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# **FIRST CLASS RETURN INDEXFUND (NL)**

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Semi-annual Report 2024

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## 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

### Manager

Goldman Sachs Asset Management B.V.  
Prinses Beatrixlaan 35  
2595 AK The Hague, The Netherlands  
Internet: <https://am.gs.com>

### Members of the Executive Board of Goldman Sachs Asset management B.V.

P. den Besten  
M.C.M. Canisius  
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### Depository

The Bank of New York Mellon SA/NV, Amsterdam branch  
Claude Debussylaan 7  
1082 MC Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

### Legal Owner

Goldman Sachs Bewaarstichting II

### Members of the Executive Board of Goldman Sachs Bewaarstichting II

T. Katgerman  
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### Banker

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Boulevard Anspachlaan 1  
1000 B-Brussels  
Belgium

### Transfer Agent

The Bank of New York Mellon SA/NV, Amsterdam Branch  
Claude Debussylaan 7  
1082 MC Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

## 2. BOARD OF DIRECTORS' REPORT

### 2.1 Key figures Participation Class I

|                                     |   | 2024       | 2023       | 2022       | 2021       | 2020       |
|-------------------------------------|---|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Net asset value (x 1,000)           | € | 5,485,170  | 4,655,916  | 3,489,440  | 3,569,874  | 2,482,169  |
| Participations outstanding (number) |   | 30,257,899 | 28,740,994 | 24,870,950 | 22,036,166 | 19,035,336 |
| Net asset value per participation   | € | 181.28     | 162.00     | 140.30     | 162.00     | 130.40     |
| Transaction price                   | € | 181.28     | 162.00     | 140.27     | 162.18     | 130.55     |
| Dividend per participation          | € | -          | -          | -          | -          | -          |
| Net performance Participation Class | % | 11.90      | 15.46      | -13.39     | 24.24      | 5.83       |

### 2.2 Key figures Participation Class Z

Participation Class Z of the Fund was introduced on 8 January 2019. The fund's assets of this Participation Class were less than € 4,000 from the introduction date until 30 June 2024. Due to the low fund assets since the inception of this Participation Class, no key figures have been included for this Participation Class.

### 2.3 Notes to the key figures

#### 2.3.1 Reporting period

The key figures for 2024 relate to the positions at 30 June and the period from 1 January through 30 June. The key figures for the other years relate to the positions at 31 December and the period from 1 January through 31 December, unless stated otherwise.

#### 2.3.2 Net asset value per participation

The net asset value of each participation class of the Fund will be determined by the manager. The manager calculates the net asset value per participation class each business day. The net asset value per participation of each participation class is determined by dividing the net asset value of a participation class by the number of outstanding participations of that participation class at the calculation date.

#### 2.3.3 Transaction price

The transaction price of each participation class of the Fund is determined by the manager on each business day and is based on the net asset value per participation of each participation class with an upcharge (subscription fee) or discount (redemption fee) to cover the costs of purchase and sale of 'physical' investments. The subscription and redemption fee is for the protection of existing participants of the Fund and is beneficial to the Fund. When no transaction has taken place on a trading day, the transaction price is equal to the net asset value per participation.

#### 2.3.4 Net performance

The net performance of each participation class of the Fund is based on the net asset value per participation, taking into account any dividend distributions.

## 2.4 General information

First Class Return IndexFund (NL) ('the Fund') does not have any employees. Goldman Sachs Asset Management B.V. ('GSAM BV'), located in The Hague is the manager of the Fund and is licensed by the Dutch Authority for the Financial Markets ('Stichting Autoriteit Financiële Markten', also referred to as 'AFM') under the Dutch Financial Supervision Act ('Wet op het financieel toezicht', also referred to as 'Wft'). All shares in GSAM BV are held by Goldman Sachs Asset Management International Holdings B.V. Both entities are part of The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as 'Goldman Sachs').

Goldman Sachs is listed on the New York Stock Exchange and qualifies as a bank holding company under US law. Goldman Sachs is a globally operating financial institution which – by means of a substantial variety of leading companies and subsidiaries – offers (integrated) financial services to private individuals, companies and institutions.

The AFM and the central bank of the Netherlands (De Nederlandsche Bank N.V. also referred to as 'DNB') act as supervisors. The AFM is charged with conduct supervision on the grounds of the Wft. Prudential supervision is performed by DNB.

## 2.5 Objective

The Fund will primarily invest in passive funds or funds whose investment policy aims to track the performance of an index. The Fund aims to achieve attractive long-term returns by investing in a selection of (including ETFs) across various asset classes.

## 2.6 Investment policy

The Fund primarily invests its assets in multiple investment funds across various asset classes, including equities, fixed income securities, and alternative investments. The portfolio is structured to achieve a diversified allocation among these risk-bearing asset categories. Periodically, the mix between these investment categories is determined based on an analysis that considers both the long-term expected return and risk.

The Fund may invest in investment funds that, in turn, invest in all possible asset classes, but its preference will be mainly for funds investing in equities, fixed income securities, and alternative investments.

The Fund promotes environmental and/or social characteristics, as described in Article 8 of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (concerning sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector, which may be amended or supplemented from time to time).

The Fund applies Stewardship principles as well as an ESG integration approach and exclusion criteria regarding various activities. Additional information can be found in the prospectus.

The Fund primarily considers the Principal Adverse Impacts (PAIs) on sustainability factors through its Stewardship practices. Information about the key adverse impacts on sustainability factors can be found in the prospectus.

The Fund may use derivatives such as options, futures, warrants, swaps, and currency forward contracts. These instruments are solely used for hedging risks and efficient portfolio management. Their use may involve leverage, increasing the Fund's sensitivity to market movements. When using derivatives, care is taken to ensure that the portfolio as a whole remains within the investment restrictions. The risk profile for the type of investor targeted by the Fund does not change due to the use of these instruments.

