

**P R O S P E C T U S**

relating to the permanent offering and issue of Units in

***AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies***

A mutual investment fund organized under the laws  
of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

**September 2025**

The Units referred to in this prospectus (the "Prospectus") are offered solely on the basis of the information contained herein and, in the reports, referred to in the Prospectus. In connection with the offer hereby made, no person is authorized to give any information or to make any representations other than those contained in the Prospectus and the documents referred to herein, and any purchase made by any person on the basis of statements or representations not contained in or inconsistent with the information contained in the Prospectus shall be solely at the risk of the purchaser.

The Management Company draws the investors' attention to the fact that any investor will only be able to fully exercise his Unitholder rights directly against the Fund, if the investor is registered himself and in his own name in the Unitholders' register. In cases where an investor invests in the Fund through an intermediary investing into the Fund in his own name but on behalf of the investor, it may not always be possible for the Unitholder to exercise certain Unitholder rights directly against the Fund. Investors are advised to take advice on their rights before subscription.

### **THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ("UNITED STATES" OR "U.S.")**

The Units have not been, and will not be, registered under the U.S. Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "1933 Act") or qualified under any applicable U.S. state statutes, and the Units may not be transferred, offered or sold in the United States of America (including its territories and possessions) or to or for the benefit of, directly or indirectly, any U.S. Persons (as defined in Regulation S in the 1933 Act), except pursuant to registration or an applicable exemption.

The Fund has not been, and will not be, registered under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the "1940 Act"). Therefore, subject to the discretion of the Management Company, the Units may not be offered or sold to or for the benefit of a U.S. Person. Any resales or transfers of the Units in the U.S. or to U.S. Persons may constitute a violation of U.S. law and requires the prior written consent of the Management Company acting on behalf of the Fund. The Management Company, however, reserves the right to make a private placement of its Units to a limited number or category of U.S. Persons.

The Management Regulations provide that the Management Company may compulsorily redeem any Units that are transferred, or attempted to be transferred, to or for the benefit of any U.S. Person. Investors may be required to certify to the Management Company that, among other things, the Units are not being acquired and will not at any time be held for the account or benefit, directly or indirectly, of any U.S. Person except as otherwise authorised by the Management Company as set out in Section "**SUBSCRIPTION OF UNITS**" (under the heading "Nominees") in the Prospectus. It is the responsibility of each Unitholder to verify that it is not a U.S. Person that would be prohibited from owning Units. If permitted by the Management Company, any purchaser of Units that is a U.S. Person must be a "qualified purchaser" as defined in the 1940 Act and the rules promulgated thereunder and an "accredited investor" as defined in Regulation D under the 1933 Act.

Unless the Management Company otherwise determines either generally or in any particular case, the Management Company acting on behalf of the Fund will not accept any subscriptions from, and the Units may not be transferred to, any investor, whether or not a U.S. Person, who is subject to Title 1 of ERISA or the prohibited transactions provisions of Section 4975 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code or who qualifies as a Benefit Plan Investor.

Furthermore, any purchaser of Units must be a Non-U.S. Person under the Commodity Exchange Act.

The Units have not been approved or disapproved by the SEC, any state securities commission or other U.S. regulatory authority, nor have any of the foregoing authorities passed upon or endorsed the merits of this offering or the accuracy or adequacy of these offering materials. Any representation to the contrary is unlawful.

Unitholders are required to notify the Management Company immediately in the event that they become U.S. Persons. Unitholders who become U.S. Persons will be required to dispose of their Units at any time to non-U.S. Persons. The Management Company reserves the right to repurchase any Units which are or become owned, directly or indirectly, by a U.S. Person or if the holding of the Units by any person is unlawful or detrimental to the interests of the Fund.

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## **AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies**

### **Sponsor**

AXA Investment Managers S.A.  
Tour Majunga – La Défense 9  
6, place de la Pyramide  
92800 Puteaux  
France

### **Management Company**

AXA Investment Managers Paris S.A.  
Tour Majunga, La Défense 9,  
6 Place de la Pyramide, 92800  
Puteaux  
France

### **Members of the Board**

#### Executive management

**Mr. Marco Morelli**, Chief Executive Officer, AXA Investment Managers, S.A. residing in Italy

**Mr. René Rauscher-Marroc**, Deputy Chief Executive, Global Head of Security & Procurement, AXA Investment Managers Paris residing in France

**Mr. Jean-Louis Laforge**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, AXA Investment Managers Paris, residing in France

**Mr. Jean-Christophe Ménioux**, Deputy Chief Executive, Global Chief Operating Officer, AXA Investment Managers, residing in France

#### Board of directors

**Mr. Marco Morelli (Chairman)**, Chief Executive Officer, AXA Investment Managers, S.A. residing in Italy

**Mrs. Florence Dard**, Director, Global Head of Client Group, AXA Real Estate Investment, residing in France

**Mrs. Marion le Morhedec**, Director, AXA Investment Managers Paris, residing in France

**AXA Investment Managers S.A.**, represented by Caroline Portel, Global Chief Operating Officer, AXA Investment Managers

### **Investment Managers**

**AXA Investment Managers US Inc.**  
400 Atlantic Street  
Suite 1000  
Stamford, CT 06901

### **AXA Investment Managers UK Limited**

22 Bishopsgate  
London EC2N 4BQ

### **Agent to carry out stock lending and repurchase agreements activities**

**AXA Investment Managers GS Limited**  
22 Bishopsgate  
London EC2N 4BQ

**Sub delegated stock lending and repurchase agent**

**AXA Investment Managers IF**

Tour Majunga, La Défense 9  
6 Place de la Pyramide  
92800 Puteaux  
France

**Depository, Paying Agent, Administrator, Registrar Agent**

State Street Bank International GmbH, Luxembourg Branch  
49, avenue J.F. Kennedy  
L-1855 Luxembourg  
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

**Auditors**

PriceWaterhouseCoopers Société coopérative  
2, rue Gerhard Mercator  
L-2182 Luxembourg  
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

**Legal Advisers in  
Luxembourg**

Arendt & Medernach SA  
41A, avenue JF Kennedy  
L-2082 Luxembourg  
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR INVESTORS**

The Sub-Funds of AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies are only authorised or registered for public registration in some countries. Units may not be offered or sold, and this Prospectus may not be distributed or published in any countries except under circumstances that will result in compliance with any applicable laws and regulations.

The investors will find below additional information relating to the distribution of the Units of the Company in certain countries:

### **Denmark**

The Company has appointed AXA Investment Managers Deutschland GmbH, Thurn-und- Taxis-Platz 6, 60313 Frankfurt am Main as its Danish facilities agent.

### **France**

The Company has been authorised to market its Units in France. BNP Paribas S.A., 16 boulevard des Italiens 75009 Paris has been appointed as French facilities agent.

### *Taxation*

The attention of Unitholders domiciled for tax purposes in France is drawn to the requirement to file income tax returns for income derived from the switch between the Sub-Funds which are subject to capital gains on securities.

### **Hong Kong**

Neither the Fund nor the Sub-Funds are authorised for distribution in Hong-Kong.

Warning: Hong Kong investors are advised that the contents of this prospectus have not been reviewed by any regulatory authority in Hong Kong. You are advised to exercise caution in relation to the offer. If you are in doubt about the contents of this prospectus, you should obtain independent professional advice. Certain Sub-Funds described herein may only be offered for sale or sold in Hong Kong to such investors which are “professional investors” within the meaning of the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Ordinance (“SFO”) and any rules made thereunder. Unless permitted under the SFO, no person may issue or have in its possession for the purposes of issue this prospectus, or any other advertisement, invitation or document, whether in Hong Kong or elsewhere, which is or contains an invitation to the public in Hong Kong within the meaning of the SFO (i) to enter into or offer to enter into an agreement to acquire, dispose of, subscribe for or underwrite Units of the Sub-Funds not authorised by the SFC or (ii) to acquire an interest in or participate in, or offer to acquire an interest in or participate in these Sub-Funds, other than with respect to Units or interests which are or are intended to be disposed of only to persons outside Hong Kong or only to “professional investors” within the meaning of the SFO and any rules made thereunder.

## Japan

Warning: Japanese investors are advised to exercise caution in relation to the offer. The Sub-Funds or Units described herein are not authorized for offering to the public in Japan and have not been and will not be registered under Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law of Japan (Law No. 25 of 1948) (the “FIEL”) and accordingly may not be offered or solicited in Japan or to or for the account of any resident thereof, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of the FIEL. “A resident” shall have the meaning as defined under the Foreign Exchange and Foreign Trade Law of Japan (Law No. 228 of 1949). If you are in doubt about the contents of this Prospectus, you should obtain independent professional advice. Only certain Sub-Funds described herein may be offered for sale or sold in Japan solely to such investors which are Qualified Institutional Investor (*tekikaku kikan toshika*) (“QII”) as defined in Article 2, Paragraph 3, Item 1 of the FIEL and Article 10 of the Cabinet Ordinance regarding Definitions under Article 2 of the Financial Instruments and Exchange Law and any rules made thereunder. You are advised that by subscribing into the Sub-Fund(s), you acknowledge and agree that: i) the Units described herein have not been and will not be registered under Article 4, Paragraph 1 of the FIEL and accordingly may not be offered or solicited in Japan or to or for the account of any resident thereof, except pursuant to an exemption from the registration requirements of the FIEL; ii) the Units are offered exclusively to QIIs only pursuant to a qualified institutional investor exemption as set forth in Article 2, Paragraph 3, Item 2 (a) of the FIEL; iii) Units sold to QIIs pursuant to a qualified institutional investor exemption are subject to re-sale restrictions whereby the Units cannot be re-sold to anyone other than QIIs; and iv) notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the Prospectus, no switch to Units of any other Sub-Fund is allowed unless such Sub-Fund is offered in Japan in accordance with its applicable regulations.



## PROSPECTUS

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### GLOSSARY

**Appendix** – the relevant sheet of the Prospectus containing specific information regarding each Sub-Fund.

**Application Form** – the appropriate application form for the subscription, the redemption and the conversion of Units available at the distributors' registered office.

