Fund shall ensure a correlation between the techniques and instruments and the securities or currencies being hedged. The Fund will not duplicate the composition of an index and/or enter into OTC derivative transactions, as referred to in Appendix A headed "*Investment Powers and Restrictions*". To a limited extent the Fund may invest in warrants and convertible securities. For more information on the techniques and instruments that the Fund may use (pursuant to its investment policies outlined in this summary), please refer to Appendix B headed "*Investment Know How*".

**Main risks of investing in the U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund:** The Fund's returns may vary, and investors could lose money by investing in the Fund. Because the Fund invests most of its assets in equity securities of small cap and mid cap U.S. growth companies, the primary risk is that the value of the equity securities it holds might decrease in response to the activities of those companies or market and economic conditions. In addition, there is the risk that individual securities may not perform as expected or a strategy used by the Investment Manager may fail to produce its intended result. Different investment styles

(*e.g.*, growth vs. value, quality bias, market capitalization focus) tend to shift in and out of favor depending on market conditions and investor sentiment, and at times when the investment style used by the Investment Manager for the Fund is out of favor, the Fund may underperform other equity funds that use different investment styles. The securities of small cap and mid cap companies may be volatile and less liquid than securities of large capitalization companies. In addition, small and mid cap companies may be traded in low volumes. This can increase volatility and increase the risk that the Fund will not be able to sell the security on short notice at a reasonable price. To the extent that the Fund focuses its investments in particular industries, asset classes or sectors of the economy, any market changes affecting companies in those industries, asset classes or sectors may impact the Fund's performance. To the extent that a significant portion of the Fund's shares are held by a limited number of shareholders or their affiliates, there is a risk that the share trading activities of these shareholders could disrupt the Fund's investment strategies, which could have adverse consequences for the Fund and other shareholders (*e.g.*, by requiring the Fund to sell investments at inopportune times or causing the Fund to maintain larger-than-expected cash positions pending acquisition of investments). The Fund's investments in IPOs are subject to high volatility and are of limited availability. Securities acquired through private placements may be classified as illiquid and difficult to value. Additional risks associated with investment in the Fund are described under the section headed "*Risk Factors - All Funds*".

**THE FUND INVOLVES A HIGH LEVEL OF RISK AND MAY NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR EVERYONE.** Investors should consider the Fund only for the more aggressive portion of their portfolio. The Fund is not intended to be a complete investment program. The Fund is designed for long-term investors.

**Investment Process:** In choosing investments, the Investment Manager performs fundamental company analysis and focuses on stock selection. The Investment Manager evaluates the extent to which a company meets the quality growth criteria set forth below. All of the criteria are evaluated relative to the valuation of the security. The weight given to a particular investment criterion will depend upon the circumstances, and Fund holdings may not meet all of the following criteria:

- (a) the company should be, or should have the expectation of becoming, a significant provider in the primary markets it serves;
- (b) the company should have some distinctive attribute relative to present or potential competitors (this may, for example, take the form of proprietary products or processes, a unique distribution system, an entrenched brand name or an especially strong financial position relative to its competition);
- (c) the company should participate in an industry expected to grow rapidly due to economic factors or technological change or should grow through market share gains in its industry; and
- (d) the company should have a strong management team.

The share classes issued by the Fund are further described below in the section headed "*Classes of Shares*".

The global exposure of the Fund is determined by using the commitment approach in accordance with the most recent applicable guidelines of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA), as described in further detail under the section headed "*Risk Management*".

Product name: William Blair – U.S. Small-Mid Growth Fund (“Fund”)      Legal entity identifier: 549300VAYV501JB55R28

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

**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.

Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?	
<input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b>	<input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with an environmental objective: ___%</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with a social objective: ___%</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It <b>promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics</b> and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of <u>5</u> % of sustainable investments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with a social objective</li> </ul> <input type="checkbox"/> It promotes E/S characteristics, but <b>will not make any sustainable investments</b>



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

The Fund promotes environmental and social characteristics by managing the overall sustainability profile of the Fund’s investment portfolio.

In particular, the Fund integrates what it deems to be financially material ESG factors (the “**ESG Factors**”) into its investment due diligence and selection process. The result is that 50% or more of the Fund’s portfolio will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors and/or whose products or services are aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

The ESG Factors may include the following characteristics:

#### Environment

- Carbon footprint
- Greenhouse gas emission intensity
- Natural resources stewardship
- Pollution and waste management

#### Social

- Human capital management
- Customer well-being
- Supply chain management
- Community relations

#### Governance

- Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Board composition (e.g., board gender diversity)
- Minority shareholder treatment
- Management incentives
- Corporate culture.

The Fund has not designated a reference benchmark for the purpose of attaining the E/S Characteristics promoted.

**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?***

William Blair Investment Management, LLC, the investment manager for the Fund (the “**Investment Manager**”), will use internal ESG scores to measure the promotion of the Fund’s ESG Factors with respect to each investment made by the Fund and across the portfolio.

In particular, the Investment Manager will use the ESG scores that it has assigned to the Fund's underlying investments to calculate the percentage of the Portfolio that is aligned with above-average, industry-relative ESG practices and/or products and services aligned with positive environmental and social outcomes.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

- ***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?***

As explained further below, the Fund will not be targeting EU Taxonomy-aligned sustainable investments.

However, to the extent that the Fund’s investments are in companies with products or services that contribute to positive sustainability outcomes, such investments may contribute towards: climate change adaptation and mitigation (such as decarbonization and energy efficiency) or transition to a circular economy and pollution prevention and control (such as waste reduction).

In addition, the Fund’s sustainable investments may contribute towards social objectives, such as promoting financial inclusion or health and wellness.

- ***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 Investment Manager’s analysis of sustainable investments seeks to assess both: (i) the positive contribution (if any) that a company may make to the promotion of environmental or social characteristics; as well as (ii) the negative impact (if any) that a company’s activities may have on environmental or social characteristics.

As such, the Investment Manager seeks to identify companies that may significantly harm environmental or social characteristics through proprietary analysis and external data. For example, the risk of significant harm is addressed through the application of screening criteria that seek to assess potential misalignment of investee companies with the United Nations Sustainable

Development Goals and global norms-related controversies. When identified, such companies will not count towards the Fund's minimum proportion of 5% in sustainable investments.

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

The mandatory adverse sustainability indicators from Table 1, Annex I of the Regulatory Technical Standards for Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (the “**SFDR Level 2 Measures**”) are taken into account to the extent that they are relevant to the assessment of an investee company from the Investment Manager's perspective.

The relevance/materiality of any particular indicator for adverse impacts on sustainability factors may differ from one company to another depending upon multiple factors, including the location of the company, the business conducted by the company and the industry in which the company sits.

The Investment Manager may also use its judgment to determine at what level an adverse sustainability indicator would be considered as excessively harmful for the purposes of identifying its sustainable investments.

See section on *Investment Strategy* below for further detail.

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

Companies deemed to be in violation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are excluded from the portfolio (see Investment Strategy section below on page 4).

The Investment Manager also seeks to exclude investments in companies involved in controversies related to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (see list of ESG Factors on page 1 above).

**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,

In determining whether a particular investment contributes to environmental or social characteristics, the Investment Manager will, where relevant to an investment, take into account applicable PAI indicators.

In addition, the Fund will consider PAI to inform its investment universe as follows:

- Number 14: Exposure to Controversial Weapons (as described further in Appendix B) is taken into account through the Investment Manager’s investment exclusion rule.
- Number 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises is implemented through the investment restriction of severe controversies.

See section on “How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?” for how principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered.

No



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The investment strategy for this financial product with respect to environmental or social characteristics utilizes during the pre-investment review exclusion of certain investments, data collection on ESG factors, an ESG score assignment and consideration of ESG factors. Each of these components is further described in the question 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.”?

- ***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 incorporates its exclusion policy, quantitative/qualitative assessment of the ESG Factors and the resulting proprietary ESG scores into its investment decision making process on a consistent and continuous basis as follows:

### *Exclusions*

The Investment Manager will incorporate industry accepted screening tools from vendors that it deems to be reliable to adopt the following binding list of exclusions:

- *Controversial Weapons*: companies involved in activities related to Controversial Weapons (as further described in Appendix B)
- *Tobacco*: companies engaged in tobacco manufacturing
- *Global norms*: companies that violate United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) principles and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.
- companies that derive greater than 5% of annual revenues (turnover) from extraction/production of thermal coal;
- energy companies that produce more than 5% of their energy production from coal

### *Data collection on ESG Factors*

Sustainability data for the ESG Factors are sourced from third party data vendors (who themselves use a combination of company reported data as well as estimates based on industry norms) and data obtained directly through the Investment Manager’s own review of and engagement with a company.

### *Scores assignment*

The assessment of the ESG Factors is guided by a proprietary industry materiality framework that is developed internally by the Investment Manager.

Companies are assessed against the quantitative value of data points for the ESG Factors where available (for example the actual level of carbon emissions) as well as the qualitative impact of these data points for the ESG Factors (for example, a company may have high carbon emissions but has a plan to transition to lower carbon emissions over an identifiable period of time).

The Investment Manager utilizes qualitative ESG scores that reflect the Investment Manager's views on the ESG Factors and how they may affect company performance and /or environmental / social factors more broadly.

At the company level, the Investment Manager's investment team will assign proprietary ESG scores on a scale of 1 to 5 for the three following measures: (1) Environmental factors; (2) Social factors; and (3) Governance factors, with score of 1 being "significantly above average" and 5 being "significantly below average" based on relevant industry peers. In some instances there will be insufficient data to assign scores, in which case the investment will not count towards the 50% or more of the Fund's portfolio that will be invested in companies that exhibit above average characteristics in relation to the ESG Factors.

### *Consideration of ESG Factors*

The Investment Manager seeks to rely on its proprietary ESG scores to attain exposure of at least 50% of the Fund's portfolio in companies with above average ESG practices. For at least 50% of the Fund's portfolio, an individual investment must score above average in respect of: (1) Environmental factors or (2) Social factors, and such individual investment must not score below average for Environmental, Social or Governance factors, or must have products and services that are deemed to be aligned with positive sustainability outcomes.

This may include, for example, companies whose products or services promote decarbonization, health and wellness, or financial inclusion.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of the investment strategy.

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

Governance factors are assessed systematically for every company in which the fund invests based primarily on proprietary research including, but not limited to, interactions with management, as well as externally sourced inputs including third-party governance ratings and data, controversies research and/or proxy voting research as deemed relevant.

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

Governance considerations may include, but are not limited to, (i) sound management structures (having due regard to the topics of board composition and minority shareholders treatment) (ii) employee relations (taking into account management incentives and the relevant investee companies' corporate culture) as well as to matters of (iii) remuneration of staff and (iv) tax compliance (including penalties, fines or other liability arising from breaches of applicable tax law). Proprietary governance scores are assigned by the Investment Manager's investment team during the due diligence process.



**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

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

#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics: Minimum proportion of investments used to attain the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the fund is 50%.

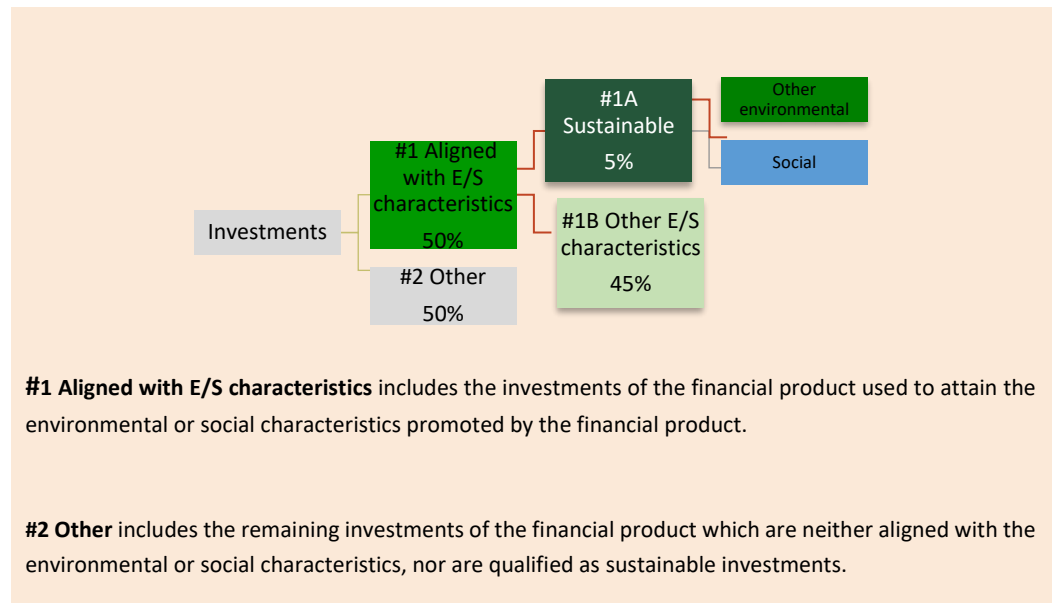
#1A Sustainable: Minimum proportion of sustainable investments is 5%. This category covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives

#1B Other E/S characteristics: This category covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments and the minimum proportion of these investments is 45%

#2 Other: see response below

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?**

With respect to derivatives used by the Fund no environmental or social safeguards are applied.



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

In relation to taxonomy aligned environmentally sustainable investments in accordance with article 2 (17) of SFDR, the Fund does not commit to making a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, and hence such investments may currently not qualify as environmentally sustainable investments within the meaning of article 3 the Taxonomy Regulation. In that sense, no information can be provided on a substantial contribution to an environmental objective set out in Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation and in line with article 5 and 6 of the Taxonomy Regulation the extent to what the Investments underlying the Fund are in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under Article 3 of the Taxonomy Regulation is therefore currently zero (0%).

The Investment Manager is keeping this situation under active review and Investments of the Fund will be a minimum proportion of sustainable investments, the investment Manager will provide the descriptions referred to above, in which case this Annex will be updated accordingly.

● **Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>12</sup>?**

Yes:

In fossil gas       In nuclear energy

No

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<sup>12</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 economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

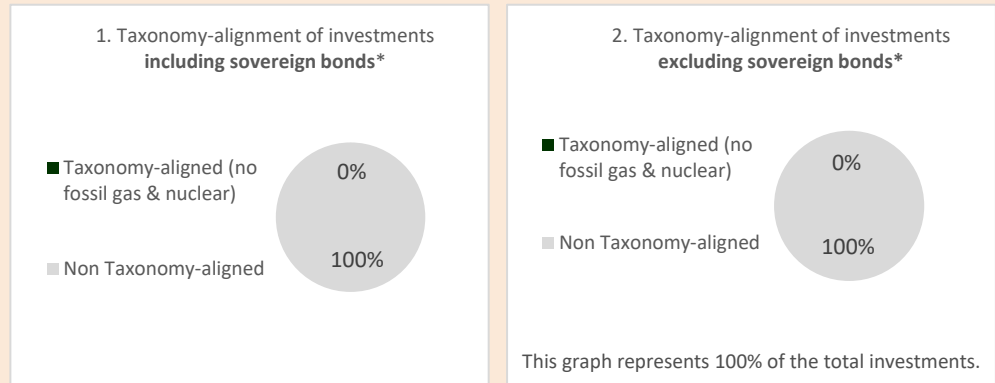
To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

**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.

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

*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%

The Fund does not commit to having any investments in “transitional and enabling” activities.



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

1% is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

1% is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments. 5% is the expected overall share of sustainable investments related to environmental and social goals of the fund, this is because, it is not possible to set specific shares for environmental and social investments in each case.



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

“Other” investments include companies with quality growth attributes where the materiality of ESG Factors is generally low, from both a risk and opportunity perspective, where the Investment Manager believes the stock presents an attractive risk/reward opportunity. Such investments would still be subject to the exclusion list set out above.

“Other” investments also include cash held by the Fund for liquidity and derivatives used by the Fund. No environmental or social safeguards are applied to these investments.



### 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?

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

Not applicable

- *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:**

[https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor\\_services/sfdr.fs](https://sicav.williamblair.com/investor_services/sfdr.fs)

## SECTION IV – RISK FACTORS – ALL FUNDS

### **ABS Risk**

Certain Funds may have exposure to asset-backed securities (including asset pools in credit card loans, auto loans, and collateralised debt obligations). The obligations associated with these securities may be subject to greater credit, liquidity, and interest rate risk compared to other debt securities such as government issued bonds. ABS are securities that entitle the holders thereof to receive payments that are primarily dependent upon the cash flow arising from a specified pool of financial assets such as motor vehicle loans or credit cards. ABS are often exposed to extension and prepayment risks that may have a substantial impact on the timing and size of the cashflows paid by the securities and may negatively impact the returns of the securities. The average life of each individual security may be affected by a large number of factors such as the existence and frequency of exercise of any optional redemption and mandatory prepayment, the prevailing level of interest rates, the actual default rate of the underlying assets, the timing of recoveries, and the level of rotation in the underlying assets.

### **Bank Loan Risk**

To the extent a Fund invests indirectly via bonds in bank loans, the Fund will be more susceptible to negative events affecting the banking industry. Banks are sensitive to changes in money market and general economic conditions and are highly regulated. Decisions by regulators may limit the loans banks make and the interest rates and fees they charge, and may reduce bank profitability.

### **Base Erosion and Profit Shifting and Anti-Tax Avoidance Directives**

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (the “OECD”) together with the G20 countries have committed to addressing abusive global tax avoidance, referred to as base erosion and profit shifting (“BEPS”), through 15 actions detailed in reports released on 5 October 2015 and through the Inclusive Framework on a global consensus solution to reform the international corporate tax system via a two-pillar plan agreed in 2021 (“BEPS 2.0”).

As part of the BEPS project, new rules dealing with, inter alia, the abuse of double tax treaties, the definition of permanent establishment, controlled foreign companies, restriction of the deductibility of excessive interest payments, and hybrid mismatch arrangements have been or will be introduced into the respective domestic laws of

members of the BEPS project (i.e., *by means of European directives and multilateral instruments*).

BEPS 2.0 has two parts, known as Pillar I and Pillar II, which seek to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy, and target large multi-national enterprises (“MNE”).

Pillar I aims to first introduce a mechanism for the reallocation of taxing rights (called Amount A) over a portion of the residual profits of the largest and most profitable MNEs to market jurisdictions, i.e., jurisdictions in which goods or services are supplied or consumers are located. In October 2023, the Multilateral Convention to Implement Amount A of Pillar I (MLC) was released with the aim of coordinating this reallocation of taxing rights. The text of the MLC is not yet open for signature. In addition, Amount B of Pillar I aims to standardise the remuneration of related party distributors that perform baseline marketing and distribution activities in a manner that is aligned with the arm’s length principle. The OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework will approve and publish a final Amount B report, which will be incorporated into the OECD Transfer Pricing guidelines. For in-scope structures, these measures may affect returns to the Company and the Investors.

In December 2021, following a Pillar II agreement signed by more than 135 jurisdictions in October 2021, the OECD published final model rules for a global minimum tax (the “**GloBE rules**”). The GloBE rules aim to ensure that large MNE groups pay a minimum level of tax on the income arising in each of the jurisdictions where they operate, by imposing a top-up tax whenever the effective tax rate, determined on a jurisdictional basis, is below the minimum rate of 15%. Council Directive (EU) 2022/2523 of 14 December 2022 on ensuring a global minimum level of taxation for multinational enterprise groups and large-scale domestic groups in the Union builds on the GloBE rules and targets any MNE group which has an annual revenue of EUR 750,000,000 or more, including the revenue of excluded entities, in its ultimate parent entity’s consolidated financial statements in at least two of the four fiscal years immediately preceding the tested fiscal year and with either a parent entity or a subsidiary located in an EU Member State. Certain entities are excluded from its scope, including i.a. investment entities that are ultimate parent entities and certain entities owned by these excluded entities. The Luxembourg law of 22 December 2023 implements Directive 2022/2523 by providing for an income inclusion rule (“**IIR**”), an undertaxed profit rule (“**UTPR**”), and a qualified domestic minimum top-up tax rule (“**QDMTT**”). Most provisions will apply to tax years starting on or after 31 December 2023. The provisions on UTPR will in principle apply to tax years starting on or after 31 December 2024. Effective tax rates could increase within the Company’s structure (if in scope) due to higher amounts of tax being due or possible denial of deductions. Costs of tax compliance may also increase. This could adversely affect any returns to the Investors.

### **Below Investment Grade Securities Risk**

Below investment grade securities, or equivalent unrated securities, generally involve greater volatility of price and risk of loss of income and principal, and may be more susceptible to real or perceived adverse economic and competitive industry conditions than

higher grade securities. It is reasonable to expect that any adverse economic condition could disrupt the market for below investment grade securities, have an adverse impact on the value of those securities and adversely affect the ability of the issuers of those securities to repay principal and interest on those securities.

### **Bond Connect**

Bond Connect is the initiative launched in July 2017 for mutual bond market access between Hong Kong and Mainland China, which was established by China Foreign Exchange Trade System & National Interbank Funding Centre (“**CFETS**”), China Central Depository & Clearing Co., Ltd, Shanghai Clearing House, and the HKEX and Central Moneymarkets Unit.

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 (“**CIBM**”) through the northbound trading of Bond Connect (“**Northbound Trading Link**”). There will be no investment quota for Northbound Trading Link.

Under the Northbound Trading Link, eligible foreign investors are required to appoint the CFETS or other institutions recognised by the People’s Bank of China (“**PBOC**”) as registration agents to apply for registration with the PBOC.

Pursuant to the prevailing regulations in Mainland China, the Central Moneymarkets Unit, being the offshore custody agent recognised by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority opens omnibus nominee accounts with the onshore custody agent recognised by the PBOC (*i.e.*, the China Securities Depository & Clearing Co., Ltd and Interbank Clearing Company Limited). All bonds traded by eligible foreign investors will be registered in the name of Central Moneymarkets Unit, which will hold such bonds as a nominee owner.

*Volatility and Liquidity Risk.* Market volatility and potential lack of liquidity due to low trading volume of certain debt securities in the CIBM may result in prices of certain debt securities traded on such market fluctuating significantly. A Fund investing in such market is therefore subject to liquidity and volatility risks. The bid and offer spreads of the prices of such securities may be large, and the relevant Fund may therefore incur significant trading and realisation costs and may even suffer losses when selling such investments. The debt securities traded in the CIBM may be difficult or impossible to sell, and this would affect the relevant Fund’s ability to acquire or dispose of such securities at their intrinsic value.

*Settlement Risk.* To the extent that a Fund transacts in the CIBM, the relevant Fund may also be exposed to risks associated with settlement procedures and default of counterparties. The counterparty that has entered into a transaction with the relevant Fund may default in its obligation to settle the transaction by delivery of the relevant security or by payment for value.

*Risk of Default of Agents.* For investments via Bond Connect, the relevant filings, registration with PBOC and account opening must be carried out via an onshore settlement agent, offshore custody agent, registration agent or other third parties (as the case may be). As such, a Fund is subject to the risks of default or errors on the part of such third parties.

*Regulatory Risks.* Investing in the CIBM via Bond Connect is also subject to regulatory risks. The relevant rules and regulations on these regimes are subject to change, which may have potential retrospective effects. In the event that the relevant Mainland Chinese authorities suspend account opening or trading on the CIBM, a Fund's ability to invest in the CIBM will be adversely affected and limited. In such event, the Fund's ability to achieve its investment objective will be negatively affected and, after exhausting other trading alternatives, the Fund may suffer substantial losses as a result.

*System Failure Risks for Bond Connect.* 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 that the relevant systems fails to function properly, trading through Bond Connect may be disrupted. A Fund's ability to trade through Bond Connect (and hence to pursue its investment strategy) may therefore be adversely affected. The Fund may be subject to risks of delays inherent in the order placing and/or settlement systems.

*Taxation Risks.* There is currently no specific formal guidance by the PRC tax authorities on the treatment of income tax and other tax categories payable in respect of trading in CIBM by eligible foreign institutional investors via Bond Connect. Any changes in PRC tax law, future clarifications thereof, and/or subsequent retroactive enforcement by the PRC tax authorities of any tax may result in a material loss to the relevant Funds. The Investment Manager will keep the provisioning policy for tax liability under review, and may, in its discretion from time to time, make a provision for potential tax liabilities, if in their opinion such provision is warranted, or as further clarified by the PRC authorities in notifications.

### **Changes in tax law, practice and interpretation**

Applicable law and any other rules or customary practice relating to or affecting tax, or the interpretation of these in relation to the Investors, the Company and its investments may change during the life of the Company (possibly with retroactive effect). In particular, both the level and the basis of taxation may change. Additionally, the interpretation and application of tax law, rules and customary practice by any taxation authority or court may differ from that anticipated by the Company and its advisors. This could significantly affect returns to the Company and the Investors.

### **CoCos Risk**

CoCos are a sub-set of the preferred securities market and have general risk characteristics that are similar to other preferred securities. In addition, CoCos may be subject to an automatic write-down (*i.e.*, the automatic write-down of the principal amount or value of the securities, potentially to zero, and the cancellation of the securities) upon the occurrence of a specified trigger event, which could result in a Fund losing a portion or all of its investment in such securities. For example, the trigger could be activated through a loss of capital, an increase in risk weighted assets, or regulatory actions calling into question the issuer's continued viability as a going-concern. In addition, the Fund may not have any rights

with respect to repayment of the principal amount of the securities that has not become due or the payment of interest or dividends on such securities for any period from (and including) the interest or dividend payment date falling immediately prior to the occurrence of such automatic write-down. An automatic write-down could also result in a reduced income rate if the dividend or interest payment is based on the security's par value. If a CoCo provides for mandatory conversion of the security into common shares of the issuer under certain circumstances and such conversion event occurs, the Fund could experience a reduced income rate, potentially to zero, as a result of the issuer's common shares not paying a dividend. In addition, a conversion event would likely be the result of or related to the deterioration of the issuer's financial condition (*e.g.*, such as a decrease in the issuer's capital ratio) and status as a going concern, so the market price of the issuer's common shares received by the Fund may have declined, perhaps substantially, and may continue to decline, which may adversely affect the Fund's Net Asset Value. Further, the issuer's common shares would be subordinate to the issuer's other security classes and therefore worsen the Fund's standing in a bankruptcy proceeding.

It may be difficult to predict when, if at all, an automatic write-down or conversion event will occur. Accordingly, the trading behaviour of CoCos may not follow the trading behavior of other types of debt and preferred securities. Any indication that an automatic write-down or conversion event may occur can be expected to have a material adverse effect on the market price of the CoCos. Contingent convertible securities are a relatively new form of security and the full effects of an automatic write-down or conversion event have not been experienced broadly in the marketplace. The occurrence of an automatic write-down or conversion event may be unpredictable and the potential effects of such event on the Fund's yield, Net Asset Value and/or market price may be adverse. In addition, most CoCos are considered to be high yield or "junk" securities and are therefore subject to the risks of investing in below investment grade securities.

In addition to other risks described herein (*e.g.*, market risk, counterparty risk, liquidity risk and concentration risk), CoCos are also subject to each of the following risks:

*Trigger Level Risk.* Trigger levels differ and determine exposure to conversion risk depending on the distance of the capital ratio to the trigger level. It might be difficult to anticipate the triggering events that would require the debt to convert into equity.

*Coupon Cancellation Risk.* Coupon payments on CoCos are discretionary and may be cancelled by the issuer at any point, for any reason and for any length of time. The discretionary cancellation of payments is not an event of default, and there are no possibilities to require re-instatement of coupon payments or payment of any passed missed payments. Cancelled payments do not accumulate and are instead written off. Holders may see their coupons cancelled while the issuer continues to pay dividends on its common equity and variable compensation to its workforce. Coupon payments may also be subject to approval by the issuer's regulator and may be suspended in the event there are insufficient distributable reserves. As a result of uncertainty surrounding coupon payments,

CoCos may be volatile, and their price may decline rapidly in the event that coupon payments are suspended.

*Capital Structure Inversion Risk.* CoCos are typically structurally subordinated to traditional convertible bonds in the issuer's capital structure. In certain scenarios, investors in CoCos may suffer a loss of capital when equity holders do not.

*Call Extension Risk.* CoCos are subject to extension risk. CoCos are perpetual instruments and may only be callable at predetermined dates upon approval of the applicable regulatory authority. There is no guarantee that a Fund will receive return of principal on CoCos.

*Unknown Risk.* CoCos are a newer form of instrument, and the market and regulatory environment for these instruments is still evolving. As a result, it is uncertain how the overall market for CoCos would react to a trigger event or coupon suspension applicable to one issuer.

*Yield / Valuation Risk.* Investment in CoCos requires the use of internally created and maintained resources such as valuation models and databases of information about CoCos, which are subject to operational risks such as human error, system failures, and other business execution risk. The valuation of CoCos is influenced by many unpredictable factors such as: (i) the creditworthiness of the issuer and the fluctuations in the issuer's capital ratios; (ii) the supply and demand for CoCos; (iii) the general market conditions and available liquidity; and (iv) the economic, financial and political events that affect the issuer, the market it is operating in or the financial markets in general. The Fund seeks to control those operational risks by cross checking data with independent sources when available and by reviewing and making updates to those resources as necessary.

### **Concentration Risk**

To the extent that a Fund invests a large portion of its assets in a limited number of industries, sectors, or issuers, or within a limited geographical area, it can be more risky than a Fund that invests more broadly. Focusing on any company, industry, sector, country, region, type of stock, type of economy, *etc.* makes the Fund more sensitive to the factors that determine market value for the area of focus. These factors may include economic, financial or market conditions as well as social, political, environmental or other conditions. The result can be both higher volatility and a greater risk of loss.

### **Counterparty Risk**

A Fund's investments in derivatives and other financial instruments that involve counterparties subject the Fund to the risk that the counterparty could default on its obligations under the agreement, either through the counterparty's bankruptcy or failure to perform its obligations. In the event of default, the Fund could experience lengthy delays in recovering some or all of its assets as a result of bankruptcy or other reorganization proceedings. The Fund could also experience limited recoveries or no recovery at all, and the value of an investment in the Fund could decline as a result. In addition, the Fund may

default under an agreement with a counterparty which could adversely affect the Fund's investing activities.

### **Counterparty Risk**

A Fund will be subject to the risk of the inability of any counterparty to perform with respect to transactions, whether due to insolvency, bankruptcy or other causes. In particular, it should be noted that transactions may not always be delivery versus payment, and this may expose a Fund to greater counterparty risk. Generally, the Investment Manager will assess the counterparty's creditworthiness before entering into a transaction with the counterparty.

### **Credit Linked Notes**

There are particular risks associated with investments in credit linked notes. Firstly a credit linked note is a debt instrument which assumes both credit risk of the relevant reference entity or entities and the issuer of the credit linked note. There is also risk associated with the coupon payment to be made by the issuer of the credit linked note. If a reference entity in a basket of credit linked notes suffers a credit event, the coupon will be re-set and is paid on the reduced nominal amount. Both the residual capital and coupon are exposed to further credit events. In extreme cases, the entire capital may be lost. Credit linked notes may also have low liquidity.

### **Debt Securities Risk**

There are special risks associated with investing in debt securities, including:

*Credit Risk.* Credit risk refers to the possibility that the issuer of a security will not be able to make payments of interest and principal when due because the issuer of the security experiences a decline in its financial status. In some cases, regulators may force stopping, and changes in an issuer's credit rating or the market's perception of an issuer's creditworthiness may also affect the value of a Fund's investment in that issuer.

*Interest Rate Risk.* Interest rate risk is the risk that debt securities will decline in value because of changes in market interest rates. When market interest rates rise, the market value of such securities generally will fall, and therefore a Fund may underperform during periods of rising interest rates. The Fund may be subject to a greater risk of rising interest rates than would normally be the case due to the current period of historically low rates and the effect of potential government monetary policy initiatives and resulting market reaction to those initiatives. Debt and preferred securities with lower coupons or longer periods before maturity or company reset may be more sensitive to interest rate changes.

*Call Risk.* Call risk is the risk that, during a period of falling interest rates, the issuer may redeem a security by repaying it early, which may reduce a Fund's income if the proceeds are reinvested at lower interest rates.

*Prepayment and Extension Risk.* Prepayment risk is the risk that changes in interest rates, credit spreads or other factors will result in the call (repayment) of a debt security more quickly than expected, such that a Fund may have to invest the proceeds in lower yielding securities, or that expectations of such early call will negatively impact the market price of the security. Extension risk is the risk that changes in the interest rates or credit spreads may result in diminishing call expectations, which can cause prices to fall.

## **Derivatives**

The Funds investing primarily in non-U.S. securities may enter into forward foreign currency contracts ("forward currency contracts") in an effort to control some of the uncertainties of foreign currency rate fluctuations. The Funds may engage in forward currency contracts as an attempt to hedge against changes in foreign currency exchange rates affecting the values of securities that the Funds hold or intend to purchase. The Funds may also use forward currency contracts to hedge the value, in U.S. dollars, of securities it currently owns. The use of forward currency contracts to protect the value of securities against the decline in the value of a currency does not eliminate fluctuations in the underlying prices of the securities the Fund owns or intends to acquire, but it does fix a future rate of exchange. Although such contracts minimize the risk of loss resulting from a decline in the value of the hedged currency, they also limit the potential for gain resulting from an increase in the value of the hedged currency. The benefits of forward currency contracts to a Fund will depend on the ability of the Investment Manager to accurately predict future currency exchange rates.