In addition to the above, the following applies to the investment policy of the Fund:

- the Fund may invest in both euros and foreign currencies;
- where the Fund's assets are not invested in the aforementioned financial instruments, it may invest in certain money market instruments (e.g., certificates of deposit and commercial paper), money market investment funds, or hold them in the form of cash equivalents;
- additional income may be generated through "repurchase agreements" ("repos") and "lending transactions" (lending securities from the investment portfolio);
- subject to the provisions on leverage in the prospectus, the maximum expected level of gross leverage (sum of nominal values) of the Fund is 200%, and the maximum expected level of net leverage ('commitment' method) is 150%;
- the manager aims to invest exclusively in liquid assets, for which no special arrangements are applicable as described in the prospectus, the Fund's manager has the authority to enter into short-term loans on behalf of the Fund;
- transactions with related parties will be conducted on market-standard terms;
- the Fund invests globally in financial instruments via stock exchanges and/or with counterparties approved by the manager, in line with the investment policy. Major stock markets are located worldwide. Examples include New York, London, and Tokyo.

## 2.7 Dividend policy

The Fund does not distribute dividends.

## 2.8 Index

None.

## 2.9 Outsourcing

### Outsourcing of fund administration

The Fund's manager has outsourced the fund administration to The Bank of New York Mellon SA/NV. This outsourcing includes calculating the participation value, accounting, and making payments, among other things. The manager remains responsible for the quality and continuity of these services.

### Outsourcing of financial reporting

The Fund's manager has outsourced the preparation of multiple financial reports, including the (semi-)annual reports of the Dutch GSAM BV funds, to DM Financial Netherlands B.V. The manager remains ultimately responsible for the quality and continuity of all financial reports.

## 2.10 Structure

The Fund is a mutual fund and therefore not a legal entity. Barring exceptional circumstances, the Fund may issue or redeem participations on every business day.

The Fund is an investment institution as defined in Article 1:1 of the Wet op het financieel toezicht ('Wft') and as referred to in Article 4, paragraph 1, subparagraph a of the Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive ("AIFMD") in the form of an open-ended investment company. GSAM BV acts as manager of the Fund. In this capacity GSAM BV has a license, as defined in Section 2:65(1), preamble and (a) of the Wft from the AFM.

Goldman Sachs Bewaerstichting II ("the Depositary Trust") is the legal owner of or is legally entitled to the assets of the Fund that are invested by the manager. All assets that are or become part of the Fund are or will be acquired for the purpose of their management by the relevant Depositary Trust for the benefit of the participants in the Fund. Obligations that are or become part of the Fund are or will be entered into in the name of the Depositary Trust. The assets are held by the Depositary Trust for the account of the participants.

The Fund has one or more different classes (categories) of participations ("Participation Class" or "Participation Classes"). For each class, the participation provide entitlement to a proportionate share of the assets attributable to the relevant Participation Class. Participation Classes within the Fund may differ in terms of cost and fee structure, the minimum amount of initial investment, demands on the quality of the investors, the currency in which the net asset value is expressed, etc.

### Summary of the main characteristics per Participation Class at 30-06-2024

#### Participation Class I

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Investor type   | This is a Participation Class intended for professional investors. |
| Legal name      | First Class Return IndexFund (NL) - I                              |
| Commercial name | BeFrank First Class Return IndexFund (NL)                          |
| ISIN code       | NL0013089006   |
| All-in fee      | 0.15%  |

#### Participation Class Z

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| Investor type   | This is a Participation Class intended for other UCITSs and collective investment schemes managed by the manager or professional investors which pay a management fee to the manager itself or to a party affiliated with the manager. |
| Legal name      | First Class Return IndexFund (NL) - Z  |
| Commercial name | First Class Return IndexFund (NL) - Z  |
| ISIN code       | NL0013089014   |

#### Subscription and redemption fee

|                          |       |
|--------------------------|-------|
| Subscription fee         | 0.00% |
| Redemption fee           | 0.00% |
| Maximum subscription fee | 0.40% |
| Maximum redemption fee   | 0.40% |

## **Fees**

### All-in fee

An annual All-in fee is charged to the Participation Class, which is calculated pro-rata on a daily basis by using the total net asset value of the Participation Class at the end of every day.

### Other costs

Other costs may be charged to the Participation Class. These costs, if applicable, are further explained in the notes to the respective Participation Class as included in the financial statements.

### Subscription and redemption fee

This concerns the fee charged to participants upon the purchase or sale of participations in the Fund. The fee is calculated as a percentage markup or markdown on the net asset value per participation, serves to protect the existing participants of the Fund and is beneficial to the Fund.

The actual percentage of the subscription and redemption fee can fluctuate and is published on the manager's website. This percentage may be changed without prior notice if the manager deems it necessary to protect the existing participants of the Fund.

### Maximum subscription and redemption fee

For transparency reasons, the manager has set a maximum percentage of the net asset value of the participations for the subscription and redemption fee. In exceptional market conditions, at the discretion of the manager, the manager may, in the interest of the existing investors of the Fund, apply a higher percentage than the maximum percentage applicable to the Fund at that time. In addition, the manager may, in the interest of the existing participants, apply a higher percentage than the maximum percentage applicable to the Fund at that time in the event of exceptionally large orders to buy and sell participations in the Fund, to compensate for the related additional transaction costs.

## **2.11 Tax aspects**

The Fund is considered a fiscally transparent entity in the Netherlands and, therefore, is not subject to Dutch corporate income tax and is not a withholding agent for Dutch dividend tax. To ensure the fiscally transparent character of the Fund, the transfer of participations—other than by redemption to the Fund itself—is not possible.