**Archives of the Mémorial** – the *Mémorial C, Recueil des Sociétés et Associations* as of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016.

**Benefit Plan Investor** – any benefit plan investor as defined in regulations issued by the U.S. Department of Labor, being any (a) “employee benefit plan” as defined in Section 3(3) of ERISA (whether or not subject to Title 1 of ERISA), (b) “plan” described in Section 4975(e)(i) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code that is subject to Section 4975 thereof, and (c) entity any of the assets of which include the assets of such “employee benefit plan” or “plan”.

**Board** – board of directors of the Management Company.

**Business Day** – a day which is a Sub-Fund Business Day as defined in each Appendix.

**Canadian Prohibited Investors** – any natural person who is a resident of Canada (including its territories and possessions and any province of Canada) and any legal entity formed under the laws of Canada or any province or territory thereof, except where otherwise beforehand determined by the distributor as qualifying as in compliance with applicable local laws and regulations under “Permitted Clients” exemption.

**Cash** – ancillary liquid assets as referred to in Article 41(2) of the Law of 2010, which are bank deposits at sight (such as cash held in a current account with a bank accessible at any time) but excludes any cash held as collateral in relation to financial derivatives.

**Class** – a class of units of each Sub-Fund which may differ, inter alia, in respect of their specific charging structures, specific dividend policies, specific currencies or other specific features.

**Code** - the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, or any successor federal statute.

**Dealing Price** – The price at which Units are subscribed, converted, or redeemed. Dealing Prices are calculated on a policy as defined in the section “Determination of the Net Asset Value of Units”.

**Defaulted Securities** - means a security whose issuer has failed to make an interest or principal payment according to the security's documentation and calendar. Defaulted securities are typically rated in the lower rating categories rating from rating agencies performing their surveillance (C by Moody's or D by Standard & Poor's) or are unrated securities considered by the Investment Manager of the relevant Sub-Fund to be of comparable quality.

**Depository** – State Street Bank International GmbH, Luxembourg Branch

**Distressed Securities** – means debts that are officially in restructuring or in payment default and whose price is at least 50% lower than their face value and whose rating (by at least one of the major rating agencies) is lower than CCC- or, if unrated, judged equivalent to this level by the Investment Manager.

**ESG** – Environmental, Social and Governance

**EU** – the European Union

**EU Taxonomy** – means EU Regulation (EU) 2020/852 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment and focusing on climate change mitigation; climate change adaptation; the sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources; the transition to a circular economy; pollution prevention and control and the protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems.

**Euro** – the single currency shared by 19 member states of the European Union. As of the date of the current Prospectus, the Euro has been adopted by the following countries: Belgium, Germany, Greece, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, The Netherlands, Austria, Portugal, Finland, Cyprus, Estonia, Malta, Slovakia, Slovenia, Latvia and Lithuania.

**Financial Product** – A Sub-Fund of the Fund

**Fund** – a Luxembourg *fonds commun de placement* as more fully described below in the section entitled "The Fund", known as "**AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies**".

**Group of Companies** – companies belonging to the same body of undertakings and which must draw up consolidated accounts in accordance with European Parliament and Council Directive 2013/34/UE of 26 June 2013 on consolidated accounts and according to recognized international accounting rules, as amended.

**Institutional Investor** – An institutional investor as defined by guidelines or recommendations issued by the Regulatory Authority from time to time. With respect to investors that are incorporated in the European Union, Institutional Investor means Eligible Counterparty and Professional Investors according to Directive 2014/65/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 May 2014 on markets in financial instruments, amended by Directive (EU) 2016/1034 of 23 June 2016.

**Investment Manager** – an investment manager appointed by the Management Company and defined in the relevant Appendices.

**KID** –Key Information Document under the PRIIPs legislation.

The following **Key Performance Indicators (or “KPI”)** may be used in the Sub-Funds:

<b>Carbon Intensity</b>	or Carbon Intensity by Revenues: Environmental KPI provided by Trucost S&P. The amount of Greenhouse gas (GHG) released into the atmosphere per million \$ of revenue. It is expressed in CO <sub>2</sub> tons per millions \$ revenue.
<b>Gender Diversity at Board Level</b>	Governance KPI provided by Bloomberg for corporates. Asset weighted percentage of female board members at the companies held in portfolio.
<b>Water Intensity</b>	Environmental KPI provided by Trucost S&P for corporates. This KPI represents the amount of water diverted for use by the organization from all sources, including but not limited to surface, ground, saltwater, and municipal. Includes cooling water. It is expressed in cubic meters. For Sovereign, the KPI is provided by the World Bank and represents the freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources. It is the ratio between total freshwater withdrawn by all major sectors and total renewable freshwater resources, after taking into account environmental water requirements
<b>Carbon Delta Technology Opportunity (1.5C)</b>	Environmental KPI provided by MSCI. This KPI measures the company's upside technology opportunity exposure, expressed as a percentage of the security's market value, assuming a global 1.5°C target and calculated using carbon prices from the AIM CGE model.
<b>Percentage of companies in the GSS Watchlist &amp; Non-compliant</b>	<p>Sustainalytics’ Global Standards Screening (GSS) assesses the impact that companies have on stakeholders and the extent to which companies cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards. Sustainalytics applies its own guidelines to assess</p> <p>company compliance with relevant international norms, assigning one of the following three statuses: Non-Compliant, Watchlist or Compliant.</p> <p>A company is assessed as Non-Compliant when it is determined to be causing or contributing to severe or systemic and/or systematic violations of international norms.</p> <p>A company is assessed as Watchlist if it is determined to be at risk of contributing to severe or systemic and/or systematic violations of international norms and standards.</p> <p>A company is assessed as Compliant when it has not been determined to be</p>

	causing/contributing – or to be at risk of causing/contributing – to severe or systemic and/or systematic violations of international norms and standards in scope.
<b>Greenhouse gas</b>	The Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions intensity indicator corresponds to the carbon emissions of a company normalized for size by dividing annual carbon emissions by Enterprise Value (EV – in millions of euros). The KPI is weighted. The GHG Emissions are provided by an external data provider and the KPI is computed internally.

**Law of 2010** – the Luxembourg law of 17 December 2010 on undertakings for collective investment, as amended from time to time.

**Management Company** – AXA Investment Managers Paris S.A., an AXA Group company and a subsidiary of AXA Investment Managers S.A., authorized as a portfolio management company by the *Autorité des Marchés Financiers* (AMF) under number GP92008.

**Management Regulations** – management regulations of the Fund amended for the last time on 12 February 2025 and which may be amended from time to time.

**Member State** – a member state of the European Union.

**Money Market Instruments** – instruments normally dealt in on the money market which are liquid, and have a value which can be accurately determined at any time.

**Net Asset Value** – the net asset value of the relevant Sub-Fund or the relevant Unit as determined on each Valuation Day in accordance with the section below entitled "Determination of the Net Asset Value of Units".

**Non-U.S Person** – as defined under the Commodity Exchange Act, as amended from time to time (i) a natural person who is not a resident of the United States;

(ii) a partnership, corporation or other entity, other than an entity organized principally for passive investment, organized under the laws of a foreign jurisdiction and which has its principal place of business in a foreign jurisdiction;

(iii) an estate or trust, the income of which is not subject to United States income tax regardless of source;

(iv) an entity organized principally for passive investment such as a pool, investment company or other similar entity; provided, that units of participation in the entity held by persons who do not qualify as Non-U.S. Persons or otherwise as qualified eligible persons represent in the aggregate less than 10% of the beneficial interest in the entity, and that such entity was not formed principally for the purpose of facilitating investment by persons who do not qualify as Non-U.S. Persons in a pool with respect to which the operator is exempt from certain requirements of Part 4 of the CFTC's regulations by virtue of its participants being Non-U.S.

Persons; and

(v) a pension plan for the employees, officers or principals of an entity organized and with its principal place of business outside the United States.

**OTC** – Over the Counter.

**Other Regulated Market** – market which is regulated, operates regularly and is recognized and open to the public, namely a market (i) that meets the following cumulative criteria: liquidity; multilateral order matching (general matching of bid and ask prices in order to establish a single price); transparency (the circulation of complete information in order to give clients the possibility of tracking trades, thereby ensuring that their orders are executed on current conditions); (ii) on which the securities are dealt in at a certain fixed frequency, (iii) which is recognized by a state or by a public authority which has been delegated by that state or by another entity which is recognized by that state or by that public authority such as a professional association and (iv) on which the securities dealt in are accessible to the public.

**Other State** – any state in Europe which is not a Member State, and any state in America, Africa, Asia or Oceania.

**Personal Account Number** – the unique identification number issued to a Unitholder.

**Prohibited Person** – means an ineligible investor as described in the section “5) The Units” of the Management Regulations.

**Prospectus** – the prospectus of the Fund, as amended from time to time.

**Reference Currency** – means the currency in which the Fund or each Sub-Fund is denominated.

**Regulated Market** – a regulated market as defined in the Council Directive 2004/39/EC dated 21 April 2004 on markets in financial instruments ("Directive 2004/39/EC") which has been repealed by the Directive 2014/65/EU (MiFID 2) dated 15 May 2014, namely a multilateral system operated and/or managed by a market operator which brings together or facilitates the bringing together of multiple third-party buying and selling interests in financial instruments – in the system and in accordance with its non-discretionary rules – in a way that result in a contract, in respect of the financial instruments admitted to trading under its rules and/or systems, and which is authorised and functions regularly in accordance with the provisions of MiFID 2.

**Regulatory Authority** – the Luxembourg authority or its successor in charge of the supervision of the undertakings for collective investment in the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.

**RESA** – Recueil Electronique des Sociétés et Associations.

**Settlement Day** – The day on which monies are received (in respect of subscriptions) or dispatched (in respect of redemptions) by the Depositary. Unless otherwise specified in the relevant Appendices, the Settlement Day is within three Business Days after the relevant Valuation Day. In respect of redemption proceeds, if on the Settlement Day, banks are not open for business in the country of the settlement currency of the relevant Class of Units, then settlement will be on the next Business Day on which those banks are open.

