# Bloomberg MSCI Global Aggregate Sustainability Select SRI Float Adjusted Index

The Bloomberg MSCI Global Aggregate Sustainability Select SRI Float Adjusted Index is a multi-currency benchmark that includes investment grade treasury, government-related, corporate, and securitized fixed-rate bonds from both developed and emerging markets issuers. The index follows the same general criteria as the Bloomberg Global Aggregate Float Adjusted index and to be included, bond issuers must have a MSCI ESG Ratings of BBB or higher. The index negatively screens issuers researched by MSCI ESG Research with ties to certain industries including thermal coal, oil and gas or controversial business lines as detailed below. The index also excludes issuers researched by MSCI ESG Research with very severe ESG Controversies or Red Flags. The Business Involvement Screening Research (BISR), Fossil Fuel, and ESG Controversies criteria does not cover issuers belonging to the treasury, ABS, CMBS, and MBS passthrough sectors. This also includes certain government bonds in the government-related sector. The Bloomberg MSCI Global Aggregate Sustainability Select SRI Float Adjusted Index was launched in April 2023.

#### **Rules for Inclusion: Fixed Income Criteria**

#### Sector

Treasury, government-related, corporate, and securitized bonds are included.

#### **Eligible Currencies**

- Principal and interest must be denominated in one of the following eligible currencies: Americas: CAD, CLP, COP, MXN, PEN, USD
   EMEA: CHF, CZK, DKK, EUR, GBP, HUF, ILS, NOK, PLN, RON, SEK
   Asian-Pacific: AUD, CNY\*, HKD, IDR, JPY, KRW, MYR, NZD, SGD, THB
- Eligible currencies will not necessarily have debt included in the index if no securities satisfy the inclusion rules.
- New currency inclusion is reviewed annually through the index governance process. To be considered for inclusion, new currency candidates must be rated investment grade and sufficiently tradable, convertible and hedgeable for international investors.

\*CNY-denominated treasury and policy bank debt eligible starting on April 1, 2019

#### Quality

Securities must be rated investment grade (Baa3/BBB-/BBB- or higher) using the middle rating of Moody's, S&P and Fitch; when a rating from only two agencies is available, the lower is used; when only one agency rates a bond, that rating is used. In cases where explicit bond level ratings may not be available, other sources may be used to classify securities by credit quality:

- Local currency treasury and hard currency sovereign issues are classified using the middle issuer-level local currency and hard currency debt ratings from each agency for all outstanding bonds, even if bond-level ratings are available.
- Expected ratings at issuance may be used to ensure timely index inclusion or to properly classify split-rated issuers.
- Unrated securities may use an issuer rating for index classification purposes if available. Unrated subordinated securities are included if a subordinated issuer rating is available.
- German Pfandbriefe are assigned ratings that are one full rating category above the issuer's unsecured debt.
- For the Canadian Dollar market, DBRS is considered in addition to Moody's, S&P and Fitch. When all four ratings agencies are available, the highest and lowest rating are removed and the lower of the two remaining is used.



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#### Market of Issue

Publicly issued in the global and regional markets.

#### **Amount Outstanding**

Fixed minimum issue sizes are set for all local currency markets.

• 150mn: CAD

• 25mn: USD (ABS and CMBS)

150mn: CAD200mn: GBP

• 300mn: AUD, CHF, EUR, USD

• 500mn: NZD, SGD

• 1bn: PEN, RON

• 1bn: USD (MBS pass-throughs)

• 2bn: DKK, HKD, ILS, MYR, NOK, PLN

• 2.5bn: SEK

• 5bn: CNY\*

• 10bn: CZK, MXN, THB

35bn: JPY100bn: CLP200bn: HUF

500bn: KRWltrn: COP

• 2tn: IDR

#### Adjustments to Amount Outstanding

- Federal Reserve purchases of nominal US Treasuries and US Corporate bonds in open market
  operations are adjusted using data made publicly available on the Federal Reserve Bank of New
  York website. Adjustments to each security's amount outstanding are made on a monthly basis in
  the Projected Universe for government purchases and sales for the Federal Reserve SOMA account
  conducted in the previous month. The adjustments are reflected in the Returns Universe in the
  following month.
- When US Treasury bonds are issued or reopened, the initial par amount outstanding that enters the Projected Universe is reduced for any issuance bought by the Federal Reserve at auction.
- Adjustments to par amount outstanding of US Corporates began on August 1, 2020.
- Further amount outstanding adjustments are made for Bank of England and Bank of Japan purchases of Gilts and JGBs, respectively.

