

# GOLDMAN SACHS FUNDS SICAV

## Sustainability-related disclosures

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- Product name: GOLDMAN SACHS EMERGING MARKETS DEBT LOCAL PORTFOLIO
- Legal entity identifier: LXH6MWVDS6WHPU19VR51
- SFDR categorization: Article 8

## (a) Summary

### No sustainable investment objective

This Portfolio promotes environmental and/or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective sustainable investment.

### Environmental or social characteristics of the financial product

The Investment Adviser implements an approach to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations into its fundamental investment process which consists of portfolio level targets as set forth below (the "ESG Criteria").

The Portfolio aims to target a higher environmental score (E-score) relative to the Reference Portfolio/Benchmark. The Investment Adviser aims to measure an E-score for each issuer in the Portfolio and in the Reference Portfolio/Benchmark according to its proprietary ESG scoring system, which amongst other factors may consider Air Quality, Water Scarcity, Climate & Energy, Biodiversity & Habitat. Where exceptional circumstances exist (including, but not limited to, high market volatility, exceptional market conditions, market disruptions) that result in this target not being achieved, the Investment Adviser will seek to adjust the Portfolio to adhere to the target as soon as reasonably practicable and in the best interests of Shareholders. However, there may be instances where an internal E-score may not be available for a particular issuer, which include but are not limited to in kind transfers, new issues, holdings that are soon to reach their maturity date, and/or certain short-term holdings. If an issuer does not have an E-score it will be excluded when calculating the E-score of the Portfolio or Reference Portfolio/Benchmark, as applicable.

### Investment strategy

The Investment Adviser implements an approach to Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") considerations into its fundamental investment process which consists of portfolio level targets as set forth below (the "ESG Criteria"). In addition to applying the ESG Criteria as set forth above the Investment Adviser may integrate ESG factors with traditional fundamental factors as part of its fundamental research process to seek to: (i) determine whether a particular fixed income security and/or sector is suitable and attractively priced for investment and (ii) assess their potential impact on the credit quality and spreads of a particular fixed income security. The Portfolio leverages Goldman Sachs Asset Management's proprietary approach to identifying and evaluating global norms violators and issuers that may be engaged in poor governance practices, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. The Goldman Sachs Asset Management Global Stewardship Team will seek to implement a proprietary approach to identify, review, evaluate and monitor companies who are flagged by external data providers on various criteria to establish a proprietary list of global norms violators. This Portfolio considers principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors ("PAIs") across the environmental and/or social pillars.

### Proportion of investments

At least 70% of investments will be aligned to the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by this Portfolio, namely the application of the ESG Criteria.

### Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics

The sustainability indicators of the Portfolio will be measured and evaluated on an ongoing basis. GSAM uses proprietary firm and third-party systems to monitor compliance with binding environmental or social characteristics of the Portfolio contained within the investment guidelines in line with the GSAM Investment Guidelines Policy.

### Methodologies

The methodologies used to meet the ESG Criteria consists of portfolio level targets. The Investment Adviser leverages external data sources to supplement internal research on the environmental and/or social characteristics of the products.

### **Data sources and processing & Limitations to methodologies and data**

While ESG data availability and quality continues to improve, the Investment Adviser does not believe there is currently one ESG data provider that holistically packages the most useful underlying data. Multiple third-party vendors are therefore leveraged to meet the diverse set of needs and use cases.

### **Due diligence**

ESG evaluation is a core component of the Investment Adviser's fundamental analysis. ESG practices are assessed as part of the investment process where they are deemed material to credit risk.

### **Engagement policies**

Assessing and promoting effective stewardship among the companies and issuers represented in the Portfolio is a key part of the investment process.

### **Designated reference benchmark**

No reference benchmark has been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio.

This Portfolio was either launched or updated its investment strategy with Article 8 disclosures in 2022. Therefore, the 2022 annual report includes a statement on the extent to which the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this Portfolio, as set out in the Article 8 disclosure, have been met over the reporting period.

**(b) No sustainable investment objective**

This financial product promotes environmental or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective a sustainable investment.