## **2.12 Transfer Agent**

Participations of Participation Classes I and Z of the Fund can be bought and sold through The Bank of New York Mellon SA/NV in Brussels, Belgium. The costs associated with the safe-keeping of participations of investors by The Bank of New York Mellon SA/NV in Brussels, Belgium are charged by the manager to the relevant Participation Classes. The Transfer Agent, i.e. The Bank of New York Mellon SA/NV, is responsible for the evaluation and the acceptance of the buy and sell orders concerning participations of the relevant Participation Classes as entered in the order book, subject to the conditions stated in the prospectus.

The Transfer Agent will only accept orders which have been entered on the basis of a settlement deadline which is in line with generally accepted market practice. After closure of the order book, the Transfer Agent will forward the balance of all buy and sell orders to the Fund. The transaction price at which these buy and sell orders are executed on the following business day is to be published by the manager.



## 2.13 Depositary of the Fund

The assets of the Fund are in the safe-keeping of The Bank of New York Mellon SA/NV, Amsterdam branch, as the depositary of the Fund (the 'depositary').

The depositary's equity amounts to at least EUR 730,000.

The manager and depositary of the Fund have entered into a written agreement relating to management and depositary services. The main elements of this agreement are the following:

- The depositary ensures that the cash flows of the Fund are properly controlled and in particular that all payments by or on behalf of investors during the subscription for participations have been received and that all cash of the Fund has been entered on cash accounts in the name of the Depositary Trust acting on behalf of the Fund or in the name of the depositary acting on behalf of the Fund, opened with, in principle, an entity as described in Article 18(1)(a), (b) and (c) of European Directive 2006/73/EC (a credit institution or a bank authorized in a third country).
- The assets of the Fund consisting of financial instruments, are entrusted to the depositary. The depositary holds in safe-keeping all financial instruments that can be registered on a financial instruments account in the books of the depositary, on separate accounts in the name of the Depositary Trust for the benefit of the Fund. In addition, the depositary holds in safe-keeping all financial instruments that can be physically delivered to the depositary.
- The depositary ensures that the sale, issue, redemption and repayment of participations take place in accordance with Dutch law and the regulations of the Fund.
- The depositary ensures that the value of the participations in the Fund is calculated in accordance with Dutch law, the regulations of the Fund and the relevant procedures.
- The depositary carries out the instructions of the manager, unless they conflict with Dutch law or the regulations of the Fund.
- The depositary ensures that the equivalent value of the transactions involving the assets of the Fund is transferred to the Fund by the usual deadlines.
- The depositary ensures that the income of the Fund is allocated in accordance with Dutch law and the regulations of the Fund.

In the context of depositary services, the depositary acts in the interests of the investors in the Fund.

## 2.14 Principal risks and uncertainties

Investing in the Fund entails financial opportunities as well as financial risks. The value of investments can both rise and fall, and participants in the Fund may receive back less than they invested. Diversification of investments is expected to have a mitigating effect on these risks.

A comprehensive overview of the risks, categorized as 'high, medium, and low,' associated with the Fund is provided in the prospectus. In the event of new regulations regarding risk management, additional information will be added. The primary risks faced by the Fund include:

### Market risk

The Fund is sensitive to changes in the value of investments due to fluctuations in prices in financial markets such as equity or fixed-income markets (market risk). Additionally, prices of individual instruments in which the Fund invests may also fluctuate. If the Fund utilizes derivatives as described under "Investment Policy," these may be used for both hedging risks and efficient portfolio management. This may involve leveraging, thereby increasing the Fund's sensitivity to market movements.

To mitigate market risks, investments are diversified across various countries, sectors, and/or companies.

### Interest rate risk

Investing in fixed-income securities entails interest rate risk. This risk arises when the interest rate of a security fluctuates. When interest rates decrease, the general expectation is that the value of fixed-income securities will rise. Conversely, when interest rates increase, the general expectation is that the value of fixed-income securities will decrease.

### Currency risk

If investments can be made in securities denominated in currencies other than the currency in which the Fund is denominated, currency fluctuations can have both positive and negative impacts on the investment results.

### Liquidity risk

Liquidity risks may arise when a particular underlying investment is difficult to sell. Because the Fund may invest in illiquid securities, there is a risk that the Fund may not have the ability to free up financial resources that may be needed to meet certain obligations.

During the reporting period, no issues arose regarding marketability. The available cash of the Fund was sufficient to manage the inflow and outflow of capital during the reporting period. It is expected that this will also be the case in the upcoming reporting period.

### Credit risk

Investors should be fully aware that every investment carries credit risks. Bonds and debt instruments entail actual credit risk on the issuer. This risk can be measured based on the issuer's credit rating. Bonds and debt instruments issued by lower-rated issuers typically carry higher credit risk and a greater chance of default than those issued by higher-rated issuers. If the issuer of bonds or debt instruments encounters financial or economic difficulties, leading to an increase in credit risk and likely downgrade of the rating, it can affect the value of the bonds or debt instruments (which may lose their value entirely).

## Fraud risks and corruption

Fraud is any intentional act or omission to mislead others, causing loss to the victim and/or profit to the perpetrator. Corruption is the misuse of entrusted power for personal gain, including bribery. The lack of controls in the payment process increases the likelihood and therefore creates the opportunity for fraud.

The asset management industry is characterized by the management of third party assets, which is quite extensive in its entirety. Having access to these assets increases GSAM BV's inherent fraud and corruption risk profile. To manage this risk, GSAM BV conducts an annual fraud and corruption risk assessment to determine the identification, exposure to and management of these risks. GSAM BV concludes in its annual risk assessment that there are no high residual risks in the context of fraud and corruption. The main inherent risks identified by GSAM BV in the annual risk assessment are the following:

- Cyber risks;
- Unauthorized withdrawal of funds;
- Fraudulent invoices;
- Insider trading risk;
- Bribery.