#### Coupon

- Fixed-rate coupon.
- Original zero coupon bonds are included.
- Callable fixed-to-floating rate bonds are eligible during their fixed-rate term only.
- Bonds with a step-up coupon that changes according to a predetermined schedule are eligible.

#### Maturity

- At least one year until final maturity, regardless of optionality.
- CMBS and ABS must have a remaining average life of at least one year.
- Bonds that convert from fixed to floating rate, including fixed-to-float perpetuals, will exit the index one year prior to conversion to floating rate. Fixed-rate perpetuals are not included.

#### **Taxability**

- Only fully taxable issues are eligible.
- Build America Bonds (BAB) with the tax credit to the issuer are eligible; those with tax credits issued to investors are considered tax exempt.
- Dividend Received Deduction (DRD) and Qualified Dividend Income (QDI) eligible securities are excluded.

#### **Seniority of Debt**

Senior and subordinated issues are included.

#### **Country of Risk**

Bonds with a Country of Risk equal to Russia or bonds denominated in Russian ruble were removed on April 1, 2022. See the Index Announcement Fl Implementation Update on Russian Sanctions for more details.

#### **Security Types**

#### Included

- Bullet, putable, sinkable/amortizing and callable bonds
- Taxable municipal securities, including Build America Bonds (BAB)
- Original issue zero coupon bonds
- Bonds issued through underwritten MTN programs
- Enhanced equipment trust certificates (EETC)
- Certificates of deposit
- Fixed-rate and fixed-to-float (including fixedto-variable) capital securities
- Loan participation notes
- US Agency CMBS
- Malaysian Government Sukuk
- CNY treasury and policy bank debt (as of April 1, 2019)

#### Excluded

- Contingent capital securities, including traditional CoCos and contingent write-down securities with explicit capital ratio or solvency/balance sheet-based triggers
- Bonds with equity type features (e.g., warrants, convertibles, preferreds, DRD/QDIeligible issues)
- Tax-exempt municipal securities
- Inflation-linked bonds, floating-rate issues
- Fixed-rate perpetuals
- Private placements, retail bonds
- Sinkable Russian OFZ bonds issued prior to 2009
- USD25/USD50 par bonds
- Structured notes, pass-through certificates
- Non-ERIS eligible CMBS issues
- US Agency MBS Hybrid ARMs
- CMBS A1A tranches
- Formosa bonds
- Securities where reliable pricing is unavailable

#### **Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) Rules**

## **Business Involvement Screening**

#### Adult Entertainment:

- Starting on January 1, 2019, excludes all researched companies classified as a "Producer" and deriving 5% or more aggregate revenue from the production, distribution, and retail of adult entertainment material.
- Starting on January 1, 2019, excludes all researched companies deriving 10% or more aggregate revenue from the production, distribution, and retail of adult entertainment materials.
- Prior to January 1, 2019, excludes all researched companies classified as a "Producer" that earn more than 5% in revenue, or more than \$500 million in revenue, from this adult entertainment materials.

#### Alcohol:

- Starting on January 1, 2019, excludes all researched companies classified as a "Producer" and deriving 5% or more aggregate revenue from the production, distribution, retail, and supply of alcohol-related products.
- Starting on January 1, 2019, excludes all researched companies deriving 10% or more aggregate revenue from the production, distribution, retail, and supply of alcohol-related products.

• Prior to January 1, 2019, excludes all researched companies classified as a "Producer" that earn either 5% or more revenue or more than \$500 million in revenue from alcohol-related activities.