The Funds which state the use of derivatives in their summary may also invest in options, futures and swaps. The risks associated with such derivatives include the risk that the derivative is not well correlated with the security, index or currency to which it relates, the risk that derivatives may not have the intended effects and may result in losses or missed opportunities, the risk that the Fund will be unable to sell the derivative because of an illiquid secondary market, the risk that a counterparty is unwilling or unable to meet its obligations, and the risk that the derivative transaction could expose the Fund to the effects of leverage, which could increase the Fund's exposure to the market and magnify potential losses. There is no guarantee that derivatives, to the extent employed, will have the intended effect, and their use could cause lower returns or even losses to the Fund. The use of derivatives by the Fund to hedge risk may reduce the opportunity for gain by offsetting the positive effect of favorable price movements. The use of over-the-counter derivatives subjects the Fund to credit risk of the counterparty instrument. The use of certain derivatives provides exposure to the underlying market or other reference asset in excess of the cash investment of the Fund. The use of derivatives can magnify gains and losses.

The Funds which state the use of derivatives in their summary may also invest in credit default swaps. Credit default swaps are subject to the risk that the Investment Manager will not properly assess the risk of the underlying issuer. If the Fund is selling credit protection, there is a risk that a credit event will occur and that the Fund will have to pay the counterparty. If the Fund is buying credit protection, there is a risk that no credit event will occur and the Fund will receive no benefit for the premium paid.

### **Dilution and Swing Pricing**

The actual cost of purchasing or selling the underlying investments of a Fund may be different from the carrying value of these investments in the 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 Fund and thus the Net Asset Value per Share may be adjusted in order to avoid disadvantaging the value of investments for existing shareholders. The size of the adjustment impact is determined by factors such as the volume of transactions, the purchase or sale prices of the underlying investments and the valuation method adopted to calculate the value of such underlying investments of the Fund. Such swing pricing mechanism is applied based upon the capital activity at the level of the Fund and does not address the specific circumstances of an individual investor.

### **Distressed Securities Risk**

Distressed debt and securities in default carry a high risk of loss as the issuing companies are either in severe financial distress or in bankruptcy. 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. Such securities are also generally unsecured and may be subordinated to other outstanding securities and creditors of the issuer. A 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 Fund, and the returns generated from the relevant Fund's investments may not compensate the shareholders adequately for the risks assumed.

### **Emerging Markets Risk**

Non-U.S. investment risk is typically intensified in emerging markets, which are the less developed and developing nations. Certain of these countries have in the past failed to recognize private property rights and have at times nationalized and expropriated the assets of private companies. Political, social and economic structures in many emerging market countries may be less established and may change rapidly. Such countries may also lack the social, political and economic characteristics of more developed countries. Unanticipated political, social or economic developments may affect the values of a Fund's

investments in emerging market countries and the availability to a Fund of additional investments in these countries.

The currencies of certain emerging market countries have from time to time experienced a steady devaluation relative to the U.S. dollar, and continued devaluations may adversely affect the value of a Fund's assets denominated in such currencies. Many emerging market countries have experienced substantial rates of inflation for many years, and continued inflation may adversely affect the economies and securities markets of such countries.

The small size, limited trading volume and relative inexperience of the securities markets in these countries may make a Fund's investments in such countries illiquid and more volatile than investments in more developed countries. There may be little financial or accounting information available with respect to issuers located in these countries, and it may be difficult as a result to assess the value or prospects of an investment in such issuers.

The system of share registration and custody in some emerging market countries may create certain risks of loss (including in some cases the risk of total loss) and a Fund may be required to establish special custodial or other arrangements before making investments in these countries. There is an increased risk of uninsured loss due to lost, stolen or counterfeit stock certificates or unauthorized trading, or other fraudulent activity.

Prior governmental approval of non-domestic investments may be required and foreign investment in domestic companies may be subject to limitation in some emerging market countries. Foreign ownership limitations also may be imposed by the charters of individual companies in emerging market countries to prevent, among other concerns, violation of foreign investment limitations. Repatriation of investment income, capital and proceeds of sales by foreign investors may require governmental registration and/or approval in some developing countries. A Fund could be adversely affected by delays in or a refusal to grant any required governmental registration or approval for such repatriation.

The economies of certain developing countries may be dependent upon international trade and, accordingly, have been and may continue to be adversely affected by trade barriers, exchange controls, managed adjustments in relative currency values and other protectionist measures imposed or negotiated by the countries with which they trade. These economies also have been and may continue to be adversely affected by economic conditions in the countries with which they trade.

### **Epidemic/Pandemic Related Risk**

An epidemic consists in the appearance of a particular disease in a large number of people at the same time. A pandemic occurs when an epidemic spreads in an entire area or occurs in an exceptionally high proportion of the population, thereby reaching national or global levels. The outbreak of an epidemic or a pandemic, together with any resulting restrictions on travel or quarantines imposed, may have a negative impact on the economy and business activity globally (including in the countries in which a Fund invests), and thereby may adversely affect the performance of a Fund's investments, the ability of the Investment

Manager to access markets or source new investments or implement a Fund's investment policy in the manner originally contemplated, a Fund's net asset value and therefore its investors. A Fund's access to liquidity could also be impaired in circumstances where the need for liquidity to meet redemption requests may rise significantly. Furthermore, the rapid development of an epidemic may preclude prediction as to its ultimate adverse impact on economic and market conditions, and, as a result, presents material uncertainty and risk with respect to a Fund and the performance of its investments.

The impact of a health crisis such as an epidemic or a pandemic or other outbreaks of disease may affect the global economy in ways that cannot necessarily be foreseen at the present time. Such a health crisis may exacerbate other pre-existing political, social and economic risks. Furthermore, the risks related to epidemics and pandemics or other outbreaks of disease are heightened due to uncertainty as to whether such an event would qualify as a force majeure event. If a force majeure event is determined to have occurred, a Fund's counterparty may be relieved of its obligations under certain contracts to which the Fund (or its delegate) is a party, or, if it has not, the Fund (or its delegate) may be required to meet its contractual obligations, despite potential constraints on their operations and/or financial stability. Any such impact could adversely affect a Fund's performance, resulting in losses to investors.

### **Equity Funds General**

Because each Fund invests substantially all of its assets in equity securities, the main risk is that the value of the equity securities it holds may decrease in response to the activities of an individual company or in response to general market, business and economic conditions. If this occurs, a Fund's share price may also decrease. In addition, there is the risk that individual securities may not perform as expected or a strategy used by the Investment Manager may fail to produce its intended result.

### **ESG Risks**

#### *Sustainability Risk*

A 'sustainability risk' means an environmental, social or governance event or condition that, if it occurs, could cause an actual or a potential negative impact on the value of the investment. If a sustainability risk associated with an investment materialises, it could lead to the loss in value of an investment and on the value of the Fund containing that investment.

Sustainability risks may vary from investment to investment, may depend on several factors including, but not limited to, the type, extent, complexity and duration of the event or condition, prevailing market conditions and the existence (or not) of any mitigating factors and could include, but are not limited to, risks of environmental damage, social risks (including safety and human rights violations and exploitation), governance risks (inadequate oversight and internal governance of the companies, including management and board structure, compensation and approach to anti-bribery and anti-corruption), litigation risks linked to ESG issues, as well as the risk of political and regulatory changes on investments related to each of the foregoing.

Incorporating sustainability risk into the investment strategy may limit the types and number of investment opportunities available to a particular Fund and as a result, the Fund may underperform other funds that do not take sustainable risk into account, may underperform the market as a whole or other funds that incorporate ESG into their investment process.

Inadequate sustainability practices and policies can lead to, among other things, inefficiencies, operational disruption, litigation and reputational damage to the Sub-Fund and therefore investors. The prices of securities in which a Fund invests may be adversely affected by ESG conditions and events, which may potentially affect a Fund's value and performance.

Funds that do not incorporate sustainability risk into their security selection process, or do not seek to promote ESG characteristics or do not have sustainable investment as their objective may have greater exposure to this risk.

#### *ESG Data Risk*

ESG information that is used to determine companies' ESG and sustainability-related characteristics may be provided by third-party sources or internal analysis and may be based on backward-looking analysis and data.

The subjective nature of non-financial ESG criteria means a wide variety of outcomes are possible. The data may not adequately address material sustainability factors and the analysis and any categorization that follows is based on the information that is available at the time and may be subject to change in the future. The analysis is also dependent on companies disclosing relevant data and the availability of this data can be limited or incorrect, or incomplete.

The wide variety of types, sources and uses of ESG data can produce very different results. There are many sources of ESG data, whether internal or external, and this data can be used in very different ways (for example, the raw data could be used to generate a score or a basket of ESG data could be used to produce a score).

Many ESG scores focus on an assessment of how sustainable an investment currently is, whereas as an active manager the investment manager often analyses and monitors the progress an investment is making towards being or improving sustainability and whether investment manager can assist in that process. Scoring the ESG of a portfolio using ESG scores that rely on a current assessment is likely to produce very different result from scoring a portfolio.

## *ESG Risk General*

The Funds will seek to exclude holdings deemed inconsistent with applicable ESG factors. As a result, the universe of investments available to the Funds will be more limited than other Funds that do not apply such factors. In applying the ESG factors, the Funds will be precluded from purchasing, or required to sell, certain investments that otherwise meet its objective and strategy and that might otherwise be advantageous to hold. The application of the ESG factors could result in performance that is better or worse than the performance of a similar fund, depending on the performance of the excluded investments and the investments included in place of such excluded investments. The Funds' ESG factors may effectively accommodate the requirements of certain Fund investors but not others and may be more or less restrictive than a particular Fund investor might otherwise prefer.

### **Exchange of information on reportable cross-border arrangements**

Following the adoption of the Luxembourg law of 25 March 2020, as amended from time to time (the "**DAC 6 Law**") implementing Council Directive (EU) 2018/822 of 25 May 2018 amending Directive 2011/16/EU as regards mandatory automatic exchange of information in the field of taxation in relation to reportable cross-border arrangements ("**DAC 6**"), certain intermediaries and, in certain cases, taxpayers have to report to the Luxembourg tax authorities within a specific timeframe certain information on reportable cross-border arrangements.

A reportable cross-border arrangement covers any cross-border arrangement that is linked to one or more of certain types of taxes, and contains at least one hallmark (i.e., a characteristic or feature that presents an indication of a potential risk of tax avoidance) as set out in the DAC 6 Law. A cross-border arrangement will only fall within the scope of the DAC 6 Law if one of the following triggering events occurs: the arrangement is made available, or is ready for implementation, or the first step of the implementation of the arrangement is taken; or aid, assistance or advice is provided with respect to designing, marketing, organising, making available for implementation or managing the implementation of a reportable cross-border arrangement.

The reported information will be automatically exchanged by the Luxembourg tax authorities with the competent authorities of all other EU Member States. As the case may be, the Company may take any action that it deems required, necessary, advisable, desirable or convenient to comply with the reporting obligations imposed on intermediaries and/or taxpayers pursuant to the DAC 6 Law. Failure to provide the necessary information under DAC 6 may result in the application of fines or penalties in the relevant EU jurisdiction(s) involved in the cross-border arrangement at stake. Under the DAC 6 Law, late reporting, incomplete or inaccurate reporting, or non-reporting may be subject to a fine of up to EUR 250,000.

### **Exchange Rates**

The Reference Currency of each Fund is the US\$. Investments are made that best benefit the objective and performance of each Fund in the view of the Investment Manager.

Changes in foreign currency exchange rates may affect the value of the Shares held in the Funds which invest in non-U.S. investments and, of those Shares held in a Class denominated in a currency other than the US\$.

Shareholders investing in the Funds other than in their reference currency should be aware that exchange rate fluctuations could cause the value of their investment to diminish or increase.

### **FATCA and CRS**

Under the terms of the amended Luxembourg law dated 24 July 2015 implementing the Model 1 Intergovernmental Agreement between the Government of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and the Government of the United States of America to Improve International Tax Compliance and with respect to the United States information reporting provisions commonly known as the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act (“**FATCA**”) (“**FATCA Law**”) and the amended Luxembourg Law dated 18 December 2015 on the Common Reporting Standard (“**CRS**”) implementing Council Directive 2014/107/EU of 9 December 2014 as regards mandatory exchange of information in the field of taxation and setting forth to the OECD’s multilateral competent authority agreement on automatic exchange of financial account information signed on 29 October 2014 in Berlin, with effect as of 1 January 2016 (“**CRS Law**”), the Company is likely to be treated as a Luxembourg Reporting Financial Institution. As such, the Company may require all Investors to provide documentary evidence of their tax residence and all other information deemed necessary to comply with the above-mentioned regulations.

Should the Company become subject to withholding tax and/or penalties as a result of non-compliance under the FATCA Law, and/or penalties as a result of non-compliance under the CRS Law, the value of the Shares held by all Investors may be materially affected.

Furthermore, the Company may also be required to withhold tax on certain payments to its Investors which would not be compliant with FATCA (i.e., the so-called foreign passthru payments withholding tax obligation).

### **Geographic Risk**

Although the Funds investing primarily in non-U.S. securities currently intend to maintain geographic diversification, the Funds have the flexibility to invest up to 50% (65% for Global Leaders Fund) of their equity holdings in securities of issuers in any one country. To the extent that a Fund invests a significant portion of its assets in any one country, the Fund will be subject to greater risk of loss or volatility than if the Fund always maintained wide geographic diversity among the countries in which it invests. Investing in any one country makes a Fund more vulnerable to the risks of adverse securities markets, exchange rates and social, political, regulatory and economic events in that one country.

### **Hedged Share Classes**

With regard to classes of Shares offered in a currency other than the Reference Currency of the relevant Fund which are hedged against currency risk, investors should note that the hedging strategy is designed to reduce, but not eliminate, exchange-rate risk. There is no guarantee that the exposure of the currency in which the Shares are denominated can be fully hedged against the Reference Currency of the relevant Fund. Investors should note that the hedging strategy is a passive investment strategy and is not intended for speculative purposes. The successful implementation of the hedging strategy may reduce the benefit of decreases in the value of their currency of investment in relation to the Reference Currency of the Fund.

### **Initial Public Offering ("IPO") Risk**

A Fund may participate in IPOs. IPOs are subject to high volatility and are of limited availability. A Fund's ability to obtain allocations of IPOs is subject to allocation by members of the underwriting syndicate to various clients and allocation by the Investment Manager among its clients. When a Fund is small in size, the Fund's participation in IPOs may have a magnified impact on the Fund's performance.

### **Internal Investment Criteria Restrictions**

In addition to each Fund's investment policies and restrictions, the Investment Manager may adopt certain additional internal investment criteria which may further restrict Fund investments, such as internal Investment Manager policies limiting or prohibiting investments in businesses that engage in certain types of weapons manufacturing, natural resource activities or are identified as failing to meet certain criteria put forth by the United Nations or other global organizations (including "sanctions" lists).

## Investment Risks

The following table summarizes the types of principal risks described below that each Fund may experience.

	Market	ESG	Counterparty	Concentration Risk	Small Cap Stocks	Mid Cap Stock	Bank Loans	IPO	Private Placement	Liquidity	Non-U.S. Investments	Emerging Markets	Geographic	Epidemic / Pandemic
Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emerging Markets Frontier Debt Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emerging Markets Growth Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emerging Markets Leaders Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Global Leaders Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Global Leaders Sustainability Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
U.S. Large Cap Growth Fund	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	✓				✓
U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓
U.S. All Cap Growth Fund	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓
U.S. Small-Mid Cap Core Fund	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓

	Derivatives	Debt Securities	CoCos	ABS	Below Investment Grade Securities	Distressed Securities	Bond Connect	Stock Connect	QFII	Dilution and Swing Pricing	Operating Expenses
Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓
Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
Emerging Markets Frontier Debt Fund	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓
Emerging Markets Growth Fund	✓							✓		✓	✓
Emerging Markets Leaders Fund	✓							✓		✓	✓
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund	✓							✓		✓	✓
Global Leaders Fund	✓							✓		✓	✓
Global Leaders Sustainability Fund	✓							✓		✓	✓
U.S. Large Cap Growth Fund										✓	✓
U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund										✓	✓
U.S. All Cap Growth Fund										✓	✓
U.S. Small-Mid Cap Core Fund										✓	✓

## **Investment Through Nominees**

Investors wishing to invest in a Fund through a nominee that invests in a Fund in its name but on behalf of the investors should ensure they have an accurate understanding of their rights and of the means available to exercise these rights against the Fund when using the services of such nominee or in the case of registration through such nominee. To this end, investors should seek external advice if necessary.

## **Liquidity Risk**

Liquidity risk exists when a particular instrument is difficult to purchase or sell. Investments that trade less can be more difficult or more costly to buy, or to sell, than more liquid or active investments. It may not be possible to sell or otherwise dispose of illiquid securities both at the price and within a time period deemed desirable by a Fund. Securities subject to liquidity risk in which a Fund may invest include emerging market securities, stocks of smaller companies, private placements, Rule 144A securities, below investment grade securities and other securities without an established market.

Certain debt and preferred securities may be substantially less liquid than many other securities, such as common stocks or U.S. government securities. Illiquid securities involve the risk that the securities will not be able to be sold at the time desired by the Fund or at prices approximating the value at which the Fund is carrying the securities on its books. During periods of high volatility, the Fund may experience increased redemptions, requiring it to liquidate securities when it is difficult to do so.

Derivatives traded over-the-counter may not be standardised and thus may involve negotiations on each contract on an individual basis. This may result in such contracts being less liquid than exchange-traded derivatives. The swap market, which is largely over-the-counter has grown substantially in recent years with a large number of banks and investment banking firms acting both as principals and as agents utilising standardised swap documentation. As a result, the swap market has become liquid but there can be no assurance that a liquid secondary market will exist at any specified time for any particular swap.

## **Market Risk**

The value of the securities owned by a Fund may go up or down, sometimes rapidly or unpredictably. Securities may decline in value due to factors affecting securities markets generally or particular industries represented in the securities markets. The value of a security may decline due to general market conditions that are not specifically related to a particular company, such as real or perceived adverse economic conditions, changes in the general outlook for corporate earnings, changes in interest or currency rates or adverse investor sentiment generally. The value of a security may also decline due to factors that affect a particular industry or industries, such as labor shortages or increased production

costs and competitive conditions within an industry. During a general downturn in the securities markets, multiple asset classes may decline in value simultaneously.

### **Mid Cap Stock Risk**

Stocks of mid cap companies involve greater risk than those of larger, more established companies. The value of securities issued by mid-cap companies may go up or down, sometimes rapidly and unpredictably, due to narrower markets and more limited managerial and financial resources than large-cap companies. A Fund's investments in mid-cap companies may increase the volatility of its portfolio.

### **Non-U.S. Investment Risk**

The risks of investing in securities of non-U.S. issuers may include less publicly available information, less governmental regulation and supervision of non-U.S. stock exchanges, brokers and issuers, share registration and custody, a lack of uniform accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards, practices and requirements, the possibility of expropriation, seizure or nationalization, confiscatory taxation, limits on repatriation, adverse changes in investment or exchange control regulations, political instability, restrictions on the flow of international capital, imposition of foreign withholding taxes, fluctuating currencies, inflation, difficulty in obtaining and enforcing judgments against foreign entities or other adverse political, social or diplomatic developments that could affect a Fund's investments. Securities of some non-U.S. issuers are less liquid and their prices more volatile than the securities of U.S. companies. In addition, the time period for settlement of transactions in certain non-U.S. markets generally is longer than for U.S. markets.

Non-U.S. securities held by a Fund usually will be denominated in currencies other than the U.S. dollar. Therefore, changes in foreign exchange rates will affect the value of the securities held by a Fund either beneficially or adversely. Fluctuations in foreign currency exchange rates will also affect the dollar value of dividends and interest earned, gains and losses realized on the sale of securities and net investment income and gains, if any, available for distribution to shareholders.

### **Operating Expenses**

The Funds investing primarily in non-U.S. securities are expected to incur operating expenses that are higher than those of funds investing exclusively in U.S. securities because expenses such as custodial fees related to non-U.S. investments are usually higher than those associated with investments in U.S. securities. In addition, dividends and interest from non-U.S. securities may be subject to foreign withholding taxes.

### **Portfolio Turnover**

No Fund intends to trade portfolio securities for the purpose of realizing short-term profits. However, each Fund will adjust its portfolio as considered advisable in view of prevailing or anticipated market conditions and the Fund's investment objective, and there is no

limitation on the length of time securities must be held by the Fund prior to being sold. Portfolio turnover rate will not be a limiting factor for a Fund. Each Fund's turnover rate will vary from year to year. Higher portfolio turnover rates involve correspondingly higher transaction costs, which are borne directly by a Fund. In addition, a Fund may realize significant short term and long-term capital gains.

### **Private Placement Risk**

A Fund may invest in private placements. Investments in private placements may be difficult to sell at the time and at the price desired by a Fund; companies making private placements may make less information available than publicly offered companies; and privately placed securities are more difficult to value than publicly traded securities. These factors may have a negative effect on the performance of a Fund. Securities acquired through private placements are not registered for resale in the general securities market and may be classified as illiquid.

### **QFII**

Investments in domestic securities of the PRC denominated in Renminbi may be made through a Qualified Foreign Institutional Investor ("**QFII**") or a Renminbi QFII ("**RQFII**") license, under which an investment manager is granted an investment quota by the Chinese State Administration of Foreign Exchange ("**SAFE**") and subject to applicable regulatory requirements. An entity holding either QFII or RQFII license is not required to trade via Stock Connect, which is subject to daily and aggregate quotas.

The Investment Manager has been granted a QFII quota by SAFE, but each of the relevant Funds may not have exclusive use of the entire quota as the Investment Manager may at its discretion allocate such quota to other Funds. As a result, a Fund may be adversely impacted if there is insufficient QFII quota to make investments. QFII status could also be suspended, reduced or revoked, which may affect a Fund's ability to invest in eligible securities, require a Fund to dispose of such securities and could have an adverse effect on the Fund's performance.

The laws and regulations governing the establishment and operation of the QFII regime and the RQFII regime in the PRC (the "**QFII Regulations**") impose strict restrictions on investments (including rules on investment restrictions, minimum holding periods and repatriation of capital or profits) that are applicable to the Investment Manager as well as to the investments made by the Fund. It is uncertain whether a court would protect the Fund's right to securities held for it by a licensed QFII if the QFII came under legal, financial or political pressure.

Where a Fund invests in China A-Shares or other securities in China through a QFII, such securities will be maintained by a custodian bank (the "**QFII Custodian**") appointed by the QFII in accordance with the QFII Regulations, and the relevant China A-Shares will be held through a securities account with ChinaClear. Such account may be in the name of the QFII and not in the name of a Fund, and the assets within such account may be held for and on

behalf of clients of the QFII including but not limited to a Fund. A Fund may suffer substantial losses if any of the key operators or parties (including the QFII Custodian and broker) is bankrupt, in default and/or disqualified from performing its obligations (including execution or settlement of any transaction or transfer of monies or securities).

Even though the PRC regulators have affirmed their recognition of the concepts of nominee holders and beneficiary owners, these concepts are relatively new in the PRC legal system and remain untested under the QFII scheme. Hence, the assets of a Fund held within an account may be subject to a risk of being treated as part of the assets of the QFII and be vulnerable to claims by creditors of the QFII in the event of the insolvency of the QFII. In addition, the assets of the Fund may not be adequately segregated from the assets of other Funds, funds or clients investing through the QFII. Investors should also note that cash deposited in the cash account of the relevant Funds with the QFII Custodian will not be segregated but will be a debt owing from the QFII Custodian to the relevant Funds as a depositor. Such cash will be co-mingled with cash belonging to other clients of the QFII Custodian.

### **Repurchase Agreements**

Each Fund may enter into repurchase agreements. If the other party to a repurchase agreement should default, a Fund might suffer a loss to the extent that the proceeds from the sale of the underlying securities and/or other collateral held by the Fund in connection with the transaction are less than the repurchase price or, as the case may be, the value of the underlying securities. In addition, in the event of bankruptcy or similar proceedings of the other party to such agreement or its failure otherwise to perform its obligations on the repurchase date, the Company could suffer losses, including loss of interest on or principal of the security and costs associated with delay and enforcement of the repurchase agreements.

### **Small Cap Stock Risk**

Stocks of small cap companies involve greater risk than those of larger, more established companies. This is because small cap companies may be in earlier stages of development, may be dependent on a small number of products or services, may lack substantial capital reserves and/or do not have proven track records. Small cap companies may be more adversely affected by poor economic or market conditions, and may be traded in low volumes, which may increase volatility and liquidity risks. From time to time, each of the Funds that invest in small cap stocks may invest in the equity securities of very small cap companies, often referred to as micro cap companies. For purposes of the Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund, micro cap companies are those with market capitalizations of \$500 million or less at the time of a Fund's investment. For purposes of the US equity Funds micro cap companies are considered those with market capitalizations of \$1 billion or less at the time of a Fund's investment. The considerations noted above are generally intensified for these investments. Any convertible debentures issued by small cap companies are likely to be lower-rated or non-rated securities, which generally involve more credit risk than

debentures in the higher rating categories and generally include some speculative characteristics, including uncertainties or exposure to adverse business, financial or economic conditions that could lead to inadequate capacity to meet timely interest and principal payments.

### **Stock Connect**

Investing in the PRC is subject to the risks of investing in emerging markets and additional risks which are specific to the PRC market.

As a developing market, investing in securities of Chinese issuers involves special risks, including: fluctuations in the rate of exchange between China's currency and the US dollar, greater price volatility, illiquid markets, cost inflation, investment and repatriation controls, less developed corporate disclosure and government standards, and uncertainty of China's ability to develop and sustain comprehensive securities, corporate or commercial laws. Issuers of Chinese securities may be subject to changes in regulations and tax policies as China has been engaged in economic and financial market liberalization. Investments in securities of certain Chinese issuers may be subject to large fluctuations over short periods of time, and governmental involvement in and influence on the private sector may also impact investments as the Chinese government continues to liberalize its economy and regulatory system.

Stock Connect is a securities trading and clearing links program developed by Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited ("**HKEX**"), the SSE, the SZSE and ChinaClear with an aim to achieve mutual stock market access between the PRC and Hong Kong. Under Stock Connect, the Emerging Markets Growth Fund, Emerging Markets Leaders Fund, Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund and Global Leaders Fund (collectively, the "**Stock Connect Funds**") may trade certain eligible shares listed on the SSE and SZSE. The trading is subject to rules and regulations issued from time to time.

In extreme circumstances, the Stock Connect Funds may incur losses due to limited investment capabilities, or may not be able to fully implement or pursue its investment objectives or strategy, due to local investment restrictions, illiquidity of the Chinese domestic securities market, and/or delay or disruption in execution and settlement of trades.

*Quota Limitations.* Stock Connect is subject to quota limitations; in particular, once the remaining balance of the relevant quota drops to zero or the daily quota is exceeded, buy orders will be rejected (although investors will be permitted to sell their cross-boundary securities regardless of the quota balance). Therefore, quota limitations may restrict a Stock Connect Fund's ability to invest through Stock Connect on a timely basis, and the relevant Stock Connect Fund may not be able to effectively pursue its investment strategy.

*Legal/Beneficial Ownership.* The SSE and SZSE shares in respect of the Stock Connect Funds are held by the Depositary/sub-custodian in accounts in the Hong Kong Central Clearing and Settlement System maintained by the HKSCC as central securities depositary in Hong Kong. HKSCC in turn holds the SSE and SZSE shares, as the nominee holder, through an

omnibus securities account in its name registered with ChinaClear. The precise nature and rights of the Stock Connect Funds as the beneficial owners of the SSE and SZSE shares through HKSCC as nominee is not well defined under PRC law. Because HKSCC is only a nominee holder and not the beneficial owner of SSE or SZSE Shares, in the unlikely event that HKSCC becomes subject to winding up proceedings in Hong Kong, investors should note that SSE and SZSE Shares will not be regarded as part of the general assets of HKSCC available for distribution to creditors even under Mainland China law. However, HKSCC will not be obliged to take any legal action or enter into court proceedings to enforce any rights on behalf of investors in SSE or SZSE Shares in Mainland China. Foreign investors like the concerned Stock Connect Funds investing through the Stock Connect holding the SSE or SZSE Shares through HKSCC are the beneficial owners of the assets and are therefore eligible to exercise their rights through the nominee only.

*Clearing and Settlement Risk.* HKSCC and ChinaClear have established the clearing links and each has become a participant of the other to facilitate clearing and settlement of cross-boundary trades. For cross-boundary trades initiated in a market, the clearing house of that market will on one hand clear and settle with its own clearing participants, and on the other hand undertake to fulfil the clearing and settlement obligations of its clearing participants with the counterparty clearing house. As the national central counterparty of the PRC's securities market, ChinaClear operates a comprehensive network of clearing, settlement and stock holding infrastructure. ChinaClear has established a risk management framework and measures that are approved and supervised by the China Securities Regulatory Commission. The chances of ChinaClear default are considered to be remote. In the remote event of a ChinaClear default, HKSCC's liabilities in SSE and SZSE Shares under its market contracts with clearing participants will be limited to assisting clearing participants in pursuing their claims against ChinaClear. HKSCC should in good faith, seek recovery of the outstanding stocks and monies from ChinaClear through available legal channels or through ChinaClear's liquidation. In that event, the relevant Stock Connect Fund may suffer delay in the recovery process or may not fully recover its losses from ChinaClear.

*Suspension Risk.* Each of the SEHK, SSE and SZSE reserves the right to suspend trading if necessary for ensuring an orderly and fair market and that risks are managed prudently. Consent from the relevant regulator would be sought before a suspension is triggered. Where a suspension is effected, a Stock Connect Fund's ability to access the PRC market will be adversely affected.

*Differences in Trading Day.* Stock Connect only operates on days when both the PRC and Hong Kong markets are open for trading and when banks in both markets are open on the corresponding settlement days. It is therefore possible that there are occasions when it is a normal trading day for the PRC market but the Stock Connect Funds cannot carry out any trading via Stock Connect. The Stock Connect Funds may be subject to a risk of price fluctuations during the time when Stock Connect is not trading as a result.

*Restrictions on Selling Imposed by Front-end Monitoring.* PRC regulations require that before an investor sells any share, there should be sufficient shares in the account; otherwise the

SSE or SZSE will reject the sell order concerned. SEHK will carry out pre-trade checking on sell orders of its participants (*i.e.*, the stock brokers) to ensure there is no over-selling. If a Stock Connect Fund intends to sell certain shares it holds, it must transfer those shares to the respective accounts of its broker(s) before the market opens on the day of selling ("trading day"). If it fails to meet this deadline, it will not be able to sell those shares on the trading day. Because of this requirement, a Stock Connect Fund may not be able to dispose of its holdings in a timely manner.

*Operational Risk.* Stock Connect is premised on the functioning of the operational systems of the relevant market participants. Market participants are permitted 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. The securities regimes and legal systems of the two markets differ significantly and market participants may need to address issues arising from the differences on an on-going basis. 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 fail to function properly, trading in both markets through the program could be disrupted. A Stock Connect Fund's ability to access the market (and hence to pursue its investment strategy) may be adversely affected.

*Regulatory Risk.* Stock Connect is a novel concept. The current regulations are untested and there is no certainty as to how they will be applied. In addition, the current regulations are subject to change and there can be no assurance that Stock Connect will not be abolished. New regulations may be issued from time to time by the regulators/stock exchanges in the PRC and Hong Kong in connection with operations, legal enforcement and cross-border trades under Stock Connect. Stock Connect Funds may be adversely affected as a result of such changes.

*Recalling of Eligible Stocks.* When a stock is recalled from the scope of eligible stocks for trading via Stock Connect, the stock can only be sold but restricted from being bought. This may affect the investment portfolio or strategies of the relevant Stock Connect Funds, for example, if the Investment Manager wishes to purchase a stock that is recalled from the scope of eligible stocks.

*No Protection by Investor Compensation Fund.* Investment in SSE and SZSE Shares via Stock Connect is conducted through brokers, and is subject to the risks of default by such brokers' in their obligations. Investments of Stock Connect Funds are not covered by the Hong Kong's Investor Compensation Fund, which has been established to pay compensation to investors of any nationality who suffer pecuniary losses as a result of default of a licensed intermediary or authorized financial institution in relation to exchange-traded products in Hong Kong. Since default matters in respect of SSE and SZSE Shares via Stock Connect do not involve products listed or traded in SEHK or Hong Kong Futures Exchange Limited, they will not be covered by the Investor Compensation Fund. Therefore the Stock Connect Funds are exposed to the risks of default of the broker(s) it engages in its trading through Stock Connect.

*China A-Shares Tax Risk.* Uncertainties in the Chinese tax rules governing taxation of income and gains from investments in China A-Shares could result in unexpected tax liabilities for the Stock Connect Funds. China generally imposes withholding tax at a rate of 10% on dividends and interest derived by nonresident enterprises from issuers resident in China. China also imposes withholding tax at a rate of 10% on capital gains derived by nonresident enterprises from investments in an issuer resident in China, subject to an exemption or reduction pursuant to domestic law or a double taxation agreement or arrangement.

The current PRC tax laws and regulations and interpretations thereof may be revised or amended in the future, including with respect to the possible liability of the Stock Connect Fund for obligations of a Stock Connect investor. The withholding taxes on dividends, interest and capital gains may in principle be subject to a reduced rate under an applicable tax treaty, but the application of such treaties in the case of a Stock Connect investor such as the Stock Connect Funds is also uncertain.

The PRC rules for taxation of foreign investors are evolving and certain tax regulations to be issued by the PRC State Administration of Taxation and/or PRC Ministry of Finance to clarify the subject matter may apply retrospectively, even if such rules are adverse to the Fund and its shareholders.