**(c) Environmental or social characteristics of the financial product****What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

The Investment Adviser implements an approach to Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) considerations into its fundamental investment process which consists of portfolio level targets as set forth below (the "ESG Criteria").

The Portfolio aims to target a higher environmental score (E-score) relative to the Reference Portfolio/Benchmark. The Investment Adviser aims to measure an E-score for each issuer in the Portfolio and in the Reference Portfolio/Benchmark according to its proprietary ESG scoring system, which amongst other factors may consider Air Quality, Water Scarcity, Climate & Energy, Biodiversity & Habitat. Where exceptional circumstances exist (including, but not limited to, high market volatility, exceptional market conditions, market disruptions) that result in this target not being achieved, the Investment Adviser will seek to adjust the Portfolio to adhere to the target as soon as reasonably practicable and in the best interests of Shareholders. However, there may be instances where an internal E-score may not be available for a particular issuer, which include but are not limited to in kind transfers, new issues, holdings that are soon to reach their maturity date, and/or certain short-term holdings. If an issuer does not have an E-score it will be excluded when calculating the E-score of the Portfolio or Reference Portfolio/Benchmark, as applicable.

Although the Portfolio aims to target a better environmental score relative to the Reference Portfolio/Benchmark, please note that the relevant reference benchmark is not an ESG benchmark.

The Investment Adviser will monitor these targets on an ongoing basis and seek to adjust the Portfolio on at least a quarterly basis to adhere to the targets.

No reference benchmark has been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio.

**(d) Investment strategy****What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The Investment Adviser implements the ESG Criteria on a binding basis into its investment process, as described above.

In addition to applying the ESG Criteria as set forth above the Investment Adviser may integrate ESG factors with traditional fundamental factors as part of its fundamental research process to seek to: (i) determine whether a particular fixed income security and/or sector is suitable and attractively priced for investment and (ii) assess their potential impact on the credit quality and spreads of a particular fixed income security. Traditional fundamental factors that the Investment Adviser may consider on a non-binding basis include, but are not limited to, leverage, earnings, enterprise value, industry trends and macroeconomic factors. ESG factors that the Investment Adviser may consider include, but are not limited to, carbon intensity and emissions profiles, workplace health and safety and cyber risk, stakeholder relations, employee relations, management incentives, governance structure and practices, environmental issues, physical climate risk exposure, loan servicer governance and controversies and labour practices. The identification of a risk related to an ESG factor will not necessarily exclude a particular fixed income security and/or sector that, in the Investment Adviser's view, is otherwise suitable and attractively priced for investment. The relevance of specific traditional fundamental factors and ESG factors to the fundamental investment process varies across asset classes, sectors and strategies. The Investment Adviser may utilise data sources provided by third party vendors and/or engage directly

with issuers when assessing the above factors. The Investment Adviser employs a dynamic fundamental investment process that considers a wide range of factors, and no one factor or consideration is determinative.

The Investment Adviser intends to engage with corporate issuers in this Portfolio that the Investment Adviser believes to have low ESG credentials, with the objective to encourage issuers to improve their ESG practices relative to peers. The Investment Adviser may invest in a corporate issuer prior to or without engaging with such corporate issuer.

The Investment Adviser intends to engage with sovereign issuers in this Portfolio that have a low E-score with the objective to encourage sovereigns to improve their overall environmental performance and to encourage enhanced disclosures of climate related metrics. The Investment Adviser may invest in a sovereign issuer prior to or without engaging with such sovereign issuer.

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

- The Portfolio aims to target a higher environmental score (E-score) relative to the Reference Portfolio/Benchmark.

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

The Portfolio leverages Goldman Sachs Asset Management's proprietary approach to identifying and evaluating global norms violators and issuers that may be engaged in poor governance practices, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

This proprietary approach seeks to identify, review, evaluate and monitor companies that are flagged by external data providers as being in violation of, or otherwise not aligned with, the United Nations Global Compact (UNGC) principles, the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights as well as companies that have received high controversy scores (including significant governance controversies, severe labour rights controversies and severe tax compliance controversies). Following review of these external data inputs, companies that the Investment Adviser believes to have an ongoing and serious violation and/or are considered to not be following good governance practices with insufficient remediation will be excluded from the Portfolio. This list of companies will be reviewed on at least a semi-annual basis. The Investment Adviser may not be able to readily sell securities that are intended for exclusion from the Portfolio based on this review (for example, due to liquidity issues or for other reasons outside of the Investment Manager's control), however, will seek to divest as soon as possible in an orderly manner and in the best interests of Shareholders.

