

## 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 of



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

Yes

No

It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective**: \_\_\_%

in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective**: \_\_\_%

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

with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy

with a social objective

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

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

The environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by this sub-fund are:

1. Identification and analysis of an issuer's environmental characteristics including, but not limited to, physical risks of climate change and human capital management.
2. Responsible business practices in accordance with UN Global Compact and OECD Principles for businesses.
3. Active consideration of environmental issues through engagement where HSBC Asset Management considers it appropriate to do so.
4. Excluding activities covered by HSBC Asset Management's Responsible Investment Policies (the "**Excluded Activities**") as listed below.

The sub-fund is actively managed and is not constrained by a benchmark. There is no reference benchmark for this sub-fund market and one is not designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the sub-fund.

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

Sustainability indicators are a key consideration in our investment decision

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

are attained.

making process.

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

- E, S and G Pillar Scores, relative to its sector
- ESG Score, above a relative absolute threshold

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

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

- ***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 for this sub-fund.

- ***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 for this sub-fund.

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

Not applicable for this sub-fund.

- ***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 for this sub-fund.

*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.*

**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.



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

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

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

Full details of how Principal Adverse Impacts have been considered in respect of the sub-fund will be included in the Company's year-end report and accounts. No

## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

The sub-fund aims to provide long term total return by investing in a portfolio focused on the intersection (the "Crossover") between Investment Grade and Non-Investment Grade rated Securitised Credit, while promoting ESG characteristics within the meaning of Article 8 of SFDR.

The sub-fund may also invest in other fixed income instruments issued globally denominated in a range of currencies, including but not limited to, corporate bonds, securities issued or guaranteed by governments, government agencies and supranational bodies, and cash. Issuers of these securities may be located in any country.

The sub-fund includes the identification and analysis of an issuers' ESG credentials described below as an integral part of the investment decision making process, to help assess risks and potential returns.

The sub-fund targets investment in securities with a low and medium, HSBC proprietary, Securitised Credit ESG risk assessment score ("ESG Risk Assessment score"). A lower ESG Risk Assessment Score signifies lower ESG driven investment risk. It is determined through a combination of ESG Credentials as mentioned below, ESG factors most relevant to each Securitised Credit subsector and structural features of the specific security.

The sub-fund is actively managed and is not constrained by a benchmark.

The sub-fund includes the identification and analysis of an issuer's ESG credentials ("ESG Credentials") as an integral part of the investment decision making process, to help assess risks and potential returns. ESG Credentials may include, but are not limited to:

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



### The investment strategy guides

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

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

ESG Credentials, Excluded Activities and the need for ESG due diligence may be identified and analysed by using, but not exclusively, HSBC's proprietary ESG Materiality Framework and scores, fundamental qualitative research and corporate engagement. When assessing issuers' ESG score or their involvement in Excluded Activities, the Investment Adviser may rely on expertise, research and information provided by financial and non-financial data providers.

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

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

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

- The sub-fund targets investment in securities with a low and medium, HSBC proprietary, Securitised Credit ESG Risk Assessment Score. Issuers considered for inclusion within the sub-fund's portfolio will be subject to Excluded Activities including, but are not limited to:
  - **Banned Weapons** - the sub-fund will not invest in issuers HSBC considers to be involved in the development, production, use, maintenance, offering for sale, distribution, import or export, storage or transportation of Banned Weapons.
  - **Controversial Weapons** - the sub-fund will not invest in issuers HSBC considers to be involved in the production of controversial weapons or their key components. Controversial weapons include but are not limited to anti-personnel mines, depleted uranium weapons and white phosphorous when used for military purposes.
  - **Thermal Coal (Expanders)** - the sub-fund will not participate in initial public offerings ("IPOs") or primary fixed income financing by issuers HSBC considers to be engaged in the expansion of thermal coal production.
  - **Thermal Coal (Revenue threshold)** - the sub-fund will not invest in issuers HSBC considers to have more than 10% revenue generated from thermal coal power generation or extraction and which, in the opinion of HSBC, do not have a credible transition plan.
  - **Tobacco** - the sub-fund will not invest in issuers HSBC considers to be directly involved in the production of tobacco.
  - **UNGC** - the sub-fund will not invest in issuers that HSBC considers to be non-

compliant with United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) Principles. Where instances of potential violations of UNGC principles are identified, issuers may be subject to proprietary ESG due diligence checks to determine their suitability for inclusion in a sub-fund's portfolio.

- Consideration will also be made on the products sustainability indicators on a continuous basis.

Further details of HSBC's Responsible Investment Policies can be found at: [www.assetmanagement.hsbc.com/about-us/responsible-investing](http://www.assetmanagement.hsbc.com/about-us/responsible-investing)

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

The sub-fund does not have a committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of investments.

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

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

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

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

The sub-fund does not commit to holding a minimum percentage of sustainable investments (#1A Sustainable). The sub-fund will have a minimum proportion of 51% of investments that are aligned with the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product (#1 Aligned with E/S Characteristics). (#2 Other) includes liquid assets (ancillary liquid assets, bank deposits, money market instruments and money market funds) and financial derivatives instruments which may be used for efficient portfolio management.