#### **Tax treatment of the Investors**

The tax position of the Investors may vary according to their particular financial and tax situation. The structuring of the Company and/or its investments may not be tax-efficient for a particular prospective Investor. No undertaking is given that amounts distributed or allocated to the Investors will have any particular characteristics or that any specific tax treatment will apply. Further, no assurance is given that any particular investment structure in which the Company has a direct or indirect interest will be suitable for all Investors and, in certain circumstances, such structures may lead to additional costs or reporting obligations for some or all of the Investors.

Prospective Investors should consider their own tax position in relation to subscribing for, purchasing, owning and disposing of Interests, and consult their own tax advisors as appropriate. None of the Fund and its affiliates, or any officer, director, member, partner, employee, advisor or agent thereof can take responsibility in this regard.

#### **Taxation in foreign jurisdictions**

Investors, the Company and/or any vehicle in which the Company has a direct or indirect interest may be subject to tax in jurisdictions in which the Investors, the Company or any such vehicles are incorporated, organised, controlled, managed, have a permanent establishment or permanent representative, or are otherwise located and/or in which investments are made and/or with which investments have a connection.

Moreover, taxes such as withholding tax or similar taxes may be imposed on profits of, or proceeds received by, the Company from investments in such jurisdictions, and such taxes

may not be creditable to, or deductible by, the Company or the Investors in their respective jurisdictions.

### **Temporary Defensive Position**

Each Fund may significantly alter its make-up as a temporary defensive strategy. A defensive strategy will be employed only if, in the judgment of the Investment Manager, investments in a Fund's usual markets or types of securities become decidedly unattractive because of current or anticipated adverse economic, financial, political and social factors. Generally, a Fund will remain fully invested, and the Investment Manager will not attempt to time the market. However, for temporary defensive purposes, a Fund may invest up to 100% of its assets in other types of securities, including high-quality commercial paper, obligations of banks and savings institutions, U.S. Government securities, government agency securities and repurchase agreements, or it may retain funds in cash. When a Fund is invested defensively, it may not meet its investment objective.

### **Total Return Swaps**

The Funds referenced in the sub-section headed "*Securities Financing Transactions and Use of Derivatives in Funds*" of Appendix B headed "*Investment Know How*" may, as a part of their investment policy, enter into total return swaps agreements. Total return swaps involve the exchange of the right to receive the total return, coupons plus capital gains or losses, of a specified reference asset, index or basket of assets against the right to make fixed or floating payments.

Where a Fund enters into total return swaps on a net basis, the two payment streams are netted out, with each Fund receiving or paying, as the case may be, only the net amount of the two payments. Total return swaps entered into on a net basis do not involve the physical delivery of investments, other underlying assets or principal. Accordingly, it is intended that the risk of loss with respect to total return swaps is limited to the net amount of the difference between the total rate of return of a reference investment, index or basket of investments and the fixed or floating payments. If the other party to a total return swap defaults, in normal circumstances the Fund's risk of loss consists of the net amount of interest or total return payments that the Fund is contractually entitled to receive.

The use of total return swaps is a highly specialized activity which involves investment techniques and risks different from those associated with ordinary portfolio securities transactions.

## SECTION V – RISK MANAGEMENT

For the Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund, and the Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund, market exposure will be calculated using a Relative Value-at-Risk (VaR) approach in connection with the following reference portfolios:

<b>Name of Fund</b>	<b>Reference Portfolio</b>
Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund	JPMorgan Emerging Markets Bond Index (EMBI) Global Diversified
Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund	JPMorgan Government Bond Index-Emerging Market (GBI-EM) Global Diversified

VaR reports for the Funds listed in the foregoing table will be produced and monitored on a daily basis. The leverage is expressed as the derivative notional total.

<b>Name of Fund</b>	<b>Expected maximum level of leverage*</b>
Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund	200%
Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund	500%

(\*calculated as the sum of the notionals of the derivatives used relative to the net asset value of a Fund)

For all other Funds, the global exposure is calculated using the commitment approach, in accordance with the most recent applicable guidelines of the European Securities and Markets Authority (ESMA). The Company and the Management Company shall ensure that for these Funds, global exposure relating to derivative instruments does not exceed the total net value of its portfolio. The risk exposure is calculated taking into account the current value of the underlying assets.

## SECTION VI - INVESTING IN THE FUND

## Information about Shares

Shares (the "**Shares**") are offered without par value issued in William Blair SICAV (the "**Company**"), each Share being linked to one of the following sub-funds of the Company (each a "**Fund**"):

Name of the Funds	Reference Currency
William Blair SICAV - Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund (the " <b>Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund</b> ")	US\$
William Blair SICAV - Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund (the " <b>Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund</b> ")	US\$
William Blair SICAV - Debt Fund (the "Emerging Markets <b>Frontier Debt Fund</b> ")	US\$
William Blair SICAV - Emerging Markets Growth Fund (the " <b>Emerging Markets Growth Fund</b> ")	US\$
William Blair SICAV - Emerging Markets Leaders Fund (the " <b>Emerging Markets Leaders Fund</b> ")	US\$
William Blair SICAV - Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund (the " <b>Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund</b> ")	US\$
William Blair SICAV - Global Leaders Fund (the " <b>Global Leaders Fund</b> ")	US\$
William Blair SICAV - Global Leaders Sustainability Fund (the " <b>Global Leaders Sustainability Fund</b> ")	US\$
William Blair SICAV - U.S. All Cap Growth Fund (the " <b>U.S. All Cap Growth Fund</b> ")	US\$
William Blair SICAV - U.S. Large Cap Growth Fund (the " <b>U.S. Large Cap Growth Fund</b> ")	US\$
William Blair SICAV - U.S. Small-Mid Cap Core Fund (the " <b>U.S. Small-Mid Cap Core Fund</b> ")	US\$
William Blair SICAV - U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund (the " <b>U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund</b> ")	US\$

The share classes offered in each Fund are further described below in the section headed "*Classes of Shares*". The members of the board of directors of the Company (the "**Directors**") may decide to create further classes of Shares (each a "**Class**") and/or Funds with different characteristics, and provide for conversion of Classes and/or Funds; in which case this Prospectus will be updated accordingly. Each Class may be sub-divided into: (i) accumulation of income and/or distribution of income categories; and/or (ii) hedged and/or un-hedged categories; and/or (iii) different investment currencies (each a "**Category**"). For further information about the rights attaching to the various Classes and/or Categories, please refer to the section headed "*Classes of Shares*".

The reference currency of each Fund is the currency in which each Fund is denominated (the "**Reference Currency**"). The dealing currency of each Class is the currency in which each Class is denominated (the "**Dealing Currency**"). The consolidated currency of the Company is the United States Dollar (the "**US\$**").

### **Form of Shares**

All Shares are issued in un-certificated registered form, and the share register is conclusive evidence of ownership.

Shares are freely transferable (with the exception that Shares may not be transferred to a Prohibited Person or a US Person, as defined in the section headed "*Subscription Procedure*"). Upon issue, Shares are entitled to participate equally in the profits and dividends of the Funds as well as in their liquidation proceeds.

Shares do not carry any preferential or pre-emptive rights and each Share is entitled to one vote at all general meetings of shareholders. Fractions of Shares are not entitled to a vote, but are entitled to participate in the distribution and liquidation proceeds. Shares are issued without par value and must be fully paid for on subscription.

Currently, categories are offered either (i) with accumulation of income or with distribution of income, (ii) in the Reference Currency or a Class Currency or (iii) with or without a currency hedge from the Class Currency to the Reference Currency of the Fund concerned, as detailed in the section headed "*Classes of Shares*".

Upon the death of a shareholder, the Directors reserve the right to require the provision of appropriate legal documentation in order to verify the rights of all and any successors in title to Shares.

### **Issue of Shares**

Shares will be issued at a price based on the net asset value (the "**Net Asset Value**"). Fractions of Shares up to three (3) decimal places will be issued, the Company being entitled to receive the adjustment.

**It should be remembered that the Net Asset Value per Share can go down as well as up.** An investor may not get back the entire amount it has invested, particularly if Shares are redeemed soon after they are issued and the Shares have been subject to charges. Changes in exchange rates may also cause the Net Asset Value per Share in the investor's base currency to go up or down. Neither the Management Company, the Company, the Investment Manager, any Director nor any of their advisors can give a guarantee as to the future performance of or the future return from the Company.

No Shares will be issued by the Company during any period in which the determination of the Net Asset Value of the Shares in the Funds is suspended by the Company, as noted under section headed "*Temporary Suspension of Determination of Net Asset Value*" in Appendix C.

### **Classes of Shares**

The Company currently offers institutional investors and nominees acting in their own name but on behalf of retail investors the Funds listed in the subsequent section headed "*Subscription for Shares*", which invest in accordance with their respective investment policies, as described herein.

The Company currently offers Class A Shares, Class B Shares, Class I Shares, Class IR Shares, Class D Shares, Class J Shares, Class JW Shares, Class JX Shares, Class R Shares and Class Z Shares as further described below. The following is a description of the Classes of Shares being offered:

#### Class A:

Class A Shares are offered to (i) retail investors purchasing Shares through distribution agents, platforms and/or other financial intermediaries outside of the European Economic Area ("**EEA**") and (ii) non-advised execution only platforms. A portion of the fee charged for Class A Shares may be paid to dealers, distribution agents and/or platforms for certain administrative shareholder services to their clients and/or maintenance fees (where legally permissible). Class A Shares will be subject to an initial sales charge of up to 5% of the amount subscribed. Out of this charge, distribution agents will retain a portion of the initial sales charge as it deems appropriate. The sales charge may be waived in whole or in part by the Global Distributor (or any distribution agent) either for individual shareholders or a group of shareholders. The balance of the amount subscribed after the deduction of any applicable sales charge will then be applied to the purchase of Shares in the relevant Fund.

#### Class B:

Class B Shares are available to (i) retail investors purchasing Shares through certain distribution agents, platforms and/or other financial intermediaries within the EEA, (ii) product structures that purchase Class B Shares directly or on behalf of an end investor; and (iii) other investors at the Global Distributor's discretion outside of the EEA. A portion of the fee charged for Class B Shares may be paid to dealers, distribution agents and/or platforms for certain administrative shareholder services to their clients and/or maintenance fees (where legally permissible). Class B Shares will be subject to an initial

sales charge of up to 5% of the amount subscribed. Out of this charge, distribution agents will retain a portion of the initial sales charge as it deems appropriate. The sales charge may be waived in whole or in part by the Global Distributor (or any distribution agent) either for individual shareholders or a group of shareholders. The balance of the amount subscribed after the deduction of any applicable sales charge will then be applied to the purchase of Shares in the relevant Fund.

Class I:

Class I Shares are only offered to institutional investors (as such term is interpreted by the CSSF and any applicable laws and regulations from time to time in force in Luxembourg).

Class IR:

Class IR Shares are only offered to institutional investors (as such term is interpreted by the CSSF and any applicable laws and regulations from time to time in force in Luxembourg) advised by asset managers in Singapore.

Class D:

Class D Shares are offered to certain institutional investors (as such term is interpreted by the CSSF and any applicable laws and regulations from time to time in force in Luxembourg), including credit institutions and other regulated professionals of the financial sector which invest in their own name.

Class J:

Class J Shares are made available only to certain institutional investors (as such term is interpreted by the CSSF and any applicable laws and regulations from time to time in force in Luxembourg). No portion of the fee charged for Class J Shares will be paid to dealers or distribution agents, unless for certain administrative services to their clients (where legally permissible).

Class JW:

Class JW Shares are made available only to certain institutional investors (as such term is interpreted by the CSSF and any applicable laws and regulations from time to time in force in Luxembourg). No portion of the fee charged for Class JW Shares will be paid to dealers or distribution agents, unless for certain administrative services to their clients (where legally permissible). Class JW Shares may only be acquired by distribution agents appointed by the Global Distributor purchasing such Class JW Shares, and only with reference to those Funds with respect of which such distribution arrangements have been made with the Global Distributor.

Class JX:

Class JX Shares are made available only to certain institutional investors (as such term is interpreted by the CSSF and any applicable laws and regulations from time to time in force

in Luxembourg). No portion of the fee charged for Class JX Shares will be paid to dealers or distribution agents, unless for certain administrative services to their clients (where legally permissible).

#### Class R:

Class R Shares are offered to retail investors in certain limited circumstances for distribution through certain distribution agents, platforms and/or other financial intermediaries, which according to regulatory requirements or based on individual fee arrangements with their clients, are not allowed to accept and keep commissions on a management fee. No commissions on management fee may be paid to any distributor or financial intermediary in relation to any of the "R" Shares.

#### Class S:

Class S Shares are only offered to institutional investors in the Funds listed below for a limited period of time until the Net Asset Value of the Funds listed in the Minimum Investment and Initial AUM Threshold Table below) reaches or is greater than the threshold indicated in the below table, or any other amount as may be determined by the Board of Directors. After that point, the Class S Shares will be closed to investors. The Board of Directors may in its discretion: (i) re-open the Class S Shares without notice to Shareholders; and/or (ii) close the Class S Shares, permanently or on a temporary basis, to all subscriptions.

#### Class Z:

Class Z Shares are only offered to institutional investors (as such term is interpreted by the CSSF and any applicable laws and regulations from time to time in force in Luxembourg) who have entered into a separate agreement with the Investment Manager. Class Z Shares are, *inter alia*, designed to accommodate an alternative charging structure whereby a fee covering investment management services is levied and collected by the Investment Manager directly from the investor, which is a client of the Investment Manager. As a result, the investment management fee will not be payable out of the net assets of a Fund attributable to Class Z Shares. Class Z Shares will, however, bear its *pro rata* share of any other applicable expenses, such as depositary fees, audit fees, regulatory fees, legal fees as well as any applicable taxes, charges and other expenses attributable to Class Z Shares as further described herein.

The amounts invested in all the Classes in each Fund are invested in a common underlying portfolio of investments. The Directors may decide to create further Classes within a Fund, which may differ in, *inter alia*, their charging structure, Dealing Currency, dividend policy or type of target investors, and in such cases, the Prospectus will be updated accordingly. The Classes may be sub-divided into Categories as described below.

### **Treatment of income**

Shares will either accumulate net income or distribute net income and in that case either yearly or monthly. The distribution Categories are indicated by the superscript I for yearly distributing Shares (AI for example) and superscript IM for monthly distributing (AIM for example).

### **Currency Hedging**

Classes which are offered in a currency other than the Reference Currency of the Fund (the "**Class Currency**") and which are hedged are indicated by superscript H (A<sup>H</sup> for example).

Investors may select a hedged Category with the intention of mitigating the effect of fluctuations in the exchange rate between the Class Currency and the Reference Currency of the Fund. Investors should note that the hedging strategy is designed to reduce, but not eliminate, exchange-rate risk and that there is no guarantee that the currency exposure can be fully hedged. The hedging strategy is a passive investment strategy and is not intended for speculative purposes. The strategy may protect investors in the relevant hedged Category of Shares against a decrease in the value of the Reference Currency in relation to the Class Currency but it may also reduce the benefit to the investor of a decrease in the value of the Class Currency in relation to the Reference Currency.

All gains, losses and expenses arising from the hedging strategy are for the benefit of or are borne by the shareholders of the relevant Category of Shares. The additional costs involved in the hedging strategy are the transaction costs relating to the instruments and contracts used to implement the hedge. In certain circumstances, there is a remote risk that currency hedging transactions in one hedged Category of Shares could result in liabilities which might affect the Net Asset Value of other Categories of Shares within the same Fund, amongst others due to the fact that collateral might need to be held by the entire Fund in relation to specific hedging transactions. Furthermore, the UCI Law does not provide for ring-fencing between classes of shares, although the assets and liabilities are contractually attributed to the specific Category of Shares.

The Company may implement the foreign exchange hedge by using any of the financial derivative instruments permitted in accordance with Appendix B of the Prospectus. At any time, the hedging position may be over- or under-hedged in relation to the Net Asset Value of the Fund applicable to the relevant hedged Category of Shares. The Company will generally employ tolerance limits for the hedging level which are determined by and appropriate to the characteristics of the Fund's assets and ongoing market conditions.

The Investment Manager may delegate non-discretionary hedging services to one or more third parties being highly rated financial institutions specialised in these types of transactions.

### **Class Currencies**

Classes may also be offered in the following different Class Currencies US Dollar, Euro, British Pound, Swedish Krona, Swiss Franc, Australian Dollar, Japanese Yen, Singapore

Dollar: The denomination will be shown in superscript for example A<sup>USD</sup>, A<sup>EUR</sup>, A<sup>GBP</sup>, A<sup>SEK</sup>, A<sup>CHF</sup>, A<sup>AUD</sup>, A<sup>JPY</sup>, A<sup>SDG</sup>

Class Currencies offered on all the Funds are listed below. Upon the offering of any additional Class Currencies, this Prospectus will be updated.

Currently the Company makes the following Classes and Categories available to investors:

Name Of Fund	Share Class Offered	Share Class Currency and Categories Offered
<b>Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund</b>	A, B, I, IR, D, J, JW, R, S and Z	A <sup>I</sup> USD A <sup>I M</sup> USD A <sup>USD</sup> , A <sup>EUR</sup> , A <sup>I H</sup> GBP, A <sup>GBP</sup> , A <sup>CHF</sup> , A <sup>H</sup> EUR, A <sup>H</sup> GBP, A <sup>H</sup> SEK, A <sup>H</sup> CHF B <sup>USD</sup> , B <sup>EUR</sup> , B <sup>GBP</sup> , B <sup>I H</sup> GBP, B <sup>CHF</sup> , B <sup>H</sup> EUR, B <sup>H</sup> GBP, B <sup>H</sup> SEK, B <sup>H</sup> CHF I <sup>I</sup> USD I <sup>I M</sup> USD I <sup>USD</sup> , I <sup>EUR</sup> , I <sup>I H</sup> GBP, I <sup>GBP</sup> , I <sup>CHF</sup> , I <sup>H</sup> EUR, I <sup>H</sup> GBP, I <sup>H</sup> SEK, , I <sup>H</sup> CHF, I <sup>I H</sup> EUR IR <sup>IM</sup> USD, IR <sup>USD</sup> , IR <sup>IM H</sup> SGD, IR <sup>H</sup> SGD, D <sup>USD</sup> , D <sup>EUR</sup> , D <sup>H</sup> EUR, D <sup>H</sup> GBP, D <sup>H</sup> SEK, , D <sup>H</sup> CHF, D <sup>I</sup> GBP J <sup>I</sup> USD J <sup>IM</sup> USD, J <sup>USD</sup> , J <sup>EUR</sup> , J <sup>GBP</sup> , J <sup>CHF</sup> , J <sup>I H</sup> GBP, J <sup>H</sup> EUR, J <sup>H</sup> GBP, J <sup>H</sup> SEK, , J <sup>H</sup> CHF, J <sup>H</sup> JPY JW <sup>USD</sup> , JW <sup>EUR</sup> , JW <sup>GBP</sup> , JW <sup>CHF</sup> , JW <sup>I</sup> USD, JW <sup>I</sup> EUR, JW <sup>I</sup> GBP, JW <sup>I</sup> CHF, JW <sup>H</sup> EUR, JW <sup>H</sup> GBP, JW <sup>H</sup> SEK, JW <sup>H</sup> CHF, , JW <sup>H</sup> AUD, JW <sup>H</sup> JPY, JW <sup>I H</sup> EUR, JW <sup>I H</sup> GBP, JW <sup>I H</sup> SEK, JW <sup>I H</sup> CHF, , JW <sup>I H</sup> AUD, JW <sup>I H</sup> JPY R <sup>USD</sup> , R <sup>EUR</sup> , R <sup>GBP</sup> , R <sup>CHF</sup> , R <sup>I H</sup> GBP, R <sup>H</sup> EUR, R <sup>H</sup> GBP, R <sup>H</sup> SEK, R <sup>H</sup> CHF S <sup>USD</sup> , S <sup>I</sup> USD, S <sup>EUR</sup> , S <sup>GBP</sup> , S <sup>I</sup> GBP, S <sup>CHF</sup> , , S <sup>I H</sup> GBP, S <sup>H</sup> EUR, S <sup>H</sup> GBP, S <sup>H</sup> SEK, S <sup>H</sup> CHF, Z <sup>USD</sup> , Z <sup>I H</sup> GBP, Z <sup>GBP</sup> , Z <sup>EUR</sup> , Z <sup>SEK</sup> , , Z <sup>CHF</sup> , Z <sup>H</sup> EUR, Z <sup>H</sup> GBP, Z <sup>H</sup> SEK, , Z <sup>H</sup> CHF, , Z <sup>AUD</sup> , Z <sup>H</sup> AUD

Name Of Fund	Share Class Offered	Share Class Currency and Categories Offered
<b>Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund</b>	A, B, I, D, J, JW, R, S and Z	AUSD, AIM USD, AEUR, AI H GBP, AGBP, ACHF, AHEUR, AH GBP, AH SEK, AH CHF BUSD, BEUR, BGBP, BI H GBP, BCHF, BH EUR, BH GBP, BH SEK, BH CHF IUSD, I IM USD, I EUR, I H GBP, I GBP, I CHF, IH EUR, IH GBP, IH SEK, , IH CHF, I H EUR DUSD, D EUR, DH EUR, DH GBP, DH SEK, , DH CHF, DI GBP JUSD, J IM USD, JEUR, JGBP, JCHF, JI H GBP, JH EUR, JH GBP, JH SEK, , JH CHF, JH JPY, JWUSD, JWEUR, JWGBP, JWCHF, JW I USD, JW I EUR, JW I GBP, JW I CHF, JW H EUR, JW H GBP, JW H SEK, JW H CHF, , JW H AUD, JW H JPY, , JW I H EUR, JW I H GBP, JW I H SEK, JW I H CHF, , JW I H AUD, JW I H JPY RUSD, REUR, RGBP, RCHF, RI H GBP, RH EUR, RH GBP, RH SEK, RH CHF SUSD, S IM USD, S I USD, SEUR, SGBP, S I GBP, SCHE, , S I H GBP, SH EUR, SH GBP, SH SEK, SH CHF, ZUSD, ZGBP, ZEUR, ZSEK, , ZCHF, ZH EUR, ZH GBP, ZH SEK, , ZH CHF, , ZAUD, ZH AUD, Z I H GBP

Name Of Fund	Share Class Offered	Share Class Currency and Categories Offered
<b>Emerging Markets Frontier Debt Fund</b>	A, B, I, D, J, R, S and Z	<p>A<sup>USD</sup>, A<sup>IM USD</sup>, A<sup>EUR</sup>, A<sup>I H GBP</sup>, A<sup>GBP</sup>, A<sup>CHF</sup>, A<sup>H EUR</sup>, A<sup>H GBP</sup>, A<sup>H SEK</sup>, A<sup>H CHF</sup></p> <p>B<sup>USD</sup>, B<sup>EUR</sup>, B<sup>GBP</sup>, B<sup>I H GBP</sup>, B<sup>CHF</sup>, B<sup>H EUR</sup>, B<sup>H GBP</sup>, B<sup>H SEK</sup>, B<sup>H CHF</sup></p> <p>I<sup>USD</sup>, I<sup>EUR</sup>, I<sup>H GBP</sup>, I<sup>GBP</sup>, I<sup>CHF</sup>, I<sup>H EUR</sup>, I<sup>H GBP</sup>, I<sup>H SEK</sup>, I<sup>H CHF</sup>, I<sup>H EUR</sup></p> <p>D<sup>USD</sup>, D<sup>EUR</sup>, D<sup>H EUR</sup>, D<sup>H GBP</sup>, D<sup>H SEK</sup>, D<sup>H CHF</sup>, D<sup>I GBP</sup></p> <p>J<sup>USD</sup>, J<sup>IM USD</sup>, J<sup>EUR</sup>, J<sup>GBP</sup>, J<sup>CHF</sup>, J<sup>I H GBP</sup>, J<sup>H EUR</sup>, J<sup>H GBP</sup>, J<sup>H SEK</sup>, J<sup>H CHF</sup>, J<sup>H JPY</sup>,</p> <p>R<sup>USD</sup>, R<sup>EUR</sup>, R<sup>GBP</sup>, R<sup>CHF</sup>, R<sup>I H GBP</sup>, R<sup>H EUR</sup>, R<sup>H GBP</sup>, R<sup>H SEK</sup>, R<sup>H CHF</sup></p> <p>S<sup>USD</sup>, S<sup>I USD</sup>, S<sup>EUR</sup>, S<sup>GBP</sup>, S<sup>I GBP</sup>, S<sup>CHF</sup>, S<sup>I H GBP</sup>, S<sup>H EUR</sup>, S<sup>H GBP</sup>, S<sup>H SEK</sup>, S<sup>H CHF</sup>,</p> <p>Z<sup>USD</sup>, Z<sup>GBP</sup>, Z<sup>EUR</sup>, Z<sup>SEK</sup>, Z<sup>CHF</sup>, Z<sup>H EUR</sup>, Z<sup>H GBP</sup>, Z<sup>H SEK</sup>, Z<sup>H CHF</sup>, Z<sup>AUD</sup>, Z<sup>H AUD</sup>, Z<sup>I H GBP</sup></p>
<b>Emerging Markets Growth Fund</b>	A, B, I, D, J, R and Z	<p>A<sup>USD</sup>, A<sup>EUR</sup></p> <p>B<sup>USD</sup>, B<sup>EUR</sup></p> <p>I<sup>USD</sup>, I<sup>EUR</sup>, I<sup>GBP</sup></p> <p>D<sup>USD</sup>, D<sup>EUR</sup></p> <p>J<sup>USD</sup>, J<sup>EUR</sup>, J<sup>GBP</sup></p> <p>R<sup>USD</sup>, R<sup>EUR</sup></p> <p>Z<sup>USD</sup>, Z<sup>GBP</sup>, Z<sup>I GBP</sup>, Z<sup>H GBP</sup>, Z<sup>I H GBP</sup></p>
<b>Emerging Markets Leaders Fund</b>	A, B, I, D, J, R, S and Z	<p>A<sup>USD</sup>, A<sup>EUR</sup>, A<sup>GBP</sup></p> <p>B<sup>USD</sup>, B<sup>EUR</sup>, B<sup>GBP</sup></p> <p>I<sup>USD</sup>, I<sup>I USD</sup>, I<sup>EUR</sup>, I<sup>I EUR</sup>, I<sup>GBP</sup></p> <p>D<sup>USD</sup>, D<sup>EUR</sup>, D<sup>GBP</sup></p> <p>J<sup>USD</sup>, J<sup>EUR</sup>, J<sup>GBP</sup>, J<sup>I GBP</sup></p> <p>R<sup>USD</sup>, R<sup>EUR</sup>, R<sup>GBP</sup>, R<sup>I GBP</sup>, S<sup>USD</sup>, S<sup>I USD</sup>, S<sup>EUR</sup>, S<sup>GBP</sup>, S<sup>I GBP</sup>, S<sup>CHF</sup>, S<sup>I H GBP</sup>, S<sup>H EUR</sup>, S<sup>H GBP</sup>, S<sup>H SEK</sup>, S<sup>H CHF</sup>,</p> <p>Z<sup>USD</sup>, Z<sup>AUD</sup>, Z<sup>GBP</sup></p>

Name Of Fund	Share Class Offered	Share Class Currency and Categories Offered
<b>Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund</b>	A, B, I, D, J, R and Z	A <sup>USD</sup> , A <sup>EUR</sup> B <sup>USD</sup> , B <sup>EUR</sup> I <sup>USD</sup> , I <sup>EUR</sup> D <sup>USD</sup> , D <sup>EUR</sup> J <sup>USD</sup> , J <sup>EUR</sup> J <sup>I GBP</sup> J <sup>H EUR</sup> R <sup>USD</sup> , R <sup>EUR</sup> R <sup>I GBP</sup> Z <sup>USD</sup>
<b>Global Leaders Fund</b>	A, B, I, D, J, R, S and Z	A <sup>USD</sup> , A <sup>EUR</sup> , A <sup>GBP</sup> B <sup>USD</sup> , B <sup>EUR</sup> I <sup>USD</sup> , I <sup>I USD</sup> , I <sup>EUR</sup> , I <sup>GBP</sup> , D <sup>USD</sup> , D <sup>EUR</sup> , J <sup>USD</sup> , J <sup>EUR</sup> , J <sup>GBP</sup> R <sup>USD</sup> , R <sup>EUR</sup> , R <sup>GBP</sup> S <sup>USD</sup> , S <sup>I USD</sup> , S <sup>EUR</sup> , S <sup>GBP</sup> , S <sup>I GBP</sup> , S <sup>CHF</sup> , , S <sup>I H GBP</sup> , S <sup>H EUR</sup> , S <sup>H SEK</sup> , S <sup>H CHF</sup> , Z <sup>USD</sup> , , Z <sup>I USD</sup> , , Z <sup>AUD</sup>
<b>Global Leaders Sustainability Fund</b>	A, B, I, D, J, JW, R, S and Z	A <sup>USD</sup> , A <sup>EUR</sup> , A <sup>GBP</sup> , A <sup>CHF</sup> , A <sup>SEK</sup> , A <sup>H SEK</sup> , B <sup>USD</sup> , B <sup>EUR</sup> , B <sup>GBP</sup> , B <sup>CHF</sup> , B <sup>SEK</sup> , B <sup>H SEK</sup> , I <sup>USD</sup> , I <sup>EUR</sup> , I <sup>GBP</sup> , I <sup>CHF</sup> , I <sup>SEK</sup> , D <sup>EUR</sup> , D <sup>SEK</sup> J <sup>USD</sup> , J <sup>EUR</sup> , J <sup>GBP</sup> , J <sup>CHF</sup> , J <sup>SEK</sup> , J <sup>H SEK</sup> , , JW <sup>USD</sup> , JW <sup>EUR</sup> , JW <sup>GBP</sup> , JW <sup>CHF</sup> , JW <sup>I USD</sup> , JW <sup>I EUR</sup> , JW <sup>I GBP</sup> , JW <sup>I CHF</sup> R <sup>USD</sup> , R <sup>EUR</sup> , R <sup>GBP</sup> , R <sup>CHF</sup> , R <sup>SEK</sup> , S <sup>USD</sup> , S <sup>I USD</sup> , S <sup>EUR</sup> , S <sup>GBP</sup> , S <sup>I GBP</sup> , S <sup>CHF</sup> , , S <sup>I H GBP</sup> , S <sup>H EUR</sup> , S <sup>H GBP</sup> , S <sup>H SEK</sup> , S <sup>H CHF</sup> , Z <sup>USD</sup>

Name Of Fund	Share Class Offered	Share Class Currency and Categories Offered
<b>U.S. All Cap Growth Fund</b>	A, B, D, I, J, R, S and Z	A <sup>USD</sup> , A <sup>EUR</sup> B <sup>USD</sup> , B <sup>EUR</sup> D <sup>USD</sup> , D <sup>EUR</sup> I <sup>USD</sup> , I <sup>EUR</sup> J <sup>USD</sup> , J <sup>EUR</sup> R <sup>USD</sup> , R <sup>EUR</sup> S <sup>USD</sup> , S <sup>I USD</sup> , S <sup>EUR</sup> , S <sup>GBP</sup> , S <sup>I GBP</sup> , S <sup>CHF</sup> , , S <sup>I H GBP</sup> , S <sup>H EUR</sup> , S <sup>H GBP</sup> , S <sup>H SEK</sup> , S <sup>H CHF</sup> , Z <sup>USD</sup>
<b>U.S. Large Cap Growth Fund</b>	A, B, I, D, J, R, S and Z	A <sup>USD</sup> , A <sup>EUR</sup> , A <sup>GBP</sup> , A <sup>CHF</sup> B <sup>USD</sup> , B <sup>EUR</sup> , B <sup>GBP</sup> , B <sup>CHF</sup> I <sup>USD</sup> , I <sup>EUR</sup> , I <sup>GBP</sup> , I <sup>CHF</sup> , I <sup>H SEK</sup> D <sup>USD</sup> D <sup>EUR</sup> J <sup>USD</sup> , J <sup>EUR</sup> , J <sup>GBP</sup> , J <sup>SEK</sup> , J <sup>CHF</sup> , J <sup>H SEK</sup> R <sup>USD</sup> , R <sup>EUR</sup> , R <sup>GBP</sup> , R <sup>CHF</sup> S <sup>USD</sup> , S <sup>I USD</sup> , S <sup>EUR</sup> , S <sup>GBP</sup> , S <sup>I GBP</sup> , S <sup>CHF</sup> , , S <sup>I H GBP</sup> , S <sup>H EUR</sup> , S <sup>H GBP</sup> , S <sup>H SEK</sup> , S <sup>H CHF</sup> , Z <sup>USD</sup>
<b>U.S. Small-Mid Cap Core Fund</b>	A, B, I, D, J, JW, R and Z	A <sup>USD</sup> , A <sup>EUR</sup> , A <sup>GBP</sup> , A <sup>CHF</sup> B <sup>USD</sup> , B <sup>EUR</sup> , B <sup>GBP</sup> , B <sup>CHF</sup> I <sup>USD</sup> , I <sup>EUR</sup> , I <sup>GBP</sup> , I <sup>CHF</sup> , , I <sup>H SEK</sup> D <sup>EUR</sup> J <sup>USD</sup> , J <sup>EUR</sup> , J <sup>GBP</sup> , J <sup>SEK</sup> , J <sup>CHF</sup> , , J <sup>H SEK</sup> JW <sup>USD</sup> , JW <sup>EUR</sup> , JW <sup>GBP</sup> , JW <sup>CHF</sup> , JW <sup>I USD</sup> , JW <sup>I EUR</sup> , JW <sup>I GBP</sup> , JW <sup>I CHF</sup> R <sup>USD</sup> , R <sup>EUR</sup> , R <sup>GBP</sup> , R <sup>CHF</sup> Z <sup>USD</sup>
<b>U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund</b>	A, B, I, D, J, JW, JX, R and Z	A <sup>USD</sup> , A <sup>EUR</sup> , A <sup>I GBP</sup> , A <sup>H CHF</sup> B <sup>USD</sup> , B <sup>EUR</sup> , B <sup>H CHF</sup> I <sup>USD</sup> , I <sup>EUR</sup> , I <sup>I GBP</sup> , , I <sup>H SEK</sup> D <sup>USD</sup> , D <sup>EUR</sup> J <sup>USD</sup> , J <sup>EUR</sup> , J <sup>I GBP</sup> , J <sup>H CHF</sup> , J <sup>H SEK</sup> , JW <sup>USD</sup> , JW <sup>EUR</sup> , JW <sup>GBP</sup> , JW <sup>CHF</sup> , JW <sup>I H GBP</sup> , JW <sup>I USD</sup> , JW <sup>I EUR</sup> , JW <sup>I GBP</sup> , JW <sup>I CHF</sup>

Name Of Fund	Share Class Offered	Share Class Currency and Categories Offered
		JX <sup>USD</sup> , JX <sup>GBP</sup> , JX <sup>I H GBP</sup> , JX <sup>I USD</sup> , JX <sup>I GBP</sup> , JX <sup>H GBP</sup> R <sup>USD</sup> , R <sup>EUR</sup> , R <sup>I GBP</sup> , R <sup>H CHF</sup> Z <sup>USD</sup>

## Subscription for Shares

### Subscription Procedure

An investor's first subscription for Shares must be made in writing or by fax (with original document to follow by mail) to the Central Administration in Luxembourg or to a distributor, if any, as indicated in the subscription form (the "**Subscription Form**"). Subsequent subscriptions for Shares may be made in writing or by fax. Joint subscribers must both sign the Subscription Form unless a power of attorney, in a form acceptable to the Company, is provided.