The following measures have been taken to mitigate these inherent risks:

Cyber risks, cyber risk is recognized as a collective term which, knowingly (e.g. ransomware) or unknowingly (e.g. hack), can lead to a withdrawal of assets. The range of techniques that a malicious person can use is extensive. That is why it is important for GSAM BV to be aware of these techniques and to test its own environment accordingly. The measures taken are inspired by the NIST cyber security framework of protect, detect, respond, recover and identify and are evaluated annually on the basis of the Cyber Security Risk Assessment.

Unauthorized withdrawal of funds, is prevented by having authorization limits and a four (or more) eyes principles, whereby modern techniques such as 2 factor authentication are required.

Fraudulent invoices, the payment of invoices at the expense of an investment fund is only permitted if this corresponds with the prospectus. The beneficiary as well as the correctness of the amounts charged are often verifiable, through a link with the assets. Invoices must be assessed and approved in advance by budget holders, in accordance with the procurement policy. Within this process, a separation of functions has been made between ordering, entering and approval.

Insider trading risk, involves misusing information for personal gain, or having orders executed in such a way that self-enrichment can be achieved at the expense of the fund. The measures taken to prevent this are diverse, including best execution review, mandatory periodic reporting on personal investment portfolios, education in the form of mandatory training and pre-employment screening.

Bribery involves having a tender being influenced by, for example, bribes, dinners, travel and gifts. To mitigate this, GSAM BV has a strict policy, whereby anything with a value of more than fifty euros may not be accepted. Furthermore, in the context of broker execution, price and quality assessments are carried out periodically, the outcome of which is indicative of the extent to which orders are allocated to these brokers.

The residual risk, following from the risks described above, are determined by GSAM BV as 'medium' and are accepted through a formal risk acceptance, or at the level of the foreign GSAM BV entities.

Furthermore, there is a clear legal and operational separation between the asset manager, the external administrator, the fund and the custodian. This segregation of duties has an important preventive effect on the risk of fraud and corruption.

The beforementioned control measures are part of a larger control framework, of which various parts are periodically assessed by an external auditor via the GSAM BV ISAE 3402 report. Furthermore, GSAM BV applies the 3-lines of defense mechanism, in which risk management and internal audit continuously test and monitor the effectiveness of the administrative organization and internal control. GSAM BV also applies various soft controls, such as tone at the top, e-learning, code of ethics and a whistleblower policy.

### **Sustainability risk**

Sustainability risks can represent their own risk or influence other risks and contribute to general risks, such as market risks, liquidity risks, credit risks or operational risks. Sustainability risks may have a negative impact on the Fund's return.

The sustainability risks to which the Fund may be exposed include, for example:

- Climate change
- Health & safety
- Business behavior

The assessment of sustainability risks, as defined in Article 2(22) of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 (on sustainability disclosures in the financial services sector, which Regulation may be amended or supplemented from time to time), is integrated into the investment decision process by application of Fund-specific criteria for responsible investing and, where applicable, integration of relevant environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors.

The Fund primarily invests in liquid assets, which means that the mentioned sustainability risks are incorporated into the valuation of the investments.

### **Issuer default risk**

In addition to general trends in the financial markets, specific developments related to the issuer can also impact the value of an investment. Even careful security selection, for example, cannot eliminate the risk of loss due to a decline in value of the issuer's assets. The use of credit derivatives, if mentioned in the investment policy of the Fund, may entail credit risk.

## 2.15 Developments during the reporting period

### 2.15.1 General financial and economic developments in 2024

#### Economic Context

Recession fears continued to moderate at the start of 2024, as the US economy showed resilience despite significant rate hikes in 2022 and 1H 2023. A tight labor market, positive real wage growth, and strong equity markets supported consumer cash flows and balance sheets in the first quarter of 2024, leading to strong consumption. While US inflation prints were higher than expected in January and February, the US Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) signaled confidence in March that disinflation would restart and recent elevated releases would prove temporary. In 2Q 2024, continued signs of improvement in global manufacturing indicators, strong earnings growth, and expectations of policy easing by major central banks supported positive momentum in risk assets. The disinflationary process also restarted, following higher than expected prints in 1Q 2024. US Core PCE (Personal Consumption Expenditures Price Index, Excluding Food and Energy) averaged 0.17% in April and May versus average reading of 0.37% in 1Q 2024.

While a slowdown in private consumption was notable in 2Q 2024, some moderation was arguably welcomed to achieve the US Federal Reserve's 2% inflation target. Any further moderation in consumption, however, could be a concern for policymakers and market participants, and renew fears of a recession. The rebalancing of the US labor market is somewhat similar. After strong data at the start of the year, the number of non-farm jobs added in April moderated to 175k versus an average of 235k in 1Q 2024. This was the lowest print in six months, and slower job growth helped allay fears that the economy was overheating, boosting expectations that interest rate cuts would still occur this year. The job openings rate for May rose to 4.9% from 4.8% in April. At its post pandemic peak, the job openings rate was at 7.4%. Like the consumption slowdown, further moderation in the US jobs opening rate could be reaching an inflection point where further rebalancing may not be encouraging news.

Outside of the US, growth momentum continued to improve albeit from weak levels, especially in Europe. Euro area 1Q 2024 GDP came in at 1.3% q/q annualized following 0.25% q/q annualized in 4Q 2023. Similarly, the UK economy expanded at a pace of 2.9% q/q annualized in 1Q 2024 after contracting at -0.9% annualized pace in 2H 2023. Chinese 1Q GDP surprised to the upside, with a reading of 5.3% y/y versus consensus expectation of 4.8% y/y.