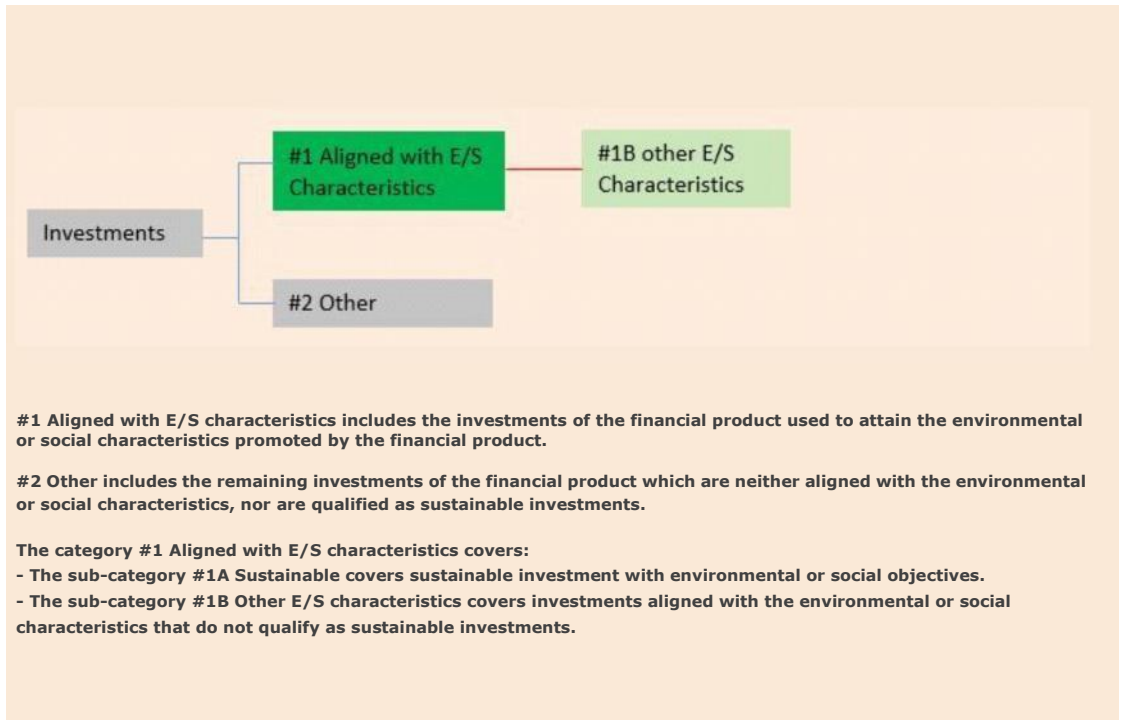
#### **Good governance**

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



#### **Asset allocation**

describes the share of investments in specific assets.



Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

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

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

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



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

Not applicable for this sub-fund.

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

Yes:

In fossil gas

In nuclear energy

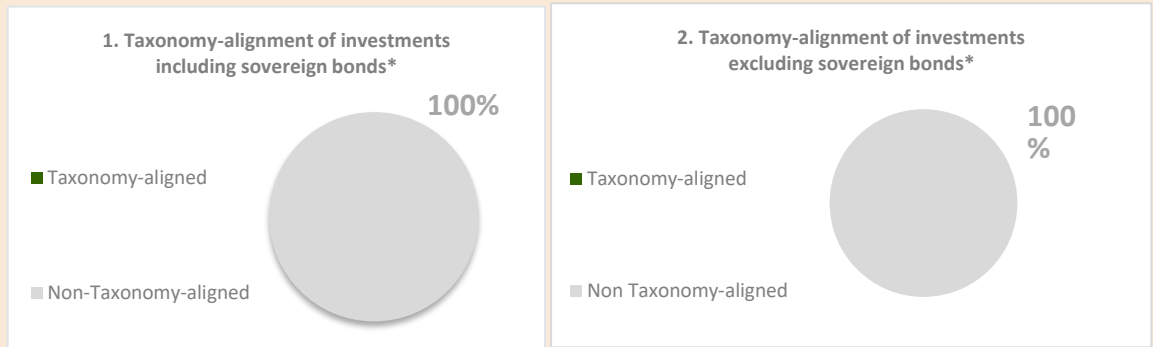
No

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

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

**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

The two graphs below show in green the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds\*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.



This graph represents 100% of the total investments

\* 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?

Not applicable for this sub-fund.



are sustainable investments with an



## What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental

<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.

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

### **objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

Not applicable for this sub-fund.



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

Not applicable for this sub-fund.



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

The sub-fund may invest in money market funds for liquidity management purposes, hold liquid assets (ancillary liquid assets, bank deposits, money market instruments and money market funds), financial derivative instruments may also be used for efficient portfolio management. This may also include investments that are not aligned for other reasons such as corporate actions and non-availability of data.

Liquid assets (ancillary liquid assets, bank deposits, money market instruments and money market funds) and financial derivatives instruments do not have minimum environmental or social safeguards applied, due to the nature of these instruments.



### **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?**

There is no reference benchmark for this sub-fund.

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

Not applicable for this sub-fund.

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

Not applicable for this sub-fund.

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

Not applicable for this sub-fund.

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

Not applicable for this sub-fund.

**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:  
[www.assetmanagement.hsbc.com](http://www.assetmanagement.hsbc.com)