The minimum initial investments for all Classes in each Fund are as set out in the table below. The Directors may, in their discretion, waive or modify such minimum limits. These amounts will be converted into the Dealing Currency of each Category at the exchange rate applicable on the relevant Dealing Day (as defined below).

The Directors reserve their discretionary right to reject any specific subscription, either in whole or in part.

Minimum Investment and Initial AUM Threshold Table								
Name Of Fund	Minimum initial investment for Classes I and D	Minimum initial investment for Class IR	Minimum initial investment for Class J	Minimum initial investment for Class JW	Minimum initial investment for Class JX	Minimum initial investment and initial AUM threshold for Class S	Minimum initial investment for Class Z	Minimum initial investment for Classes A, B and R
<b>Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund</b>	US\$ 1 Million	US\$ 1 Million	US\$ 1 Million	US\$ 250 Million	N/A	US\$ 1 Million USD \$300 million or equivalent	US\$ 10 Million	US\$ 1,000.-
<b>Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund</b>	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	US\$ 1 Million	US\$ 250 Million	N/A	US\$ 1 Million USD \$100 million or equivalent	US\$ 10 Million	US\$ 1,000.-
<b>Emerging Markets Frontier Debt Fund</b>	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	US\$ 1 Million	US\$ 250 Million	N/A	US\$ 1 Million USD \$100 million or equivalent	US\$ 10 Million	US\$ 10,000.-
<b>Emerging Markets Growth Fund</b>	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	N/A	N/A	US\$ 10 Million	US\$ 1,000.-
<b>Emerging Markets Leaders Fund</b>	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	N/A	US\$ 1 Million USD \$150 million or equivalent	US\$ 10 Million	US\$ 1,000.-

Minimum Investment and Initial AUM Threshold Table								
Name Of Fund	Minimum initial investment for Classes I and D	Minimum initial investment for Class IR	Minimum initial investment for Class J	Minimum initial investment for Class JW	Minimum initial investment for Class JX	Minimum initial investment and initial AUM threshold for Class S	Minimum initial investment for Class Z	Minimum initial investment for Classes A, B and R
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	N/A	N/A	US\$ 10 Million	US\$ 1,000.-
Global Leaders Fund	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	N/A	US\$ 1 Million USD \$200 million or equivalent	US\$ 10 Million	US\$ 1,000.-
Global Leaders Sustainability Fund	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	US\$ 1 Million	US\$ 250 Million	N/A	US\$ 1 Million USD \$200 million or equivalent	US\$ 10 Million	US\$ 1,000.-
U.S. All Cap Growth Fund	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	N/A	US\$ 1 Million USD \$200 million or equivalent	US\$ 10 Million	US\$ 1,000.-
U.S. Large Cap Growth Fund	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	N/A	US\$ 1 Million USD \$200 million or equivalent	US\$ 10 Million	US\$ 1,000.-
U.S. Small-Mid Cap Core Fund	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	US\$ 1 Million	US\$ 250 Million	N/A	N/A	US\$ 10 Million	US\$ 1,000.-
U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	US\$ 1 Million	N/A	US\$ 1 Million	US\$ 250 Million	US\$ 750 Million	N/A	US\$ 10 Million	US\$ 1,000.-

There is no minimum subsequent investment for any of the Classes.

The Directors may further decide in their sole discretion to refuse, for one or more Fund(s), any subscription for a determined or undetermined period of time (the "**Fund Closure**") and the following distinction applies:

- if the Fund Closure concerns both existing and new shareholders, the Company will (i) publish a notice to shareholders indicating, *inter alia*, the denomination of the Fund concerned and the duration of the Fund Closure and (ii) indicate the Fund Closure in the next following Annual Report or Semi-Annual Report, as the case may be, for the whole duration of the Fund Closure; or
- if the Fund Closure concerns solely new shareholders, the Company will indicate the Fund Closure in the next following Annual Report or Semi-Annual Report, as the case may be, for the whole duration of the Fund Closure.

For the avoidance of doubt, it is expressly stated that the Fund Closure does not entail the liquidation of the Fund concerned which will only be closed for additional subscriptions (of existing and/or new shareholders, as the case may be).

Subject to any further restrictions specified for a Fund, the day a subscription, redemption or conversion request is received by the Central Administration prior to 4:00 p.m. (Luxembourg time) (the "**Subscription Deadline**") on a Luxembourg Bank Business Day (as defined in Appendix C) is defined as a "**Dealing Day**" for all Funds. Such deals will be priced on the same Luxembourg Bank Business Day if the Dealing Day is a "**Valuation Day**" (as defined in Appendix C), or on the next Valuation Day.

Payment for all the Shares must be received by the Depositary in the Dealing Currency of the relevant Class (subject to the next following section headed "*Payment Procedure*") no later than three (3) Luxembourg Bank Business Days following the applicable Valuation Day.

Investors should note that they might be unable to purchase or redeem Shares through a distributor, if any, on any day during which such distributor is not open for business.

Any subscription request received by the Central Administration after the Subscription Deadline on any Dealing Day, or on any day that is not a Dealing Day, will be processed on the next Dealing Day on the basis of the Net Asset Value per Share determined on that Dealing Day.

The Company may restrict or prevent the ownership of Shares by any person, firm, partnership or corporate body, if in the sole opinion of the Company such holding may be detrimental to the interests of the existing shareholders or of the Company, if it may result in a breach of any law or regulation, whether in Luxembourg or otherwise, or if as a result thereof the Company may become exposed to tax disadvantages, fines or penalties that it would not have otherwise incurred. Such persons, firms, partnerships or corporate bodies shall be determined by the Directors (the "**Prohibited Persons**"). Shares in Classes I, IR, D, J, JW, JX and Z are reserved for institutional investors only, as defined in article 174 of UCI Law. Shares in Classes A, B and R are reserved for subscriptions by nominees acting in their own name but on behalf of retail investors.

As the Company is not registered under the 1933 Act, nor has the Company been registered under the United States Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, its Shares may not be offered or sold, directly or indirectly, in the United States of America or its territories or possessions or areas subject to its jurisdiction, or to residents thereof (hereinafter referred to as "**US Persons**").

Accordingly, the Company may require any subscriber to provide it with any information that it may consider necessary for the purpose of deciding whether or not it is, or will be, a Prohibited Person, an institutional investor (if applicable), a nominee acting on behalf of retail investors (if applicable) or a US Person.

The Company may issue Shares as consideration for a contribution in kind of securities, which correspond to the investment policy of the relevant Fund, in compliance with the conditions set forth by Luxembourg law, in particular the obligation to obtain a valuation report from an auditor.

If the Directors determine that it would be detrimental to the existing shareholders of the Company to accept a subscription for Shares in a Fund that represents more than ten (10) *per cent* of the net assets of that Fund, then it may postpone the acceptance of such subscription and, in consultation with the incoming shareholder, may require it to stagger its proposed subscription over an agreed period of time.

### **Payment Procedure**

The normal currency of payment for Shares will be the Dealing Currency of the Class concerned. A subscriber may, however, with the agreement of the Central Administration, effect payment to the Depositary in any other freely convertible currency. The Central Administration will arrange, on the Valuation Day concerned, for any necessary currency transaction to convert the subscription monies from the currency of subscription (the "**Subscription Currency**") into the Dealing Currency of the relevant Class. Any such currency transaction will be effected at the subscriber's cost and risk. Currency exchange transactions may however delay any issue of Shares since the Central Administration may choose in its discretion to delay the execution of any foreign exchange transaction until cleared funds have been received by it.

Subscription instructions accompany the Prospectus and may also be obtained from either the Central Administration or a distributor (if any).

If timely payment for Shares (as detailed under the section headed "*Subscription Procedure*") is not made (or a completed Subscription Form is not received for an initial subscription), the relevant issue of Shares may be cancelled, and a subscriber may be required to compensate the Company and/or any relevant distributor for any loss incurred in relation to such cancellation.

### **Notification of Transaction**

A confirmation statement will be sent to the subscriber (or its nominated agent if so requested by the subscriber) by ordinary post or fax as soon as reasonably practicable after the relevant Valuation Day, providing full details of the transaction. Subscribers should always check this statement to ensure that the transaction has been accurately recorded.

Subscribers will be given a personal account number (the "**Account Number**") on acceptance of their initial subscription, and this, together with the shareholder's personal details, is proof of their identity to the Company. The Account Number should be used by the shareholder for all future dealings with the Company, a correspondent bank, the Central Administration and any distributor (as appointed from time to time).

Any changes to the shareholder's personal details or loss of Account Number must be notified immediately either to the Central Administration or to the relevant distributor, who will, if necessary, inform the Central Administration in writing. Failure to do so may result in the delay of an application for redemption. The Company reserves the right to require an indemnity or other verification of title or claim to title countersigned by a bank, stockbroker or other party acceptable to it before accepting such changes.

If any subscription is not accepted in whole or in part, the subscription monies or the balance outstanding will be returned without delay to the subscriber by post or bank transfer at the subscriber's risk without any interest.

### **Rejection of Subscriptions**

The Company may reject any subscription in whole or in part, and it may, at any time and from time to time and in its absolute discretion without liability and without notice, discontinue the issue and sale of Shares in any Class in any one or more Fund(s).

### **Suspension of Net Asset Valuation**

No Shares will be issued by the Company with respect to a particular Fund during any period in which the determination of the Net Asset Value of the relevant Fund is suspended by the Company pursuant to the powers contained in the articles of incorporation of the Company and as indicated in Appendix C under "*Temporary Suspension of Determination of Net Asset Value*".

Notice of suspension will be given to subscribers, and subscriptions made or pending during a suspension period may be withdrawn by notice in writing received by the Central Administration prior to the end of the suspension period. Subscriptions not withdrawn will be processed on the first Valuation Day following the end of the suspension period, on the basis of the Net Asset Value per Share determined on such Valuation Day.

### **Subscription through nominees**

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.

For the avoidance of doubt, in cases where a nominee invests into the Company in his own name but on behalf of several investors, any applicable minimum subscription and/or holding amounts will be assessed in chief of the nominee, without applying any look-through to the level of the individual, underlying investors.

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 be indemnified in case of Net Asset Value calculation errors and/or non-compliance with investment rules and/or other errors at the level of the Company. Investors are advised to seek advice in relation to their rights which may be negatively impacted. Investors are advised to take advice on their rights.

### **Money Laundering – and Terrorist Financing Prevention**

Pursuant to international rules and Luxembourg laws and regulations regarding anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing (“**AML/CFT**”), comprising but not limited to the law of 12 November 2004 on the fight against money laundering and financing of terrorism, as amended (the “**2004 Law**”), the Grand-Ducal Regulation of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2010 providing details on certain provisions of the 2004 Law, CSSF Regulation 12/02 of 14 December 2012 on the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, as amended, (“**CSSF Regulation 12-02**”) as well as further implementing regulations and circulars of the CSSF or other competent authorities in the field of AML/CFT (collectively referred to as the “**AML/CFT Regulations**”), obligations have been imposed on all professionals of the financial sector to prevent the use of undertakings for collective investment for money laundering and financing of terrorism purposes. As a result of the AML/CFT Regulations, the Company must establish and verify *inter alia* the identity of the subscriber (and of any person purporting to act on behalf of or for such subscriber is so authorised as well as the identity of any intended beneficial owners of the Shares if they are not the subscribers) on the basis of documents, data or information obtained from a reliable and independent source and, amongst others, gather information on the origin of subscription proceeds and to monitor the business relationship on an ongoing basis. The Company through the Registrar and Transfer Agent, acting as an AML/CFT delegate of the Company, may *inter alia* require natural persons to provide a copy of a passport or identification card, together with two sources of evidence of his/her address such as a utility bill or bank statement or, in the case of corporate applicants, the certificate of incorporation and articles of association (or equivalent) etc. as further set out in the Subscription Form (noting that the information and documents set out therein may not in all cases be regarded as exhaustive and thus can be changed from time to time, including *inter alia* in case of any legal and regulatory changes related to AML/CFT or changes of the business practices of the Company).

The investors will also be required to periodically supply updated or renewed information and documentation to ensure that the KYC records remain current and up to date. In any case, the Company and the Registrar and Transfer Agent may require, at any time, additional information or documentation until being reasonably satisfied to understand the identity and economic purpose of the subscriber and deemed necessary to comply with the AML/CFT Regulations. Furthermore, any investor is required to notify the Company and the Registrar and Transfer Agent of any change of its information as set out in the Subscription Form and, as the case may be, prior to the occurrence of any change in the identity of any beneficial owner of Shares. Each Shareholder has the obligation to provide the Company and the Registrar and Transfer Agent with updated personal information and documents

relating to its/his/her own person and its/his/her respective representatives, if any, as well as regarding its/his/her respective beneficial owners. A Shareholder who is not providing relevant information and documents within thirty (30) Luxembourg Bank Business Days after written request from the Company or the Registrar and Transfer Agent may result in delays in, or the rejection of subscription or conversion application or the withholding of redemption or dividend proceeds by the Company (the account of such Shareholder may be blocked for subscriptions, redemptions, conversions and distributions). No liability for any interest, costs or compensation will be accepted. Similarly, when Shares are issued, they cannot be redeemed or converted until full details of registration and AML/CFT documents of the Shareholder have been completed. Furthermore, in such case, the Company and the Registrar and Transfer Agent may take the measures that it considers to be appropriate, including but not limited to, the blocking of such Shareholder's account until the receipt of the information and documents required. All respective remediation measures and costs of the Company with respect to a Non-cooperative Shareholder in order to comply with the Company's due diligence obligations can be charged to the respective Non-cooperative Shareholder.

Any information or documentation provided to the Company in this context is collected for AML/CFT compliance purposes only.

Agreements may be entered into with intermediaries pursuant to which these agree to act as or appoint intermediaries subscribing for Shares in their own name through their facilities (e.g. distribution\* and/or nominee agreements) but on behalf of their own underlying investors (and thus the intermediary-investor being directly registered in the Company's shareholder register). As a result, in particular, the due diligence with regard to such intermediary generally takes place at two levels, including *inter alia*:

- (i) A risk-based customer due diligence on the intermediary (by using reliable, independent source documents, data or information) as well as on its beneficial owners, such that notably the Company is satisfied that it knows who the beneficial owner(s) of the intermediary are;
- (ii) In addition, the Company or its delegate will perform enhanced due diligence measures with respect to such intermediary pursuant to article 3 of the CSSF Regulation 12-02 as well as article 3-2 (3) of the 2004 Law.

To ensure compliance of the Company with applicable sanctions regimes, in particular the law of 19 December 2020 on the implementation of restrictive measures in financial matters, as amended, (the “**2020 Law**”) (including but not limited to lists issued by the European Union and the United Nations) or those of the United State of America, the Company may not accept investments of investors if such transactions would lead to breaches to the applicable sanctions laws and regulations and enact a freeze of holdings of individuals or entities designated in applicable sanctions lists where required by the AML/CFT Regulations.

In addition to the due diligence measures on investors, pursuant to article 34(2) of CSSF Regulation 12-02, the Company is also required to apply precautionary measures regarding the assets of the Company. The Company should assess, using its risk-based approach, the extent to

which the offering of its products and services presents potential vulnerabilities to placement, layering or integration of criminal proceeds into the financial system.

Pursuant to the 2020 Law, prior to investing in assets, the Company must, as a minimum, screen the name of such assets or of the issuer against the target financial sanctions lists.

Pursuant to the Luxembourg law of 13 January 2019 on the register of beneficial owners (the "**RBO Law**"), the Company is required to collect, hold accurate and up-to-date and make available certain information on its "beneficial owner(s)" (as defined in the 2004 Law) and relevant supporting evidence. Such information includes, as further specified in the RBO Law, among others, first and last name, nationality, country of residence, personal or professional address, national identification number and information on the nature and the scope of the beneficial ownership interest held by each beneficial owner in the Company. The Company is further required, among others, (i) to make such information available upon request to certain Luxembourg national authorities (including the CSSF, the Commissariat aux Assurances, the Cellule de Renseignement Financier, Luxembourg tax and other national authorities as defined in the RBO Law) and upon motivated request of other professionals of the financial sector subject to the AML/CFT Regulations, and (ii) to register such information and supporting evidence in the register of beneficial owners which will be accessible to third parties with a legitimate interest, including (i) national authorities or (ii) professionals subject to the 2004 Law in order to ensure AML/CFT compliance.

Under the RBO Law, criminal sanctions may be imposed on the Company in case of its failure to comply with the obligations to collect and make available the required information, but also on any beneficial owner(s) that fail to make all relevant necessary information available to the Company. Any shareholder that fails to comply with the Company's information or documentation requests may be held liable for penalties imposed on the Company as a result of such Shareholder's failure to provide the information or subject to disclosure of the information by the Company to the Luxembourg national authorities and the Company may, in its sole discretion, redeem the Shares of such Shareholders.

### **Late trading**

The Company determines the price of the Shares on a forward basis. This means that it is not possible to know in advance the Net Asset Value per Share at which Shares will be subscribed or redeemed (exclusive of any charges). Subscription applications have to be received and will be accepted for each Fund only in accordance with the deadlines laid down in the section headed "*Subscription Procedure*".

### **Market timing**

Buying and redeeming Fund Shares for short-term profits can disrupt portfolio management and drive up fund expenses, to the detriment of other Shareholders. The Funds are not designed for investors with short term investment horizons. Activities which may adversely affect the interests of the Company's shareholders (for example that disrupt

investment strategies or impact expenses) such as market timing or the use of the Company as an excessive or short-term trading vehicle are not permitted.

While recognising that shareholders may have legitimate needs to adjust their investments from time to time, the Directors of the Company in their discretion may, if it deems that such activities adversely affect the interests of the Company's shareholders, take action as appropriate to deter such activities.

Accordingly, if the Directors of the Company determine or suspect that a shareholder has engaged in such activities, they may suspend, cancel, reject or otherwise deal with that shareholder's subscription or conversion applications and take any action or measures as appropriate or necessary, including compulsory redemption, to protect the Company and its shareholders.

## Dividend policy

Whether accumulation or distribution Categories have been issued in relation to a particular Class of a specific Fund is indicated in the section headed "*Classes of Shares*".

Each year the annual general meeting of shareholders will decide, based on a proposal from the Directors, on the use of the Company's net income in respect of the previous financial year ending 31 December for each distribution Category of every Fund (if any).

Along with the above-mentioned distributions, the Directors may decide to pay interim dividends in the form and under the conditions as provided by Luxembourg law.

Part or all of the net income (whether in the form of dividends, interest or otherwise) and realised and un-realised capital gains and subject to such adjustments in relation to each Fund as may be appropriate (the "Distribution Amount") may be distributed provided that after the distribution the net assets of the Company equal or are above the minimum legal net assets which are currently set at one million two hundred and fifty thousand euro (EUR 1,250,000).

Where the Company determines in its discretion to pay a Distribution Amount, investors should note that such distributions may amount to a return or withdrawal of part of the original investment or any capital gains attributable to that original investment. Under normal circumstances, such distributions will result in an immediate decrease in the Net Asset Value of the relevant Fund.

Investors should note that, upon the Company's discretion, distributions may be paid out of capital ("Capital Distributions"). Payment of Capital Distributions amounts to a return or withdrawal of part of an investor's original investment or of capital gains attributable to that original investment, and such distributions will result in a corresponding immediate decrease in the Net Asset Value per Share of the corresponding Share Classes. Capital Distributions will accordingly lead to capital erosion and may be achieved by forgoing the potential for future capital growth in which case the value in future returns would also be diminished. This cycle may continue as long as the net assets of the Company do not fall below the USD equivalent of the legal minimum of EUR 1,250,000. Capital Distributions may have different tax implications to distributions of income. Investors are recommended to seek advice in this regard. The rationale for charging to capital is to enable the Company to provide a stable distribution to investors by maximising the amount distributable to investors. For the avoidance of doubt, Capital Distributions may also be net income (whether in the form of dividends, interest or otherwise) available for distribution by a Fund together with net realised and unrealised capital gains forming part of the capital of the relevant Fund and subject to such adjustments in relation to each Fund as may be appropriate. The Company may declare Capital Distributions once a year.

The Directors may also declare interim Capital Distributions. The Company may amend the above stated distribution policies subject to the requirements of the CSSF and upon giving at least one month's prior notice to affected Shareholders. The compositions of the latest

Distribution Amounts (i.e. the relative amounts paid from income and net realised and unrealised capital gains forming part of the capital of the relevant Fund and in case of Capital Distributions, the relative amounts paid from income and net realised and unrealised capital gains forming part of the capital and capital itself for the relevant Fund) (if any) are available on request from the Company. Unless stated otherwise in the details of the relevant Fund, annual distributions (if declared) will be declared and paid on or before 30 June in each year.

Distributions (if any) will be made in cash within two (2) weeks of the ex dividend date.

The payment of distributions from distributing Classes may also be reinvested, at the request of the shareholder, to purchase additional Shares in the relevant Fund.

Dividends will be declared in the relevant Class Currency.

Dividends remaining unclaimed for five (5) years after their declaration will be forfeited and revert to the relevant Category.

The part of the year's net income corresponding to accumulation Categories will be capitalised in the relevant Fund for the benefit of the accumulation Category.

## Charges

Any taxes, commissions and other fees incurred in the respective countries in which Shares are sold will be charged.

### **Management Charges**

The Investment Manager is entitled, for its services rendered or to be rendered to the Management Company and the Company in accordance with the investment management agreement, to a management fee (the "**Management Fee**") paid out of the net assets of the Fund concerned. Such Management Fee is payable monthly in arrears and calculated on the average daily net assets of the relevant Fund (before deduction of the Management Fee) at the annual rates set forth below in the table showing "Management Fees" and "Expense Caps" as inserted in the below section headed "Total Expense Ratio":

In each Fund, no management fee will be levied on the shares issued in Class Z. Individual shareholders in Class Z will be charged a Management Fee in accordance with a separate agreement to be negotiated and entered into between the individual shareholder and the Investment Manager.

### **Company Charges**

Each of the Depositary, Management Company, Listing Agent, Central Administration (including domiciliary, corporate and paying agent functions) and Registrar and Transfer Agent are entitled to receive fees out of the net assets of the Company, pursuant to the relevant agreements between each of them and the Company or the Management Company, as the case may be, and in accordance with usual market practice.

In addition, reasonable disbursements and out-of-pocket expenses incurred by such parties are charged to the Company.

The Funds will also bear all other expenses incurred in relation with the operation of the Company which include, without limitation, taxes, expenses for legal and auditing services, cost of any proposed listings, maintaining such listings, shareholders' reports, Prospectuses, reasonable marketing and advertising expenses, costs of preparing, translating and printing the documents of the Company in different languages, all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses of the Directors and registration fees and other expenses payable to the supervisory authorities in any relevant jurisdiction, insurance costs, interest, brokerage costs and the costs of publication of the Net Asset Value per Share of the Funds, if applicable.

The allocation of costs and expenses will be made in accordance with the articles of incorporation of the Company.

Any formation expenses will be paid by the Company and will be amortised over a five-years period in equal instalments. Further Funds will only bear the formation and preliminary expenses relating to their own launching, which will be amortised over a five-years period in equal instalments.

New rules under the settlement discipline regime under Regulation (E No 909/2014 Central Securities Depositories Regulation ("CSDR) which are intended to reduce the number of settlement fails within the EU central securities depositories (such as Euroclear and ClearStream) entered into force on 1 February 2022. These measures include the introduction of a new cash penalties regime under which the participant within the relevant Cash Penalty Regime ("CPR") responsible for the settlement fail will be required to pay a cash penalty, which is in turn distributed to the other participant. This is intended to serve as an effective deterrent for participant that cause settlement fails. In certain circumstances, such penalties and related expenses will be borne (either directly or indirectly) out of the asset of the Company on whose behalf the in-scope transaction, was entered into thus resulting in increased operational and compliance cost being borne by the relevant Company.

### Total expense ratio

The total expense ratio of each Fund (the "TER") includes the relevant Management Fee and the Company's charges as laid down in section headed "Company Charges" above excluding interest and brokerage costs. The Company Charges are capped at the percentages, each *per annum* of the average daily net assets shown in the table below:

		Class A	Class B	Class I	Class IR	Class D	Class J	Class JW	Class JX	Class R	Class S	Class Z
Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund	<b>Management Fee</b>	1.00%	1.40%	1.00%	1.00%	1.40%	0.55%	0.47%	n/a	0.55%	0.28%	n/a
	<b>Expense Cap</b>	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%	n/a	0.10%	0.10%	0.10%
	<b>TER</b>	1.10%	1.50%	1.10%	1.10%	1.50%	0.65%	0.57%	n/a	0.65%	0.38%	0.10%
Emerging Markets Frontier Debt Fund	<b>Management Fee</b>	1.10%	1.50%	1.10%	n/a	1.50%	0.65%	n/a	n/a	0.65%	0.45%	n/a
	<b>Expense Cap</b>	0.30%	0.30%	0.30%	n/a	0.30%	0.30%	n/a	n/a	0.30%	0.30%	0.30%
	<b>TER</b>	1.40%	1.80%	1.40%	n/a	1.80%	0.95%	n/a	n/a	0.95%	0.75%	0.30%
Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund	<b>Management Fee</b>	1.05%	1.45%	1.05%	n/a	1.45%	0.60%	0.47%	n/a	0.60%	0.10%	n/a
	<b>Expense Cap</b>	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%
	<b>TER</b>	1.20%	1.60%	1.20%	n/a	1.60%	0.75%	0.62%	n/a	0.75%	0.25%	0.15%
Emerging Markets Growth Fund	<b>Management Fee</b>	1.35%	1.75%	1.35%	n/a	1.75%	0.85%	n/a	n/a	0.85%	n/a	n/a
	<b>Expense Cap</b>	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	n/a	0.20%	0.20%	n/a	n/a	0.20%	n/a	0.20%
	<b>TER</b>	1.55%	1.95%	1.55%	n/a	1.95%	1.05%	n/a	n/a	1.05%	n/a	0.20%
Emerging Markets	<b>Management Fee</b>	1.30%	1.70%	1.30%	n/a	1.70%	0.80%	n/a	n/a	0.80%	0.55%	n/a

		Class A	Class B	Class I	Class IR	Class D	Class J	Class JW	Class JX	Class R	Class S	Class Z
Leaders Fund	<i>Expense Cap</i>	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	n/a	0.20%	0.20%	n/a	n/a	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%
	<i>TER</i>	1.50%	1.90%	1.50%	n/a	1.90%	1.00%	n/a	n/a	1.00%	0.75%	0.20%
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund	<i>Management Fee</i>	1.60%	2.00%	1.60%	n/a	2.00%	1.10%	n/a	n/a	1.10%	n/a	n/a
	<i>Expense Cap</i>	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	n/a	0.15%	n/a	0.15%
	<i>TER</i>	1.75%	2.15%	1.75%	n/a	2.15%	1.25%	n/a	n/a	1.25%	n/a	0.15%
Global Leaders Fund	<i>Management Fee</i>	1.15%	1.55%	1.15%	n/a	1.55%	0.65%	n/a	n/a	0.65%	0.35%	n/a
	<i>Expense Cap</i>	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	n/a	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%
	<i>TER</i>	1.30%	1.70%	1.30%	n/a	1.70%	0.80%	n/a	n/a	0.80%	0.50%	0.15%
Global Leaders Sustainability Fund	<i>Management Fee</i>	1.15%	1.55%	1.15%	n/a	1.55%	0.65%	0.50%	n/a	0.65%	0.35%	n/a
	<i>Expense Cap</i>	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%
	<i>TER</i>	1.30%	1.70%	1.30%	n/a	1.70%	0.80%	0.65%	n/a	0.80%	0.50%	0.15%
U.S All Cap Growth Fund	<i>Management Fee</i>	1.10%	1.55%	1.10%	n/a	1.55%	0.60%	n/a	n/a	0.60%	0.30%	n/a
	<i>Expense Cap</i>	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	n/a	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%
	<i>TER</i>	1.25%	1.70%	1.25%	n/a	1.70%	0.75%	n/a	n/a	0.75%	0.45%	0.15%
U.S. Large Cap Growth Fund	<i>Management Fee</i>	0.95%	1.40%	0.95%	n/a	1.40%	0.50%	n/a	n/a	0.50%	0.25%	n/a
	<i>Expense Cap</i>	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	n/a	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%
	<i>TER</i>	1.10%	1.55%	1.10%	n/a	1.55%	0.65%	n/a	n/a	0.65%	0.40%	0.15%
U.S. Small-Mid Cap Core Fund	<i>Management Fee</i>	1.30%	1.70%	1.30%	n/a	1.70%	0.80%	0.55%	n/a	0.80%	n/a	n/a
	<i>Expense Cap</i>	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	0.15%	n/a	0.15%
	<i>TER</i>	1.45%	1.85%	1.45%	n/a	1.85%	0.95%	0.70%	n/a	0.95%	n/a	0.15%
U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund	<i>Management Fee</i>	1.35%	1.75%	1.35%	n/a	1.75%	0.85%	0.65%	0.60%	0.85%	n/a	n/a
	<i>Expense Cap</i>	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	0.15%	n/a	0.15%
	<i>TER</i>	1.50%	1.90%	1.50%	n/a	1.90%	1.00%	0.80%	0.75%	1.00%	n/a	0.15%

To the extent that the Company Charges incurred by the relevant Fund in any financial year exceed the Expense Cap, such excess amount shall be paid by the Investment Manager.

The Company will publish a notice to shareholders thirty (30) calendar days' before any increase in the TER from its current stated level.

The relevant Fund will reimburse the Investment Manager for any waived or reduced Management Fees and any other Fund expenses paid by the Investment Manager, if and when the TER of the relevant Fund is less than the applicable Expense Cap.

## Conversion of Shares

### Conversion Commission

No conversion commission will be levied.

### Procedure for conversion

With regard to a specific Fund, shareholders may convert all or part of their Shares in a Class into the corresponding amount of Shares in another Class if they comply with all the requirements with respect to the Class into which the Shares are to be converted. Shareholders need to do so by application in writing or by fax to the Company and the Registrar and Transfer Agent stating which Shares in a Class are to be converted in the corresponding amount of Shares in the other Class.

With respect to a specific Class, however, shareholders may convert all or part of their Shares in one Fund into Shares in the same Class of one or more Fund(s) by application in writing or by fax to the Company and the Registrar and Transfer Agent stating which Shares are to be converted into which Class and Fund(s).

The application for conversion must include either (i) the monetary amount the shareholder wishes to convert or (ii) the number of Shares the shareholder wishes to convert. In addition, the application for conversion must include the shareholder's personal details together with its identification number(s).

The application for conversion must be duly signed by the registered shareholder, save in the case of joint registered shareholders where an acceptable power of attorney has been provided to the Company and the Registrar and Transfer Agent.

Failure to provide any of this information may result in delay of the application for conversion.

Shareholders should note that if an application for conversion relates to a partial conversion of an existing holding of Shares and the remaining balance within the existing holding is below the minimum requirement as detailed in the section headed "*Subscription Procedure*", the Company is not bound to comply with such application for conversion.

Applications for conversion received by the Company and the Registrar and Transfer Agent on a Luxembourg Business Day before the relevant Fund conversion deadline, which is 4:00 p.m. (Luxembourg time) (the "**Fund Conversion Deadline**"), will be processed on that Valuation Day using the Net Asset Value per Share determined on such Valuation Day based on the latest available prices in Luxembourg (as described in section headed "*Net Asset Value*"). It is a requirement that applications have been received by both the Company and the Registrar and Transfer Agent before the Fund Conversion Deadline.

Any application for conversion received by the Company and/or the Registrar and Transfer Agent after the Fund Conversion Deadline will be processed on the next following Valuation Day on the basis of the Net Asset Value per Share determined on such Valuation Day.