**SFDR** – Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2019 on sustainability-related disclosures in the financial services sector.

**SFTs** – securities financing transactions, which are defined in the SFTR as a repurchase or reverse repurchase transaction, securities lending and securities borrowing, a buy-sell back transaction or sell-buy back transaction or a margin lending transaction.

**SFTR** – Regulation (EU) 2015/2365 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 November 2015 on transparency of securities financing transactions and of reuse and amending Regulation (EU) No. 048/2012.

**Sub-Fund** – a separate portfolio of assets within the Fund.

**Sub-Investment Manager** – means any entity appointed from time to time by the Investment Manager.

**Sustainable Investment** – An investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental objective, as measured, for example, by key resource efficiency indicators on the use of energy, renewable energy, raw materials, water and land, on the production of waste, and greenhouse gas emissions, or on its impact on biodiversity and the circular economy, or an investment in an economic activity that contributes to a social objective, in particular an investment that contributes to tackling inequality or that fosters social cohesion, social integration and labour relations, or an investment in human capital or economically or socially disadvantaged communities, provided that such investments do not significantly harm any of those objectives and that the investee companies follow good governance practices, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

**Sustainability Risk** – An environmental, social or governance event or condition that, if it occurs, could cause an actual or a potential material negative impact on the value of the investment.

**Transferable Securities** – (i) shares and other securities equivalent to shares ("shares"); (ii) bonds and other debt instruments ("debt securities") and (iii) any other negotiable securities which carry the right to acquire any such transferable securities by subscription or exchange, to the extent they do not qualify as techniques and instruments.

**UCI** – an undertaking for collective investment as defined by Luxembourg law.

**UCITS** – an undertaking for collective investment in transferable securities under Article 1(2) of the UCITS Directive.

**UCITS Directive** – Directive 2009/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 13 July 2009 on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative positions relating to undertakings to collective investment in transferable securities (UCITS), as may be amended by the Directive 2014/91/EUR of the European Parliament and Council of 23 July 2014 as regards depositary remuneration policies and sanctions and as may be further amended in the future.

**Unit(s)** – each unit within any Sub-Fund.

**Unitholder(s)** – any person or entity owing Units of any Sub-Fund.

**U.S. Person** – as defined under Regulation S promulgated under the 1933 Act, as amended from time to time

- (i) (a) any natural person resident in the United States;
- (b) any partnership or corporation organized or incorporated under the laws of the United States;
- (c) any estate of which any executor or administrator is a U.S. Person;
- (d) any trust of which any trustee is a U.S. Person;
- (e) any agency or branch of a foreign entity located in the United States;
- (f) any non-discretionary account or similar account (other than an estate or trust) held by a dealer or other fiduciary for the benefit or account of a U.S. Person;

- (g) any discretionary account or similar account (other than an estate or trust) held by a dealer or other fiduciary organized, incorporated, or (if an individual) resident in the United States; and
- (h) any partnership or corporation if:
  - organized or incorporated under the laws of any foreign jurisdiction; and
  - formed by a U.S. Person principally for the purpose of investing in securities not registered under the 1933 Act, unless it is organized or incorporated, and owned, by accredited investors (as defined in Rule 501(a) under the 1933 Act) who are not natural persons, estates or trusts;
- (ii) notwithstanding (i) above, any discretionary account or similar account (other than an estate or trust) held for the benefit or account of a non-U.S. Person by a dealer or other professional fiduciary organized, incorporated, or (if an individual) resident in the United States shall not be deemed a “U.S. Person”;
- (iii) notwithstanding (i) above, any estate of which any professional fiduciary acting as executor or administrator is a U.S. Person shall not be deemed a “U.S. Person” if:
  - (a) an executor or administrator of the estate who is not a U.S. Person has sole or shared investment discretion with respect to the assets of the estate; and
  - (b) the estate is governed by foreign law;
- (iv) notwithstanding (i) above, any trust of which any professional fiduciary acting as trustee is a U.S. Person shall not be deemed a U.S. Person if a trustee who is not a U.S. Person has sole or shared investment discretion with respect to the trust assets, and no beneficiary of the trust (and no settlor if the trust is revocable) is a “U.S. Person”;
- (v) notwithstanding (i) above, an employee benefit plan established and administered in accordance with the law of a country other than the United States and customary practices and documentation of such country shall not be deemed a “U.S. Person”;
- (vi) notwithstanding (i) above, any agency or branch of a U.S. Person located outside the United States shall not be deemed a “U.S. Person” if:
  - (a) the agency or branch operates for valid business reasons; and
  - (b) the agency or branch is engaged in the business of insurance or banking and is subject to substantive insurance or banking regulation, respectively, in the jurisdiction where located;
- (vii) the International Monetary Fund, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the African Development Bank, the United Nations, and their agencies, affiliates and pension plans, and any other similar international organizations, their agencies, affiliates and pension plans shall not be deemed “U.S. Persons”.

**Valuation Day** – Unless stated otherwise in the description of the relevant Appendix, a Business Day on which a Net Asset Value is calculated for a Sub-Fund and on which orders to subscribe for, redeem or convert Units are accepted and traded at the Dealing Price applicable to such Business Day. Unless stated otherwise in the description of the relevant Appendix, or unless a suspension of trading in Units is in effect, every day that is a Business Day for a Sub-Fund is also a Valuation Day.

**Whole Business Securitisation (WBS)** – Whole-business securitisation is defined as a form of asset-backed financing in which operating assets (which are long-term assets acquired for use in the business rather than for resale and includes property, plant and equipment and intangible assets) are financed through the issues of notes via a special purpose vehicle (a structure whose operations are limited to the acquisition and financing of specific assets, usually a subsidiary company with an asset/liability structure and legal status that makes its obligations secure even if the parent company goes bankrupt) in the bond market and in which the operating company keeps complete control over the assets securitised. In case of default, control is handed over to the security trustee for the benefit of the note holders for the remaining term of financing.

Time referred to in the Prospectus is Luxembourg time.

## THE FUND

The Fund is organized in and under the laws of the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg as a mutual investment fund ("*fonds commun de placement*") with separate Sub-Fund(s) constituting each a separate portfolio of assets and liabilities.

The Fund is registered pursuant to part I of the Law of 2010. However such registration does not require the Regulatory Authority to approve or disapprove either the adequacy or accuracy of the Prospectus or the assets held in the various Sub-Funds. Any representations to the contrary are unauthorized and unlawful.

The Fund is an Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities ("UCITS") in accordance with the UCITS Directive. The Fund was created for an indefinite term in Luxembourg on March 12, 2004.

In accordance with the Management Regulations, the board of directors of the Management Company (the "Directors") may issue Units in each Sub-Fund. A separate pool of assets is maintained for each Sub-Fund and is invested in accordance with the investment objectives applicable to the relevant Sub-Fund. As a result, the Fund is an "umbrella fund" enabling investors to choose between one or more investment objectives by investing in one or more Sub-Funds. Investors may choose which Sub-Fund(s) may be most appropriate for their specific risk and return expectations as well as their diversification needs.

Each Sub-Fund is treated as a separate entity and operates independently, each portfolio of assets being invested for the exclusive benefit of this Sub-Fund. A purchase of Units relating to one particular Sub-Fund does not give the holder of such Units any rights with respect to any other Sub-Fund.

The net proceeds from the subscription to each Sub-Fund are invested in the specific portfolio of assets constituting that Sub-Fund.

With regard to third parties, each Sub-Fund will be exclusively responsible for all liabilities attributable to it.

The specific investment policy and features of the Sub-Funds are described in detail in Appendices hereinafter.

The Directors may, at any time, create additional Sub-Funds. In that event, the Prospectus will be updated accordingly.

Furthermore, in respect of each Sub-Fund, the Directors may decide to issue one or more Classes of Units, each Class having (i) a specific sales and redemption charge structure and/or (ii) a specific management or advisory fee structure and/or (iii) different distribution, Unitholders servicing or other fees and/or (iv) different types of targeted investors and/or (v) such other features as may be determined by the Directors from time to time.

Units of different Classes within each Sub-Fund may be issued, redeemed and converted at prices computed on the basis of the Net Asset Value per Unit, within the relevant Sub-Fund, as defined in the Management Regulations.



The Fund is managed in the interest of its unitholders by the Management Company, a public limited company ("*société anonyme*") incorporated under the laws of France and having its registered office in France.

The assets of the Fund are separate from those of the Management Company and from those of other funds managed by the Management Company.

The Management Company manages the assets of the Fund in accordance with the Management Regulations executed on 7 February 2006 and effective on 31 March 2006. The Management Regulations have been published in the Archives of the Mémorial on 6 March 2006 through a notice advising of the filing of such document with the Luxembourg trade and companies register, where they may be inspected, and copies may be obtained. The Management Regulations have been last amended on 12 February 2025 such a modification being published in the RESA in the manner described above.

### **Sustainable Investments and promotion of ESG characteristics**

The Fund and all its Sub-Funds comply with AXA Investment Managers' ("AXA IM's") Sectorial Exclusion policies encompassing areas such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities, Ecosystem Protection and Deforestation and Tobacco, as described in the policy document. All Sub-Funds qualifying as "article 8" Financial Products according to SFDR apply the AXA IM's Environmental, Social and Governance standards policy ("ESG Standards"), according to which the Investment Manager aims at integrating the ESG Standards in the investment process by applying specific sectorial exclusions such as white phosphorus weapons and by excluding investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises ; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality. Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. These policies (together "Policies") are available on the website: <https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines>. The Sub-Funds applying ESG Standards and/or having a non-financial objective of outperforming the ESG score of their respective benchmark or their investment universe and/or promoting ESG characteristics qualify as "Art. 8 products" according to SFDR. The Fund has currently no Sub-Funds which have sustainable investment as their non-financial objective and are managed in line with a sustainable and/or thematic impact investing approach that qualify as "Art. 9 products" according to SFDR.

All the Sub-Funds of the Fund are categorized as "Article 8" as set-out in the relevant Sub-Fund's appendix.