#### Gambling:

- Starting on January 1, 2019, excludes all researched companies classified as involved in "Operations" and deriving 5% or more aggregate revenue from gambling-related business activities.
- Starting on January 1, 2019, excludes all researched companies classified as involved in "Support" and deriving 10% or more aggregate revenue from gambling-related business activities.
- Prior to January 1, 2019, exclude all researched companies classified as involved in "Operations" and "Support" that earn 5% or more revenue or more than \$500 million in revenue from gambling-related activities

#### Tobacco:

- Starting on January 1, 2019, excludes all researched companies classified as a "Distributor",
   "Retailer", or "Supplier" and deriving 5% or more aggregate revenue from the production,
   distribution, retail, supply, and licensing of tobacco-related products.
- Prior to January 1, 2019, excludes all researched companies classified as a "Producer" or all
  researched companies classified as "Distributor", "Retailer", and "Supplier" that earn 15% or more
  from tobacco products.

#### **Nuclear Weapons:**

- Excludes all researched companies manufacturing nuclear weapons, including nuclear warheads, intercontinental ballistic missiles, and ballistic missile submarines, which are capable of the delivery of nuclear warheads.
- Excludes all researched companies manufacturing key nuclear weapons components.
- Starting on December 1, 2022, excludes companies that own 20% or more of any company with involvement in the aforementioned nuclear weapons business activities.
- Starting on December 1, 2022, excludes companies that are 50% or more owned by a company with involvement in the aforementioned nuclear weapons business activities.

#### Controversial Weapons:

- Excludes all researched companies manufacturing biological and chemical weapons or key biological and chemical weapons components.
- Excludes all researched companies manufacturing cluster munitions whole weapons systems, components, or delivery platforms.
- Excludes all researched companies manufacturing landmines whole systems or components.
- Excludes all researched companies involved in the production of depleted uranium (DU) weapons, ammunition, and armor, including companies that manufacture armor piercing, fin stabilized, discarding sabot tracing rounds (APFSDS-T); Kinetic Energy Missiles made with DU penetrators; and DU-enhanced armor, including composite tank armor.
- Starting on Jan 1, 2022, excludes companies that own 20% or more of any company with involvement in the blinding lasers, incendiary weapons, biological/chemical weapons, non-detectable fragments, depleted uranium weapons business activities.

- Starting on Jan 1, 2022, excludes companies that are 50% or more owned by a company with involvement in the blinding lasers, incendiary weapons, biological/chemical weapons, non-detectable fragments, depleted uranium weapons business activities.
- Starting on April 1, 2022, excludes companies that own 20% or more of any company with involvement in the cluster munitions and landmines business activities.
- Starting on April 1, 2022, excludes companies that are 50% or more owned by a company with involvement in the cluster munitions and landmines business activities.

#### Conventional Weapons:

- Starting on January 1, 2019, excludes all researched companies deriving revenue from the production of conventional weapons and components.
- Starting on January 1, 2019, excludes all researched companies deriving 5% or more revenue from conventional weapons support systems and services.
- Prior to January 1, 2019, excludes all researched companies that earn 5% or more revenues or more than \$500 million in revenue from manufacturing of Conventional Weapons, Conventional Weapons Components, and Weapons Support Systems and Services.
- Starting on December 1, 2022, excludes companies that own 20% or more of any company with involvement in the aforementioned conventional weapons business activities.
- Starting on December 1, 2022, excludes companies that are 50% or more owned by a company with involvement in the aforementioned conventional weapons business activities.

#### Civilian Firearms:

- Excludes all researched companies classified as "Producer" of firearms and small arms ammunitions for civilian markets. It does not include companies that cater to the military, government, and law enforcement markets
- Excludes all researched companies classified as a "Retailer" and deriving revenue from the production and distribution (wholesale or retail) of firearms or small arms ammunition intended for civilian use.
- Starting on December 1, 2022, excludes companies that own 20% or more of any company with involvement in the aforementioned civilian firearms business activities.
- Starting on December 1, 2022, excludes companies that are 50% or more owned by a company with involvement in the aforementioned civilian firearms business activities.

#### Fossil Fuel:

• Starting on September 1, 2020, excludes all researched companies having an industry tie to fossil fuels (thermal coal, oil and gas) - in particular, reserve ownership, related revenues and power generation. This list does not include companies providing evidence of owning metallurgical coal reserves.

#### **Nuclear Power:**

- Excludes all researched companies owning or operating nuclear power plants.
- Excludes all researched companies owning or operating active uranium mines.
- Excludes all researched companies involved in uranium enrichment and processing.
- Excludes all researched companies involved in the design and engineering of nuclear power reactors.