The rate at which all or part of the Shares in one Fund are converted into Shares in another new Fund is determined in accordance with the following formula:

$$A = \frac{(B \times C \times D)}{E}$$

where:

- A is the number of Shares to be allocated in the new Fund;
- B is the number of Shares of the Fund to be converted;
- C is the Net Asset Value per Share of the relevant Class in the converted Fund, as determined on the relevant Valuation Day;
- D is the actual rate of foreign exchange on the day concerned in respect of the Reference Currency of the Fund to be converted and the Reference Currency of the new Fund, and is equal to 1 in relation to conversions between Funds denominated in the same Dealing Currency;
- E is the Net Asset Value per Share of the relevant Class in the new Fund, as determined on the relevant Valuation Day, plus any taxes, commissions or other fees.

The above applies mutatis mutandis to the conversion between Classes in the same Fund, subject to the shareholder concerned complying with all the requirements of the Class in which its shareholding concerned shall be converted to.

#### *Notification of Transaction*

Following such conversion of Shares, the Registrar and Transfer Agent will inform the shareholder concerned of the number of Shares of the new Fund and/or Class obtained by conversion and the price thereof. Fractions of Shares in the new Fund and/or Class up to three (3) decimal places will be issued, the Company being entitled to receive the adjustment.

## Redemption of Shares

Shares may be redeemed either in whole or in part on any Dealing Day at a redemption price calculated on the basis of the Net Asset Value per Share as determined on the Valuation Day (the "**Redemption Price**").

On payment of the Redemption Price, the corresponding Shares will be cancelled immediately in the Company's Share register. Any taxes, commissions and other fees incurred in the respective countries in which the Shares are redeemed will be charged. The Funds shall at all times maintain sufficient liquidity to satisfy any redemption requests for Shares.

The Company will have the right, if the Board of Directors so determines and with the consent of the shareholder concerned, to satisfy payment of the redemption price to any shareholder in kind by allocating to such shareholder investments from the pool of assets set up in connection with such Classes of Shares equal in value (calculated in a manner as described in Appendix C hereof) as of the Valuation Day on which the Redemption Price is calculated to the value of Shares to be redeemed. The nature and type of the assets to be transferred in such case shall be determined on a fair and reasonable basis and without prejudicing the interests of the other shareholders of the relevant Class of Shares, and the valuation used may be confirmed by a special report of the auditor. The cost of such transfer shall be borne by the transferee.

### **Redemption Commission**

**No redemption commission will be levied.**

### **Procedure for Redemption**

Shareholders wishing to have all or some of their Shares redeemed by the Company may apply to do so by fax or by letter to the Central Administration or to a distributor (if any).

The application for redemption of any Shares must include either (i) the monetary amount the shareholder wishes to redeem or (ii) the number of Shares the shareholder wishes to redeem.

In addition, the application for redemption must include the shareholder's personal details together with its account number. Failure to provide any of the aforementioned information may result in delay of such application for redemption whilst verification is being sought from the shareholder.

Subject to the provisions explained below under the section headed "*Temporary Suspension of Redemption*", applications for redemption will be considered by the Company as irrevocable and must be duly signed by all registered shareholders, save in the case of joint registered shareholders where an acceptable power of attorney has been provided to the Company and the Registrar and Transfer Agent.

Redemption applications for Shares received by the Central Administration prior to 4:00 p.m. (Luxembourg time) on any Luxembourg Bank Business Day corresponding to the applicable Valuation Day (the "**Redemption Deadline**") will be processed on that Dealing Day at the Net Asset Value per Share as determined on such Dealing Day, based on the latest available prices in Luxembourg (as described in Appendix C). Shareholders should note that they might be unable to redeem Shares through a distributor, if any, on days during which such distributor is not open for business or on which the New York Stock Exchange is closed.

Any application for redemption received by the Central Administration on any Dealing Day after the Redemption Deadline, or on any day that is not a Dealing Day, will be processed on the next following Dealing Day on the basis of the Net Asset Value per Share as determined on the same Valuation Day.

A confirmation statement will be sent by ordinary post to the relevant shareholder, detailing the redemption proceeds due as soon as reasonably practicable after the Redemption Price of the Shares being redeemed has been determined. Shareholders should check this statement to ensure that the transaction has been accurately recorded in the Dealing Currency of the Class concerned. In calculating the redemption proceeds, the Company will round down to the nearest cent (0.01,-), the Company being entitled to receive the adjustment.

The Redemption Price per Share in each Fund may be higher or lower than the Subscription Price paid by the shareholder, depending on the Net Asset Value per Share of the relevant Fund at the time of redemption.

Payment for Shares redeemed will be effected in the relevant Dealing Currency of the Class concerned no later than three (3) Luxembourg Bank Business Days after the relevant Valuation Day, unless legal constraints, such as foreign exchange controls or restrictions on capital movements, or other circumstances beyond the control of the Depositary, make it impossible or impracticable to transfer the redemption amount to the country in which the application for redemption was submitted. If necessary, the Central Administration will arrange the currency transaction required for the conversion of the redemption monies from the Dealing Currency of the relevant Class into the relevant redemption currency. Such currency transaction will be effected with the Depositary or a distributor, if any, at the relevant shareholder's cost and risk.

The Company shall ensure that the Funds have at all times enough liquidity to satisfy any redemption request. If the redemption and conversion requests exceed ten (10) *per cent* of the net assets of the relevant Fund, the Company may decide to delay the execution of such applications until the corresponding amount of assets of the Fund have been realised (without any unnecessary delay).

### **Temporary Suspension of Redemption**

The right of any shareholder to require the redemption of its Shares will be suspended during any period in which the determination of the Net Asset Value per Share is suspended by the Directors pursuant to the powers described in Appendix C. Notice of the suspension

period will be given to any shareholder tendering Shares for redemption. The withdrawal of an application for redemption will only be effective if written notification is received by the Central Administration before the termination of the period of suspension, failing which the Shares concerned will be redeemed on the first Valuation Day following the end of the suspension period on the basis of the Net Asset Value per Share determined on such Valuation Day.

### **Blocked Redemption**

Note also that the Company will not pay out any redemption proceeds until it has received all shareholders information or documentation that it considers necessary, in particular as set out in the Subscription Form.

### **Compulsory Redemption**

The Directors may at their discretion and without liability: redeem a shareholders shares and, to the extent permitted under the AML/CFT Regulations, send the shareholder the proceeds or switch a shareholders holding to another class if it does not, or if the shareholder no longer, meet the qualifying criteria for the share class the shareholder hold. The Company will give the shareholder 30 calendar days' notice before doing so, to allow the shareholder time to switch to another class or redeem the shares. Redeem a shareholders shares and send the shareholder the proceeds or switch an investors holding to another suitable class if the share class the shareholder hold is no longer operationally or economically viable, or the Company otherwise deem it to be in a shareholders best interests. The Company will give the shareholder 30 calendar days' notice before doing so.

If the Company becomes aware that shares are owned by an ineligible owner (such as a US investor), are being held in violation of any law or regulation, a non-institutional investor (if applicable), not a nominee acting on behalf of retail investors (if applicable), or the circumstances of ownership may have adverse effects for the SICAV or shareholders, for example market timing, the Company will either void the acquiring transaction, require a new transfer to an eligible owner, or redeem the shares. The SICAV will not be held liable for any gain or loss associated with such actions. The Company may require any shareholder to provide it with any information that it may consider necessary for the purpose of determining whether or not any of the above criteria apply.

### **Procedures for redemptions and conversions representing ten (10) per cent or more of the net assets of the relevant Fund**

If any application for redemption or conversion is received in respect of any one Dealing Day, which either singly or when aggregated with other such applications so received, represents more than ten (10) *per cent* of the net assets of the relevant Fund, the Company reserves the right, in its sole and absolute discretion and without liability (and in the reasonable opinion of the Directors that to do so is in the best interests of the remaining shareholders of the Company), to scale down each application, on a *pro rata* basis, with

respect to such Dealing Day so that no more than ten (10) *percent* of the net assets of the relevant Fund be redeemed or converted on such Dealing Day.

To the extent that any application for redemption or conversion is not given full effect on such Valuation Day by virtue of the exercise by the Company of its power to pro-rate applications, such application shall be treated with respect to the unsatisfied balance thereof as if a further request had been made by the shareholder in question in respect of the next Valuation Day and, if necessary, subsequent Valuation Days, until such application shall have been satisfied in full.

With respect to any application received in respect of such Valuation Day, to the extent that subsequent applications shall be received in respect of following Valuation Days, such later applications shall be postponed in priority to the satisfaction of applications relating to such first Valuation Day, but subject thereto shall be dealt with as set out above.

## SECTION VII - GENERAL INFORMATION

### **The Company**

The Company has been incorporated for an unlimited period of time on 2 February 2004 under Luxembourg law as a "*société d'investissement à capital variable*" (SICAV). The capital of the Company must not be less than the equivalent amount in US\$ of Euro 1,250,000.-.

The Company's articles of incorporation have been deposited with the Luxembourg Register for Trade and Companies and have been published in the *Mémorial C, Recueil des Sociétés et Associations* (the "*Mémorial*") on 19 February 2004. The latest amendments to the Company's articles of incorporation have been made on 28 September 2012 and were published in the *Mémorial* on 9 October 2012. The Company is registered with the Luxembourg Register for Trade and Companies under number B-98.806.

The Company's articles of incorporation may be amended from time to time by an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders, subject to the quorum and majority requirements provided by Luxembourg law. Any amendment thereto shall be published in the RESA (the Luxembourg *Recueil Electronique des Sociétés et Associations*), in a Luxembourg daily newspaper and, if necessary, in the official publications specified for the respective countries in which the Shares are sold. Such amendments become legally binding on all shareholders, following their approval by the extraordinary general meeting of shareholders.

The Company is a single legal entity. However, each Fund is regarded as being separate from the others and is only liable for its own obligations.

### **Management and Administration**

#### *The Directors*

The Directors, whose names appear in the section headed "*Board of Directors*", are responsible for the information contained in the Prospectus. They have taken all reasonable care to ensure that at the date of the Prospectus the information contained herein is accurate and complete in all material respects. The Directors accept their responsibility accordingly.

The Directors are responsible for the Company's management, control, administration and the determination of its overall investment objectives and policies.

There are no existing or proposed service contracts between any of the Directors and the Company or the Management Company.

### *The Management Company*

The Company has appointed by an agreement dated 28 April 2006 FundRock Management Company S.A., a *société anonyme* incorporated under the laws of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and having its registered office at Airport Center Building, 5 Heienhaff, L-1736 Senningerberg, as its management company in accordance with the provisions of the UCI Law (the "**Management Company**").

The Management Company was incorporated in the form of a *société anonyme* on 10 November 2004 for an unlimited duration. The Management Company is approved as management company in accordance with chapter 15 of the UCI Law. The Management Company has a subscribed and paid-up capital of € 10,000,000.

As of the date Prospectus, FundRock Management Company S.A. has also been appointed to act as management company for other funds and can be appointed in the future to act as management company for other funds. Such other funds will be mentioned in the financial reports of the Management Company.

As of the date of the Prospectus, the Management Company's Board of Directors consists of the following members:

- Michel Vareika, Chairman, Independent Non-Executive Director, Luxembourg
- Karl Fuehrer, Executive Director – Conducting Officer – Global Head of Investment Management Oversight FundRock Management Company S.A.
- Frank de Boer, Executive Director – Conducting Officer - FundRock Management Company S.A., Luxembourg
- Carmel McGovern, Independent Non-Executive Director, Luxembourg
- Dr Dirk Franz, Independent Non-Executive Director,, Luxembourg

The *dirigeants*, as referred to in article 102 of the UCI Law and CSSF Circular 18/698, of the Management Company are:

- Mr Frank de Boer, Executive Director -Accounting, Branches, HR and Client Management
- Mr Karl Fuhrer, Executive Director - Global Head of Investment Management Oversight
- Mr Marc-Oliver Scharwath, Cloud and Outsourcing Officer, CO in charge of Administration of UCIs, Valuation and IT Emmanuel Nantas, Director of Compliance
- Hugues Sebenne, Head of Risk and Compliance

The Management Company is, according to the Fund Management Agreement, entered into on 28 April 2006 between the Management Company and the Company, appointed to serve as the Company's designated management company. The Management Company shall in particular be responsible for the following functions:

- portfolio management of the Company;
- central administration, including *inter alia*, the calculation of the Net Asset Value, the procedure of registration, conversion and redemption of Shares and the general administration of the Company; and
- distribution and marketing of the Shares; in this respect the Management Company may, with the consent of the Company, appoint other distributors/nominees.

The rights and duties of the Management Company are governed by the UCI Law and the Fund Management Agreement entered into for an unlimited period of time.

In accordance with applicable laws and regulations and with the prior consent of the Board of Directors, the Management Company is empowered to delegate, under its responsibility, all or part of its duties and powers to any person or entity, which it may consider appropriate. It being understood that the Prospectus shall, the case being, be amended accordingly.

The Management Company has established and applies a remuneration policy in accordance with principles laid out under the UCITS Directive and any related legal and regulatory provisions applicable in Luxembourg.

The remuneration policy is aligned with the business strategy, objectives, values and interests of the Management Company and the Company and of the investors in the Company, and which includes, *inter alia*, measures to avoid conflicts of interest; and it is consistent with and promotes sound and effective risk management and does not encourage risk taking which is inconsistent with the risk profiles, rules and articles of incorporation of the Company.

As an independent management company relying on a full-delegation model (*i.e.*, delegation of the collective portfolio management function), the Management Company ensures that its remuneration policy adequately reflects the predominance of its oversight activity within its core activities. As such, it should be noted that the Management Company's employees who are identified as risk-takers in accordance with the UCITS Directive are not remunerated based on the performance of the Company.

The Management Company's remuneration policy, in a multi-year framework, ensures a balanced regime where remuneration both drives and rewards the performance of its employees in a measured, fair and well-thought-out fashion, which relies on the following principles:

- Identification of the persons responsible for awarding remuneration and benefits (under the supervision of the remuneration committee and subject to the control of an independent internal audit committee);
- Identification of the functions performed within the Management Company which may impact the performance of the Company;

- Calculation of remuneration and benefits based on the combination of individual and company's performance assessment;
- Determination of a balanced remuneration (fixed and variable);
- Implementation of an appropriate retention policy with regards to financial instruments used as variable remuneration;
- Deferral of variable remuneration over 3-year periods;
- Implementation of control procedures/adequate contractual arrangements on the remuneration guidelines set up by the Management Company's respective portfolio management delegates.

It should be noted that the Management Company's remuneration policy may be subject to certain amendments and/or adjustments.

Details of the up-to-date remuneration policy of the Management Company, including a description of how remuneration and benefits are calculated and the identity of persons responsible for awarding the remuneration and benefits, including the composition of the remuneration committee, are available at: [https://www.fundrock.com/pdf/Fundrock\\_Remuneration\\_policy.pdf](https://www.fundrock.com/pdf/Fundrock_Remuneration_policy.pdf). A paper version of this remuneration policy is made available free of charge to investors upon request at the Management Company's registered office.

For the time being, the duties of portfolio management, central administrative agent, which include the registrar and transfer agent duties, have been delegated as further detailed here-below.

#### *The Investment Manager*

Pursuant to an investment management agreement dated 1 October 2015, the Management Company has appointed William Blair Investment Management, LLC as Investment Manager to assist the Management Company with the management of the assets of the Funds. William Blair Investment Management, LLC was formed 29 October 2014 under the laws of the United States of America and is regulated in the United States of America by the Securities and Exchange Commission. William Blair Investment Management, LLC has capital of US\$ 40,000,000 as of 31 May 2019 and promotes and manages investment funds in the United States of America.

Pursuant to the investment management agreement mentioned above, the Management Company has expressly delegated to the Investment Manager the discretion, on a daily basis but subject to the overall control and responsibility of the Company, to purchase and sell securities as agent for the Company and otherwise to manage the portfolios of the Funds for the account and in the name of the Company in relation to specific transactions.

The aforementioned investment management agreement gives the Investment Manager the discretion to appoint, at its own cost, specialist asset management companies from within its group as sub-investment managers, in order to benefit from their expertise and

experience in particular markets, subject to CSSF approval. The Investment Manager shall remain responsible for the proper performance by such party of those responsibilities.

The Investment Manager also may, from time to time at its sole discretion, use part of its investment management fee to remunerate certain financial intermediaries and may pay reimbursements or rebates to certain institutional shareholders in circumstances where its fees are charged directly to such intermediaries and/or institutional shareholders and not to the Funds. The Investment Manager may also pay trail or service fees out of its investment management fee to certain asset managers. Such payments will comply with all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

#### *The Global Distributor*

Pursuant to a global distribution agreement dated 27 September 2010, the Management Company has appointed William Blair & Company, L.L.C. as Global Distributor for the purpose of marketing, distributing and promoting the Shares of the Funds. Pursuant to the global distribution agreement, the Global Distributor may act as a nominee for its clients and such clients may have a right to address themselves directly to the Company and, as necessary, to terminate their agreement with the Global Distributor acting as nominee unless the nominee services are indispensable or even mandatory by law, regulations or binding practices.

#### *The Depositary and Paying Agent*

##### Introduction and Key Duties

The Company has, under the terms of the depositary agreement (the "**Depositary Agreement**"), engaged Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch (the "**Depositary**") as depositary of the Company's assets. The Depositary shall also be responsible for the oversight of the Company to the extent required by and in accordance with applicable law, rules and regulations. The Depositary shall exercise the supervisory duties in accordance with applicable law, rules and regulations as well as the Depositary Agreement.

The key duties of the Depositary are to perform on behalf of the Company the depositary duties referred to in the UCI Law essentially consisting of:

- (i) monitoring and verifying the Company's cash flows;
- (ii) safekeeping of the Company's assets, including *inter alia* holding in custody financial instruments that may be held in custody and verification of ownership of other assets;
- (iii) ensuring that the sale, issue, repurchase, redemption and cancellation of Shares are carried out in accordance with the articles of incorporation of the Company and applicable Luxembourg law, rules and regulations;

- (iv) ensuring that the value of the Shares is calculated in accordance with the articles of incorporation of the Company and applicable Luxembourg law, rules and regulations;
- (v) ensuring that in transactions involving Company's assets any consideration is remitted to the Company within the usual time limits;
- (vi) ensuring that the Company's income is applied in accordance with the articles of incorporation of the Company, and applicable Luxembourg law, rules and regulations; and
- (vii) carrying out instructions from the Management Company unless they conflict with the articles of incorporation of the Company or applicable Luxembourg law, rules and regulations.

#### *Background of the Depositary and Paying Agent*

Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch, is the depositary of the Fund.

The Depositary is a public limited company domiciled in Ireland with registered number 132781 whose registered office is at 1 North Wall Quay, Dublin 1. The Depositary conducts its principal business in Luxembourg from its office at 31, Z.A.I. Bourmicht, L-8070 Bertrange, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. Its Luxembourg branch was established on 28 August 2015 and is registered with the *Registre de Commerce et des Sociétés* of Luxembourg under number B 0200204. Its Luxembourg branch is authorised to provide such services in accordance with the Luxembourg law of 5 April 1993 on the financial sector, as amended, and is specialised in fund custody and administration services.

The Depositary is authorised by the Central Bank of Ireland but in respect of its services as depositary in Luxembourg is regulated by the CSSF.

As paying agent, Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch is responsible for the payment of dividends (if any) to the Shareholders and as domiciliary agent, Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch provides the registered office of Company as well as administrative, secretarial, and certain tax services to the Company. The Depositary shall in addition be responsible for the processing of the transfer of the redemption proceeds of the Shares.

#### *Delegation and Conflicts of Interest*

Under the terms of the Depositary Agreement and in accordance with the UCI Law, the Depositary has power to delegate certain of its depositary functions.

In order to discharge its responsibility in this regard, the Depositary must exercise due skill, care and diligence in the selection, continued appointment and ongoing monitoring of a third party as a safekeeping agent so as to ensure that the third party has and maintains the expertise, competence and standing appropriate to discharge the responsibilities concerned; maintain an appropriate level of supervision over the safekeeping agent; and

make appropriate inquiries from time to time to confirm that the obligations of the agent continue to be competently discharged.

The liability of the Depositary will not be affected by the fact that it has delegated to a third party certain of its safekeeping in respect of the Company's assets.

Without prejudice to the section "Conflicts of Interest" below, from time to time actual or potential conflicts may arise between the Depositary and its delegates or sub-delegates, for example where an appointed delegate or sub-delegate is an affiliated group company which receives remuneration for another custodial service it provides to the Company.

Included in the Depositary's conflict of interest policy are procedures to identify, manage and monitor on an on-going basis any actual or potential conflict of interest involving its delegates or sub-delegates.

The Depositary will ensure that any such delegates or sub-delegates who are its affiliates are appointed on terms which are not materially less favorable to the Company/ a Fund than if the conflict or potential conflict had not existed.

In certain jurisdictions, where the local law requires that financial instruments are held by a local entity and no local entity satisfies the delegation requirements to which the Depositary is subject, the Depositary may delegate its functions to a local entity for as long as there are no local entities which satisfy the requirements. The Depositary will only do so where the Management Company has instructed it to do so and Shareholders are notified of such delegation prior to their investment, the reasons for it and the risks involved in the delegation.

#### *Conflicts of Interest*

Actual or potential conflicts of interest may also arise between Company/ a Fund, the Shareholders or the Management Company on the one hand and the Depositary on the other hand.

For example, such actual or potential conflict may arise because the Depositary is part of a legal entity or is related to a legal entity which provides other products or services to the Company/ a Fund or the Management Company. In particular, depositary and administration services are provided by the same legal entity, Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch. In practice, however, the depositary and administration lines of business are functionally and hierarchically separated and operate on an arm's length basis. In addition, the Depositary may have a financial or business interest in the provision of such products or services, or receives remuneration for related products or services provided to the Company/ a Funds, or may have other clients whose interests may conflict with those of the Company/ a Fund, the Shareholders or the Management Company.

The Depositary and any of its affiliates may effect, and make a profit from, transactions in which the Depositary (or its affiliates, or another client of the Depositary or its affiliates) has (directly or indirectly) a material interest or a relationship of any description and which

involves or may involve a potential conflict with the Depositary's duty to the Company/ a Fund. This includes circumstances in which the Depositary or any of its affiliates or connected persons: acts as market maker in the investments of the Company/ the Fund in question; provides broking services to the Company/ a Fund and/or to other funds or companies; acts as financial adviser, banker, derivatives counterparty or otherwise provides services to the issuer of the investments of the Company/ the Fund in question; acts in the same transaction as agent for more than one client; has a material interest in the issue of the investments of the Company/ a Fund; or earns profits from or has a financial or business interest in any of these activities.

The group-wide conflict of interest policy provides that Citi manages conflicts through various policies, procedures and/or processes, which may, depending upon the conflict, include prevention or avoidance of conflicts, or appropriate disclosures, establishing information barriers, restructuring transactions, products or processes, and/or changing compensation incentives.

The Depositary has a conflict of interest policy in place to identify, manage and monitor on an on-going basis any actual or potential conflict of interest. The Depositary has functionally and hierarchically separated the performance of its depositary tasks from its other potentially conflicting tasks. The system of internal controls, the different reporting lines, the allocation of tasks and the management reporting allow potential conflicts of interest and the Depositary issues to be properly identified, managed and monitored.

Up-to-date information on delegations and sub-delegations and related conflicts of interest may be requested from the Depositary by Shareholders. This information is also available at: <http://www.citigroup.com/citi/about/countrypresence/luxembourg.html>.

#### *Termination of the Depositary Agreement*

The Depositary Agreement provides that it will continue in force unless and until terminated by either party giving not less than 90 days' prior written notice to the other, although termination may be immediate in certain circumstances, such as the insolvency of the Depositary. Upon an (envisaged) removal or resignation of the Depositary, the Company shall with due observance of the applicable requirements of the CSSF and in accordance with applicable law, rules and regulations, appoint a successor depositary. The Depositary may not be replaced without the approval of the CSSF.

#### *Liability of the Depositary*

The Depositary is liable to the Company or to the Shareholders for the loss by the Depositary or a third party to whom the custody of financial instruments that can be held in custody has been delegated. In the case of such a loss of a financial instrument held in custody, the Depositary shall return a financial instrument of identical type or the corresponding amount to the Company or the Management Company acting on behalf of the Company without undue delay. The Depositary is not liable if it can prove that the loss has arisen as a

result of an external event beyond its reasonable control, the consequences of which would have been unavoidable despite all reasonable efforts to the contrary.

The Depositary is also liable to the Company or the Shareholders for all losses suffered by them as a result of the Depositary's negligent or intentional failure to properly fulfill its obligations. In case of direct liability of the Depositary vis-à-vis the Shareholders they shall, in line with the terms of the Depositary Agreement, not exercise any claims on the Depositary directly but shall request the Management Company to do so on their behalf. Only in a case where the Management Company does not accept such request (for whatever reason) shall the Shareholders be allowed to exercise any such claim directly vis-à-vis the Depositary. The Depositary Agreement contains indemnities in favour of the Depositary excluding matters arising by reason of its failure to satisfy its obligation of due skill, care and diligence, or by reason of its negligence, intentional failure or fraud.

#### *Other provisions of the Depositary Agreement*

The Depositary Agreement is governed by the laws of Luxembourg and the courts of Luxembourg shall have exclusive jurisdiction to hear any disputes or claims arising out of or in connection with the Depositary Agreement.

#### *The Central Administration (including Domiciliary Agent) and Registrar and Transfer Agent*

With the prior approval of the Company, the Management Company has appointed Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch as the Company's central administration (including corporate administration, domiciliary, accounting and regulatory reporting agent) (in such capacity, the "**Central Administration**") and registrar and transfer agent (in such capacity, the "**Registrar and Transfer Agent**").

In its capacity as Central Administration, Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch is responsible for the central administration of the Company and in particular for the determination of the Net Asset Value of the Shares, for the maintenance of accounting records and for the client communication function which is comprised of the production and delivery of the confidential documents intended for investors. In its capacity as domiciliary, Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch moreover provides the registered office of the Company.

In its capacity as Registrar and Transfer Agent, Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch is responsible for the issue, redemption, cancellation and transfer of the Shares of the Company and for the keeping of the register of shareholders.

Citibank Europe plc is a public limited company domiciled in Ireland and authorized by the Central Bank of Ireland, acting through its Luxembourg Branch having its offices at 31, Z.A. Bourmicht, L-8070 Bertrange, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg and registered with the Luxembourg Register of Trade and Companies (Registre de Commerce et des Sociétés) under number B 200204, which is licensed for all types of banking activities. Citibank

Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch is a member of the Citigroup group of companies, having as their ultimate parent Citigroup Inc., a US publicly quoted company.

### **Dissolution and Liquidation of the Company**

The Company may at any time be dissolved by a resolution taken by an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders subject to the quorum and majority requirements as defined in the articles of incorporation of the Company.

Whenever the capital falls below two thirds of the minimum capital as provided for by the UCI Law, the Directors must submit the question of the dissolution of the Company to an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders. The extraordinary general meeting, for which no quorum shall be required, shall decide on simple majority of the votes of the Shares present and represented at such meeting.

The question of the dissolution of the Company shall also be referred to an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders whenever the capital falls below one quarter of the minimum capital. In such event, the general meeting shall be held without quorum requirements, and the dissolution may be decided by the shareholders holding one quarter of the votes present and represented at that meeting.

The meeting must be convened so that it is held within a period of forty (40) days from when it is ascertained that the net assets of the Company have fallen below two thirds or one quarter of the legal minimum, as the case may be.

The issue of Shares shall cease on the date of publication of the notice of the extraordinary general meeting of shareholders, to which the dissolution and liquidation of the Company shall be proposed.

One or more liquidator(s) shall be appointed by the extraordinary general meeting of shareholders to realise the assets of the Company, subject to the supervision of the CSSF and the best interests of shareholders. The liquidation proceeds, net of all liquidation expenses, shall be distributed by the liquidator(s) among the holders of Shares in accordance with their respective rights. The amounts not claimed by shareholders at the end of the liquidation process shall be deposited, in accordance with Luxembourg law, with the *Caisse de Consignations* in Luxembourg until the statutory limitation period has lapsed.

### **Termination of a Fund and/or of a Class of Shares**

If more than one Fund and/or a Class of Shares are offered, the Directors of the Company may decide at any moment to terminate any Fund and/or Class of Shares. In the case of termination of a Fund, Shares will be redeemed against cash at the Net Asset Value per Share determined on the Valuation Day as described in the section headed "*Redemption of Shares*".

In the event that for any reason the value of the assets in any Fund or of any Class of Shares within a Fund has decreased to an amount determined by the Directors of the Company from time to time to be the minimum level for such Fund or Class of Shares to be operated in an economically efficient manner, or if a change in the economic or political situation

relating to the Fund concerned would have material adverse consequences on the investments of that Fund, or as a matter of economic rationalization, the Directors of the Company may decide to compulsorily redeem all the Shares of the relevant Classes issued in such Fund at the Net Asset Value per Share (taking into account actual realisation prices of investments and realisation expenses), determined on the Valuation Day on which such decision shall take effect.

Any request for subscription shall be suspended as from the moment of the announcement of the termination, the merger or the transfer of the relevant Fund.

In addition, the extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of any one or all Classes of Shares issued in a Fund may, upon proposal from the Directors of the Company, redeem all the Shares issued in such Fund and refund to the shareholders the Net Asset Value per Share of their Shares (taking into account actual realisation prices of investments and realisation expenses) determined on the Valuation Day on which such decision shall take effect. There shall be no quorum requirements for such extraordinary general meeting of shareholders that shall decide by resolution taken by simple majority of those present and represented.

Assets which may not be distributed to their owners upon the implementation of the redemption will be deposited, in accordance with Luxembourg law, with the *Caisse de Consignations* in Luxembourg on behalf of the persons entitled thereto.

All redeemed Shares shall be cancelled by the Company.

The liquidation of a Fund shall not involve the liquidation of another Fund. Only the liquidation of the last remaining Fund of the Company involves the liquidation of the Company.

## **Taxation**

The following section is a short summary of certain important taxation principles that may be or become relevant with respect to the Company and its Funds.

This section does not purport to be a complete summary of tax law and practice currently applicable in Luxembourg and does not address in full the taxation of the Company or any of its Funds in any other jurisdiction or the taxation of any legal entity, partnership or UCI in which the Company or any of its Funds hold an interest. The following summary is based on laws, regulations and practice currently applicable in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg at the date of this prospectus and is subject to changes therein, possibly with retroactive effect.

Prospective investors should consult their own professional tax advisers in respect of the possible tax consequences of subscribing for, buying, holding, redeeming, converting or selling the shares of the Company or of its Funds under the laws of their countries of citizenship, residence, domicile or incorporation.

## *The Company*

Under current laws and administrative practice, the Company (or any of its Funds) is not liable to any Luxembourg corporate income tax, municipal business tax and net worth tax nor are dividends paid by the Company subject to any Luxembourg withholding tax.

The Company (or any of its Funds) is liable to an annual subscription tax (*taxe d'abonnement*) in Luxembourg calculated, in accordance with Article 174 of the UCI Law, at the rate of 0.05% of the net assets of the Company (or any of its Funds). This tax is payable quarterly on the basis of the net assets of the Company (or any of its Funds), calculated at the end of the quarter to which the tax relates.

However, provided the conditions in Article 174 of the UCI Law are fulfilled, the 0.05% rate may be reduced to 0.01% (i) for UCIs and individual compartments of umbrella UCIs that are authorised as money market funds in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1131 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 on money market funds or (ii) for individual compartments of UCIs with multiple compartments as well as for individual classes of securities issued within a UCI or within a compartment of a UCI with multiple compartments to one or more institutional investors.

Under certain conditions, reduced rates ranging from 0.04% to 0.01% may also be available for the portion of the net assets of a UCI or of an individual compartment of a UCI with multiple compartments that are invested in sustainable economic activities (as defined in Article 3 of 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 investment, and amending Regulation (EU) 2019/2088).

Further, the following are exempt from the subscription tax:

- the value of the assets represented by units held in other UCIs, provided that such units have already been subject to the subscription tax provided for by Article 174 of the UCI Law, Article 68 of the amended law of 13 February 2007 on specialised investment funds, or Article 46 of the amended law of 23 July 2016 on reserved alternative investment funds;
- UCIs as well as individual compartments of UCIs with multiple compartments (i) whose securities are reserved for institutional investors, and (ii) that are authorised as short-term money market funds in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2017/1131 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2017 on money market funds, and (iii) that have obtained the highest possible rating from a recognised rating agency.

If several classes of securities exist within the UCI or the compartment, the exemption only applies to classes whose securities are reserved for institutional investors;

- UCIs as well as individual compartments of UCIs with multiple compartments whose securities are reserved for (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, (ii) companies of one or more employers investing the funds they hold, to provide retirement benefits to their employees, and (iii) investors in the context of a pan-European Personal Pension Product established under Regulation (EU) 2019/1238

of the European Parliament and of the Council of 20 June 2019 on a pan-European Personal Pension Product (PEPP).

If there are several classes of securities within the UCI or compartment, the exemption applies only to those classes whose securities are reserved for these investors;

- UCIs as well as individual compartments of UCIs with multiple compartments whose main object is the investment in microfinance institutions;
- UCIs as well as individual compartments of UCIs with multiple compartments (i) whose securities are listed or traded on at least one stock exchange or another regulated market operating regularly, recognised and open to the public, and (ii) whose sole object is to replicate the performance of one or more indices.

If several classes of securities exist within the UCI or the compartment, the exemption only applies to classes fulfilling the condition sub-point (i);

UCIs and individual compartments of UCIs with multiple compartments which are approved as European long-term investment funds in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2015/760 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2015 on European long-term investment funds.

No stamp duty or other tax is payable in Luxembourg on the issue of shares by an undertaking for collective investment organised the provisions of Part I of the UCI law.