For the Sub-Funds categorized as Article 8 under SFDR promoting environmental characteristic, it should be noted that they do not at this stage take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities as defined by the EU Taxonomy regulation and their portfolio alignment with such Taxonomy Regulation is not calculated. Therefore, the "do no significant harm" principle does not apply to any of the investments of these Sub-Funds at this stage.

The minimum underlying environmentally sustainable investments of the Sub-Funds categorized Article 8 Sub-Funds investing in sustainable assets under SFDR should represent 0% of each Sub-Fund's assets (including in enabling and transitional activities).

The ESG data used in the investment process of Sub-Funds qualifying as article 8 under SFDR are based on ESG methodologies which rely in part on third party data, and in some cases are internally developed. They are subjective and may change over time. Despite several initiatives, the lack of harmonized definitions can make ESG criteria heterogeneous. As such, the different investment strategies that use ESG criteria and ESG reporting are difficult to compare with each other. Strategies that incorporate ESG criteria and those that incorporate sustainable development criteria may use ESG data that appear similar but which should be distinguished because their calculation method may be different. AXA IM's different ESG methodologies described herein may evolve in the future to take into account (among others) any improvements in data availability and reliability, or any developments of regulations or other external frameworks or initiatives.

The classification of the Sub-Funds under SFDR may be subject to adjustments and amendments, since SFDR has come into force recently only and certain aspects of SFDR may be subject to new and/or different interpretations than those existing at the date of this Prospectus. As part of the ongoing assessment and current process of classifying its financial products under SFDR, the Management Company reserves the right, in accordance with and within the limits of applicable regulations and of the Fund's legal documentation, to update the classification of the Sub-Funds from time to time to reflect changes in market practice, its own interpretations, SFDR-related laws or regulations or currently applicable delegated regulations, communications from national or European authorities or court decisions clarifying SFDR interpretations. Investors are reminded that they should not base their investment decisions on the information presented under SFDR only.

## **INVESTMENT OBJECTIVES AND POLICIES**

### **1. Investment Objectives and Policies of the Fund**

The investment objective of the Fund is to realize a high level of current income through investing in a portfolio of fixed-income securities.

The Fund will seek to achieve its objective, in accordance with the policies and guidelines established by the Directors by investing primarily in fixed-income securities of companies domiciled in Europe and in the United States.

The Fund complies with the exclusion policies of AXA Investment Managers and applies the "Sector Investment Guidelines" available on the following website: [www.axa-im.com](http://www.axa-im.com).

As more fully described in each relevant Appendix, each Sub-Fund will primarily invest in US or Euro-denominated fixed-income securities with a potential to provide a high return and diversification to reduce overall risks or otherwise to meet the Sub-Fund's investment objective, such as but not limited to:

*Government bonds and bonds issued by governmental organizations.* Primarily government bonds issued by Member States or by the United States government. Those governments issue or guarantee bonds, retaining a power to levy taxes. Their credit ratings vary depending on their nation's fiscal health. A Sub-Fund may also invest in Euro-denominated securities issued by governments of non-Member States and governmental organisation issuers.

*US or Euro-denominated corporate bonds.* The need for direct corporate financing via financial markets has resulted in a sharp increase in corporate issuance. Companies outside of the EU, such as Japan and the United States also issue Euro-denominated bonds in order to diversify the currency risks associated with corporate financing and to facilitate the expansion of their business

activities in Europe.

*US or Euro-denominated Pfandbriefe issues.* Pfandbriefe are collateralized asset backed bonds, backed by private mortgages or public sector loans, initially developed in Germany. Pfandbriefe are issued by commercial banks, mortgage banks, local government banks and German local governmental banks. Pfandbriefe-holders retain claims for collateral. If a Pfandbriefe issuer defaults, the collateral is used to reimburse the Pfandbriefe, and the residual will pass to the defaulting organization's assets.

*US or Euro-denominated asset backed securities ("ABS"), mortgage backed securities ("MBS") and commercial mortgage backed securities ("CMBS").* Each Sub-Fund may invest in investment grade ABS, MBS and CMBS. ABS, MBS and CMBS are bonds or notes backed by loan paper or accounts receivable. ABS are the securitization of cash flows from such financial assets. MBS are securities backed by cash flows from home loans and sold to investors. Depending upon the issuer's lines of business, those financial assets could be notes issued by private sector institutions or banks. CMBS are simply MBS structures that are backed by commercial mortgage loans. A CMBS is a securitization of commercial (office building) loans. Depending on whether there is a guarantee on the principal interest payments, the bond becomes either secured or non-secured debt.

*High Yield Debt Securities.* To the extent the same is explicitly provided for in the relevant Appendix, each Sub-Fund may invest in non-investment grade high yield corporate bonds which are rated below BBB-/Baa3 by Standard & Poor's ("S&P") or Moody's or determined by the relevant Investment Manager to be of comparable quality (if unrated by these rating organisations) at the time of investment.

*Collateralized debt obligations ("CDOs").* To the extent the same is explicitly provided for in the relevant Appendix, each Sub-Fund may invest in CDOs, which are structured products backed by a diversified pool of public or private fixed income securities, loans, asset-backed securities or mortgage-backed securities and credit derivatives transactions such as credit default swap. The underlying pool of loans or securities is typically separated into tranches representing different degrees of credit quality. The top tranches of CDOs which represent their highest credit quality, have the greatest collateralization and pay the lowest interest rate. Lower CDO tranches represent lower degrees of credit quality and pay higher interest rates to compensate for the attendant risks. The bottom tranche specifically receives the residual interest payments (i.e. money that is left over after the higher tiers have been paid) rather than a fixed interest rate. The return on the bottom tranche of CDOs is especially sensitive to the rate of defaults in the collateral pool.

The Fund may hold Cash on an ancillary basis.

The Fund may, in each Sub-Fund, also invest in Money Market Instruments, money market funds and bank deposits, as more fully described in each relevant Appendix.

For hedging and efficient portfolio management purposes, the Fund may, in each Sub-Fund, employ techniques and instruments relating to Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments, as more fully described in each relevant Appendix.

There can be no assurance that the Fund's investments will be successful or that the investment objectives of the Fund will be achieved. See "Risk Considerations" for a discussion of certain factors in connection with an investment in the Fund.

## 2. Investment Objectives and Policies of the Sub-Funds

The Directors have determined the investment objective and policies of each Sub-Fund as described in Appendices below.

A Sub-Fund may invest in the categories of permitted investments as described in its investment objective and policy for the purposes of achieving its investment objective, hedging and efficient portfolio management.

There can be no assurance that the investment objective for any Sub-Fund will be attained. Pursuit of the investment objective and policies of any Sub-Fund must be in compliance with the rules and restrictions set forth under sections "Investment Restrictions" and "Efficient Portfolio Management Techniques" below.

### **RISK MANAGEMENT PROCESS**

The Investment Manager has established compliance and risk management procedures to ensure compliance with applicable laws, investment policies and strategies of each Sub-Fund.

*In accordance with the Law of 2010 and the applicable regulations, the Management Company shall use a risk-management process which enables it to assess the exposure of each Sub-Fund to market, liquidity and counterparty risks, and to all other risks, including operational risks, which are material for the Sub-Funds.*

*As part of the risk management process, the Management Company uses the commitment approach to monitor and measure the global exposure of each Sub-Fund unless otherwise provided for under the relevant Appendix. This approach measures the global exposure related to positions on financial derivative instruments ("FDIs") and other efficient portfolio management techniques which may not exceed the total net value of the portfolio of the relevant Sub-Fund.*

### **RISK CONSIDERATIONS**

In general, the Fund will be subject to the risks associated with fixed-income securities. For further risk considerations relating to any Sub-Fund, please refer to the relevant sections in Appendices below.

These risks include but are not limited to interest rate risk, credit risk and call/extension risk.

**Capital Erosion** Dividends of Distribution "gr", Distribution "fl", and Distribution "st" Unit(s) carry the risk of capital erosion since expenses may be taken from the capital. Where the expenses taken are greater than the income generated by the relevant Unit Class, these expenses will be taken from the capital of concerned Unit(s). Investors in such Unit(s) should be aware that any payment of distributions out of the capital of a Unit Class results in a decrease in the NAV per Unit and further reduces the capital available for capital growth.

**Interest Rate Risk.** The Net Asset Value of the Fund will change in response to fluctuations in interest rates. Interest rate risk involves the risk that when interest rates decline, the market value of fixed-income securities tends to increase. Conversely, when interest rates increase, the market value of fixed-income securities tends to decline. Long-term fixed-income securities will normally have more price volatility because of this risk than short-term securities. A rise in interest rates generally can be expected to depress the value of the Fund's investments.

The Fund shall be actively managed to mitigate market risk, but it is not guaranteed to be able to accomplish its objective at any given period.

**Credit Risk.** Credit risk involves the risk that an issuer of fixed-income securities held by the Fund (which may have low credit ratings) may default on its obligations to pay interest and repay principal, and the Fund will not recover its investment.

**Derivatives Risk.** A Sub-Fund may use both listed and OTC derivatives for investment or hedging purposes. Transactions in options, futures, options on futures, swaps, interest rate caps, floors and collars, structured securities, inverse floating-rate securities, and currency transactions including bonds forwards, currency forwards involve additional risk of loss. These instruments are volatile and may be subject to various types of risks, including but not limited to market risk, liquidity risk, credit risk, counterparty risk, legal risk and operations risks. In addition, the use of derivatives can involve significant economic leverage and may, in some cases, involve significant risks of loss. Loss can result from a lack of correlation between changes in the value of derivative instruments and the Sub-Fund assets (if any) being hedged, the potential illiquidity of the markets for derivative instruments, or the risks arising from margin requirements and related leverage factors associated with such transactions. The use of these management techniques also involves the risk of loss if the Investment Manager is incorrect in its expectation of fluctuations in securities prices, interest rates or currency prices. Furthermore, investment in OTC derivative instruments may have limited secondary markets liquidity and it may be difficult to assess the value of such a position and its exposure to risk. For these reasons, there can be no guarantee that strategies using derivative instruments will meet their expected target.