#### Monetary Policy

The Federal Reserve tilted hawkish at the start of 2024 as inflation surprised to the upside and the strong economy gave US policymakers the option to be patient with the onset of the easing cycle. In May, the risk of renewed rate hikes was reduced due to moderation in US core services inflation and a downward revision of 1Q GDP, which came in at 1.2% q/q annualized versus 1.6% initially reported. In June, the Fed revised its median dot plot projection, which now suggests one 25bps rate cut this year, reduced from three projected in March. There's still a possibility that the Fed may implement two rate cuts in the second half of 2024. Fed Chair Jerome Powell noted during the June press conference that cuts totaling 25bps vs 50bps in 2024 was a close call for many participants.

The FOMC's dual mandate of inflation and labor market looks more two-sided now compared with a year ago when it was squarely focused on inflation. Going forward, the FOMC aims to stabilize the unemployment rate around the current level of 4% and bring inflation down to 2%. Therefore, the timing and magnitude of further policy rate calibration becomes crucial. Easing too soon could reignite inflationary pressures; waiting too long could break the labor market. The potential uncertainty from the upcoming US presidential election further complicates the overall economic outlook.

Elsewhere, the Swiss National Bank surprised markets in March and cut policy rates by 25bps, becoming the first G10 central bank to start its easing cycle. The European Central Bank and the Bank of Canada started their respective easing cycles in June, both cutting by 25bps. In terms of forward guidance, both central banks have suggested that further rate cuts are likely if the data evolves in line with expectations. In the UK, Bank of England leaned dovish, but did not ease policy in June. It noted that the decision to leave rates unchanged was finely balanced and recent strength in services inflation were largely driven by volatile components. The market interpretation was that the bank may be ready to begin easing in August.

On the geopolitical front, markets encountered increased uncertainty in Europe as French President Emmanuel Macron dissolved parliament and called snap parliamentary elections, scheduled for June 30 and July 7, after his party's defeat in the EU parliamentary elections. As a result, the market priced in a higher geopolitical risk premium in European assets leading to underperformance of European assets versus peers. In Asia, the Bank of Japan (BoJ) decided to end its negative interest rate policy at its March meeting.

### **Bond Markets**

Bond yields went higher at the start of 2024 as recession fears continued to ease and the US inflation surprised to the upside. The US 10y yield went up by 35bps to 4.2% in 1Q 2024, following a decline of 70bps in 4Q 2023. Yields were modestly higher in 2Q 2024, with the 10y yield up by 15bps. However, the increase largely happened in April after strong labor market and inflation data leading to the 10y yield moving from 4.2% to 4.7%. Subsequently, as inflation and activity data moderated, the 10y yield declined 35bps in May and June.

In Germany and the UK, 10y yields were up 25bps each in 2Q 2024. Strong 1Q GDP releases along with somewhat stickier inflation and wage data in Europe led to higher yields. In France, the 10y yield was 55bps in 2Q as the market priced in a higher term premium given increased political uncertainty. As a result, the French-German 10y spread widened from 50bps to 80bps by the end of the quarter, the highest level since the European debt crisis in 2011-12. At the short end, the US 2y yield went up by 10bps, leaving the 2s10s curve inverted around -40bps. In Asia, May marked the first time since 2012 that the 10y Japanese government bond yield had been above 1%, a major milestone with the markets pricing in a more hawkish stance from the BoJ over the rest of the year.

Commodities generally delivered strong returns in 1H 2024 with oil (WTI) and copper up by 15% and 13%, respectively. Gold and silver rallied by 13% and 22%. Within currencies, the USD continued its strong performance and was up 2.6% in 2Q, following a gain 1.8% in 1Q. Moderating but still healthy growth, high carry, and political uncertainty in France and Mexico helped USD rally on a trade-weighted basis. JPY was one of the worst performing major currencies, down 6% versus the USD. Negative carry on JPY versus most currencies and a positive environment for pro-risk assets weighed on JPY. GBP was flat whereas EUR was down 0.8% versus the USD. A few notable outliers were AUD, which rallied 2.2% versus the USD, benefitting from relatively hawkish central bank policy given elevated inflation, risk on backdrop, and higher metal prices. MXN, on the other hand, was down 9% versus the USD. A landslide victory of the incumbent party in the Mexican presidential election in May sparked fears of higher fiscal spending with fewer checks and balances coupled with a tail risk of the new government's interference in monetary policy. Since then, attempts by newly elected President Claudia Sheinbaum to calm markets have led to some stabilization in MXN.

### **Equity Markets**

Equities started 2024 on a strong footing with significant gains in 1Q 2024 following a strong end to 2023, with several equity indices reaching all-time highs. Continued signs of improvement in global manufacturing indicators, a resilient US economy, and expectations of policy easing by major central banks supported risk appetite. In 2Q global developed market equities (MSCI World) and emerging market equities (MSCI EM) were up by 3.2% and 6.4%, respectively, following gains of 10% and 4.5% in 1Q. Within developed market equities, US equities outperformed their peers with a gain of 4.5% in 2Q, whereas Japanese equities (TOPIX) were up by 1.7%. Euro area equities (EURO STOXX 50) were down by 1.3% following increased uncertainty in June due to the defeat of President Macron's party in the EU parliamentary election and subsequent call for a snap parliamentary election in France.