A fixed registration duty of EUR 75 will be due on amendments of the Company's articles of incorporation.

Dividends and interest, if any, received by the Company or any of its Funds from investments may be subject to taxes in the countries concerned at varying rates, such (withholding) taxes usually not being recoverable. The Company may be liable to certain other foreign taxes.

#### *Shareholders*

Under present Luxembourg law and administrative practice and subject to any amendment thereof, the shareholders are not liable to any taxation in Luxembourg in relation to the holding, sale, redemption or assignment of the Shares (except for shareholders domiciled, resident or having a permanent establishment in Luxembourg).

Prospective investors should inform themselves of, and where appropriate take advice on, the laws and regulations (such as those relating to taxation, foreign exchange controls and being prohibited persons) applicable to the subscription, purchase, holding, and redemption of Shares in the country of their citizenship, residence or domicile, and also of the current tax status of the Company in Luxembourg.

#### *Mandatory Disclosure Rules*

DAC6 imposes a reporting obligation on parties involved in transactions that may be associated with aggressive tax planning. More specifically, the reporting obligation will apply to cross-border arrangements that, among others, meet one or more "hallmarks"

provided for in the DAC6 Law that is coupled in certain cases, with the main benefit test (the "**Reportable Arrangements**"). In the case of a Reportable Arrangement, the information that must be reported includes inter-alia the name of all relevant taxpayers and intermediaries as well as an outline of the Reportable Arrangement, the value of the Reportable Arrangement and identification of any member states likely to be concerned by the Reportable Arrangement. The reporting obligation in principle rests with the persons that design, market, organise make available for implementation or manage the implementation of the Reportable Arrangement or provide assistance or advice in relation thereto (the so-called "**Intermediaries**"). However, in certain cases, the taxpayer itself can be subject to the reporting obligation. Since January 1, 2021, Reportable Arrangements must be reported within thirty days from the earliest of (i) the day after the Reportable Arrangement is made available for implementation or (ii) the day after the Reportable Arrangement is ready for implementation or (iii) the day when the first step in the implementation of the Reportable Arrangement has been made. The information reported will be automatically exchanged between the tax authorities of all Member States.

#### *Common Reporting Standard*

Prospective investors and shareholders shall comply with the obligations arising under the Common Reporting Standard ("**CRS**") which has been implemented in Luxembourg by the law dated 18 December 2015 concerning the automatic exchange of information on financial accounts and tax matters and implementing the EU Directive 2014/107/EU. To ensure the Company's compliance with CRS and avoid any penalty up to EUR 250,000, the Company, the Management Company, the Registrar, the Transfer Agent, the Depositary and/or the Global Distributor and/or any of their respective agents or representatives may:

- a. conduct due diligence and obtain information or documentation, including self-certification forms, confirming the tax residency, tax identification number and CRS classification of the shareholders;
- b. report information concerning a Shareholder and his account holding in the Company to the Luxembourg tax authorities and the Shareholder has a right to access the data communicated to the Luxembourg tax authorities and to correct such data (if necessary); and/or
- c. report information (which may vary depending on the nature of the account) to the Luxembourg tax authorities in relation to the activity taking place in the reportable account of a shareholder and the balance of reportable accounts.

Prospective investors and shareholders should consult with their own tax advisors regarding the possible implications of CRS to their particular circumstances.

#### *U.S. Tax Withholding and Reporting under the Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act ("FATCA")*

Shareholders and applicants should note that FATCA and its related regulations generally impose a new reporting regime and potentially a 30% withholding tax with respect to certain U.S. source income (including dividends and interest) and gross proceeds from the

sale or other disposal of property that can produce U.S. source interest or dividends. As a general matter, the new rules are designed to require U.S. persons' direct and indirect ownership of non-U.S. accounts and non-U.S. entities to be reported to the IRS. The 30% withholding tax regime applies if there is a failure to provide required information regarding U.S. ownership.

In order to protect the shareholders from the effect of any withholding penalty, it is the intention of the Company to be compliant with the requirements of FATCA as it applies to entities such as the Company. The Company may, through its agents or service providers, as far as legally permitted, be required to report information on the holdings or investment returns of any shareholder, or other investor investing through a nominee or other intermediary that invests in the Company in its name but on behalf of such investor. The Company may also be required to apply withholding tax to payments to investors who (i) fail to provide the information and documents required to identify their status, or (ii) are non-FATCA compliant financial institutions or (iii) fall within other categories specified in the regulations. As such, the Company may require all shareholders to provide mandatory documentary evidence of their tax residence and all other information deemed necessary to comply with FATCA. In order to protect the interest of all shareholders, the Company reserves the right, upon further clarity about the implementation of FATCA, without further notice to widen the definition of "Prohibited Persons" that are subject to compulsory redemptions.

Despite anything else herein contained and as far as permitted by Luxembourg law or related intergovernmental tax treaties, the Company shall have the right to:

- Withhold any taxes or similar charges that it is legally required to withhold, whether by law or otherwise, in respect of any holding in the Company;
- Require any shareholder or beneficial owner of Shares to promptly furnish such personal data as may be required by the Company in its discretion in order to comply with any law and/or to promptly determine the amount of withholding to be retained;
- Divulge any such personal information to any tax or regulatory authority, as may be required by law or such authority and the shareholder has a right to access the data communicated to the Luxembourg tax authorities and to correct such data (if necessary);
- Withhold the payment of any dividend or redemption proceeds to a shareholder until the Company holds sufficient information to enable it to determine the correct amount to be withheld; and
- As mentioned above, widen the definition of "Prohibited Persons" that are subject to compulsory redemptions.

#### **Data Protection**

In the course of its business, the Company (and/or any of its delegates) collects, records, stores, adapts, transfers and otherwise processes information by which prospective investors, or in case the prospective investor is a legal person, any natural person related to it such as its contact person(s), employee(s), trustee(s), nominee(s), agent(s), representative(s) and/or beneficial owner(s) (collectively hereinafter referred to as "**Data**

**Subjects**) may be directly or indirectly identified (**“Personal Data”**). The Company is a “data controller” (the **“Controller”**), within the meaning of **“Data Protection Legislation”** (defined as all applicable data protection laws and regulations including, without limitation, (i) EU Regulation n°2016/679 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 (the **“GDPR”**) and (ii) any GDPR implementing legislation in respect of Luxembourg), and undertakes to hold any personal information provided by investors in confidence and in accordance with Data Protection Legislation.

### **Table of contents**

1. What Personal Data does the Controller collect?
2. From which sources will Personal Data be collected?
3. For what purposes are Personal Data processed and upon which legal bases?
4. With whom will Personal Data be shared?
5. Where will Personal Data be transferred?
6. How long will Personal Data be retained?
7. Commitments
8. The Data Subjects’ rights
9. Changes to this Privacy Notice
10. Contact information

#### **1. What Personal Data does the Controller collect?**

The Controller collects the following categories of personal data (the **“Personal Data”**):

**Identification data:** name, age, gender, date and place of birth, nationality, passport/ID number, identity card with photo, civil status, profession, signature.

**Contact data:** e-mail, address, proof of address, phone number, fax number.

**Bank account data:** IBAN and BIC codes and other bank account information.

**Tax related data:** Taxpayer identifying/identification number(s), country(ies) of tax residency, tax status and tax certificates.

**Shares related data:** number of shares and any information regarding the dealing in shares (subscription, conversion, redemption and transfer as well as balance or value at year-end and total gross amount paid

or credited in relation to the shares, including redemption proceeds).

**AML/KYC related data:** income, sources of wealth and funds, power of attorney, related parties, special categories of personal data (criminal convictions and offences, political opinions).

**Communication data** client communications via electronic or other means, telephone conversations recordings.

The Data Subjects may, at their discretion, refuse to communicate the Personal Data to the Controller. In this event however, the Controller may reject their request for subscription for shares in the Company if the provision of Personal Data is a statutory or contractual requirement, or a requirement necessary to the subscription or holding of such shares (e.g., certain Personal Data are legally required for FATCA and CRS purposes).

## **2. From which sources will Personal Data be collected?**

The Personal Data are collected from various sources, namely:

- directly from the Data Subject;
- from third parties representing the prospective investor;
- from third parties representing the Controller;
- from the Controller's service providers;
- from public registers/platforms;
- from public agencies/authorities.

## **3. For what purposes are Personal Data processed and upon which legal bases?**

In order for a data processing activity to take place lawfully, the latter first needs to be legitimate and thus to be based on *inter alia* one of the grounds set out in article 6 of the GDPR.

For the avoidance of doubt, where consent is given by the Data Subjects, such consent shall be construed distinctly from any consent given in the context of confidentiality and/or professional secrecy compliance obligations.

In the case at hand, the purposes for which the Personal Data are collected and the legal bases upon which the Controller relies are further specified in Appendix F Where the Controller's purposes change over time or where the latter wants to use Personal Data for new purposes, the Controller will inform the Investor of such new processing in accordance with the Data Protection Laws.

Nevertheless, where the Controller has collected the Personal Data based on consent or following a legal obligation, no further processing is allowed beyond what is covered by the original consent or the provisions of the law.

#### 4. **With whom will Personal Data be shared?**

The Controller may disclose Personal Data to other persons or entities (the “**Recipients**”) which, in the context of the above-mentioned purposes, refer to:

- The Company’s delegates and its or their duly authorized agents or representatives and any of their respective related, associated or affiliated companies;
- the Controller’s service providers: the Management Company, the Global Distributor, the Central Administration Agent, the Depositary and Paying Agent, the Registrar and Transfer Agent, the Investment Manager, the Sub-Custodian, the Auditor, the Legal Advisor(s);
- Any third party that acquires, or is interested in acquiring or securitizing, all or part of the Controller’s assets or shares, or that succeeds to it in carrying on all or a part of its businesses, or services provided to it, whether by merger, acquisition, financing, reorganization or otherwise
- Any other third party supporting the activities of the Controller;
- Public authorities: governmental, judicial, prosecution or regulatory agencies and/or authorities;
- Official national and international registers.

In particular, Personal Data may be disclosed to the Luxembourg tax authorities, which in turn may, acting as data controller, disclose the same to foreign tax authorities (including for compliance with the FATCA/CRS obligations). In addition, in compliance with the Luxembourg register of beneficial owners law of 13 January 2019 as amended, the Controller is also required to collect Personal Data of beneficial owners of the Company (i.e. any natural person(s) who ultimately own(s) or control(s) the Company or any natural person(s) on whose behalf a transaction or activity is being conducted) and make mandatory registrations with the Luxembourg register of beneficial owners.

The Recipients may, under their own responsibility, disclose the Personal Data to their agents and/or delegates (the “**Sub-Recipients**”), which shall process the Personal Data for the sole purposes of assisting the Recipients in providing their services to the Controller and/or assisting the Recipients in fulfilling their own legal obligations.

The Recipients and Sub-Recipients may, as the case may be, process the Personal Data as processors (when processing the Personal Data on behalf and upon instructions of the Controller and/or the Recipients), or as distinct controllers (when processing the Personal Data for their own purposes, namely fulfilling their own legal obligations).

## **5. Where will Personal Data be transferred?**

The Recipients and Sub-Recipients may be located either inside or outside of the European Economic Area, (the “EEA”).

In any case, where the Recipients are located in a country outside the EEA which benefits from an adequacy decision of the European Commission, the Personal Data will be transferred to the Recipients upon such adequacy decision.

Where the Recipients are located outside the EEA in a country that does not ensure an adequate level of protection for Personal Data, the Company, acting as data controller, will enter, prior to such transfer, into legally binding transfer agreements with the relevant Recipients in the form of the EU Commission approved model standard contractual clauses, or any other appropriate safeguards pursuant to the GDPR, as well as, if necessary supplementary measures.

In this respect, the Data subjects have a right to request copies of the relevant document for enabling the Personal Data transfer(s) towards such countries by writing to the Controller at the address referred to in the section 11 (“Contact information”)

The countries to which Personal Data may be transferred are further specified in Appendix G.

## **6. How long will Personal Data be retained?**

The Controller will retain the Personal Data for the duration of the contract between the Controller and the investor and thereafter for a period of ten (10) years, unless longer or shorter statutory limitation periods apply. Personal Data shall not be retained for periods longer than those required for the purpose of their processing subject to any limitation periods imposed by laws. The Company will take all reasonable steps to destroy or erase the data from its systems, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations, when they are no longer required. The principal retention periods applied by the Controller are further specified in Appendix H.

In some circumstances the Personal Data may be anonymised so that it can no longer be associated with the Data Subjects, in which case documents having been anonymised can be kept for an unlimited period of time.

## **7. The Data Subjects’ rights**

In accordance with the conditions laid down by the Data Protection Legislation, the Data Subject acknowledge his/her/its right to:

- access his/her/its Personal Data;
- correct his/her/its Personal Data where it is inaccurate or incomplete;

- object to the processing of his/her/its Personal Data (including for commercial prospecting purposes);
- restrict the use of their Personal Data;
- ask for erasure of his/her/its Personal Data;
- withdraw their consent; and
- ask for Personal Data portability.

Investors have a right to lodge a complaint with the *Commission Nationale pour la Protection des Données* (“**CNPD**”) if they are unhappy with how the Company is handling their data, at the following address: 15, Boulevard du Jazz, L-4370 Belvaux, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg; or with any competent data protection supervisory authority of their EU Member State of residence

The Investors may exercise their above rights by writing to the Company at the following address, referred to in Section 11 (“Contact Information”).

## **8. Commitments**

Investors and/or prospective investors who are legal persons undertake and guarantee to process Personal Data and to supply such Personal Data to the Controller in compliance with the Data Protection Laws, including, where appropriate, informing the relevant Data Subjects of the content of this Privacy Notice and any updated version thereof in accordance with articles 12, 13 and/or 14 of the GDPR.

In addition, the investors and/or prospective investors undertake to ensure the accuracy of the Personal Data provided and promptly inform the Controller where such Personal Data is not up to date.

## **9. Changes to this Privacy Notice**

The Controller reserves the right to update this Privacy Notice at any time.

An up-to-date version will be made available to the investors on the Controller’s website at <https://sicav.williamblair.com/> . In case of substantial updates to the present Privacy Notice, investors will be notified through the Controller’s website at <https://sicav.williamblair.com/> or other means of communication.

## **10. Contact information**

The Data Subjects may exercise their above rights by writing to the Controller at the following address: 31, Z.A. Bourmicht, L - 8070 Bertrange or by e mail to [mutualfundsoperations@williamblair.com](mailto:mutualfundsoperations@williamblair.com).

## **Amalgamation, Division or Transfer of Funds and/or of Classes of Shares**

Under the same circumstances as provided in the second paragraph of the section headed "*Termination of a Fund and/or of a Class of Shares*", the Directors of the Company may decide

to allocate the assets of any Fund or Class of Shares to those of another existing Fund or Class of Shares within the Company or to another undertaking for collective investment organised under the provisions of Part I of the UCI law or to another sub-fund within such undertakings for collective investment (hereinafter referred to as the "**new sub-fund or class of shares**") and to re-designate the Classes of Shares concerned as shares of another class (following a split or consolidation, if necessary, and the payment of the amount corresponding to any fractional entitlement to shareholders). Such decision will be published in the same manner as described above under the section headed "*Termination of a Fund and/or of a Class of Shares*" (and, in addition, the publication will contain information in relation to the new sub-fund or class of shares), one (1) month before the date on which the amalgamation becomes effective in order to enable shareholders to request redemption of their Shares free of charge during such period.

Under the same circumstances as provided in the second paragraph of the section headed "*Termination of a Fund and/or of a Class of Shares*", the Directors of the Company may decide to reorganise a Fund or a Class of Shares by means of a division into two or more Funds or Classes of Shares. Such decision will be published in the same manner as described above under the section headed "*Termination of a Fund and/or of a Class of Shares*" (and, in addition, the publication will contain information about the two or more new Funds or Classes) one (1) month before the date on which the division becomes effective in order to enable the shareholders to request redemption of their Shares free of charge during such period.

Notwithstanding the powers conferred to the Directors of the Company by the preceding paragraphs, an amalgamation or division of Funds or Classes of Shares within the Company may be decided upon by an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Classes of Shares in the Fund concerned for which there shall be no quorum requirements and which will decide, upon such amalgamation or division, by resolution taken by simple majority of those present or represented.

A contribution of the assets and of the liabilities of any Fund or Class of Shares of the Company to another undertaking for collective investment referred to above or to another sub-fund or class of shares within such undertaking for collective investment shall require a resolution of the shareholders of the Classes of Shares issued in the Fund concerned taken with fifty (50) *per cent.* quorum requirement of the Shares in issue and adopted at two thirds majority of the Shares present or represented at such meeting, except when such an amalgamation is to be implemented with a Luxembourg undertaking for collective investment of the contractual type ("*fonds commun de placement*") or a foreign based undertaking for collective investment, in which case resolutions shall be binding only on such shareholders who have voted in favour of such amalgamation.

### **General Meetings**

The annual general meeting of shareholders will be held each year at the registered office of the Company on the second Tuesday in April at 10:00 a.m. (unless such date falls on a

legal Luxembourg bank holiday, in which case it will be held on the next following Luxembourg Bank Business Day).

Shareholders of the relevant Fund or Class of Shares may hold, at any time, general meetings to decide on any matters which relate exclusively to the relevant Fund or Class.

Notices of all general meetings are sent by mail to all registered shareholders at their registered address at least eight (8) days prior to such meeting. Such notice will indicate the time and place of such meeting and the conditions of admission thereto, will contain the agenda and will refer to the requirements of Luxembourg law with regard to the necessary quorum and majorities at such meeting. To the extent required by Luxembourg law, further notices will be published in the RESA and in Luxembourg newspaper(s).

### **Annual and Semi-Annual Reports**

The Company's financial year ends on 31 December of each year.

Audited Annual Reports will be made available for public inspection at the registered office of the Company within four (4) months after the end of the financial year and the latest Annual Report shall be available at least eight (8) days before the annual general meeting.

Unaudited Semi-annual Reports will be available at the registered office of the Company within two (2) months after 30 June.

### **Documents Available for Inspection**

Copies of the articles of incorporation of the Company may be delivered without cost to interested investors upon their request. Copies of the following documents may be inspected free of charge during usual business hours on any Luxembourg Bank Business Day at the registered office of the Company:

- a) copy of the Prospectus;
- b) copy of the KIID(s);
- c) the latest annual and semi-annual reports;
- d) the current version of the agreement concluded between the Depositary and the Company;
- e) the current version of the agreement concluded between the Central Administration, the Registrar and Transfer Agent, the Company and the Management Company;
- f) the current version of the agreement concluded between the Investment Manager, the Company and the Management Company;
- g) the current version of the agreement concluded between the Global Distributor, the Company and the Management Company; and

- h) the procedures issued by the Management Company with respect remuneration, conflicts of interest, complaints handling, best execution as well as the exercise of voting rights.

The KIID(s) shall be available to the investors on:

[http://sicav.williamblairfunds.com/investor\\_services/prospectus\\_forms\\_reports/KIID.fs](http://sicav.williamblairfunds.com/investor_services/prospectus_forms_reports/KIID.fs).

### **Communication with Investors**

All communications of investors with the Company should be addressed to the Company at its registered office.

Any investor wishing to make a complaint regarding any aspect of the Company or its operations may do so directly to Company at its registered office.

### **Competent Jurisdiction and Applicable Law**

The Luxembourg District Court is the place of performance for all legal disputes between the shareholders and the Company. Luxembourg law applies. The English version of the Prospectus is the authoritative version and shall prevail in the event of any inconsistency with any translation hereof.

Statements made in the Prospectus are based on the laws and practice in force at the date of the Prospectus in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, and are subject to changes in those laws and practice.

## Appendix A – Investment Powers and Restrictions

Definitions:

"**CSSF**" shall mean the *Commission de Surveillance du Secteur Financier*;

"**Directive 78/660/EEC**" shall mean Directive 78/660/EEC of 25 July 1978 based on Article 54 paragraph 3 g) of the Treaty on the annual accounts of certain types of companies, as amended;

"**Group of Companies**" shall mean companies which are included in the same group for the purposes of consolidated accounts, as defined in accordance with Directive 83/349/EEC on the preparation of consolidated accounts or in accordance with recognised international accounting rules;

"**Member State**" has the meaning ascribed to this term in the UCI Law;

"**Money Market Instruments**" shall mean instruments normally dealt with in on the money market, which are liquid and have a value, which can be accurately determined at any time;

"**Regulated Market**" a market as defined in Article 4, point 14 of Directive 2004/39/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 April 2004 on markets in financial instruments ("**MIFID**");

"**Transferable Securities**" shall mean:

- Shares in companies and other securities equivalent to shares in companies;
- Bonds and other forms of securitised debt ("**debt securities**");
- Any other negotiable securities, which carry the right to acquire any such transferable securities by subscription or exchange,

excluding the techniques and instruments referred to in Article 42 of the UCI Law.

In order to achieve the Company's investment objectives and policies, the Directors have determined that the following investment powers and restrictions shall apply to all investments by the Company:

- 1) The Company, for and on behalf of each Fund, will invest in:
  - a) Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments admitted to or dealt in a Regulated Market;
  - b) Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments dealt in on another Regulated Market, in a Member State which operates regularly and is recognised and open to the public;
  - c) Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments admitted to official listing on a stock exchange in a non-Member State of the European Union or dealt in on

another Regulated Market in a non-Member State of the European Union which operates regularly and is recognised and open to the public, located within any other country of Europe, Asia, Oceania, the American continents or Africa;

- d) Recently issued Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments provided that
  - (i) the terms of issue include an undertaking that application will be made for admission to official listing on a stock exchange or to another Regulated Market referred to under a) to c) above; and
  - (ii) such admission is secured within one year of the issue;
- e) Shares or units of UCITS authorized according to the UCITS Directive and/or other UCI within the meaning of the first and second indent of Article 1(2) of the UCITS Directive, should they be situated in a Member State of the European Union or not, provided that:
  - (i) such other UCIs are authorized under the laws which provide that they are subject to supervision considered by the CSSF to be equivalent to that laid down in Community law, and that cooperation between authorities is sufficiently ensured;
  - (ii) the level of guaranteed protection for share- or unit-holders in such other UCIs is equivalent to that provided for share- or unit-holders 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 the UCITS Directive;
  - (iii) the business of the other UCI is reported in half-yearly and annual reports to enable an assessment to be made of the assets and liabilities, income and operations over the reporting period;
  - (iv) no more than 10% of the UCITS or the other UCI assets, whose acquisition is contemplated, can be, according to its instruments of incorporation, invested in aggregate in shares or units of other UCITS or other UCIs;
- f) Deposits with credit institutions which are repayable on demand or have the right to be withdrawn, and maturing in no more than 12 months, provided that the credit institution has its registered office in a Member State or, if registered office of the credit institution is situated in a third country, provided that it is subject to prudential rules considered by the CSSF as equivalent to those laid down in Community law;
- g) Financial derivatives, including equivalent cash settled instruments, dealt in on a Regulated Market referred to under in a), b) and c) above, and/or financial derivative instruments dealt in over-the-counter ("**OTC derivatives**"), provided that:

- (i) the underlying consists of instruments covered by section 1) above, financial indices, interest rates, foreign exchange rates or currencies, in which the Company may invest in accordance with the investment objectives of its Funds;
  - (ii) the counter-parties to OTC derivative transactions are institutions subject to prudential supervision, and belonging to the categories approved by the CSSF
  - (iii) the Funds may only enter into total return swap transactions through a regulated first-class financial institution of any legal form with a minimum credit rating of investment grade quality specialised in this type of transaction which has its registered office in one of the OECD; and
  - (iv) 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 market value at the Company's initiative;
- h) Money Market Instruments other than those dealt in on a Regulated Market, if the issue or issuer of such instruments is itself regulated for the purpose of protecting investors and savings, and provided that they are:
- (i) issued or guaranteed by a central, regional or local authority, a central bank of a Member State, the European Central Bank, the European Union or the European Investment Bank, a non-Member State or, in the case of a Federal State, by one of the members making up the federation, or by a public international body to which one or more Member States belong; or
  - (ii) issued by an undertaking any securities of which are dealt in on Regulated Markets referred to under (a), (b) or (c) above; or
  - (iii) issued or guaranteed by a credit institution subject to prudential supervision, in accordance with criteria defined by Community law, or by an establishment which is subject to and comply with prudential rules considered by the CSSF to be at least as stringent as those laid down by Community law; or
  - (iv) issued by other entities belonging to the categories approved by the CSSF provided that investments in such instruments are subject to investor protection equivalent to that laid down in the first, second and third indent, and provided that the issuer (i) is a company whose capital and reserves amount at least to ten million Euro (EUR 10,000,000) and (ii) which presents and publishes its annual accounts in accordance with fourth Directive 78/660/EEC, (iii) 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 (iv) is an entity which is dedicated to the financing of securitisation vehicles which benefit from a banking liquidity line.

- 2) However, for each Fund, the Company:
- a) may invest up to 10% of the net assets of each Fund in Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments other than those referred to under Section 1) above;
  - b) may hold ancillary liquid assets (*i.e.*, bank deposits at sight, such as cash held in current accounts with a bank accessible at any time, in order to cover current or exceptional payments, or for the time necessary to reinvest in eligible assets provided under article 41(1) of the UCI Law or for a period of time strictly necessary in case of unfavourable market conditions) The holding of such ancillary liquid assets is limited to 20% of the net assets of the Company. The 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 shareholders;
  - c) may borrow the equivalent of up to 10% of its net assets provided that the borrowing is on a temporary basis;
  - d) may acquire foreign currencies by means of a back-to-back loans; and
  - e) may not acquire either precious metals or certificates representing them.
- 3) Moreover, concerning the net assets of each Fund, the following investment restrictions shall be observed by the Company in respect of each Fund:

**(a) Rules for risk spreading**

• **Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments**

- (1) Each Fund may not invest more than 10% of its net assets in Transferable Securities or Money Market Instruments issued by the same body.
- (2) The total value of the Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments held by each Fund in the issuing bodies in each of which it invests more than 5% of its net assets must not exceed 40% of the value of its net assets. This restriction does not apply to deposits and OTC transactions made with financial institutions subject to prudential supervision.
- (3) The 10% limit laid down in paragraph (1) is 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 non-Member State or by public international bodies of which one or more Member States are members.
- (4) The 10% limit laid down in paragraph (1) is raised to 25% for certain debt securities if they are issued by a credit institution whose registered office is situated in a Member State and which is subject, by virtue of law, to

particular public supervision designed to protect the holders of such debt securities. In particular, sums deriving from the issue of such debt securities must be invested pursuant to the law in assets which sufficiently cover, during the whole period of validity of the debt securities, are capable of covering claims attaching to the debt securities and which, in event of bankruptcy of the issuer, would be used on a priority basis for the reimbursement of the principal and payment of accrued interest. To the extent that the relevant Fund invests more than 5% of its assets in such debt securities, issued by the same issuer, the total value of such investments may not exceed 80% of the value of the Fund's net assets.

- (5) The Transferable Securities values mentioned in (3) and (4) above are not taken into account for the purpose of applying the 40% limit referred to under paragraph (2) above.
- (6) Notwithstanding the limits indicated above, and in accordance with the principle of risk-spreading, the Company is authorised to invest up to 100% of the assets of each Fund in Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments issued or guaranteed by a Member State, its local authorities, an OECD member country, a G-20 country, or public international bodies of which one or more Member States are members, provided that in such event the Funds must hold (i) securities from at least six different issues and (ii) securities from any one issue may not account for more than 30% of the Fund's net assets.
- (7) Without prejudice to the limits laid down in (b) below, the limits laid down in (1) above are raised to maximum 20% for investment in shares and/or debt securities issued by the same body and when the Company's investment policy is aimed at duplicating the composition of a certain share or debt securities index, which is recognised by the CSSF and meets the following criteria:
  - the index's composition is sufficiently diversified;
  - the index represents an adequate benchmark for the market to which it refers;
  - the index is published in an appropriate manner.

The 20% limit is increased to 35% where that proves to be justified by exceptional conditions, in particular in Regulated Markets where certain Transferable Securities or Money Market Instruments are highly dominant. The investment up to this limit is only permitted for one single issuer.

- **Bank deposits**

(8) The Company may not invest more than 20% of the net assets of each Fund in deposits made with the same body.

- **Derivatives**

(9) The risk exposure to a counter-party in an OTC derivative transaction and/or efficient portfolio management transaction may in aggregate not exceed 10% of the relevant Fund's net assets when the counter-party is a credit institution referred to in (f) in Section 1) above, or 5% of its net assets in the other cases.

(10) The Company may invest, as a part of the investment policy of the relevant Fund and within the limits set out in (5) and (17), in financial derivative instruments provided that the exposure to the underlying assets does not exceed in aggregate the investment limits laid down in (1) to (5), (8), (16) and (17). When the Company invests in index based financial derivative instruments, these investments do not have to be combined to the limits laid down in (1) to (5), (8), (16) and (17).

(11) When a Transferable Security or Money Market Instrument embeds a derivative, the latter must be taken into account when applying the provisions laid down in (12), (16) and (17), and when determining the risks arising on transactions in derivative instruments.

(12) With regard to derivative instruments, the Company will ensure that the global exposure of each Fund, which uses the commitment approach, relating to derivative instruments does not exceed the total net value of its portfolio. The risks exposure is calculated taking into account the current value of the underlying assets, the counter-party risk, future market movements and the time available to liquidate the positions.

- **Shares or units in open-ended funds**

(13) Unless otherwise provided for a specific Fund, the Company may not invest more than 10% of the net assets of each Fund in shares or units of a single UCITS or other UCI referred to in 1) e) above.

(14) Furthermore, unless otherwise provided for a specific Fund, investments made in UCIs or UCITS, may not exceed, in aggregate, 10% of the net assets of the Company.

(15) To the extent that a UCITS or UCI is composed of several sub-funds and provided that the principle of segregation of commitments of the different sub-funds is ensured in relation to third parties, each sub-fund shall be

considered as a separate entity for the application of the limit laid down in (i)-above.

When a Fund invests in shares or units of other UCITS and/or other UCI that are managed, directly or by delegation, by the 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 Management Company or that other company may not charge subscription or redemption fees on account of the Fund's investment in the shares or units of such other UCITS and/or UCI.

If any Fund's investments in UCITS and other UCIs constitute a substantial proportion of that Fund's assets, the total management fee (excluding any performance fee, if any) charged both to such Fund itself and the UCITS and/or other UCIs concerned shall not exceed 3% of the relevant assets. The Company will indicate in its annual report the total management fees charged both to the relevant Fund and to the UCITS and other UCIs in which such Fund has invested during the relevant period.

- **Combined limits**

(16) Notwithstanding the individual limits laid down in (1), (8) and (9), the Company may not combine for each Fund:

- (i) investments in Transferable Securities or Money Market Instruments issued by;
- (ii) deposits made with; and/or
- (iii) exposures arising from OTC derivatives transactions and/or efficient portfolio management transactions undertaken with  
a single body in excess of 20% of its net assets.

(17) The limits set out in (1) to (5), (8) and (9) above, may not be combined and accordingly, investments by each Fund in Transferable Securities or Money Market Instruments issued by the same body or in deposits or derivative instruments made with this body in accordance with (1) to (5), (8) and (9) above, may not, in any event, exceed a total of 35% of the net assets of the relevant Fund. Companies of the same group of companies are regarded as a single body for the purpose of calculating this 35% limit.

Each Fund may invest in aggregate up to 20% of its assets in Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments with the same group of companies.

**(b) Restrictions with regard to control**

- (18) The Company may not acquire for each Fund any shares carrying voting rights which would enable it to exercise significant influence over the management of an issuing body.
- (19) The Company may acquire no more than:
  - (i) 10% of the non-voting shares of the same issuer;
  - (ii) 10% of the debt securities of the same issuer;
  - (iii) 25% of the shares or units of the same UCITS and/or other UCI;
  - (iv) 10% of the Money Market Instruments of the same issuer.

The limits set in points (ii) to (iv) may be disregarded at the time of acquisition if at that time the gross amount of debt securities or Money Market Instruments, or the net amount of the securities in issue, cannot be calculated.

- (20) The limits laid down in (18) and (19) are waived as regards:
  - (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 non-Member State of the European Union;
  - (iii) Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments issued by public international bodies of which one or more Member States of the European Union are members;
  - (iv) Shares held in the capital of a company incorporated in a non-Member State of the European Union which invests its assets mainly in securities of issuing bodies having their registered office in that state. This derogation only applies if the Company has an investment policy complying with sections (3) to (6), (8) where under the legislation of that state, such holding represents the only way in which the Company can invest in the securities of issuing bodies of that state and provided that the investment policy of the company complies with regulations governing risk diversification and restrictions with regard to control laid down herein;
  - (v) Shares held by the Funds in the capital of one or more subsidiary companies carrying on only the business of management, advice or marketing in the country/state where the subsidiary is located, in regard to the repurchase of the shares at the shareholders request exclusively on its or their behalf.

- 4) Furthermore, the following restrictions will have to be complied with:
- (1) the Company may not acquire real estate, except when such acquisition is essential for the direct pursuit of its business;
  - (2) without prejudice to the possibility of the Company to acquire debt securities and to hold bank deposits, the Company may not grant loans or act as guarantor on behalf of third parties. This restriction does not prohibit the Company from acquiring Transferable Securities, Money Market Instruments or other financial instruments referred to in 1) e), g) and h) that are not fully paid-up;
  - (3) the Company may not carry out uncovered sales of Transferable Securities, Money Market Instruments or other financial instruments referred to in 1) e), g) and h).
- 5) Notwithstanding the above provisions:
- (1) the Company needs not necessarily to comply with the limits referred to herein when exercising subscription rights attaching to Transferable Securities or Money Market Instruments which form part of its assets of each Fund; and
  - (2) if the limits referred to above are exceeded for reasons beyond the control of the Company or as a result of the exercise of subscription rights, the Company must adopt as a priority objective for its sales transactions the remedying of that situation, taking due account of the interests of its shareholders.
  - (3) Each Fund has 6 months from its date of authorization to achieve compliance with sections (1) to (6), (8) and (9) above.