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

Not applicable.

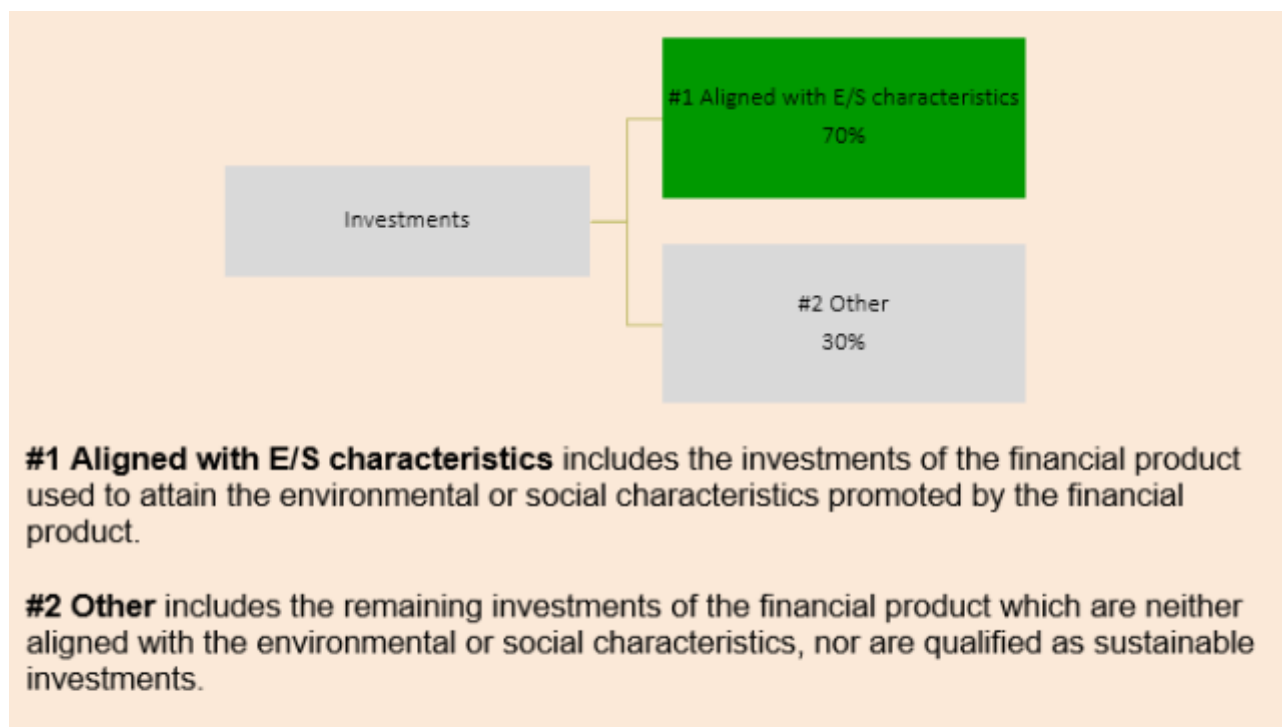
**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

Yes, this Portfolio considers principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors (PAIs) across the environmental and/or social pillars. PAIs are taken into account qualitatively through the application of the binding ESG Criteria outlined above. On a non-binding and materiality basis, PAIs are also considered through firm-wide and investment team specific engagement. Additional information on which PAIs are taken into account are available on our website and will also be available in the Portfolio's annual report pursuant to SFDR Article 11.

**(e) Proportion of investments**

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

At least 70% of investments will be aligned to the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by this Portfolio, as noted above. Up to 30% may be held in cash, derivatives, mutual funds, collateralised securities, and issuers for which data is lacking.