Among US sectors, the technology sector outperformed as it rallied 8.8%, followed by utilities, up 4.6%. Materials, industrials, and energy underperformed noticeably with a sell-off of 4.5%, 2.9%, and 2.7%, respectively. Ongoing divergence between mega-cap stocks and the rest remained visible over 2Q 2024. For example, the Magnificent 7 was up by another 16.9% in 2Q, which helped the S&P 500 post a third consecutive quarterly gain of 4.5%. There was weakness elsewhere, as the equal-weighted S&P 500 fell by -2.6%, and the small-cap Russell 2000 was down by 3.3%.

Elsewhere, China equities rallied at the start of 2024, outperforming most DM and EM equity markets, but retreated in June. Widely cited reasons for the pullback include profit-taking after a strong tail-risk compression rally, less-forceful-than-expected property policy announcements against an improved policy expectation backdrop post the April Politburo meeting, resurfacing geopolitical risks regarding cross-strait relations, and sluggish earnings revision trends.

The Hague, 23 August 2024

**Goldman Sachs Asset Management B.V**

### **3. SEMI-ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2024**

(For the period 1 January through 30 June 2024)



### 3.1 Balance sheet

Before appropriation of the result

| Amounts x € 1,000                    | Reference | 30-06-2024       | 31-12-2023       |
|--------------------------------------|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Investments</b>                   |           |                  |                  |
| Investment funds                     | 3.5.1     | 5,454,248        | 4,641,629        |
| <b>Total investments</b>             |           | <b>5,454,248</b> | <b>4,641,629</b> |
| <b>Receivables</b>                   |           |                  |                  |
|                                      | 3.5.2     |                  |                  |
| Receivable from participants         |           | 65               | 311              |
| Other receivables                    |           | 10,345           | 10,896           |
| <b>Total receivables</b>             |           | <b>10,410</b>    | <b>11,207</b>    |
| <b>Other assets</b>                  |           |                  |                  |
|                                      | 3.5.3     |                  |                  |
| Cash and cash equivalents            |           | 21,315           | 6,599            |
| <b>Total other assets</b>            |           | <b>21,315</b>    | <b>6,599</b>     |
| <b>Total assets</b>                  |           | <b>5,485,973</b> | <b>4,659,435</b> |
| <b>Net asset value</b>               |           |                  |                  |
|                                      | 3.5.4     |                  |                  |
| Net assets for participation holders |           | 4,915,088        | 4,070,387        |
| Net result                           |           | 570,085          | 585,532          |
| <b>Net asset value</b>               |           | <b>5,485,173</b> | <b>4,655,919</b> |
| <b>Short term liabilities</b>        |           |                  |                  |
|                                      | 3.5.5     |                  |                  |
| Payable to participants              |           | 18               | 2,765            |
| Other short term liabilities         |           | 782              | 751              |
| <b>Total short term liabilities</b>  |           | <b>800</b>       | <b>3,516</b>     |
| <b>Total liabilities</b>             |           | <b>5,485,973</b> | <b>4,659,435</b> |

## 3.2 Profit and loss statement

For the period 1 January through 30 June

| Amounts x € 1,000                     | Reference | 2024           | 2023           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------------|
| OPERATING INCOME                      |           |                |                |
| <b>Income of investments</b>          | 3.6.1     |                |                |
| Dividend                              |           | 66,604         | 55,033         |
| <b>Revaluation of investments</b>     |           |                |                |
| Realized revaluation of investments   |           | 10,799         | 2,515          |
| Unrealized revaluation of investments |           | 494,184        | 275,249        |
| <b>Other results</b>                  | 3.6.2     |                |                |
| Interest other                        |           | 466            | 19             |
| Other income                          |           | 1,824          | 1,386          |
| <b>Total operating income</b>         |           | <b>573,877</b> | <b>334,202</b> |
| OPERATING EXPENSES                    |           |                |                |
|                                       | 3.6.3     |                |                |
| Operating costs                       |           | 3,792          | 2,870          |
| <b>Total operating expenses</b>       |           | <b>3,792</b>   | <b>2,870</b>   |
| <b>Net result</b>                     |           | <b>570,085</b> | <b>331,332</b> |

### 3.3 Cashflow statement

For the period 1 January through 30 June

| Amounts x € 1,000                                 | Reference    | 2024            | 2023            |
|---|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <b>CASHFLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES</b>        |              |                 |                 |
| Purchases of investments                          |              | -359,991        | -556,947        |
| Sales of investments                              |              | 52,355          | 196,744         |
| Dividend received                                 |              | 66,604          | 55,033          |
| Other results                                     |              | 2,841           | -2,734          |
| Operating costs paid                              |              | -3,761          | -2,850          |
| <b>Total cashflow from investments activities</b> |              | <b>-241,952</b> | <b>-310,754</b> |
| <b>CASHFLOW FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES</b>         |              |                 |                 |
| Proceeds from subscriptions of participations     |              | 381,261         | 379,718         |
| Payments for redemptions of participations        |              | -124,593        | -59,247         |
| <b>Total cashflow from financing activities</b>   |              | <b>256,668</b>  | <b>320,471</b>  |
| <b>NET CASH FLOW</b>                              |              | <b>14,716</b>   | <b>9,717</b>    |
| Cash and cash equivalents opening balance         |              | 6,599           | 556             |
| <b>Cash and cash equivalents closing balance</b>  | <b>3.5.3</b> | <b>21,315</b>   | <b>10,273</b>   |

### 3.4 Notes

#### 3.4.1 General notes

The Fund does not have any employees. GSAM BV, located in The Hague is the manager of Fund.

The semi-annual financial statements are prepared under going concern principles and in accordance with the financial statement models for investment institutions as established by the legislator. The semi-annual financial statements are prepared in accordance with Title 9 Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code and the Dutch Accounting Standard. Wording may be used that deviates from these models to better reflect the contents of the specific items. The 2024 semi-annual financial statement are prepared according to the same principles for the valuation of assets and liabilities, determination of results and cash flow statement as used for the 2023 annual financial statements.