## Appendix B – Investment Know How

### **Techniques and instruments relating to Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments**

For the purpose of efficient portfolio management, risk management, but also in order to increase their total return, to generate more income and additional capital and/or to protect their assets and commitments, the Company or the Investment Manager, as the case may be, may arrange for the Funds to make use of techniques and instruments relating to Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments.

When these transactions involve the use of derivatives, the conditions and restrictions set out above in the section headed "*Investment Restrictions*" must be complied with.

In no case whatsoever must the recourse to transactions involving derivatives or other financial techniques and instruments cause the Company or the Investment Manager, as the case may be, to depart from the investment objectives as set out in the Prospectus.

### **Repurchase agreements**

The Company may, with respect to the assets of each Fund, enter into repurchase agreements consisting of the purchase and sale of securities in which the terms of the agreement give the seller the right or the obligation to repurchase the securities from the purchaser at a price and a time agreed by the two parties at the time of entering into the agreement.

The proportion of the assets held by a Fund that may be subject to repurchase transactions will not exceed 10% of that Fund's Net Asset Value.

The Funds will only enter into repurchase transactions in respect of US Government securities that constitute eligible assets under the UCI Law which fall within their investment policies.

The Company may enter into repurchase agreements either as purchaser or as seller. However, when entering into agreements of this type, the Company shall comply with the following rules:

- (1) the Company will purchase or sell securities in connection with a repurchase agreement only if the counterparty is subject to prudential supervision rules considered by the CSSF as equivalent to those prescribed by community law, is a highly rated financial institution specialised in this type of transaction, and has been approved by the Investment Manager as a derivative counterparty. As part of the selection criteria for counterparties, the Investment Manager may review the "legal status" of the counterparty as part of the best execution review of the counterparty's capital strength and financial stability;
- (2) for the duration of a repurchase agreement, the Company will not sell the securities that are the subject of the agreement either before the counterparty has exercised its

right to repurchase the securities or before the repurchase period has expired, unless the Company has other means of coverage;

(3) when the Company has obligations to make repurchases, it must ensure that the level of repurchase agreements is such that it can meet these obligations at any given time; and

(4) the Company will ensure that it is entitled to request the return of the securities subject to the repurchase agreement or to terminate the relevant repurchase agreement at any time.

Repurchase agreements are instruments under which the Company acquires, for and on behalf of the relevant Fund, ownership of a security, and the seller, a broker-dealer or a bank agrees to repurchase the security at a mutually agreed upon time and price. The repurchase agreement serves to fix the yield of the security during the Fund's holding period. The Company currently intends to enter into repurchase agreements only with member banks of the United States Federal Reserve System or with primary dealers in US Government securities. The income generated by the repurchase agreements is credited to the participating Funds except for the direct and indirect costs of the transactions which are credited to the counterparty. Only effective costs and fees, corresponding to the services rendered to the Funds in connection with the repurchase agreements, will be charged to the Funds. The Management Company does not receive any of the revenue generated by repurchase agreements. Neither any entity related to the Management Company nor any other entity receives direct or indirect costs or fees. Information on direct and indirect operational costs that may be incurred in respect of repurchase transactions, as well as the entities to which such costs and fees are paid, and any relationship they may have to the Management Company, Investment Manager or Depository, will be available in the Annual Report of the Company.

As part of these repurchase transactions, the Funds will receive cash and bonds collateral of minimum credit quality as assessed by the Company and as detailed in the sub-sections headed "Collateral Policy" and "Haircut Policy" below.

In all cases, the Company must be satisfied with the creditworthiness of the counterparty before entering into a repurchase agreement. In the event of the bankruptcy or other default of the counterparty of a repurchase agreement, the relevant Fund could incur expenses and delays enforcing its rights under the agreement, and experience a decline in the value of the underlying securities and loss of income. The maturity of a security subject to repurchase may exceed one (1) year. Repurchase agreements maturing in more than seven (7) days, together with any securities that are restricted as to disposition under the federal securities laws or are otherwise considered to be illiquid, will not exceed twenty (20) *per cent* of the net assets of the relevant Fund.

As at the date of this Prospectus, none of the Funds use repurchase agreements. If any of the Funds starts to use repurchase agreements, this Prospectus will be updated to disclose further information in that respect.

## Collateral Policy

Where the Funds enter into OTC financial derivative and/or efficient portfolio management transactions, the following eligible collateral may be used to reduce counterparty risk:

- liquid assets, *i.e.*, short term bank certificates and money market instruments as defined in Directive 2007/16/EC; a letter of credit or a guarantee at first-demand given by a first-class credit institution not affiliated to the counterparty are considered as equivalent to liquid assets;
- bonds issued or guaranteed by a Member State of the OECD or by their local public authorities or by supranational institutions and undertakings with EU, regional or world-wide scope;
- shares or units issued by money market funds calculating a daily net asset value and being assigned a rating of AAA or its equivalent;
- shares or units issued by UCITS investing mainly in bonds/shares mentioned in the following two bullet points;
- bonds issued or guaranteed by first class issuers offering an adequate liquidity;
- shares admitted to or dealt in on a regulated market of a Member State of the European Union or on a stock exchange of a Member State of the OECD, on the condition that these shares are included in a main index.

Any collateral received must be highly liquid and traded on a regulated market or multilateral trading facility with transparent pricing in order that it can be sold quickly at a price that is close to pre-sale valuation. Collateral received must also comply with the provisions of Article 48 of the UCI Law.

Collateral received will be valued on at least a daily basis and may be subject to daily variation margin requirements. Assets that exhibit high price volatility will not be accepted as collateral unless suitably conservative haircuts in accordance with the policy described in Q below are in place.

Collateral received will be of high issuer credit quality.

The collateral received by the Fund must 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.

Collateral must 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 a Fund receives from a counterparty of OTC derivative and/or efficient portfolio management transactions a basket of collateral with a maximum exposure to a given issuer of 20% of its Net Asset Value. When a Fund is exposed to different

counterparties, the different baskets of collateral must be aggregated to calculate the 20% limit of exposure to a single issuer.

Risks linked to the management of collateral, such as operational and legal risks, will be identified, managed and mitigated in accordance with the Management Company's risk management process concerning the Fund.

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

Collateral received must be capable of being fully enforced by the Fund at any time without reference to or approval from the counterparty.

Non-cash collateral received must not be sold, re-invested or pledged.

Reinvestment of cash collateral involves risks associated with the type of investments made. Reinvestment of collateral may create a leverage effect which will be taken into account for the calculation of the Company's global exposure. Cash collateral received shall only be:

- placed on deposit with entities prescribed in Article 41 (1) (f) of the UCI Law;
- 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 Company 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 the Guidelines on a Common Definition of European Money Market Funds.
- re-invested in accordance with the diversification requirements applicable to non-cash collateral.

The Fund's exposure to a counterparty resulting from efficient portfolio management and/or OTC derivative transactions shall be collateralised to at least 100%.

### **Cash, Short-Term Securities and Money Market Instruments**

For liquidity purposes, up to twenty (20) *per cent* of the Funds' assets may be held in cash (US\$ and foreign currencies and held in current accounts with a bank accessible at any time, in order to cover current or exceptional payments, or for the time necessary to reinvest in eligible assets provided under article 41(1) of the UCI Law or for a period of time strictly necessary in case of unfavourable market conditions) or in short-term securities, such as repurchase agreements, and domestic and foreign money market instruments, such as government obligations, certificates of deposit, bankers' acceptances, time deposits, commercial paper and short-term corporate debt securities. The Funds do not have specific rating requirements for its short-term securities; however, neither the Company nor the

Investment Manager presently intend to invest more than five (5) *per cent* of their respective net assets in securities rated below investment grade.

### **Temporary Defensive Position**

The Company or the Investment Manager, as the case may be, may significantly alter the make-up of the Funds and employ a temporary defensive strategy if, in the judgment of the Company or the Investment Manager, investments in the Funds' usual markets or types of securities become unattractive because of current or anticipated economic, financial, political or social factors.

### **Concentration**

Not more than fifty (50) *per cent* of the net assets of the

Emerging Markets Growth Fund,  
Emerging Markets Leaders Fund,  
Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund  
Global Leaders Fund

will be invested in any one industry. This limitation does not apply to obligations issued or guaranteed by the US Government, its agencies or instrumentalities, or to instruments, such as repurchase agreements, secured by these instruments or to tax-exempt securities.

### **Controversial Weapons**

Following the screening provided by reputable vendors an exclusion of controversial weapons includes companies involved in:

the production of whole weapon systems, delivery platforms or components of cluster munitions; production of whole weapon systems or components of landmines and biological or chemical weapons; production of depleted uranium weapons, blinding laser weapons, incendiary weapons, or weapons with non-detectable fragments; or is involved indirectly through ownership ties to companies involved in such products

This definition may evolve over time and is indicative only.

### **Convertible Securities**

The Company or the Investment Manager, as the case may be, may, on behalf of the Funds, invest in convertible securities, which are bonds, notes, debentures, preferred stock and other securities that are convertible into common stock. Convertible securities have general characteristics of both debt and equity securities. As debt securities, convertible securities are investments which provide a stream of income with generally higher yields than common stocks. Although to a lesser extent than with debt securities generally, the market value of convertible securities tends to decline as interest rates increase and conversely, tends to increase as interest rates decline. The Funds may convert or exchange convertible securities it owns into the underlying shares of common stock.

## **Depository Receipts**

The Company or the Investment Manager, as the case may be and for and on behalf of the Funds, may invest in foreign issuers through sponsored American Depository Receipts ("ADRs"), European Depository Receipts ("EDRs") and Global Depository Receipts ("GDRs"). Generally, an ADR is a dollar denominated security issued by a U.S. bank or trust company that represents, and may be converted into, the underlying foreign security. An EDR represents a similar securities arrangement but is issued by a European bank, and a GDR is issued by a depository. ADRs, EDRs and GDRs may be denominated in a currency different from the underlying securities into which they may be converted. Typically, ADRs, in registered form, are designed for issuance in U.S. securities markets, and EDRs and GDRs, in bearer form, are designed for issuance in European securities markets. Investments in depository receipts entail risks similar to direct investments in foreign securities.

## **Financial Indices**

Funds may, in accordance with their investment policy and the investment restrictions, invest in financial derivative instruments based on financial indices which are eligible in accordance with article 9 of the Grand-Ducal Regulation of 8 February 2008. To the extent consistent with the prevailing investment policy, Funds may obtain exposure, in the discretion of the Investment Adviser, to indices which may not be named specifically in the investment policy, subject always to compliance with the ESMA guidelines 2014/937 on ETF and other UCITS issues. In particular, the Funds will not invest in financial derivative instruments based on financial indices with a daily or intra-day rebalancing frequency or in indices whose methodology for the selection and the re-balancing of their components is not based on a set of predetermined rules and objective criteria.

## **Forward Foreign Currency Transactions**

The Company or the Investment Manager, as the case may be and on behalf of the Funds, may enter into forward foreign currency contracts as a means of managing the risks associated with changes in exchange rates. A forward foreign currency contract is an agreement to exchange US\$ for foreign currencies at a specified future date and specified amount which is set by the parties at the time of entering into the contract. The Company or the Investment Manager will generally use such currency contracts to fix a definite price for securities they have agreed to buy or sell and may also use such contracts to hedge the Fund's investments against adverse exchange rate changes. Alternatively, the Company or the Investment Manager, as the case may be and on behalf of the Funds, may enter into a forward contract to sell a different foreign currency for a fixed US\$ amount where the Company or the Investment Manager believes that the US\$ value of the currency to be sold pursuant to the forward contract will fall whenever there is a decline in the US\$ value of the currency in which securities of the:

Emerging Markets Growth Fund,  
Emerging Markets Leaders Fund,

Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund  
Global Leaders Fund

are denominated ("cross-hedge"). The profitability of forward foreign currency transactions depends upon correctly predicting future changes in exchange rates between the US\$ and foreign currencies. As a result, the Funds may incur either a gain or loss on such transactions. While forward foreign currency transactions may help reduce losses on securities denominated in a foreign currency, they may also reduce gains on such securities depending on the actual changes in the currency's exchange value relative to that of the offsetting currency involved in the transaction. The following sub-funds may enter into forward foreign currency transactions for purposes other than hedging:

Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund  
Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund  
Emerging Markets Frontier Debt Fund

### **Illiquid Securities**

The Company or the Investment Manager, as the case may be, may invest up to ten (10) *per cent* of the net assets of the Funds in illiquid securities. Illiquid securities are those securities that are not frequently traded, including restricted securities and repurchase obligations maturing in more than seven days.

### **Investment in UCITS and/or other UCIs**

The Company or the Investment Manager, as the case may be and on behalf of the Funds, may invest in units and/or shares of UCITS and/or other UCIs, which may include exchange-traded funds, as described in Appendix A headed "*Investment Powers and Restrictions*". Investment in UCITS and/or other UCIs may provide advantages of diversification, increased liquidity and lower transaction costs than are normally associated with direct investments in such markets; however, there may be duplicative expenses, such as management fees or custodial fees. In addition, investments in region UCITS and/or other UCIs permit investments in foreign markets that are smaller than those in which the Funds would ordinarily invest directly. Investments in such UCITS and/or other UCIs should enhance the geographical diversification of the Funds' assets, while reducing the risks associated with investing in certain smaller foreign markets.

### **Warrants**

Warrants are securities giving the holder the right, but not the obligation, to buy the stock of an issuer at a given price (generally higher than the value of the stock at the time of issuance) during a specified period or perpetually. Warrants may be acquired separately or in connection with the acquisition of securities. Warrants do not carry with them the right to dividends or voting rights with respect to the securities that they entitle their holder to purchase and they do not represent any rights in the assets of the issuer. As a result, warrants may be considered to have more speculative characteristics than certain other types of investments. In addition, the value of a warrant does not necessarily change with

the value of the underlying securities and a warrant ceases to have value if it is not exercised prior to its expiration date.

### **When-Issued and Delayed Delivery Securities**

From time to time, in the ordinary course of business and under the limits laid down in Appendix A headed "*Investment Powers and Restrictions*", the Company or the Investment Manager, as the case may be and on behalf of the Funds, may purchase recently issued securities appropriate for the Funds on a "*when-issued*" basis, and may purchase or sell securities appropriate for the Funds on a "*delayed delivery*" basis. When-issued or delayed delivery transactions involve a commitment by the Funds to purchase or sell particular securities, with payment and delivery to take place at a future date. These transactions allow the Funds to lock in an attractive purchase price or yield on a security the Funds intends to purchase. Normally, settlement occurs within one (1) month of the purchase or sale. During the period between purchase and settlement, no payment is made or received by the Funds and, for delayed delivery purchases, no interest accrues to the Funds. Because the Funds are required to set aside cash or liquid securities at least equal in value to its commitments to purchase when-issued or delayed delivery securities, the Company's or the Investment Manager's ability to manage Fund assets may be affected by such commitments. The Company or the Investment Manager, as the case may be and on behalf of Funds, will only make commitments to purchase securities on a when-issued or delayed delivery basis with the intention of actually acquiring the securities, but it reserves the right to sell them before the settlement date if it is deemed advisable.

### **Securities Financing Transactions and Use of Derivatives in Funds**

#### *Securities Financing Transactions*

In accordance with 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 (the "**SFTR Regulation**"), this Prospectus contains a general description of the use of total return swaps and repurchase transactions by the Company.

A total return swap is an agreement in which one party makes payments based on the total return of an underlying asset, which includes both the income it generates and any capital gains or losses, in exchange for payments based on an interest rate, either fixed or variable, from the other party.

The Funds will only enter into total return swaps in respect of eligible assets under the UCI Law which fall within their investment policies.

As part of these total return swaps transactions, the Funds will receive cash and bonds collateral of minimum credit quality as assessed by the Company and as detailed in the sub-sections headed "*Collateral Policy*" and "*Haircut Policy*" above.

#### *Use of Derivatives in Funds*

The Funds which state the use of derivatives in their summary may use derivatives for efficient portfolio management and, where appropriate, in order to achieve their investment objective. The derivatives that the relevant Funds may use include total return swaps, as further described above under the sub-section “*Securities Financing Transactions*”.

Only:

Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund,  
 Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency,  
 Emerging Markets Frontier Debt Fund , together (“the EM Debt Funds”)

use total return swaps in the proportion set out in the table below. The EM Debt Funds only use total return swaps predominantly as a hedging mechanism to reduce the overall risk in the portfolios in case of market instability. Occasionally, the EM Funds will use total return swaps to maintain market exposure or, as the case may be, to increase market exposure.

If the Management Company decides to use total return swaps on behalf of other Funds, this Prospectus will be amended accordingly.

Name of Fund	Total Return Swaps	
	Maximum proportion of AUM	Expected proportion of AUM
Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund	10%	Between 0%* and 3%
Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund	10%	Between 0%* and 5%
Emerging Markets Frontier Debt Fund	10%	Between 0% and 5%

\* Where the Fund does not use TRS, the expected proportion of AUM will be 0%.

#### *Counterparty Selection*

When the Investment Manager selects counterparties, it seeks best execution. In seeking best execution, the Investment Manager looks at the individual transaction but also assesses quality over multiple transactions. The Investment Manager takes a variety of factors into consideration, such as the following:

1. Commission rates charged by the counterparty in comparison to the charges of other counterparties for similar transactions;

2. Access to the counterparty's trading desk and the familiarity of the counterparty with the Investment Manager's business;
3. Extensiveness of the counterparty's trading network and its ability to fulfill more difficult orders;
4. Ability of the counterparty to maintain confidentiality while executing trades to prevent the disclosure of the Investment Manager's investment strategy or the details of an order in a way that will adversely affect market price;
5. Extent to which the counterparty is willing to commit its own capital to fulfill difficult orders;
6. The counterparty's execution abilities, including the level of accuracy and speed of execution;
7. The counterparty's communications and administrative abilities, including efficiency of reporting, settlement, and correction of trade errors;
8. Research capabilities (including research created or developed by the counterparty and that obtained from third parties) and the counterparty's ability to provide market information;
9. The counterparty's trading expertise; and
10. The counterparty's capital strength and financial stability.
11. As part of the selection criteria for counterparties, the Investment Manager may review the "legal status" of the counterparty as part of the best execution review of the counterparty's capital strength and financial stability.

Conflicts can arise when selecting counterparties because the Investment Manager does not simply seek the lowest possible commission (cost). The Investment Manager may be motivated to use commissions (instead of cash) to pay for services or to select a counterparty based on the services they provide rather than the quality of their execution. This also may cause the Company to pay commissions that are higher than commissions charged by counterparties who do not provide the above benefits. However, the Investment Manager believes that in return for paying fair and reasonable commissions, the Company will benefit. The Investment Manager makes every effort to allocate the benefits to all of its clients (including the Company) generating these commissions, but some clients that did not directly pay for the benefits also will gain.

To manage these conflicts, the Investment Manager has developed detailed policies and procedures and implemented several controls including the following:

1. The Investment Manager maintains a list of approved counterparties and reviews the list at least annually;
2. The Investment Manager has established compliance policies and procedures that include the creation of a Brokerage Research/Commission Committee to review best execution; and

3. The Investment Manager routinely reviews commission rates, trade execution, and settlement services.

In most instances, no initial margin is posted and exposures are marked to market on a daily basis.

*Risk of Counterparty Default and the Effect on Investor Returns*

The Fund's investments in derivatives and other financial instruments that involve counterparties subject the Fund to the risk that the counterparty could default on its obligations, either through the counterparty's bankruptcy or failure to perform its obligations. In the event of default, the Fund could experience lengthy delays in recovering some or all of its assets as a result of bankruptcy or other reorganization proceedings. The Fund could also experience limited recoveries or no recovery at all, and the value of an investment in the Fund could decline as a result.

*Counterparty Discretion over the Composition or Management of the Fund's Investment Portfolio*

Counterparties do not assume any discretion over the composition or management of the Fund's investment portfolio or over the underlying of the financial derivative instruments, and the approval of counterparties is not required in relation to any investment portfolio transaction of the Fund.

**Haircut Policy**

The Company has implemented a haircut policy in respect of each class of assets received as collateral. A haircut is a discount applied to the value of a collateral asset to account for the fact that its valuation, or liquidity profile, may deteriorate over time. The haircut policy takes account of the characteristics of the relevant asset class, including the credit standing of the issuer of the collateral, the price volatility of the collateral and the results of any stress tests which may be performed in accordance with the collateral management policy. Subject to the framework of agreements in place with the relevant counterparty, which may or may not include minimum transfer amounts, it is the intention of the Company that any collateral received shall have a value, adjusted in light of the haircut policy, which equals or exceeds the relevant counterparty exposure where appropriate.

The Company will apply haircuts to the collateral received according to the below table:

<b>Eligible Collateral</b>	<b>Remaining Maturity</b>	<b>Valuation Percentage</b>
Cash	N/A	100%
Government Bonds	One year or under	100%
	More than one year up to and including five years	98%

Eligible Collateral	Remaining Maturity	Valuation Percentage
	More than five years up to and including ten years	97%
	More than ten years up to and including thirty years	95%

In case of unusual market volatility, the Company reserves the right to temporarily increase the haircut it applies to collateral for such period of time and in such measure as justified by the circumstances. As a consequence, the Company will receive more collateral to secure its counterparty exposure. Should that situation persist, this haircut policy will be updated accordingly.

## Appendix C – Net Asset Value

Definitions:

**"Luxembourg Bank Business Day"** Any full working day in Luxembourg when the banks are open for business; and

**"Valuation Day"** Subject to any further restrictions specified for a Fund, a Luxembourg Bank Business Day and a day on which the NYSE (New York Stock Exchange) is also open for trading. If it is a Luxembourg Bank Business Day and the New York Stock Exchange is closed, the Valuation Day is the next day the New York Stock Exchange is open for trading.

The Net Asset Value per Fund will be expressed in the Reference Currency of the respective Fund. The Net Asset Value per Share will be expressed in the Dealing Currency of the respective Class while applying the prevailing foreign exchange market rate in Luxembourg to the calculated Net Asset Value per Share in the Reference Currency.

The Funds and Classes are valued daily and the Net Asset Value per Share is determined on each Valuation Day in Luxembourg. If after the calculation of the Net Asset Value, there has been a material change in the quotations on the markets on which a substantial portion of the investments attributable to a Fund are dealt or quoted, the Company may, in order to safeguard the interests of shareholders and the Company, cancel the first valuation and carry out a second valuation, for all the Classes concerned, prudently and in good faith.

The Net Asset Value per Share of each Class in each Fund on any Valuation Day is determined by dividing the value of the total assets of the relevant Fund properly allocable to the Class of Shares less the liabilities of the Fund properly allocable to such Class by the total number of Shares of such Class outstanding on such Valuation Day.

The Subscription Price and the Redemption Price of the different Classes or Category, as the case may be, will differ within each Fund as a result of the differing fee structure, Dealing Currency and/or distribution policy for each Class or Category, as the case may be.

In determining the Net Asset Value per Share, income and expenditure are treated as accruing daily.

The valuation of the Net Asset Value per Share shall be made in the following manner:

The assets of the Company shall be deemed to include:

- (i) All cash on hand or on deposit, including any interest accrued thereon;
- (ii) All bills and demand notes payable and accounts receivable (including proceeds of securities sold but not delivered);
- (iii) All bonds, time notes, certificates of deposit, Shares, stock, debentures, debenture stocks, subscription rights, warrants, options and other securities, financial instruments and similar assets owned or contracted for by the Company (provided that the Company may make adjustments in a manner not inconsistent with paragraph (a) below with regards to fluctuations in the market value of securities caused by trading ex-dividends, ex-rights, or by similar practices);
- (iv) All stock dividends, cash dividends and cash distributions receivable by the Company to the extent information thereon is reasonably available to the Company;
- (v) All interest accrued on any interest-bearing assets owned by the Company except to the extent that the same is included or reflected in the principal amount of such asset;
- (vi) The preliminary expenses of the Company, including the cost of issuing and distributing Shares of the Company, insofar as the same have not been written off;
- (vii) The liquidating value of all forward contracts and all call or put options the Company has an open position in;
- (viii) All other assets of any kind and nature including expenses paid in advance.

The value of such assets shall be determined as follows:

- a) The value of any cash on hand or on deposit, bills and demand notes and accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, cash dividends, interest declared or accrued and not yet received, all of which are deemed to be the full amount thereof, unless in any case the same is unlikely to be paid or received in full, in which case the value thereof is arrived at after making such discount as may be considered appropriate in such case to reflect the true value thereof;
- b) Securities listed on a recognised stock exchange or dealt on any other regulated market will be valued at their latest available prices, or, in the event that there should be several such markets, on the basis of their latest available prices on the main market for the relevant security;
- c) The value of non-U.S. equity securities (foreign equity securities) is generally determined based upon the last sale price on the foreign exchange or market on which it is primarily traded and in the currency of that market as of the close of the appropriate exchange or, if there have been no sales during that day, at the latest bid price. The Board of Directors has determined that the passage of time between when the foreign exchanges or markets close and when the sub-funds compute their net

asset values could cause the value of foreign equity securities to no longer be representative or accurate, and as a result, may necessitate that such securities be fair valued. Accordingly, for foreign equity securities, the sub-funds may use an independent pricing service to fair value price the security as of the close of regular trading on the New York Stock Exchange. As a result, a sub-fund's value for a security may be different from the last sale price (or the latest bid price);

- d) In the event that the latest available price does not, in the opinion of the Directors, truly reflect the fair market value of the relevant securities, the value of such securities will be defined by the Directors based on the reasonably foreseeable sales proceeds determined prudently and in good faith;
- e) Securities not listed or traded on a stock exchange or not dealt on another Regulated Market will be valued on the basis of the probable sales proceeds determined prudently and in good faith by the Directors; and the liquidating value of futures, forward or options contracts not traded on exchanges or on other regulated markets shall mean their net liquidating value determined, pursuant to the policies established by the Directors, on a basis consistently applied for each different variety of contracts. The liquidating value of futures, forward or options contracts traded on exchanges or on other regulated markets shall be based upon the last available settlement prices of these contracts on exchanges and regulated markets on which the particular futures, forward or options contracts are traded by the Company; provided that if a futures, forward or options contract could not be liquidated on the day with respect to which net assets are being determined, the basis for determining the liquidating value of such contract shall be such value as the Directors may deem fair and reasonable. All other securities and other assets will be valued at fair market value as determined in good faith pursuant to procedures established by the Directors;
- f) The Net Asset Value per Share may be determined by using an amortised cost method for all investments with a known short-term maturity date (*i.e.*, maturity of less than three (3) months). This involves valuing an investment at its cost and thereafter assuming a constant amortisation to maturity of any discount or premium, regardless of the impact of fluctuating interest rates on the market value of the investments. While this method provides certainty in valuation, it may result in periods during which value, as determined by amortisation cost, is higher or lower than the price the relevant Fund would receive if it sold the investment. The Directors will continually assess this method of valuation and recommend changes, where necessary, to ensure that the Fund's investments will be valued at their fair value as determined in good faith by the Directors. If the Directors believe that a deviation from the amortised cost per share may result in material dilution or other unfair results to shareholders, the Directors shall take such corrective action, if any, as it deems appropriate to eliminate or reduce, to the extent reasonably practicable, the dilution or unfair results;

The Funds shall, in principle, keep in their portfolio the investments determined by the amortisation cost method until their respective maturity date;

- g) Interest rate swaps will be valued at their market value established by reference to the applicable interest rates curve. Index and financial instruments related swaps will be valued at their market value established by reference to the applicable index or financial instrument. The valuation of the index or financial instrument related swap agreement shall be based upon the market value of such swap transaction established in good faith pursuant to procedures established by the Directors.

Any asset held in a particular Fund not expressed in the Fund's Reference Currency will be translated into such Reference Currency at the rate of exchange prevailing in a recognised market at 4:00 p.m. in New York (10:00 p.m. in Luxembourg, except in the particular case of different daylight savings times) on the relevant Valuation Day.

The liabilities of the Company shall be deemed to include:

- i) All loans, bills and accounts payable;
- ii) All accrued interest on loans of the Company (including accrued fees for commitment for such loans);
- iii) All accrued or payable expenses (including the Management Fees, fees regarding the Depositary, Management Company, Listing Agent, Central Administration (including domiciliary, corporate and paying agent functions) and Registrar and Transfer Agent, and any other third-party fees);
- iv) All known liabilities, present and future, including all matured contractual obligations for payment of money or property;
- v) An appropriate provision for future taxes based on capital and income to the relevant Valuation Day, as determined from time to time by the Directors, and other reserves, if any, authorised and approved by the Directors; and
- vi) All other liabilities of the Company of whatsoever kind and nature except liabilities represented by Shares of the Company. In determining the amount of such liabilities, the Company shall take into account all expenses payable and all costs incurred by the Company, which shall comprise the fees payable to the Directors (including all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses), investment advisors (if any), investment managers, accountants, Depositary, Management Company, Listing Agent, Central Administration, Registrar and Transfer Agent, permanent representatives in places of registration, distributors, if any, trustees, fiduciaries, correspondent banks and any other agent employed by the Company, fees for legal and auditing services, costs of any proposed listings and of maintaining such listings, promotion, printing, reporting and publishing expenses (including reasonable marketing and advertising expenses and costs of preparing, translating and printing in different languages) of prospectuses, addenda, explanatory memoranda, registration statements, annual

reports and semi-annual reports, all taxes levied on the assets and the income of the Company (in particular, the "*taxe d'abonnement*" and any stamp duties payable), registration fees and other expenses payable to governmental and supervisory authorities in any relevant jurisdictions, insurance costs, costs of extraordinary measures carried out in the interests of shareholders (in particular, but not limited to, arranging expert opinions and dealing with legal proceedings) and all other operating expenses, including the cost of buying and selling assets, customary transaction fees and charges charged by custodian banks or their agents (including free payments and receipts and any reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, *i.e.*, stamp taxes, registration costs, scrip fees, special transportation costs, *etc.*), customary brokerage fees and commissions charged by banks and brokers for securities transactions and similar transactions, interest and postage, telephone, facsimile and telex charges. The Company may calculate administrative and other expenses of a regular or recurring nature on an estimated figure for yearly or other periods in advance, and may accrue the same in equal proportions over any such period.

The net assets of the Company are at any time equal to the total of the net assets of the Funds.

### **Swing Pricing Adjustment**

A Fund may suffer reduction of the Net Asset Value per Share due to Investors purchasing, selling and/or switching in and out of the Fund at a price that does not reflect the dealing costs associated with this Fund's portfolio trades undertaken by the Investment Manager to accommodate cash inflows or outflows. In order to counter this dilution impact and to protect shareholders' interests, a partial swing pricing mechanism has been adopted by the Company as part of its valuation policy.

On Valuation Days when trading in a Fund's shares will require significant purchases or sales of portfolio investments, the Fund's Net Asset Value may be adjusted to more closely reflect the actual prices of the underlying transactions, based on estimated dealing spreads, costs, and other market and trading considerations to protect shareholders' interests. In general, the Net Asset Value will be adjusted upward when there is strong demand to buy Fund shares and downward when there is strong demand to redeem Fund shares. The Investment Manager makes, and periodically reviews, the operational decisions about swing pricing, including the thresholds that trigger it, the extent of the adjustment in each case, and which Funds will and will not be subject to swing pricing at any given time.

Investors are advised that the volatility of the Fund's Net Asset Value might not reflect the true portfolio performance as a consequence of the application of swing pricing. As this adjustment is related to the inflows and outflows of money from the Fund, it is not possible to accurately predict whether dilution will occur at any future point in time. Consequently, it is also not possible to accurately predict how frequently the Company will need to make such adjustments.

The swing pricing mechanism may be applied across all Funds of the Company. Currently, the swing pricing mechanism is applied to the following Funds: (i) Emerging Markets Debt Hard Currency Fund; and (ii) Emerging Markets Debt Local Currency Fund. An up-to-date list of Funds to which the swing pricing mechanism will be applied is available on the Company's homepage:

<https://sicav.williamblair.com> in English

<https://sicav.williamblair.com/SICAV/Uebersicht.fs> in German.

The extent of the price adjustment will be reset by the Company on a periodic basis to reflect an approximation of current dealing and other costs. Such adjustment may vary from Fund to Fund and will not exceed 2% of the original Net Asset Value per Share.

### **Temporary Suspension of Determination of Net Asset Value per Share and issue or redemption of Shares**

The Directors may suspend the determination of the Net Asset Value per Share of one or more Fund(s) and the issue, conversion or redemption of Shares in any Class in the following circumstances:

- (a) During any period when any of the principal stock exchanges or other markets on which a substantial portion of the investments of the Company attributable to the relevant Fund from time to time is quoted or dealt in is closed otherwise than for ordinary holidays, or during which dealings therein are restricted or suspended, provided that such restriction or suspension affects the valuation of the investments of the Company attributable to the Fund quoted thereon;
- (b) During the existence of any state of affairs which constitutes an emergency in the opinion of the Company as a result of which disposal or valuation of assets owned by the Company attributable to the relevant Fund would be impracticable;
- (c) During any breakdown in the means of communication or computation normally employed in determining the price or value of any of the investments of the relevant Fund or the current price or value on any stock exchange or other market in respect of the assets attributable to the Fund;
- (d) During any period when the Company is unable to repatriate funds for the purpose of making payments on the redemption of Shares of the relevant Fund or during which any transfer of funds involved in the realisation or acquisition of investments or payments due on redemption of Shares cannot, in the opinion of the Directors, be effected at normal rates of exchange;
- (e) When for any other reason the prices of any investments owned by the Company attributable to the relevant Fund cannot promptly or accurately be ascertained; or
- (f) Upon the publication of a notice convening a general meeting of shareholders for the purpose of winding-up the Company.