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

This question is not applicable.

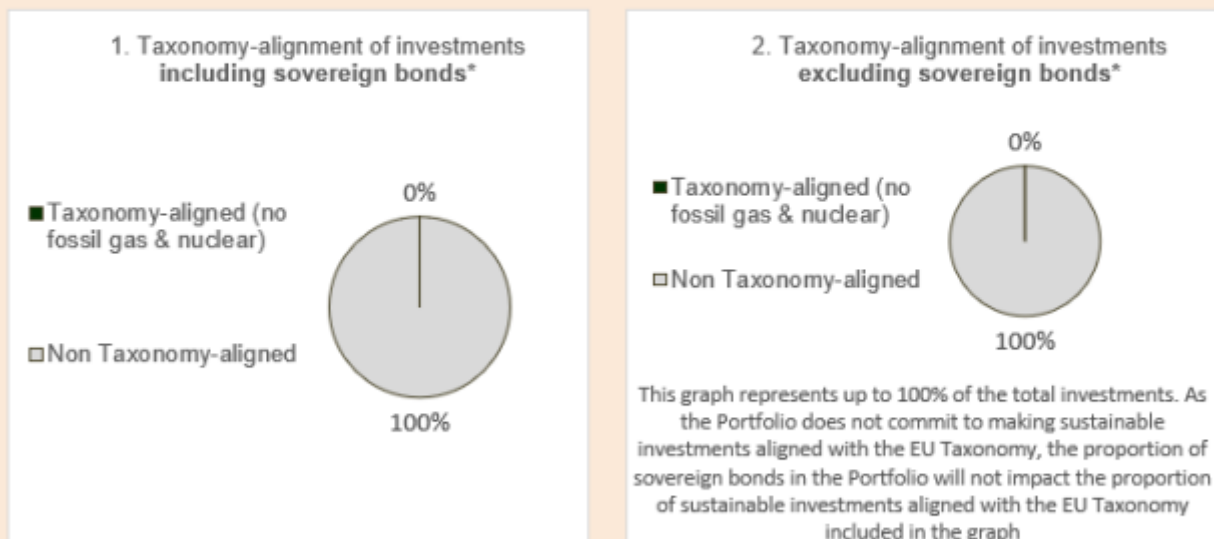
### To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?

The Portfolio does not currently commit to invest in any “sustainable investments” within the meaning of the EU Taxonomy and therefore its alignment with the Taxonomy is 0%. However, the position will be kept under review as the underlying rules are finalised and the availability of reliable data increases over time.

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

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?

As the Portfolio does not commit to invest any "sustainable investment" within the meaning of the EU Taxonomy, the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities within the meaning of the EU Taxonomy is therefore also set at 0%.

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

The Portfolio promotes environmental and social characteristics but does not commit to making any sustainable investments. As a consequence, the Portfolio does not commit to a minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy.

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

Investments included under "#2 Other" include cash for liquidity purposes, derivatives, mutual funds, collateralised securities and issuers for which data is lacking. These may be used to achieve the investment objective of the Portfolio but neither promote the environmental or social characteristics of the Portfolio, nor qualify as sustainable investments. The percentage shown is expected to be the maximum which may be held in these instruments but the actual percentage may vary from time to time.

These financial instruments are not subject to any minimum environmental or social safeguards.

### (f) Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics

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



The following indicators are used to measure the attainment of the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio:

- The difference in the E-score of the Portfolio according to the Investment Adviser's proprietary ESG scoring system for each issuer and the E-score of the Reference Portfolio/Benchmark.

**How are the environmental or social characteristics and the sustainability indicators monitored throughout the lifecycle of the financial product and what are the related internal/external control mechanisms?**

The sustainability indicators of the Portfolio will be measured and evaluated on an ongoing basis.

GSAM uses proprietary firm and third-party systems to monitor compliance with binding environmental or social characteristics of the Portfolio contained within the investment guidelines in line with the GSAM Investment Guidelines Policy. Utilising proprietary firm or third-party systems and monitoring of binding environmental and social characteristics of the Portfolio includes pre-trade compliance and post-trade guideline reviews performing evaluations against investment guidelines on a positional and transactional level providing portfolio managers with the necessary tools to adhere to the investment guidelines.