- Starting on January 1, 2019, excludes all researched companies classified as a "Supplier" deriving revenue from nuclear power activities.
- Prior to January 1, 2019, excludes all researched companies classified as a "Supplier" deriving 15% or more aggregate revenue from nuclear power activities.

#### **ESG Controversy**

Excludes all researched companies involved in one or more very severe ESG Controversies (MSCI ESG Controversy Score= 0, Red Flags), which measures an issuer's involvement in major ESG controversies and how well they adhere to international norms and principles.

Starting on January 1, 2019, corporate issuers without ESG Controversy Scores from MSCI are excluded.

#### **ESG Rating**

Securities from sectors with ratings (Treasuries, Government-Related, Corporate, Covered Bonds) must have a MSCI ESG Rating of BBB or higher.

Unrated issuers from sectors with ratings (Treasuries, Government-Related, Corporate, Covered Bonds) are excluded.

#### **Parent Index**

Bloomberg Global Aggregate Float-Adjusted Index ("Parent Index").

Index ID I21107AU Index - Total Return AUD Unhedged.

#### **ESG Mapping Methodology**

#### **Ticker Mapping**

Prior to April 9, 2021, assignment of MSCI ESG Ratings, Controversy Scores, and Business Involvement data to issuers in the Bloomberg MSCI ESG family of fixed income indices was made at the Bloomberg ticker level. However, many companies have multiple issuing entities that share a common ticker. In the cases where MSCI has ESG data for more than one of these sub-entities, the entity with the largest debt outstanding (by market value) in the Bloomberg index family was mapped to the Bloomberg ticker. Every bond with the same ticker will have the same underlying ESG data.

#### **Bond Mapping**

Since April 9, 2021, ESG data has been applied at the bond level. See the index Announcement for Planned Change to ESG Mapping Methodology more details.

#### **Non-covered Issuers**

Prior to October 1, 2022, issuers not covered by MSCI's Business Involvement Screening Research (BISR) and MSCI's Climate Change Metrics were eligible, provided the bonds satisfied all the index inclusion rules. Corporate issuers with missing ESG Controversy Scores were not eligible.

From October 1, 2022, corporate and owned, but not guaranteed, agency issuers not covered by MSCI's Business Involvement Screening Research (BISR), not researched by MSCI's Climate Change Metrics, or not researched by MSCI's ESG Controversies are not eligible.

The Business Involvement Screening Research (BISR), Fossil Fuel, and ESG Controversies criteria does not cover issuers belonging to the treasury, ABS, CMBS, and MBS passthrough sectors. This also includes certain government bonds in the government-related sector.

#### **Rebalancing Rules**

#### **Frequency**

For each index, Bloomberg maintains two universes of securities: the Returns (Backward) and the Projected (Forward) Universes. The composition of the Returns Universe is rebalanced at each monthend and represents the fixed set of bonds on which index returns are calculated for the next month. The Projected Universe is a forward-looking projection that changes daily to reflect issues dropping out of and entering the index but is not used for return calculations. On the last business day of the

month (the rebalancing date), the composition of the latest Projected Universe becomes the Returns Universe for the following month.

#### **Index Changes**

During the month, indicative changes to securities (credit rating change, sector reclassification, amount outstanding changes, corporate actions, and ticker changes) are reflected daily in the Projected and Returns Universe of the index. These changes may cause bonds to enter or fall out of the Projected Universe of the index on a daily basis, but will affect the composition of the Returns Universe at month-end only, when the index is next rebalanced.

#### Reinvestment of Cash **Flows**

Intra-month cash flows from interest and principal payments contribute to monthly index returns but are not reinvested at a short-term reinvestment rate between rebalance dates. At each rebalancing, cash is effectively reinvested into the returns universe for the following month so that index results over two or more months reflect monthly compounding.

#### **New Issues**

Qualifying securities issued, but not necessarily settled on or before the month-end rebalancing date, qualify for inclusion in the following month's index if the required security reference information and pricing are readily available.

#### **Pricing and Related Issues**

#### **Sources & Frequency**

All index-eligible bonds are priced on a daily basis by Bloomberg's evaluated pricing service, BVAL, except CHF-denominated bonds (which are priced by SIX) and JPY-denominated corporates (which are priced by JSDA).