The suspension of the determination of the Net Asset Value per Share in a Fund shall have no effect on the determination of the Net Asset Value per Share or on the issue, redemption and conversion of Shares of any other Fund that is not suspended.

Any request for subscription, conversion or redemption shall be irrevocable except in the event of a suspension of the determination of the Net Asset Value per Share.

Notice of the beginning and of the end of any period of suspension will be published in a Luxembourg daily newspaper and in any other newspaper(s) selected by the Directors, as well as in the official publications specified for the respective countries in which the Shares are sold. The CSSF and the relevant authorities of any Member States of the European Union in which the Shares are marketed, will be informed of any such suspension. Notice will likewise be given to any subscriber or shareholder, as the case may be, applying for subscription, conversion or redemption of Shares in the relevant Fund.

### **Publication of Net Asset Value per Share**

The Net Asset Value per Share and the Net Asset Value per Fund are made public at the registered office of the Company. The Company may arrange for the publication of this information in leading financial newspapers in the Reference Currency of the Fund and/or in the Dealing Currency of the Class concerned, as the case may be, and in any other currency at the discretion of the Directors. The issue and redemption prices are published on the Company's homepage:

<https://sicav.williamblair.com> in English

<https://sicav.williamblair.com/SICAV/Uebersicht.fs> in German.

Except if provided otherwise by laws, regulations and /or administrative praxis in the relevant jurisdiction, these publications will only be made on the Company's homepage.

The Company cannot accept any responsibility for any error or delay in publication or for non-publication of prices.

## Appendix D – Additional Information for Investors in the UK

### A. General

This Supplement should be read in conjunction with the Prospectus of William Blair SICAV (the "**Company**"), of which it forms part. References to the "Prospectus" are to be taken as references to that document as supplemented or amended hereby.

The Company is a recognised collective investment scheme for the purposes of section 264 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 ("**FSMA**") of the United Kingdom. The Prospectus is distributed in the United Kingdom by or on behalf of the Company.

### B. Important Information

A UK investor who subscribes for Shares in each of the sub-funds of the Company (each a "**Fund**", together the "**Funds**") in response to the Prospectus will not have the right to cancel the subscription under the cancellation rules made by the Financial Services Authority in the UK.

The Company does not carry on regulated activities from a permanent place of business in the UK. UK investors are advised that most of the protections afforded by the UK regulatory system will not apply to an investment in the Funds. Investors in shares of the Funds may not be protected by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme established in the UK.

Potential investors should note that the investments of the Funds are subject to normal market fluctuations and other risks inherent in investing in shares and other securities, in addition to the additional risks associated with investment in certain of the Funds, as described under "*Risk Factors – All Funds*".

For the purposes of United Kingdom legislation, the Prospectus and the investment activity to which it relates may only be made to or directed at:

- persons outside the European Economic Area;
- persons who are investment professionals having professional experience in matters relating to investments and who fall within Article 19(5) of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (Financial Promotion) Order 2005 ("FPO");
- persons who are high net worth companies or high net worth unincorporated associations or partnerships or trustees of high net worth trusts falling within Article 49(2)(a) to (d) of the FPO;
- persons who are eligible counterparties or professional clients (as defined in the FCA Handbook of Rules and Guidance as amended from time to time) of William Blair International Limited; or
- any other persons to whom the Prospectus may otherwise lawfully be communicated, such persons together being "Relevant Persons".

Persons who are not Relevant Persons should not act or rely upon the information contained in the Prospectus. The investments to which the Prospectus relates are only available to Relevant Persons and will only be engaged in with Relevant Persons.

### **C. Documents available for inspection**

Copies of the articles of incorporation of the Company may be delivered without cost to interested investors at their request. Copies of the following documents may be inspected free of charge during usual business hours on any weekday at the registered office of the Company and at the registered office of William Blair International, Ltd, 22 Bishopsgate, 47th Floor, London EC2N 4BQ, United Kingdom:

- Copy of the Articles of Incorporation of the Company in its current form;
- Copy of the current Prospectus, the KIDs and the KIIDs, as applicable, and any addenda or amendments thereto of the Company;
- The latest annual and semi-annual reports;
- The contract concluded between the Depositary and the Company;
- The contract concluded between the Central Administration, the Registrar and Transfer Agent, the Company and the Management Company; and
- The contract concluded between the Investment Manager, the Company and the Management Company.

### **D. UK facilities**

In connection with the Fund's recognition under section 264 of the FSMA, the Operator of the Fund, FundRock Management Company S.A., has appointed William Blair International Limited as "Facilities Agent" to maintain the facilities required of a recognised scheme pursuant to the rules contained in the Collective Investment Schemes Sourcebook published by the FCA as part of the A's Handbook of Rules and Guidance governing collective investment schemes. Copies of any of the documents listed above, under the heading Documents Available for Inspection may be obtained free of charge from the registered office of the Company or the registered office of William Blair International, Ltd. during usual business hours on any weekday. Information regarding the price of the Shares may also be obtained from the registered office of the Company or the registered office of William Blair International, Ltd., where facilities whereby an investor may arrange for redemption or his Shares and to obtain payment are also provided. Payments of dividends free of charge and details of copies of any notices which have been given or sent to participants in the Funds of the Company can also be obtained at the registered office of William Blair International, Ltd.

The Company will pay, out of the assets of the relevant Funds, the fees and out of pocket expenses of the Facilities Agent, which shall be calculated at normal commercial rates. The

Facilities Agent will also be entitled to receive, from the Company, out of the assets of the relevant Funds, transaction charges at normal commercial rates.

#### **E. Complaints**

Complaints regarding the operation of the Company may be submitted to either the registered office of the Company or the registered office of William Blair International, Ltd.

#### **F. Taxation**

**THE STATEMENTS ON TAXATION BELOW ARE INTENDED TO BE A GENERAL SUMMARY OF CERTAIN UK TAX CONSEQUENCES THAT MAY RESULT TO THE COMPANY AND ITS SHAREHOLDERS WHO ARE RESIDENT IN THE UK (EXCEPT WHERE OTHERWISE INDICATED). THE STATEMENTS RELATE TO SHAREHOLDERS WHO HOLD SHARES AS AN INVESTMENT AND NOT AS AN ASSET OF A FINANCIAL OR OTHER TRADE AND WHO ARE THE ABSOLUTE BENEFICIAL OWNERS THEREOF. THE STATEMENTS DO NOT ADDRESS THE POSITION OF CERTAIN CLASSES OF INVESTOR SUCH AS TRUSTEES OF SETTLEMENTS, INSURANCE COMPANIES OR CHARITIES. THE STATEMENTS ARE BASED ON UK TAX LAW AND HM REVENUE & CUSTOMS ("HMRC") PRACTICE IN FORCE AT THE DATE OF THIS DOCUMENT, BUT PROSPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS SHOULD BE AWARE THAT THE RELEVANT LAW AND HMRC PRACTICE OR THEIR INTERPRETATION MAY CHANGE. THE FOLLOWING TAX SUMMARY IS NOT A GUARANTEE TO ANY INVESTOR OF THE TAX RESULTS FROM INVESTING IN THE COMPANY. PROSPECTIVE SHAREHOLDERS SHOULD CONSULT THEIR OWN PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS ON THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF BUYING, HOLDING, SELLING OR REDEEMING SHARES UNDER THE LAWS OF THE JURISDICTIONS TO WHICH THEY ARE SUBJECT.**

#### ***The Company***

As the Company is a Luxembourg-domiciled UCITS, it should not be considered to be UK resident for UK tax purposes. Accordingly, and provided that the Company does not carry on a trade in the UK through a permanent establishment for UK corporation tax purposes, the Company will not be subject to UK corporation tax on income and capital gains arising to it. The Directors intend that the affairs of the Company are conducted so that no such permanent establishment will arise insofar as this is within their control, but it cannot be guaranteed that the conditions necessary to prevent any such permanent establishment coming into being will at all times be satisfied.

Interest and other income received by the Company that has a UK source may be subject to withholding taxes in the UK. The Company may be subject to local withholding taxes in respect of income or gains derived from its investments in underlying investee countries. Tax law and practice, and the levels and bases of, and relief from, tax relating to the Company and shareholders may change from time to time.

## **Shareholders**

### *Offshore Fund Rules*

Special tax rules apply to investments made in an offshore fund within the meaning of Part 8 of the Taxation (International and Other Provisions) Act 2010 ("**TIOPA**"). This legislation provides that if a shareholder who is resident in the UK for UK tax purposes holds an interest in an overseas company that constitutes an "offshore fund" and that company is not accepted by HMRC as a "reporting fund" throughout the period during which the shareholder holds that interest, any gain arising to the shareholder on the sale, disposal or redemption of that interest will be taxed at the time of such sale, disposal or redemption as income and not as a capital gain.

Shares will constitute interests in an offshore fund for UK tax purposes. The overall umbrella arrangements are ignored and each Fund is treated as a separate offshore fund. An application has been or will be made to HMRC for certain Funds to be treated as 'reporting funds'. Shareholders should refer to the list of reporting funds maintained by HMRC and published on its website for confirmation of the Funds approved as reporting funds. A 'reporting fund' under these regulations is, broadly, an offshore fund that meets certain upfront and annual reporting requirements to HMRC and its shareholders. The Directors intend to manage the affairs of the Company and those particular Funds so that these upfront and annual duties are met and continue to be met on an ongoing basis. These annual duties include calculating and reporting the "excess reportable income" of the offshore fund for each reporting period (as defined for UK tax purposes) on a per-Share basis to all relevant investors. However, prospective investors should be aware that: (i) no assurance can be given as to whether such approval will actually be granted and retained in respect of any particular accounting period; and (ii) an application to be treated as a 'reporting fund' is not intended to be made for all Funds. Accordingly, shareholders who are resident in the UK for UK tax purposes may be liable to UK income tax in respect of gains arising from the sale, redemption or other disposal of their Shares. Such gains may remain taxable notwithstanding any general or specific UK capital gains tax exemption or allowance available to a shareholder. Accordingly, this may result in certain shareholders incurring a proportionately greater UK taxation charge. Prospective investors should seek their own professional advice as to the implications of the funds obtaining such status.

Chapter 6 of Part 3 of the Offshore Funds (Tax) Regulations 2009 (the "**Regulations**") provides that specified transactions carried out by a UCITS fund, such as the Company, will not generally be treated as trading transactions for the purposes of calculating the reportable income of reporting funds that meet a genuine diversity of ownership condition. The Directors confirm that all classes of Shares with reporting fund status are primarily intended for and marketed to institutional investors. For the purposes of the Regulations, the Directors undertake that all Shares in the Company with reporting fund status will be widely available and will be marketed and made available sufficiently widely to reach the intended category of investors and in a manner appropriate to attract those kinds of investors.

### *Tax Treatment of Distributions of Income*

Subject to their specific circumstances, shareholders who are resident in the UK for UK tax purposes may be liable to UK income tax or corporation tax in respect of any income distributions of the Company or any amounts reported to investors as “reportable income” in respect of Shares held. The distribution policy of each Fund is specified in this Prospectus. For individual shareholders subject to UK income tax, the first £2,000 of dividends received (or deemed to be received) by UK resident individuals (from all sources combined) in each tax year will not be subject to income tax (the “**Dividend Allowance**”). The rates of income tax on dividends above the Dividend Allowance are: (a) 7.5% for dividends taxed in the basic rate band; (b) 32.5% for dividends taxed in the higher rate band; and (c) 38.1% for dividends taxed in the additional rate band. There is no tax credit attached to dividends.

However, such treatment will not apply to individual investors in certain offshore funds where the market value of the fund's investments in “qualifying investments” (which include money placed at interest, securities or debt instruments, shares in a building society, certain interests in unit trusts, offshore funds or open-ended investment companies which invest in similar assets, derivative contracts based only on any of the foregoing and currency, or contracts for differences whose subject matter is only interest rates and/or credit worthiness and/or currency) exceeds 60% of the market value of all of the assets of the fund (excluding cash awaiting investment) at any relevant time. Investors in these funds will be treated as receiving an interest payment for UK income tax purposes, taxed at their marginal rate of income tax.

UK resident shareholders who are not liable to UK income tax on their income should not be subject to UK tax on income distributions.

Legislation in Part 9A Corporation Tax Act 2009 (“**CTA 2009**”) means that dividends and other income distributions received by a company within the charge to UK corporation tax will be exempt from UK corporation tax provided that the dividends and distributions fall within one or more classes which qualify for exemption and are not subject to specific anti-avoidance rules. This is generally the case where the shareholder holds less than 10% of the issued share capital in each share class and is not a “small” company (as defined in Part 9A of the CTA 2009). The exemptions are not comprehensive and, as explained above, are also subject to anti-avoidance rules so UK resident investors which are subject to UK corporation tax are advised to seek advice on how these rules apply to their particular circumstances in relation to the Shares.

Chapter 3 of Part 6 of the CTA 2009 provides that, if at any time in an accounting period a shareholder within the charge to UK corporation tax holds an interest in an offshore fund (see further above), and there is a time in the period when the fund fails to satisfy the qualifying investments test, the interest held by such a shareholder will be treated for the accounting period as if it were rights under a creditor relationship for the purposes of the rules relating to taxation of most corporate debt contained in Part 5 of CTA 2009 (the “**Corporate Debt Regime**”).

The Shares will (as explained above) constitute interests in an offshore fund. In circumstances where the qualifying investments test is not so satisfied (for example where a Fund invests in money placed at interest, securities or debt instruments, shares in a building society, certain interests in unit trusts, offshore funds or open-ended investment companies that invest in similar assets, derivative contracts based only on any of the foregoing and currency, or contracts for differences whose subject matter is only interest rates and/or credit worthiness and/or currency and the market value of such investments exceeds 60% of the market value of all its investments (excluding cash awaiting investments)) the Shares corresponding to that Fund will be treated for UK corporation tax purposes as within the Corporate Debt Regime. In such cases, all returns on the relevant Shares in respect of each corporate shareholder accounting period during which the test is not met (including gains, profits and deficits and exchange gains and losses) will be taxed or relieved as an income receipt or expense on a fair value accounting basis. Accordingly, a corporate shareholder may, depending on its own circumstances, incur a charge to UK corporation tax on an unrealised increase in the value of its holding of Shares (and, likewise, obtain relief against corporation tax for an unrealised reduction in the value of its holding of Shares).

Chapters 2A and 6A of Part 6 of the CTA 2009 also provide that, in certain additional circumstances, Shares held by a corporate shareholder within the charge to UK corporation tax may be treated as if they are rights under a creditor relationship even if this would not otherwise be the case. These provisions may apply:

- (a) in the case of Chapter 6A of Part 6 of the CTA 2009, if in particular the Shares are accounted for by the Company as a liability in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice and carry a return which is economically equivalent to interest. In these additional circumstances, all returns on the Shares in respect of each corporate shareholder's accounting period (including gains, profits and exchange gains and losses) will be taxed or relieved as an income receipt or expense under the loan relationship rules. Accordingly, a corporate shareholder may, depending on its own circumstances, incur a charge to corporation tax on an unrealised increase in the value of its holding of Shares; and
- (b) in the case of Chapter 2A of Part 6 of the CTA 2009, if in particular the Shares carry a return which is economically equivalent to interest and the rules in Chapter 6A of the CTA 2009 do not apply. In these additional circumstances, all returns on the Shares in respect of each corporate shareholder's accounting period (including gains, profits, losses and exchange gains and losses) must be determined on an amortised cost basis and will be taxed or relieved as an income receipt or expense under the loan relationship rules.

Where the Shares are treated as rights under a creditor relationship, the provisions relating to non-reporting funds would not then apply to such corporate shareholders.

### *Other UK Tax Considerations*

UK tax legislation contains a number of provisions which are designed to ensure that UK residents who invest in non-UK assets are not doing so for tax avoidance purposes. The main provisions which could apply to the Company and its shareholders are outlined below.

#### *Transfer of Assets Abroad*

The attention of shareholders who are individuals resident in the UK is drawn to the provisions of Chapter 2 of Part 13 of the Income Tax Act 2007, under which the income accruing to the Company may be attributed to such a shareholder and may render them liable to taxation in respect of the undistributed income and profits of the Company. This legislation will, however, not apply if such a shareholder can satisfy HMRC that either:

- (a) it would not be reasonable to draw the conclusion from all the circumstances of the case, that the purpose of avoiding liability to taxation was the purpose, or one of the purposes, for which the relevant transactions or any of them were effected;
- (b) all the relevant transactions are genuine commercial transactions, and it would not be reasonable to draw the conclusion, from all the circumstances of the case, that any one or more of the transactions was more than incidentally designed for the purpose of avoiding liability to taxation; or
- (c) all the relevant transactions were genuine, arm's length transactions and if the shareholder were liable to tax under Chapter 2 of Part 13 in respect of such transactions such liability would constitute an unjustified and disproportionate restriction on a freedom protected by Title II or IV of Part Three of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union or Part II or III of the EEA Agreement.

#### *Controlled Foreign Company Rules*

Part 9A of TIOPA subjects UK-resident companies to tax on the profits of companies not so resident in which they have an interest. Unless one of the exemptions applies, these provisions affect UK-resident companies that hold, alone or together with certain other associated persons, shares that confer a right to at least 25% of the chargeable profits of a non-UK-resident company (or in the case of an umbrella fund, a Fund thereof) where that non-UK-resident company (or Fund) is controlled by persons who are resident in the UK and is subject to a lower level of taxation in its territory of residence. The legislation is not directed towards the taxation of capital gains.

Any corporate shareholder who may be subject to the rules should consult their professional advisers on how these rules apply to their particular circumstances in relation to the Shares.

#### *Non-Resident Close Companies*

The attention of persons resident in the UK for taxation purposes is drawn to the provisions of section 13 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992 ("**section 13**"). Section 13 applies

to a “participator” for UK taxation purposes (which term includes a shareholder) if at any time when any gain accrues to a company which constitutes a chargeable gain for those purposes, at the same time, the company is itself controlled by a sufficiently small number of persons so as to render the company a body corporate that would, were it to have been resident in the UK for taxation purposes, be a “close” company for those purposes. The provisions of section 13 could, if applied, result in any such person who is a “participator” in the Company being treated for the purposes of UK taxation of chargeable gains as if a part of any chargeable gain accruing to the Company had accrued to that person directly, that part being equal to the proportion of the gain that corresponds on a just and reasonable basis to that person’s proportionate interest in the Company as a “participator.” No liability under section 13 could be incurred by such a person however, where such proportion does not exceed one quarter of the gain. In addition, exemptions may also apply where none of the acquisition, holding or disposal of the assets had a tax avoidance main purpose or where the relevant gains arise on the disposal of assets used only for the purposes of genuine, economically significant business activities carried on outside the UK. In the case of UK resident individuals domiciled outside the UK, section 13 applies only to gains relating to UK situate assets of the Company and gains relating to non-UK situate assets if such gains are remitted to the UK.

#### *Stamp Duty Reserve Tax and Stamp Duty*

On the basis that the Company does not maintain a share register in the UK, the issue or transfer of shares of the Company should not, generally, give rise to stamp duty reserve tax nor stamp duty in the UK.

Prospective investors should consult their own professional advisers on the tax and regulatory implications of making an investment in, holding or disposing of Shares and the receipt of distributions, if any, with respect to such Shares under the laws of their places of citizenship, residence and domicile. The tax consequences for each investor of acquiring, holding, redeeming or disposing of Shares will depend upon the relevant laws of any jurisdiction to which the investor is subject. Prospective investors should seek their own professional advice as to this, as well as to any relevant exchange control or other laws and regulations.

#### *CRS*

Please see the “TAXATION” section of the prospectus for further details.

## Appendix E – Additional Information For Investors In Germany

### Right to market Shares in Germany

The Company has notified its intention to market Shares in Germany. Since completion of the notification process the Company has the right to market Shares in Germany.

**No marketing communication has been established for William Blair SICAV- the Emerging Markets Frontier Debt Fund. Therefore shares of this company may not be marketed in Germany.**

### Facility Agent in Germany

Facility services according to Sec. 306a (1) no. 1. to 6. German Investment Code (“KAGB”) are provided in Germany by:

FE fundinfo (Luxembourg) S.à.r.l.  
6 Boulevard des Lumières,  
4369 Belvaux  
Luxembourg  
fa\_gfr@fefundinfo.com  
(the “German Facility Agent”)

(the “German Facility Agent”)

The Company has concluded a written agreement with the German Facility Agent stipulating that all functions referred to in Sec. 306a (1) no. 1. to 6. KAGB are to be performed by the German Facility Agent towards German Shareholders and that the German Facility Agent will receive all relevant information and documents from the Company.

Subscription, payment, redemption and conversion orders for Shares of German Shareholders may be processed by the German Facility Agent in accordance with the conditions set out in the sales documents referred to in Sec. 297 (4) sentence 1 KAGB.

The German Facility Agent provides Shareholders in Germany with information on how orders referred to above can be made and how redemption proceeds are paid.

Appropriate procedures and arrangements have been established by the Company to ensure that there are no restrictions on Shareholders exercising their rights arising from their investment in the Company. For Shareholder in Germany the German Facility Agent facilitates the access to and provides information on procedures and arrangements referred to in Art. 15 Directive 2009/65/EC relating to the exercise of German Shareholders’ rights arising from their investment in the Company and provides detailed information thereon.

Copies of the articles of incorporation, the Prospectus, KIDs or KIIDs as well as the latest annual and semi-annual reports are available free of charge in paper form from the German Facility Agent.

Furthermore, the additional documents listed in the section “Documents Available for Inspection” in the Prospectus may be inspected at the German Information Agent.

The issue, conversion and redemption prices of the Shares as well as other information to shareholders that shareholders are entitled to receive at the registered office of the Company are available free of charge from the German Facility Agent.

The German Facility Agent provides German Shareholders with information relevant to the tasks that it performs on a durable medium.

The German Facility Agent acts as the contact point for communication with the Bundesanstalt für Finanzdienstleistungsaufsicht (BaFin).

#### Publications

In Germany, the issue and redemption prices are published on fundinfo.com. Any notifications to Shareholders are sent to Shareholder by mail as a durable medium.

Furthermore, in the cases listed in Section 298 (2) KAGB, shareholders notifications are also published in the German Federal Gazette.

#### German Investment Tax Act

The following is a general discussion of certain German tax consequences of the acquisition, holding and disposal of Shares of the Company. It does not purport to be a comprehensive description of all German tax considerations that may be relevant to a decision to purchase Shares, and, in particular, does not consider any specific facts or circumstances that may apply to a particular purchaser. This summary is based on the tax laws of Germany currently in force and as applied on the date of this Prospectus, which are subject to change, possibly with retroactive or retrospective effect. As each Class may be subject to a different tax treatment due to the specific terms of such Class as set out in the applicable section of this Prospectus, the following section only provides general information on the possible tax treatment. Prospective purchasers of Shares are advised to consult their own tax advisors as to the tax consequences of the purchase, ownership and disposal of Shares, including the effect of any state, local or church taxes, under the tax laws of Germany and any country of which they are resident or whose tax laws apply to them for other reasons.

As of 1 January 2018, German tax resident investors in the Company are subject to taxation according to the German Investment Tax Act as amended (“New GITA”). Under the New

GITA, a distinction must be made between investment funds (Investmentfonds) and special investment funds (Spezial-Investmentfonds). For each category, a different tax regime applies. The regime for special investment funds is similar to the previous transparent taxation regime for investment funds whereas the regime for investment funds will provide for a new opaque taxation of the Company and its German tax resident investors ("New Investment Funds"). The regime for special investment funds will only be applicable if, inter alia, the conditions of the funds exclude the direct and indirect investment by private individuals. Since this is not the case for the Company, it will qualify as a New Investment Fund.

The Company continuously invests directly more than 50% (i.e., predominantly) of the total assets of the Emerging Markets Growth Fund, Emerging Markets Leaders Fund, Emerging Markets Small Cap Growth Fund, Global Leaders Fund, Global Leaders Sustainability Fund, U.S. All Cap Growth Fund, U.S. Large Cap Growth Fund, U.S. Small-Mid Cap Core Fund and U.S. Small-Mid Cap Growth Fund in equity securities in the meaning of Sec. 2 para. 8 GITA.

In case of investments in target investment funds, these target investment funds will be considered by the Funds in the calculation of their equity participation ratio. As far as such data is available, the at least weekly calculated and published actual equity ratios of target funds will be considered in this calculation according to Sec. 2 para. 6 respectively 7 GITA.

This Prospectus does not provide any further information on the German taxation of the holders of Shares in the Company. It should be noted that distributions of the Company, undistributed income of the Company which is attributable to Shareholders for tax purposes and any advance flat charge as well as capital gains from the sale, disposal and redemption of Shares, the assignment of claims from the Shares and equivalent cases are taxable in the Federal Republic of Germany to the extent prescribed by law and may also be subject to a withholding tax in Germany (Kapitalertragsteuer) (plus solidarity surcharge and, if applicable, church tax thereon). Investors should also take into account that the Company may be subject to (withholding) tax on its sources of income which may or may not be refundable to the Company or may or may not be entitled to a tax credit at the level of German tax resident investors.

## Appendix F – Purposes and legal bases

The Personal Data are processed by the Controller for the following purposes and legal bases:

### (i) Compliance with applicable legal obligations

Categories of Personal Data	Purposes
Identification data and shares related data.	Maintaining the register of shareholders.
Identification data and shares related data.	Mandatory registration with registers including among others the Luxembourg register of beneficial owners.
Identification data, contact data, tax related data and AML/KYC related data.	<p>Carrying out anti-money laundering checks and related actions considered appropriate to meet any legal obligations relating to the prevention of fraud, money laundering, terrorist financing, bribery, corruption, tax fraud and evasion and the provision of financial and other services to persons who may be subject to economic or trade sanctions, on an on-going basis.</p> <p>Special categories of personal data, in particular political opinions of Data Subjects having a public political exposure will be processed by the Controller on the basis of article 9, (2), e) and/or g) of the GDPR (i.e., respectively the personal data have manifestly been made public by the data subject and/or the personal data is necessary for reasons of substantial public interest).</p>
Identification data, tax related data, shares related data and AML/KYC related data.	Reporting tax related information to tax authorities under Luxembourg or foreign laws and regulations (including, but not limited to, laws and regulations relating to FATCA or CRS).

**(ii) Necessity to execute the contract between the investor and the Controller or in order to take steps at the request of the data subjects prior to entering into the contract**

<b>Categories of Personal Data</b>	<b>Purposes</b>
Identification data, contact data, bank account data and tax related data.	Processing subscriptions, holding redemptions and conversions of shares and payments of dividends or interests to investors (including entering into financing agreements); operating the Funds; Managing and administering an investor's holding in the relevant Fund on an on-going basis.
Identification data, bank account data and shares related data.	Account administration.

**(iii) The legitimate interests of the Controller or of relevant third parties**

<b>Categories of Personal Data</b>	<b>Purposes</b>
Identification data, contact data, bank account data, tax related data, shares related data, AML/KYC related data and communication data.	A due diligence carried out by any third party that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– acquires, or is interested in acquiring or securitizing, all or part of the Controller's assets or shares;</li> <li>– succeeds to the Controller in carrying on all or a part of its businesses, or services provided to it, whether by merger, acquisition, financing, reorganization or otherwise; or</li> <li>– intends to onboard the Controller as a client or a co-investor or otherwise.</li> </ul>
Identification data and contact data.	Investor relationship management.
Identification data, contact data, bank account data, tax related data, shares related data, ALM/KYC related data and communication data.	Establishing, exercising, or defending legal claims and providing proof, in the event of a dispute, of a transaction or any commercial communication.

Identification data, contact data, bank account data, tax related data, shares related data, AML/KYC related data and communication data.	Complying with foreign laws and regulations and/or any order of a foreign court, government, supervisory, regulatory or tax authority.
Identification data, contact data, bank account data, tax related data, shares related data, AML/KYC related data and communication data.	Risk management.
Identification data and contact data.	Commercial prospection; statistical analysis; market research purposes.
Identification data and contact data.	Processing Personal Data of employees or other representatives of investors which are legal persons.
Identification data and shares related data.	Disclosing the list of existing investors to prospective investors in compliance with their investment policies.

## Appendix G – Recipients and countries of establishment

The Controller transfers Personal Data to the below categories of recipients and their countries of establishment:

<b>Categories of recipients</b>	<b>Name and Country of establishment</b>
Management Company	Management Company S.A., Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
Depository and Paying Agent	Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
Central Administration Agent	Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
Registrar and Transfer Agent	Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
Investment Manager	William Blair Investment Management, LLC, United States of America.
Investment Managers Affiliates	William Blair International Ltd, United Kingdom William Blair B.V., Netherlands
Global Distributor	William Blair & Company, L.L.C., United States of America.
Sub-Custodian	Citibank, N.A., United States of America.
Auditor	Ernst & Young S.A., Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

Legal Advisor(s)	Arendt & Medernach S.A., Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.
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## Appendix H – Retention Periods

The Controller undertakes to ensure that necessary records and documents are adequately protected and maintained and that records that are no longer needed or are of no value are deleted or destroyed in compliance with the provisions of the GDPR.

In this respect, unless longer or shorter statutory limitation periods apply, the principal retention periods implemented by the Controller are specified below:

Type of records	Retention periods
Contracts	<u>10 years</u> from the end of the contractual relationship to which the documents relate.
Business correspondence (letters, emails, faxes, etc.)	<u>10 years</u> from the end of the accounting year in which the document was sent or received.
Accounting related documents	<u>10 years</u> from the latest of either the end of the accounting year.
Corporate related documents	<u>5 years</u> from the date of the closing of the liquidation of the Controller.
AML/KYC related documents	<u>5 years or 10 years</u> from the end of the contractual relationship to which the documents relate.
Beneficial owners related documents	<u>5 years</u> from the radiation of the Controller from the Luxembourg trade and companies register.

## Appendix I – Additional Information For Investors In Switzerland

### 1. Representative

The representative in Switzerland is FIRST INDEPENDENT FUND SERVICES LTD, Feldeggstrasse 12, CH-8008 Zürich, (the “**Representative**”).

### 2. Paying Agent

The paying agent in Switzerland is NPB New Private Bank Ltd, Limmatquai 1, CH-8001 Zürich.

### 3. Location where the relevant documents may be obtained

The Prospectus, the Key Information Documents, the Articles as well as the annual and semi-annual reports may be obtained free of charge from the Representative.

### 4. Publications

Publications concerning the Company and the Funds are made in Switzerland on the recognised electronic platform [www.fundinfo.com](http://www.fundinfo.com).

The net asset value per Share of class of Shares together with a reference stating “excluding commissions” will be published on a daily basis on the recognised electronic platform [www.fundinfo.com](http://www.fundinfo.com).

### 5. Payment of retrocessions and rebates

#### 5.1 Retrocessions

The Management Company, the Investment Manager and their agents may pay retrocessions as remuneration for distribution activity in respect of Shares in Switzerland. This remuneration may be deemed payment for the following services in particular:

- a. Setting up processes for subscribing, holding and safe custody of the Shares;
- b. Forwarding or providing access to marketing documents, legal documents and other publications;
- a. Performing due diligence delegated by the Management Company, respectively
- c. the Investment Manager in areas such as money laundering, ascertaining client needs and distribution restrictions;
- a. Mandating an authorized auditor to check compliance with certain duties of the distributor, in particular with the Guidelines on the Distribution of Collective Investment Schemes issued by the Swiss Funds & Asset Management Association SFAMA;
- e. Clarifying and answering specific questions from investors pertaining to the investment product or the Company;
- f. Central relationship management;

- g. Subscribing Shares as a "nominee" for several clients;
- h. Training client advisors in collective investment schemes;
- i. Provision of fund documents and account statements for customers;
- j. Aggregation of subscriptions and redemption orders and transmission to the Management Company, respectively the Investment Manager; and
- k. Forwarding requests, complaints, requests for inspection of records, etc., to the Representative.

Retrocessions are not deemed to be rebates even if they are ultimately passed on, in full or in part, to the investors.

Disclosure of the receipt of retrocessions is based on the applicable provisions of Federal Act on Financial Services ("FinSA").

## *5.2 Rebates*

In the case of distribution activity in Switzerland, the Investment Manager may, upon request, pay rebates directly to investors. The purpose of rebates is to reduce the fees or costs incurred by the investor in question. Rebates are permitted provided that

- a. they are paid from fees received by the Investment Manager and therefore do not represent an additional charge on the fund assets;
- b. they are granted on the basis of objective criteria;
- c. all investors who meet these objective criteria and demand rebates are also granted these within the same timeframe and to the same extent.

The objective criteria for the granting of rebates by the Investment Manager are as follows:

- a. the volume subscribed by the investors or the total volume they hold in the collective investment scheme or, where applicable, in the product range of the Investment Manager;
- b. the amount of the fees generated by the investor;
- c. the investment behaviour shown by the investor (e.g. expected investment period);
- d. the investor's willingness to provide support in the launch phase of a collective investment scheme.

At the request of the investor, the Investment Manager must disclose the amounts of such rebates free of charge.

## **6. Place of performance and jurisdiction**

In respect of the Shares offered in Switzerland, the place of performance is at the registered office of the Representative. The place of jurisdiction is at the registered office of the Representative or at the registered office or place of residence of the investor.