When preparing the semi-annual financial statements, the manager uses estimates and judgments that can be essential to the amounts included in the semi-annual financial statements. If deemed necessary, the nature of these estimates and judgments, including the associated assumptions, are included in the notes to the semi-annual financial statements.

The semi-annual financial statements have not been audited by an independent auditor.

The functional currency of the Fund is the euro. The semi-annual financial statements are presented in thousands of euros, unless stated otherwise. Amounts in whole euros are denoted with a euro symbol (€). The table below provides the key exchange rates relative to the euro.

| Currency           | Abbreviation | 30-06-2024 | 31-12-2023 |
|--------------------|--------------|------------|------------|
| Australian Dollar  | AUD          | 1.60482    | 1.61886    |
| British Pound      | GBP          | 0.84785    | 0.86651    |
| Hungarian Forint   | HUF          | 394.93268  | 382.20861  |
| Japanese Yen       | JPY          | 172.40506  | 155.73095  |
| Polish Zloty       | PLN          | 4.30862    | 4.34366    |
| Singapore Dollar   | SGD          | 1.45254    | 1.45709    |
| South African Rand | ZAR          | 19.57052   | 20.20094   |
| Swedish Krona      | SEK          | 11.35021   | 11.13232   |
| Swiss Franc        | CHF          | 0.96312    | 0.92973    |
| US Dollar          | USD          | 1.07177    | 1.10463    |

#### 3.4.2 Securities lending

The Fund is allowed to engage in securities lending techniques to generate additional income. During the reporting period, the Fund did not engage in securities lending.

### 3.5 Notes to the balance sheet

The presented movement schedules cover the period from 1 January through 30 June

#### 3.5.1 Investment funds

| Amounts x € 1,000      | 2024             | 2023             |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Opening balance        | 4,641,629        | 3,477,212        |
| Purchases              | 359,991          | 556,947          |
| Sales                  | -52,355          | -196,744         |
| Revaluation            | 504,983          | 277,764          |
| <b>Closing balance</b> | <b>5,454,248</b> | <b>4,115,179</b> |

#### Overview of investment funds

The below table shows the investment funds in which the Fund was invested at the end of the reporting period. The participation percentage included herein represents the interest in the respective Participation Class of the investment fund in which the Fund participates.

At 30 June 2024

| Name of the fund   | Number of shares/participations | Net asset value in € | Ownership-percentage | Value x € 1,000  |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Goldman Sachs Global High Yield (Former NN) - Zz Cap EUR                           | 46,247                          | 5,297.06             | 24.7%                | 244,973          |
| Northern Trust Developed Real Estate ESG Index Fund - I EUR                        | 31,673,180                      | 8.44                 | 41.8%                | 267,461          |
| Northern Trust EM Local Currency Government ESG Bond Index Fund - A Acc USD        | 2,469,238                       | 107.99               | 42.7%                | 266,646          |
| Northern Trust Emerging Markets Custom ESG Equity Index UCITS FGR Fund - M Dis EUR | 79,249,486                      | 10.56                | 42.8%                | 837,025          |
| Northern Trust World Custom ESG Equity Index Feeder Fund - E EUR                   | 174,539,272                     | 20.48                | 93.6%                | 3,574,338        |
| Northern Trust World Small Cap ESG Low Carbon Index - K                            | 23,710,866                      | 11.13                | 100.0%               | 263,805          |
| <b>Closing balance</b>   |                                 |                      |                      | <b>5,454,248</b> |

At 31 December 2023

| Name of the fund   | Number of shares/participations | Net asset value in € | Ownership-percentage | Value x € 1,000  |
|--|---------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------|
| Goldman Sachs Global High Yield (Former NN) - Zz Cap EUR                           | 40,688                          | 5,054.57             | 24.7%                | 205,660          |
| Liquid Euro - Zz Cap EUR   | 2,401                           | 1,024.97             | 0.1%                 | 2,461            |
| Northern Trust Developed Real Estate ESG Index Fund - I EUR                        | 28,204,334                      | 8.62                 | 40.5%                | 243,203          |
| Northern Trust EM Local Currency Government ESG Bond Index Fund - A Acc USD        | 2,076,223                       | 109.93               | 46.0%                | 228,238          |
| Northern Trust Emerging Markets Custom ESG Equity Index UCITS FGR Fund - M Dis EUR | 71,754,718                      | 9.60                 | 41.6%                | 688,601          |
| Northern Trust Emerging Markets Custom ESG Equity Index UCITS FGR Fund - M Dis EUR | 168,318,162                     | 18.01                | 93.4%                | 3,031,393        |
| Northern Trust World Small Cap ESG Low Carbon Index - K                            | 22,238,889                      | 10.89                | 100.0%               | 242,073          |
| <b>Closing balance</b>   |                                 |                      |                      | <b>4,641,629</b> |

### 3.5.2 Receivables

All receivables have a remaining maturity of less than one year.

#### Receivables from participants

This concerns amounts receivable from participants for subscription to participations.

#### Other receivables

| Amounts x € 1,000      | 30-06-2024    | 31-12-2023    |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Withholding tax*       | 9,991         | 10,543        |
| Other receivables      | 354           | 353           |
| <b>Closing balance</b> | <b>10,345</b> | <b>10,896</b> |

\* Withholding tax receivables have a maturity of less than one year, but it can take longer to receive the amounts causing them to stay on the balance sheet for a longer period.

### 3.5.3 Other assets

#### Cash and cash equivalents

This concerns freely available bank accounts. Interest on these bank accounts is received or paid based on current market interest rates.