#### **Timing**

Prices are snapped at the following times:

- North American currency bonds: 4 p.m. (New York time); 4 p.m. (Toronto time) for CADdenominated securities. USD-denominated bonds prior to January 14, 2021 used 3p.m. New York time pricing snap.
- Pan-European currency bonds: 4:15 p.m. (London time); 4 p.m. (London time) for CHFdenominated securities.
- Asian currency bonds: 5 p.m. (Sydney time) for AUD-denominated and NZD-denominated securities; 3 p.m. (Tokyo time) for JPY-denominated securities; 5 p.m. (Shanghai time) for CNYdenominated securities; 5 p.m. (Tokyo time) for all other securities.

If the last business day of the month is a public holiday in a major regional market, prices from the previous business day are used to price bonds in the particular market.

#### **Bid or Offer Side**

Bonds in the index are priced on the bid side. The initial price for new corporate and EM local currency issues entering the index is the offer side; after the first month, the bid price is used. Japanese, Euro and Sterling treasury bonds use mid prices.

Settlement Assumptions T+1 calendar day settlement basis for all bonds except MBS, which are priced for Public Securities Association (PSA) settlement in the following month and discounted back to same-day settlement. At month-end, settlement is assumed to be the first calendar day of the following month, even if the last business day is not the last day of the month, to allow for one full month of accrued interest to be calculated.

#### Verification

Daily price moves for each security are analyzed by the index pricing team to identify outliers. Index users may also challenge price levels, which are then reviewed and updated as needed.

#### **Currency Hedging**

Returns hedged to various currencies are published for multi-currency indices. The indices' FX hedging methodology takes rolling one-month forward contracts that are reset at the end of each month and hedges each non-reporting currency-denominated bond in the index into the reporting currency terms. No adjustment is made to the hedge during the month to account for price movements of constituent securities in the Returns Universe of the index.

#### Calendar

The Global Aggregate SRI Exclusions Float Adjusted Index is a global, multi-currency index that is generated every business day of the year except for January 1, the only holiday common to all regional calendars. During holidays observed by local markets, the index will still be generated using prices from the previous business day. FX rates are updated daily using WM Reuters 4pm (London) rates. FX forwards are also sourced from WM Company.

#### **Accessing Index Data**

#### **Bloomberg Terminal®**

Bloomberg benchmarks are the global standard for capital markets investors.

- INDE<GO> The Bloomberg Indices dashboard page, which contains daily, monthly, and year-to-date index returns for key indices from each index family as well as a link to index publications.
- IN<GO> The Bloomberg Index Browser displays the latest performance results and statistics for the indices as well as history. IN presents the indices that make up Bloomberg's global, multi-asset class index families into a hierarchical view, facilitating navigation and comparisons. The "My Indices" tab allows a user to focus on a set of favorite indices.
- DES<GO> The index description page provides transparency into an individual index including membership information, aggregated characteristics and returns, and historical performance.
- INP<GO> The Bloomberg Indices Publications page, which includes methodologies, factsheets, monthly reports, announcements and technical notes. A user may also subscribe to index publications via the "Actions" button.
- PORT<GO> Bloomberg's Portfolio & Risk Analytics solution includes tools to analyze the risk, return, and current structure of indices. Analyze the performance of a portfolio versus a benchmark or use models for performance attribution, tracking error analysis, value-at-risk, scenario analysis, and optimization.

#### Bloomberg Indices Website (www.bloomberg.com/ indices)

The index website makes available limited index information including:

- Index methodology and factsheets
- Current performance numbers for select indices

#### **Data Distribution**

Index subscribers may choose to receive index data in files. Files may include:

- Index level and/or constituent level returns and characteristics for any indices
- Automatic delivery of files via email or SFTP following the completion of the index production process after market close
- Clients may receive standard files or may customize file contents
- Index data is also available via authorized redistributors

#### Index Ticker

137672NZ: Total Return NZD Unhedged

### **Index Licensing**

Bloomberg requires index data licenses for services and products linked to the Indices

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- Exchange Traded Notes (ETNs)
- OTC Derivative Products

- Bond Pricing Service
- Index-Linked Insurance Products
- Custom Index Solutions
- Exchange Traded Funds (ETFs)
- Mutual Funds
- Separately Managed Accounts (SMAs)

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