**CDO's Risk.** Securities issued by CDOs («CDO Securities») are generally limited recourse obligations of the issuers thereof payable solely from the underlying assets («CDO Assets») of the relevant issuer or proceeds thereof. Consequently, holders of CDO Securities including the Fund must rely solely on distributions on the CDO Assets or proceeds thereof for payment in respect thereof. In addition, interest payments on CDO Securities (other than the most senior tranche or tranches of a given issue) are generally subject to deferral. If distributions on the CDO Assets (or, in the case of a market value CDO Security - as explained hereinafter) - proceeds from the sale of the CDO Assets) are insufficient to make payments on the CDO Securities, no other assets will be available for payment of the deficiency and following realization of the underlying assets, the obligations of the issuer of the related CDO Security to pay such deficiency including to the Fund will be extinguished.

With a market value CDO deal, principal and interest payments to investors come from both collateral cash flows as well as sales of collateral. Payments to tranches are not contingent on the adequacy of the collateral's cash flows, but rather the adequacy of its market value. Should the market value of collateral drop below a certain level, payments are suspended to the equity tranche. If it falls even further, more senior tranches are impacted. An advantage of a market value CDO is the added flexibility they afford the portfolio manager. It is not constrained by a need to match the cash flows of collateral to those of the various tranches.

CDO Assets consist primarily of non-investment grade loans, interests in non-investment grade loans, high yield debt securities and other debt instruments, which are subject to liquidity, market value, credit, interest rate, reinvestment and certain other risks. The CDO Assets will generally be subject to greater risks than investment-grade corporate obligations. Such investments are normally considered speculative in nature. CDO Assets are typically actively managed by an investment manager, and as a result CDO Assets will be traded, subject to rating agency and other constraints, by such investment managers. The aggregate return on the CDO Assets will depend in part upon the ability of the relevant investment manager to actively manage the related portfolio of the CDO Assets.

The CDO Assets will be subject to certain portfolio restrictions as set forth herein. However, the concentration of the CDO Assets in any one security type subjects the holders of CDOs to a greater degree of risk with respect to defaults on the CDO Assets.

The CDO Assets are subject to credit, liquidity, market value, interest rate and certain other risks. These risks could be exacerbated to the extent that the portfolio is concentrated in one or more particular CDO Assets.

CDO Securities are in general privately placed and offer less liquidity than other investment- grade or high-yield corporate debt. They are also generally issued in structured transactions with risks different from regular corporate debt. In addition, the assets collateralizing market value CDO Securities are subject to liquidation upon the failure of certain tests, and it is likely that any such liquidation would result in a substantial loss of value of the related market value CDO Securities.

Prices of the CDO Assets may be volatile and will generally fluctuate due to a variety of factors that are inherently difficult to predict, including but not limited to changes in interest rates, prevailing credit spreads, general economic conditions, financial market conditions, domestic and international economic or political events, developments or trends in any particular industry, and the financial condition of the obligors of the CDO Assets. In addition, the ability of the issuer to sell CDO Assets prior to maturity is subject to certain restrictions set forth in the offering and constitutive documents of the relevant CDO.

***Call (Pre-payment)/Extension Risk.*** Call risk involves the risk that an issuer will exercise its right to pay principal on an obligation held by the Fund earlier than expected. This may happen when there is a decline in interest rates. Under these circumstances, the Fund may be unable to recoup all of its initial investment and will also suffer from having to reinvest in lower yielding securities. Extension risk involves the risk that an issuer will exercise its right to pay principal on an obligation held by the Fund later than expected. This may happen when there is a rise in interest rates. Under these circumstances, the value of the obligation will decrease, and the Fund will also suffer from the inability to invest in higher yielding securities.

***Currency hedging and Contagion risk.*** Many Sub-Funds have Unit Classes denominated in currencies different from the Sub-Fund's Reference Currency. For currency hedged Unit Classes, there is no guarantee that the hedging strategy will be effective and will be a perfect hedge. Currency hedged Unit classes may incur losses due to their specific hedging strategy, which will primarily be borne by this Unit Class holders but may, in specific adverse scenario and despite mitigation procedures in place, impact the other Unit Class holders in the Sub-Fund.

***Risks of Global Investments.*** Investment in securities of issuers from different countries and denominated in different currencies offers potential benefits not available from investments solely in securities of issuers from a single country, but also involves significant risks that are not typically associated with investing in the securities of issuers located in a single country. Investments may be affected by changes in currency rates, changes in laws or restrictions applicable to such investments and changes in exchange control regulations (e.g., currency blockage). A decline in the exchange rate of the currency in which a Fund security is quoted or denominated relative to the base currency of the Fund would reduce the value of the Fund security. In addition, if the currency in which the Fund receives dividends, interest or other payments declines in value against the base currency of the Fund before such income is distributed as dividends to Unitholders or converted to such base currency, the Fund may have to sell securities to obtain sufficient cash to pay such dividends.

Issuers are generally subject to different accounting, auditing and financial reporting standards in different countries throughout the world. The volume of trading, the volatility of prices and the liquidity of issuers may vary in the markets of different countries. In addition, the level of government supervision and regulation of securities exchanges, securities dealers and listed and unlisted companies is different throughout the world. The laws of some countries may limit the Fund's ability to invest in securities of certain issuers located in those countries.

Different markets have different clearance and settlement procedures. Delays in settlement could result in temporary periods when a portion of the Fund's assets is uninvested and no return is earned thereon. The inability of the Fund to make intended security purchases due to settlement problems could cause the Fund to miss attractive investment opportunities. Inability to dispose of Fund securities due to settlement problems could result either in losses to the Fund due to subsequent declines in value of the Fund security or, if the Fund has entered into a contract to sell the security, could result in possible liability to the purchaser.

With respect to certain countries, there is a possibility of expropriation or confiscatory taxation, imposition of withholding taxes on dividend or interest payments, limitations on the removal of funds or other assets of the Fund, political or social instability or diplomatic developments that could affect investments in those countries.

An issuer of securities may be domiciled in a country other than a country in whose currency the instrument is denominated. The values and relative yields of investments in the securities markets of different countries, and their associated risks, are expected to change independently of each other. Investment in sovereign debt obligations by the Fund involves risks not present in debt obligations of corporate issuers. The issuer of the debt or the governmental authorities that control the repayment of the debt may be unable or unwilling to repay principal or interest when due in accordance with the terms of such debt, and the Fund may have limited recourse to compel payment in the event of a default. Periods of economic uncertainty may result in volatility of market prices of sovereign debt, and in turn the Fund's Net Asset Value. A sovereign debtor's willingness or ability to repay principal and pay interest in a timely manner may be affected by, among other factors, its cash flow situation, the extent of its foreign currency reserves, the availability of sufficient foreign exchange on the date a payment is due, the relative size of the debt service burden to the economy as a whole, the sovereign debtor's policy toward international lenders, and the political constraints to which a sovereign debtor may be subject.

***Risks linked to securities lending and repurchase or reverse repurchase agreement transactions.*** The Sub-Funds may enter into securities lending and repurchase or reverse repurchase agreement transactions, and may be subject to counterparty risk. The loaned securities may not be returned or returned in a timely manner and/or at a loss of rights in the collateral if the borrower or the lending agent defaults or fails financially. The Sub-Funds may suffer significant losses.

***Risk of failure to produce the intended results.*** There is the risk that a strategy used by the Investment Manager may fail to produce the intended results.

***Liquidity Risk.*** There is the risk that the Fund will not be able to pay repurchase proceeds within the time period stated in the Prospectus, because of unusual market conditions, an unusually high volume of repurchase requests, or other reasons.

***Management risk*** For any given Sub-Fund, there is a risk that investment techniques and or strategies are unsuccessful and may incur losses for the Sub-Fund. Unitholders will have no right or power to participate in the day-to-day management or control of the business of the Sub-Funds, nor an opportunity to evaluate the specific investments made by the Sub-Funds or the terms of any of such investments.

Past performance is not a reliable indicator as to future performance. The nature of and risks associated with the Sub-Fund's future performance may differ materially from those investments and strategies historically undertaken by the investment manager. There can be no assurance that the investment manager will realise returns comparable to those achieved in the past or generally available on the market.

***Counterparty Risk.*** This is the risk of default (or counterparty's failure to perform any of its obligations) of any counterparties of the Fund to any OTC financial derivatives transactions and/or securities lending and repurchase agreements transactions.

The counterparty's default (or the counterparty's failure to perform any of its obligations) under these transactions may have a material adverse effect on the Net Asset Value of the Fund.

***Collateral management.*** Counterparty risk arising from investments in OTC financial derivative instruments and securities lending, repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements is generally mitigated by the transfer or pledge of collateral in favour of the Sub-Fund. However, transactions may not be fully collateralised. Fees and returns due to the Sub-Fund may not be collateralised. If a counterparty defaults, the Sub-Fund may need to sell non-cash collateral received at prevailing market prices. In such a case the Sub-Fund could realise a loss due, inter alia, to inaccurate pricing or monitoring of the collateral, adverse market movements, deterioration in the credit rating of issuers of the collateral or illiquidity of the market on which the collateral is traded. Difficulties in selling collateral may delay or restrict the ability of the Sub-Fund to meet redemption requests.

A Sub-Fund may also incur a loss in reinvesting cash collateral received, where permitted. Such a loss may arise due to a decline in the value of the investments made. A decline in the value of such investments would reduce the amount of collateral available to be returned by the Sub-Fund to the counterparty as required by the terms of the transaction. The Sub-Fund would be required to cover the difference in value between the collateral originally received and the amount available to be returned to the counterparty, thereby resulting in a loss to the Sub-Fund.



***Risks linked to SFT (temporary purchase and sale of securities) and risks linked to financial guarantees (collateral).*** SFT and related collateral may create risks for the Sub-Fund such as (i) counterparty risk (as described above), (ii) legal risk, (iii) custody risk, (iv) liquidity risk (i.e. risk resulting from the difficulty to buy, sell, terminate or value an asset or a transaction due to a lack of buyers, sellers, or counterparties), and, if relevant, (v) risks arising from the reuse of such collateral (i.e. mainly the risk that such collateral posted by the Sub-Fund might not be returned due to the failure of the counterparty for example).