**3.5.4 Net asset value**

For the period 1 January through 30 June 2024

| Amounts x € 1,000                           | Class I          | Class Z  | Total            |
|---|------------------|----------|------------------|
| <b>Movement schedule of net asset value</b> |                  |          |                  |
| Opening balance                             | 4,655,916        | 3        | 4,655,919        |
| Subscriptions                               | 381,015          | -        | 381,015          |
| Redemptions                                 | -121,846         | -        | -121,846         |
| <b>Net assets participation holders</b>     | <b>4,915,085</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4,915,088</b> |
| <b>Net result</b>                           | <b>570,085</b>   | <b>-</b> | <b>570,085</b>   |
| <b>Closing balance</b>                      | <b>5,485,170</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>5,485,173</b> |

For the period 1 January through 30 June 2023

| Amounts x € 1,000                           | Class I          | Class Z  | Total            |
|---|------------------|----------|------------------|
| <b>Movement schedule of net asset value</b> |                  |          |                  |
| Opening balance                             | 3,489,440        | 3        | 3,489,443        |
| Subscriptions                               | 379,138          | -        | 379,138          |
| Redemptions                                 | -59,182          | -        | -59,182          |
| <b>Net assets participation holders</b>     | <b>3,809,396</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>3,809,399</b> |
| <b>Net result</b>                           | <b>331,332</b>   | <b>-</b> | <b>331,332</b>   |
| <b>Closing balance</b>                      | <b>4,140,728</b> | <b>3</b> | <b>4,140,731</b> |

**3.5.5 Short term liabilities**

All short term liabilities have a remaining maturity of less than one year.

**Payable to participants**

This concerns the amount payable for redemptions of participations.

**Other short term liabilities**

| Amounts x € 1,000      | 30-06-2024 | 31-12-2023 |
|------------------------|------------|------------|
| Accrued expenses       | 782        | 751        |
| <b>Closing balance</b> | <b>782</b> | <b>751</b> |

**3.5.6 Off-balance sheet rights and obligations**

At the reporting date, there are no off-balance sheet rights and obligations.



## **3.6 Notes of the profit and loss statement**

### **3.6.1 Income of investments**

#### **Dividend**

Dividend includes gross cash dividends net of non-recoverable foreign withholding tax and compensation for missed direct investment returns on securities lending.

### **3.6.2 Other results**

#### **Interest other**

This relates to the interest earned on cash and cash equivalents during the reporting period.

#### **Other income**

Other income includes all income items that are not generated from investments.

This also includes reimbursements of allocated costs related to investments in other investment funds. These allocated costs are included in the (un)realized revaluation of the underlying investment funds and are reimbursed for Participation Classes with a all-in fee, as these costs are already included in the all-in fee of the respective Participation Class.

### **3.6.3 Operating expenses**

#### **Operating costs**

The operating costs consist of the all-in fee. These costs are further explained in the notes for each Participation Class, included in this semi-annual report.

## **3.7 Other general notes**

### **3.7.1 Subsequent events**

There were no subsequent events.

### 3.8 Notes to Participation Class I

#### 3.8.1 Result overview

For the period 1 January through 30 June

| Amounts x € 1,000               | 2024           | 2023           |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| INVESTMENT RESULT               |                |                |
| <b>Investment result</b>        |                |                |
| Dividend                        | 66,604         | 55,033         |
| Revaluation of investments      | 504,983        | 277,764        |
| <b>Other result</b>             |                |                |
| Interest other                  | 466            | 19             |
| Other income                    | 1,824          | 1,386          |
| <b>Total operating result</b>   | <b>573,877</b> | <b>334,202</b> |
| OPERATING EXPENSES              |                |                |
| Operating costs                 | 3,792          | 2,870          |
| <b>Total operating expenses</b> | <b>3,792</b>   | <b>2,870</b>   |
| <b>Net result</b>               | <b>570,085</b> | <b>331,332</b> |

#### 3.8.2 Net asset value

|  | 30-06-2024 | 31-12-2023 | 31-12-2022 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| Net asset value (x € 1,000)              | 5,485,170  | 4,655,916  | 3,489,440  |
| Participations outstanding (number)      | 30,257,899 | 28,740,994 | 24,870,950 |
| Net asset value per participation (in €) | 181.28     | 162.00     | 140.30     |

#### 3.8.3 Performance

For the period 1 January through 30 June

|   | 2024  | 2023 | 2022  |
|---|-------|------|-------|
| Net performance Participation Class (%) | 11.90 | 9.14 | 13.25 |

**3.8.4 Expenses**

For the period 1 January through 30 June

| Amounts x € 1,000                                  | 2024         | 2023         |
|--|--------------|--------------|
| All-in fee   | 3,792        | 2,870        |
| <b>Total operating costs Participation Class I</b> | <b>3,792</b> | <b>2,870</b> |

The all-in fee for Participation Class I of the Fund is 0.15% per year, calculated on a daily basis over the total net asset value of the Participation Class at the end of each day.

This all-in fee covers the management fee as well as regular and/or ongoing charges, such as administration costs, reporting expenses (including the costs of data provision and processing and calculation of financial information of the investment fund), custody fees, audit fees, supervisory fees, potential stock exchange listing fees, payment processing costs, publications, participants meetings, legal proceedings (including any class actions), fee sharing arrangements within the scope of securities lending, costs of collateral management activities, as well as external advisors and service providers such as, where appropriate, the Transfer Agent. Where applicable, the all-in fee also includes costs included in the value of investment funds.

The Hague, 23 August 2024

**Goldman Sachs Asset Management B.V.**

## 4. OTHER INFORMATION

### 4.1 Management interest

At 30 June 2024 and 1 January 2024, the Board members had no personal interest in (an investment of) the Fund.