The Post Trade Exception Management Team receive the output of post-trade portfolio guideline valuation and in turn initiate the post trade guideline surveillance process to escalate any potential breaches or errors to portfolio managers and true exceptions are escalated to GSAM Compliance. GSAM Compliance provides interpretive guidance on the activities performed by the investment teams and assist in the resolution of issues and certain exceptions in post-trade exception management.

Breaches or errors regarding investment guidelines (including breaches or errors regarding the binding environmental or social characteristics of the Portfolio) are required to be handled in accordance with the Management Company's Policy on Breaches and Errors, and the Policy on GSAM Error Handling which also requires that employees promptly report any incidents (whether resulting from action or inaction) to their GSAM supervisors as well as GSAM Compliance as applicable. The information gathered in the incident reporting process is to ensure that clients are appropriately compensated, to assist in improving business practices and help prevent further occurrences.

**(g) Methodologies**

**What are the methodologies used to measure the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?**

Goldman Sachs Asset Management investment teams may use a number of different styles to embed ESG considerations into asset selection and portfolio construction.

The following indicators are used to measure the attainment of the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio:

- The difference in the E-score of the Portfolio according to the Investment Adviser's proprietary ESG scoring system for each sovereign issuer and the E-score of the Reference Portfolio/Benchmark.

This Portfolio considers principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors (PAIs) across the environmental and/or social pillars. Certain PAIs are taken into account qualitatively through the application of the binding ESG Criteria outlined above. On a non-binding and materiality basis, PAIs are also considered through firm-wide and investment team specific engagement. The PAIs considered by this Portfolio include:

Mandatory PAIs:



- Green house gas emissions
- Carbon footprint
- Green house gas intensity of investee companies
- Activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive areas

Non-mandatory Climate PAIs:

- Water usage and recycling
- Natural species and protected areas
- Deforestation

#### **(h) Data sources and processing**

**What are the data sources used to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics including the measures taken to ensure data quality, how data are processed and the proportion of data that are estimated?**

The Investment Adviser uses a variety of data sources such as Bloomberg, MSCI and ISS alongside proprietary investment tools to measure and monitor the attainment of the environmental or social characteristics of the Portfolio. The Fixed Income research analysts and sovereign economists also apply internal ESG ratings across the majority of the Fixed Income team's corporate credit and sovereign coverage. These ESG ratings are based on an internal methodology that identifies material ESG data and themes based on sector level weightings. This proprietary research may incorporate information collected via engagement to determine how companies may evolve going forward. The Investment Adviser further utilizes Fluent, a platform which facilitates content management, workflow and screening for research analysts and is used as a centralized repository of all external and internally generated research. The Investment Adviser also leverages third party data to meet the sustainable investment criteria outlined in this document.

The Investment Adviser may ensure data quality by liaising closely with the different data providers and by conducting due diligence on the external data providers in order to confirm that their methodologies are reliable.

Due to gaps in data coverage, if circumstances dictate, a small proportion of the data which is used to assess alignment with the environmental / social characteristics may be estimated data. The Investment Adviser estimates this data due to a lack of availability of reliable data. The Investment Adviser will keep this data under review and replace the estimated data with third-party data sources or data obtained by other means (e.g., directly from investee companies) when available.

#### **(i) Limitations to methodologies and data**

**What are the limitations to the methodologies and data sources?**

While ESG data availability and quality continues to improve, the Investment Adviser does not believe there is currently one ESG data provider that holistically packages the most useful underlying data. Multiple third-party vendors are therefore leveraged to meet the diverse set of needs and use cases.

Furthermore, fixed income investments can present challenges with gathering reliable data to determine that a specific investment meets the criteria required to promote environmental and social characteristics (in particular due to the relative inability to undertake direct engagement with portfolio companies relative to equity investments). Multiple third-party vendors and proprietary research are therefore leveraged to meet the diverse set of needs and use cases. The Fixed Income Team prefer to use more granular, performance based data, such as carbon emissions,

where available, while also selectively leveraging both broad based and qualitative ESG reports written by external analysts. Where there are data gaps which cannot be filled with information from proprietary research and engagement, these investments are not included in the proportion of assets which commit to either promoting the environmental or social characteristics, or becoming a sustainable investment.