***Risk on Cross Class Liabilities for all unit classes.*** Although there is an accounting attribution of assets and liabilities to the relevant Class, there is no legal segregation with respect to Classes of the same Sub-Fund. Therefore, if the liabilities of a Class exceed its assets, creditors of said Class of the Sub-Fund may seek to have recourse to the assets attributable to the other Classes of the same Sub-Fund.

As there is an accounting attribution of assets and liabilities without any legal segregation amongst Classes, a transaction relating to a Class could affect the other Classes of the same Sub-Fund.

***Political, regulatory, economic and convertibility risks.*** Some geographical areas in which the Fund may invest (including but not limited to Asia, the Eurozone and the US) may be affected by economic or political events or measures, changes in government policies, laws or tax regulations, currency convertibility, or by currency redenomination, restrictions on foreign investments, and more generally by economic and financial difficulties. In such contexts, volatility, liquidity, credit, and currency risks may increase and adversely impact the Net Asset Value of the Fund.

***Central Securities Depositories.*** In accordance with the UCITS Directive, entrusting the custody of the Fund's assets to the operator of a securities settlement system ("SSS") is not considered as a delegation by the Depositary and the depositary is exempted from the strict liability of restitution of assets. A central securities depository ("CSD") being a legal person that operates a SSS and provides in addition other core services should not be considered as a delegate of the Depositary irrespective of the fact that the custody of the Fund's assets have been entrusted to it. There is however some uncertainty around the meaning to be given to such exemption, the scope of which may be interpreted narrowly by some supervisory authorities, notably the European supervisory authorities.

***144A securities risk.*** Some Sub-Funds may invest in restricted securities, in particular in 144A securities. 144A securities benefit from an exemption from the registration obligation laid down by the 1933 "Securities Act" of the United States of America. These securities are restricted for resale to Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIBs), as defined by the 1933 "Securities Act" of the United States of America; therefore, administrative expenses are reduced due to this exemption.

The 144A securities are traded between a limited number of QIBs, which may cause a higher price volatility and a lower asset liquidity of certain 144A securities.

### ***Sustainability Risks.***

The Fund uses an approach to Sustainability Risks that is derived from the deep integration of ESG (environment, social and governance) criteria in its research and investment processes. For all the Sub-Funds within the Fund and according to the investment strategy of each Sub-Fund, it has implemented a framework to integrate Sustainability Risks in investment decisions based on sustainability factors which relies notably on:

- Sectorial or/and normative exclusions
- ESG scoring methodologies

**Sectorial and normative exclusions** In order to manage ESG and sustainability tail-risks, the Fund has implemented a series of exclusion-based policies. These policies are aimed at managing ESG and sustainability tail-risks, with a focus on:

- E: Climate (coal and tar sands), Biodiversity (ecosystem protection and deforestation),
- S: Health (Tobacco) and Human Rights (Controversial and White Phosphorus Weapons, violations of international norms and standards, countries with severe human rights violations)
- G: corruption (violations of international norms and standards, severe controversies and violations of United Nation Global Compact principles).

All Sub-Funds have implemented the following sectorial exclusion policies: Controversial Weapons, Soft Commodities, Ecosystem Protection and Deforestation, Climate Risks and Tobacco.

Sub-Funds which have ESG characteristics or which have sustainable investment as their objective have implemented additional ESG exclusions (White Phosphorus Weapons, violations of international norms and standards, breach of United Nation Global Compact principles, severe controversies, countries with severe human rights violation, low ESG quality).

All these exclusion policies aim to systematically address the most severe Sustainability Risks into the investment decision-making process. They may evolve over time. Detail of the restrictions and related criteria is available at: <https://www.axa-im.com/our-policies-and-reports>.

**ESG scoring** AXA IM has implemented scoring methodologies to rate issuers on ESG criteria (corporates, sovereigns, green, social and sustainability bonds).

These methodologies are based on quantitative data from several data providers and have been obtained from non-financial information published by issuers and sovereigns as well as internal and external research. The data used in these methodologies include carbon emissions, water stress, health and safety at work, supply chain labour standards, business ethics, corruption and instability. The corporate scoring methodology relies on a three-pillar and several sub-factors that covers the main issues encountered by businesses in the E, S and G fields. The frame of reference draws on fundamental principles, such as the United Nations Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines, the International Labour Organisation conventions, and other international principles and conventions that guide companies' activities in the field of sustainable development and social responsibility. The analysis is based on the most material ESG risks and opportunities previously identified for each sector and company, with 10 factors: Climate Change, Natural Capital, Pollution and Waste, Environmental Opportunities, Human Capital, Product Liability, Stakeholder Opposition, Social Opportunities, Corporate Governance and Corporate Behavior. The final ESG score also incorporates the concept of industry-dependent factors and deliberately differentiates between sectors, to overweight the most material factors for each industry. Materiality is not limited to impacts relating to a company's operations, it also includes the impacts on external stakeholders as well as the underlying reputational risk arising from a poor grasp of major ESG issues.

In the corporate methodology, the severity of controversies are assessed and monitored on an ongoing basis to make sure that the most material risks are reflected in the final ESG score. The controversies with high severity will trigger large penalties on the sub-factor scores and ultimately on the ESG scores. These ESG scores provide a standardized and holistic view on the performance of issuers on ESG factors and enable to both promote Environmental and Social factors and further incorporate ESG risks and opportunities in the investment decision.

One of the main limitations of this approach is related to the limited availability of data relevant to assess Sustainability Risks: such data is not yet systematically disclosed by issuers, and when disclosed may follow various methodologies. The investor should be aware that most of the ESG factors information is based on historical data and that they may not reflect the future ESG performance or risks of the investments.

The ESG rating is fully integrated in the investment process of the Fund for taking into account ESG criteria in the investment strategy as well as to monitor the sustainability risk on the basis of the Fund's average ESG score.

For more details on the approach of integration of Sustainability Risks in investment decisions and the assessment of the likely impact of Sustainability Risks on each Sub-Fund's returns, please refer to the SFDR section of [www.axa-im.com](http://www.axa-im.com).

## MANAGEMENT OF THE FUND

AXA Investment Managers Paris is the Management Company of the Fund. AXA Investment Managers Paris is an AXA Group company and a subsidiary of AXA Investment Managers S.A. authorized as management company by the *Autorité des marchés financiers* (AMF) under number GP92008. As at the date of this Prospectus, the Management Company also manages other funds, the list of which is available upon request at the registered office of the Management Company.

The Management Company is a public limited company ("*société anonyme*") registered under the number 353 534 506 (R.C.S. Nanterre) and has its registered office at Tour Majunga, La Défense 9, 6, place de la Pyramide, 92800 Puteaux, France. Its share capital amounts to 1,654,406.00 Euros.

The Management Company was established on April 7, 1992 for an unlimited period of time.

The Management Company manages the assets of the Fund in compliance with the Management Regulations in its own name, but for the sole benefit of the unitholders of the Fund.

The Management Company will determine the investment policy of each Sub-Fund within the objectives and the restrictions set forth herein and/or in the Management Regulations.

The Management Company will have the broadest powers to administer and manage each Sub-Fund within the restrictions referred to above, including but not limited to the purchase, sale, subscription, exchange and receipt of securities and other assets permitted by law and the exercise of all rights attached directly or indirectly to the assets of the Fund.

The Management Company has delegated with prior notification of the Regulatory Authority and provided that it complies with all the conditions provided for by the Law of 2010 and that it retains responsibility and oversight over such delegates: (i) transfer agency and administration to third parties, as detailed below and (ii) investment management, marketing, internal audit to AXA Investment Managers intra-group entities. Risk management and compliance functions are carried out by the Management Company. The Management Company's liability towards the Fund and its investors shall not be affected by the fact that it has delegated its functions and duties to third parties or by any further sub-delegation.

The Sub-Funds AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies – US Corporate Intermediate Bonds and AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies - US High Yield B/BB are actively managed in reference to a benchmark index, as defined by the Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 8 June 2016 on indices used as benchmarks in financial instruments and financial contracts or to measure the performance of investment funds (“BMR”), according to the ESMA Q&A on application of the UCITS Directive (please refer to section “Investment Policy”) in the relevant appendices of the Sub-Funds).

As required by article 28(2) of BMR, the Management Company has adopted a written plan setting out actions, which it will take with respect to the Sub-Fund using a benchmark as defined by BMR in the event that the benchmark index materially changes or ceases to be provided (the “Contingency Plan”). You may access the Contingency Plan free of charge at the registered office of the Management Company.

At the date of the latest update of this prospectus, the Benchmark administrators as defined by BMR are listed in the ESMA Register that you may consult at <https://www.esma.europa.eu/benchmarks-register>.

## **INVESTMENT MANAGERS**

For each Sub-Fund, the Management Company has appointed an Investment Manager which is mentioned in the relevant Sub-Fund Appendix to act as such and make, subject to the overall control and ultimate responsibility of the Management Company, discretionary investments with respect to the investment and reinvestment of the assets of the relevant Sub-Fund.

The bond Sub-Funds are managed by management teams being part of AXA Investment Managers expertise “AXA Fixed Income”.

The Investment Manager makes the investment decisions for each Sub-Fund and places purchase and sale orders for the Sub-Fund’s transactions. As permitted by applicable laws, these orders may be directed to brokers, including the Investment Manager’s affiliates. The Investment Manager draws upon the research and expertise of its asset management affiliates for portfolio decisions and management with respect to certain Fund securities.

Subject to its overall responsibility, control, and supervision, the Investment Manager may, at its own charge, delegate the management of other investment strategies relating to the Fund or any Sub-Fund to a Sub-Investment Manager (with the prior approval of the Regulatory Authority) or appoint a sub-adviser providing day-to-day advice regarding the Sub-Funds’ transactions to the Investment Manager.

The Investment Manager will be paid by the Management Company out of its management fee as from time to time agreed between themselves.

In addition, under the terms of a Delegation Agreement dated 15 February 2013, as the same may be amended from time to time, the Management Company has appointed AXA Investment Managers GS Limited as the agent of the Fund responsible for the carrying out of the stock lending and repurchase agreements activities.

## **DEPOSITARY, PAYING AGENT, REGISTRAR AGENT AND ADMINISTRATOR**

State Street Bank International GmbH, Luxembourg Branch,  
49, Avenue J.F. Kennedy

L - 1855 Luxembourg  
Grand Duchy of Luxembourg

The rights and duties of the Depositary are governed by the depositary agreement dated 18 March 2016 (the “Depositary Agreement”). In performing its obligations under the Depositary Agreement, the Depositary shall observe and comply with (i) Luxembourg laws, (ii) the Depositary Agreement and (iii) the terms of this Prospectus. Furthermore, in carrying out its role as depositary bank, the Depositary must act solely in the interest of the Fund and of its Unitholders.

State Street Bank International GmbH, acting through its Luxembourg Branch has been appointed as the Depositary of the Fund within the meaning of the Law of 2010 pursuant to the Depositary Agreement. State Street Bank International GmbH is a limited liability company organized under the laws of Germany, having its registered office at Brienner Str. 59, 80333 München, Germany and registered with the commercial register court, Munich under number HRB 42872. It is a credit institution supervised by the European Central Bank (ECB), the German Federal Financial Services Supervisory Authority (BaFin) and the German Central Bank. State Street Bank International GmbH, Luxembourg Branch is authorized by the CSSF in Luxembourg to act as depositary and is specialized in depositary, fund administration, and related services. State Street Bank International GmbH, Luxembourg Branch is registered in the Luxembourg Commercial and Companies’ Register (RCS) under number B 148 186. State Street Bank International GmbH is a member of the State Street group of companies having as its ultimate parent State Street Corporation, a US publicly listed company.

### **Depositary functions**

The relationship between the Fund and the Depositary is subject to the terms of the Depositary Agreement. Under the terms of the Depositary Agreement, the Depositary is entrusted with following main functions:

- ensuring that the sale, issue, repurchase, redemption and cancellation of Units are carried out in accordance with applicable law and the Management Regulations;
- ensuring that the value of the units of the Fund is calculated in accordance with applicable law and the Management Regulations;
- carrying out the instructions of the Management Company/ the Fund, unless they conflict with applicable law and the Management Regulations;
- ensuring that in transactions involving the assets of the Fund any consideration is remitted within the usual time limits;
- ensuring that the Fund’s income is applied in accordance with applicable law and the Management Regulations;
- monitoring of the Fund’s cash and cash flows; and
- safe-keeping of the Fund’s assets, including the safe-keeping of financial instruments to be held in custody and ownership verification and record keeping in relation to other assets.

### **Depositary’s liability**

In the event of a loss of a financial instrument held in custody, determined in accordance with the UCITS Directive, and in particular Article 18 of the UCITS Regulation 2016/438 of 17 December 2015 supplementing Directive 2009/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council with regard to obligations of depositaries, the Depositary shall return financial instruments of identical type or the corresponding amount to the Fund acting on behalf of the Fund without undue delay.

The Depositary shall not be liable if it can prove that the loss of a financial instrument held in custody has arisen as a result of an external event beyond its reasonable control, the consequences

of which would have been unavoidable despite all reasonable efforts to the contrary pursuant to the UCITS Directive.

In case of a loss of financial instruments held in custody, the Unitholders may invoke the liability of the Depositary directly or indirectly through the Fund provided that this does not lead to a duplication of redress or to unequal treatment of the Unitholders.

The Depositary will be liable to the Fund for all other losses suffered by the Fund as a result of the Depositary's negligent or intentional failure to properly fulfil its obligations pursuant to the UCITS Directive.

The Depositary shall not be liable for consequential or indirect or special damages or losses, arising out of or in connection with the performance or non-performance by the Depositary of its duties and obligations.

The Management Company has agreed to indemnify and hold harmless the Depositary and its employees, officers and directors from any and all reasonable costs, liabilities and expenses resulting directly from the fact that they have been acting as agent of the Fund in accordance with instructions received from the Management Company, except in case of negligence, intentional failure or in the event such indemnification would be contrary to mandatory provisions in Luxembourg laws. The Management Company will also indemnify and hold the Depositary harmless from any and all taxes, charges, expenses (including reasonable legal fees), assessments, claims or liabilities incurred by the Depositary or its delegates, or the Depositary's or the delegates' agents and correspondents, in connection with the performance of the services described in the Depositary Agreement, except if such taxes, charges, expenses, assessments, claims or liabilities arise from its or their negligent action, failure to exercise reasonable care in the performance of its or their services as specified in the Depositary Agreement or willful misconduct or in the case of any liability imposed by mandatory law.

## **Delegation**

The Depositary has full power to delegate the whole or any part of its safe-keeping functions, but its liability will not be affected by the fact that it has entrusted to a third party some or all of the assets in its safe-keeping. The Depositary's liability shall not be affected by any delegation of its safe-keeping functions under the Depositary Agreement.

The Depositary has delegated those safe-keeping duties set out in Article 22(5)(a) of the UCITS Directive to State Street Bank and Trust Company with registered office at One Lincoln Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02111, USA, whom it has appointed as its global sub-custodian. State Street Bank and Trust Company as global sub-custodian has appointed local sub-custodians within the State Street Global Custody Network.

Information about the safe-keeping functions which have been delegated and the identification of the relevant delegates and sub-delegates are available at the registered office of the Fund or at the following internet site: <https://www.statestreet.com/disclosures-and-disclaimers/lu/subcustodians>.

Updated information on delegation and sub-delegation including, a complete list of all (sub-) delegates and related conflicts of interest may be obtained, free of charge and upon request, from the Depositary.

Where the law of a third country requires that certain financial instruments be held in custody by a local entity and there are no local entities that satisfy the delegation requirement under the

UCITS Directive and its implementing measures, the Depositary may, but shall be under no obligation to, delegate to a local entity to the extent required by the law of such jurisdiction and as long as no other local entity meeting such requirements exists, provided however that (i) the investors, prior to their investment in the Fund, have been duly informed of the fact that such a delegation is required, of the circumstances justifying the delegation and of the risks involved in such a delegation and (ii) instructions to delegate to the relevant local entity have been given by or for the Management Company.

### **Conflicts of interest**

The Depositary is part of an international group of companies and businesses that, in the ordinary course of their business, act simultaneously for a large number of clients, as well as for their own account, which may result in actual or potential conflicts. Conflicts of interest arise where the Depositary or its affiliates engage in activities under the depositary agreement or under separate contractual or other arrangements. Such activities may include:

- (i) providing nominee, administration, registrar and transfer agency, research, agent securities lending, investment management, financial advice and/or other advisory services to the Fund;
- (ii) engaging in banking, sales and trading transactions including foreign exchange, derivative, principal lending, broking, market making or other financial transactions with the Fund either as principal and in the interests of itself, or for other clients.

In connection with the above activities the Depositary or its affiliates:

- (i) will seek to profit from such activities and are entitled to receive and retain any profits or compensation in any form and are not bound to disclose to, the Fund, the nature or amount of any such profits or compensation including any fee, charge, commission, revenue share, spread, mark-up, mark-down, interest, rebate, discount, or other benefit received in connection with any such activities;
- (ii) may buy, sell, issue, deal with or hold, securities or other financial instruments as principal acting in its own interests, the interests of its affiliates or for its other clients;
- (iii) may trade in the same or opposite direction to the transactions undertaken, including based upon information in its possession that is not available to the Fund;
- (iv) may provide the same or similar services to other clients including competitors of the Fund;
- (v) may be granted creditors' rights by the Fund which it may exercise.

The Management Company may use an affiliate of the Depositary to execute foreign exchange, spot or swap transactions for the account of the Fund. In such instances the affiliate shall be acting in a principal capacity and not as a broker, agent or fiduciary of the Fund. The affiliate will seek to profit from these transactions and is entitled to retain and not disclose any profit to the Fund. The affiliate shall enter into such transactions on the terms and conditions agreed with the Management Company on behalf of the Fund.

Where cash belonging to the Fund is deposited with an affiliate being a bank, a potential conflict arises in relation to the interest (if any) which the affiliate may pay or charge to such account and the fees or other benefits which it may derive from holding such cash as banker and not as trustee. The Management Company may also be a client or counterparty of the Depositary or its affiliates.

Potential conflicts that may arise in the Depositary's use of sub-custodians include four broad categories:

- i) conflicts from the sub-custodian selection and asset allocation among multiple sub-custodians influenced by (a) cost factors, including lowest fees charged, fee rebates or similar incentives and (b) broad two-way commercial relationships in which the

- Depository may act based on the economic value of the broader relationship, in addition to objective evaluation criteria;
- ii) sub-custodians, both affiliated and non-affiliated, act for other clients and in their own proprietary interest, which might conflict with clients' interests;
  - iii) sub-custodians, both affiliated and non-affiliated, have only indirect relationships with clients and look to the Depository as its counterparty, which might create incentive for the Depository to act in its self-interest, or other clients' interests to the detriment of clients; and
  - iv) sub-custodians may have market-based creditors' rights against client assets that they have an interest in enforcing if not paid for securities transactions.

In carrying out its duties the Depository shall act honestly, fairly, professionally, independently and solely in the interests of the Fund and its Unitholder.

The Depository has functionally and hierarchically separated the performance of its depository tasks from its other potentially conflicting tasks. The system of internal controls, the different reporting lines, the allocation of tasks and the management reporting allow potential conflicts of interest and the Depository issues to be properly identified, managed and monitored. Additionally, in the context of the Depository's use of sub-custodians, the Depository imposes contractual restrictions to address some of the potential conflicts and maintains due diligence and oversight of sub-custodians to ensure a high level of client service by those agents. The Depository further provides frequent reporting on clients' activity and holdings, with the underlying functions subject to internal and external control audits. Finally, the Depository internally separates the performance of its custodial tasks from its proprietary activity and follows a Standard of Conduct that requires employees to act ethically, fairly and transparently with clients.

Up-to-date information on the Depository, its duties, any conflicts that may arise, the safe-keeping functions delegated by the depository, the list of delegates and sub-delegates and any conflicts of interest that may arise from such a delegation will be made available to Unitholders on request.