The Fixed Income Team may estimate or seek additional data sources for missing data and such approaches can provide useful and appropriate assessments. The Investment Adviser does not rely exclusively on external data providers and leverages external ESG data to enhance its bottom-up analysis and research processes, implement exclusions and inform internal analysis of the environmental and social characteristics.

Despite these limitations, which impact all consumers of ESG data and are not specific to GSAM, the Investment Adviser takes reasonable steps to mitigate the risk of these limitations hindering the Portfolio's ability to meet its environmental and social characteristics – these may include (as appropriate), assessing vendor data quality and methodologies across multiple third-party vendors, comparing ESG data points between vendors or against its own internal analyses and using appropriate estimations to manage data gaps.

#### **(j) Due diligence**

##### **What is the due diligence carried out on the underlying assets and what are the internal and external controls on that due diligence?**

The Investment Adviser seeks to understand the impact of ESG related risks and opportunities. ESG evaluation is a core component of the Investment Adviser's fundamental analysis. ESG practices are assessed as part of the investment process where they are deemed material to credit risk. The Investment Adviser considers these ESG factors alongside company and issuer fundamentals, bond valuations, market technical factors, and duration, currency and sector risks & forms part of the assessment of a bond's risk-adjusted return potential. One part of the investment process and ongoing ESG risk management is the assessment and promotion of effective stewardship among the companies and issuers represented in the portfolios managed on behalf of our investing clients. Engagement with portfolio companies and issuers is conducted across asset classes and may vary by investment teams. The Investment Adviser also uses monitoring systems including Sentinel to check security positions against guidelines crafted to ensure compliance with sustainability indicators.

#### **(k) Engagement policies**

##### **Is engagement part of the environmental or social investment strategy? If yes, please provide more information about the engagement policies.**

Yes. Assessing and promoting effective stewardship among the companies and issuers represented in the Portfolio is a key part of the investment process. The Investment Adviser intends to engage with issuers in this Portfolio that the Investment Adviser believes to have low ESG credentials or involvement in sustainability-related controversies, with the objective to encourage issuers to improve their ESG practices relative to peers. The Investment Adviser may invest in an issuer prior to or without engaging with such issuer.

Within the public markets investing business, the Goldman Sachs Asset Management Global Stewardship Team helps drive the continued enhancement of our global approach to stewardship, in collaboration with our equity and fixed income investment teams.

Goldman Sachs Asset Management has a robust, global engagement effort that combines the expertise of our dedicated Global Stewardship Team with that of our fundamental investment teams. To guide engagement at the firm wide-level, the Global Stewardship Team leverages our stewardship framework, which reflects thematic priorities and guides voting and engagement efforts, and will include environmental, social and governance matters that are considered to be

principal in terms of potential adverse impacts. Goldman Sachs Asset Management has published Our Approach to Stewardship in accordance with the requirements of Directive (EU) 2017/828 and its implementing measures (the Shareholder Rights Directive II) which provides further details on our engagement approach.

#### **(I) Designated reference benchmark**

**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?**

N/A: This Sub-Fund does not have a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that it promotes.

**Where can more product-specific information be found?**

**More product-specific information can be found in the periodic reports:**

More product-specific information can be found on the website <https://am.gs.com> by going to the funds section, which includes the latest available SFDR periodic report (as part of the annual report). More information on GSAM's Disclosure Policy on EU Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) can be found here: <https://am.gs.com/public-assets/documents/a4757f32-6b89-11ef-9f2f-31033f32651f>.

The EU Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (SFDR) requires Goldman Sachs Asset Management to provide certain information and disclosures. Please note that this information may be updated from time-to-time.

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i) Please note, the order of the language in the disclosures above may not mirror the exact order of the language contained within the Funds pre-contractual disclosure in either the Fund Prospectus or PPM.