## **Termination**

Each of the Management Company or the Depository may terminate the Depository Agreement on 180 calendar days' prior written notice. The Depository Agreement may also be terminated on shorter notice in certain circumstances. However, the Depository shall continue to act as Depository for up to two months pending a replacement depository being appointed and until such replacement, the Depository shall take all necessary steps to ensure the good preservation of the interests of the Unitholders of the Fund and allow the transfer of all assets of the Fund to the succeeding depository.

## **Disclaimer**

The Depository has no decision-making discretion relating to the Fund's investments. The Depository is a service provider to the Management Company and is not responsible for the preparation of this Prospectus, or the activities of the Fund and therefore accepts no responsibility for the accuracy of any information contained in this Prospectus.

In accordance with the Law of 2010, the Management Company has entered into an operating memorandum with the Depository to regulate the flow of information deemed necessary to allow the Depository to perform its obligations under the Depository Agreement and the Law of 2010.



## **Domiciliary and Administration Agent, Registrar and Transfer Agent, Paying Agent**

The Management Company has appointed State Street Bank International GmbH, acting through its Luxembourg Branch also as administrative, registrar and transfer agent and as domiciliary and paying agent of the Fund (the “Administrator”) pursuant to the agreement relating to administration agency, domiciliary, corporate and paying agency, registrar and transfer agency and investment compliance testing dated 27 February 2014 as amended (the “Administration Agreement”).

The relationship between the Fund, the Management Company and the Administrator is subject to the terms of the Administration Agreement. Under the terms of the Administration Agreement, the Administrator will carry out all general administrative duties related to the administration of the Fund required by Luxembourg law, calculate the Net Asset Value per Unit, maintain the accounting records of the Fund, process all subscriptions, redemptions, conversions, and transfers of Units, register these transactions in the register of Unitholders as well as produce and/or deliver documents intended for investors. In addition, as registrar and transfer agent of the Fund, the Administrator is also responsible for collecting the required information and performing verifications on investors to comply with applicable anti-money laundering rules and regulations.

In the same agreement as the one which governs the rights and duties of the registrar agent and the administrator, the Management Company has further appointed State Street Bank International GmbH, Luxembourg Branch as paying agent responsible for the payment of distributions, if any, and for the payment of the redemption price by the Fund.

The Administrator is not responsible for any investment decisions of the Fund or the effect of such investment decisions on the performance of the Fund.

The Administration Agreement has no fixed duration and each party may, in principle, terminate the agreement on not less than ninety (90) calendar days’ prior written notice. The Administration Agreement may also be terminated on shorter notice in certain circumstances, for instance where one party commits a material breach of a material clause of the Administration Agreement. The Administration Agreement may be terminated by the Management Company with immediate effect if this is deemed by the Management Company to be in the interest of the investors. The Administration Agreement contains provisions exempting the Administrator from liability and indemnifying the Administrator in certain circumstances. However, the liability of the Administrator towards the Management Company and the Fund will not be affected by any delegation of functions by the Administrator.

## **MANAGEMENT REGULATIONS**

By acquiring Units in the Fund, every Unitholder approves and fully accepts that the Management Regulations shall govern the relationship between the Unitholders, the Management Company and the Depositary.

Subject to the approval of the Depositary, the Management Regulations may be amended by the Management Company at any time, in whole or in part.

Unless otherwise specified within the Management Regulations regarding the effective date of any of such amendments, these will become effective as per the date of their signature by the Management Company and the Depositary.

While managing the assets of the Fund, the Management Company, or its appointed agents, shall, as provided in the Management Regulations, comply with the restrictions mentioned in the following section.

### **INVESTMENT RESTRICTIONS**

The Directors shall, based upon the principle of risk spreading, have power to determine the investment policy for the investments for each Sub-Fund, the Reference Currency of a Sub-Fund and the course of conduct of the management and business affairs of the Fund.

For the purposes of this section, each Sub-Fund should be regarded as a separate UCITS.

Except to the extent that more restrictive rules are provided for in connection with a specific Sub-Fund as described in the relevant Appendices below, the investment policy of each Sub-Fund shall therefore comply with the rules and restrictions laid down hereafter:

#### **A. Investments in the Fund shall consist solely of:**

- (1) Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments listed or dealt in on a Regulated Market;
- (2) Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments dealt in on an Other Regulated Market in a Member State;
- (3) Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments admitted to official listing on a stock exchange in an Other State or dealt in on an Other Regulated Market in an Other State;
- (4) Recently issued Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments, provided that:
  - the terms of issue include an undertaking that application will be made for admission to official listing on a Regulated Market, a stock exchange in an Other State or on an Other Regulated Market as described under (1)-(3) above;
  - such admission is secured within one year of the issue;
- (5) Units of UCITS and/or other UCIs within the meaning of Article 1 (2) of the UCITS Directive, whether situated in a Member State or in an Other State, provided that:
  - such other UCIs are authorized under laws which provide that they are subject to supervision considered by the Regulatory Authority to be equivalent to that laid down in EU law, and that cooperation between authorities is sufficiently ensured;
  - the level of protection for unitholders in such other UCIs is equivalent to that provided for unitholders in a UCITS, and in particular that the rules on assets segregation, borrowing, lending, and uncovered sales of Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments are equivalent to the requirements of the UCITS Directive;
  - the business of the other UCIs is reported in half-yearly and annual reports to enable an assessment of the assets and liabilities, income and operations over the reporting period;
  - no more than 10% of the assets of the UCITS or of the other UCIs, whose acquisition is contemplated, can, according to their constitutional documents, in aggregate be invested in units of other UCITS or other UCIs;

(6) deposits with credit institutions which are repayable on demand or have the right to be withdrawn, and maturing in no more than 12 months, provided that the credit institution has its registered office in a Member State or, if the registered office of the credit institution is situated in an Other State, provided that it is subject to prudential rules considered by the Regulatory Authority as equivalent to those laid down in EU law. If a description of a Sub-Fund's investment policy is related to deposits, such reference means deposits under this item (f) / article 41 (1) of the Law of 2010 (excluding Cash);

(7) financial derivative instruments, e.g. in particular options, futures, including equivalent cash-settled instruments, dealt in on a Regulated Market, stock exchange in an Other State or on an Other Regulated Market referred to in (1), (2) and (3) above, and/or financial derivative instruments dealt in over-the-counter ("OTC derivatives"), provided that:

- (i) - the underlying consists of instruments covered by this Section A, financial indices, interest rates, foreign exchange rates or currencies, in which the Sub-Fund may invest according to its investment objectives;
- the counterparties to OTC derivative transactions are institutions subject to prudential supervision, and belonging to the categories approved by the Regulatory Authority; and
- the OTC derivatives are subject to reliable and verifiable valuation on a daily basis and can be sold, liquidated or closed by an offsetting transaction at any time at their fair value at the Fund's initiative;
- (ii) Under no circumstances shall these operations cause the Fund to diverge from its investment objectives.

(8) Money Market Instruments other than those dealt in on a Regulated Market or on an Other Regulated Market, to the extent that the issue or the issuer of such instruments is itself regulated for the purpose of protecting investors and savings, and provided that such instruments are:

- issued or guaranteed by a central, regional or local authority or by a central bank of a Member State, the European Central Bank, the EU or the European Investment Bank, an Other State or, in case of a Federal State, by one of the members making up the federation, or by a public international body to which one or more Member States belong; or
- issued by an undertaking any securities of which are dealt in on Regulated Markets or on Other Regulated Markets referred to in (1), (2) or (3) above; or
- issued or guaranteed by an establishment subject to prudential supervision, in accordance with criteria defined by EU law, or by an establishment which is subject to and complies with prudential rules considered by the Regulatory Authority to be at least as stringent as those laid down by EU law; or
- issued by other bodies belonging to the categories approved by the Regulatory Authority provided that investments in such instruments are subject to investor protection equivalent to that laid down in the first, the second or the third indent and provided that the issuer is a company whose capital and reserves amount to at least ten million euros (10,000,000 euros) and which presents and publishes its annual

accounts in accordance with directive 78/660/EEC, is an entity which, within a Group of Companies which includes one or several listed companies, is dedicated to the financing of the group or is an entity which is dedicated to the financing of securitisation vehicles which benefit from a banking liquidity line.

**B. Unless further restricted by the investment policies of a Sub-Fund as described in Appendices below, each Sub-Fund may however:**

- (1) Invest up to 10% of its net assets in Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments other than those referred to above under A (1) through (4) and (8).
- (2) Hold Cash up to 20% of its net assets on an ancillary basis in order to enable the payment of fees and expenses, the settlement of redemptions of Units, or the investment in eligible assets as set out under A(1)-(8) and B(1), or for a period of time strictly necessary in case of unfavourable market conditions, or any other purposes which may reasonably be regarded as ancillary. The Board may decide to exceptionally and temporarily exceed the limit of 20% for a period strictly necessary when, because of exceptionally unfavourable market conditions or other exceptional circumstances, the circumstances so require and where the Board considers this to be in the best interest of the Unitholders. Examples include, without being exhaustive, terrorist attacks (like the attacks on 11 September 2001), distress or failure of systematically important financial institutions (like the bankruptcy of Lehman Brothers in 2008), or restrictive measures and policies imposed by governments in response to public emergencies (like the lockdowns enforced globally in response to the Covid-19 pandemic).
- (3) Borrow up to 10% of its net assets, provided that such borrowings are made only on a temporary basis. Collateral arrangements with respect to the writing of options or the purchase or sale of forward or futures contracts are not deemed to constitute "borrowings" for the purpose of this restriction.
- (4) Acquire foreign currency by means of a back-to-back loan.

**C. In addition, the Fund shall comply in respect of the net assets of each Sub-Fund with the following investment restrictions per issuer:**

**(a) Risk Diversification rules**

For the purpose of calculating the restrictions described in (1) to (5) and (8) hereunder, companies which are included in the same Group of Companies are regarded as a single issuer.

To the extent an issuer is a legal entity with multiple sub-funds where the assets of a sub-fund are exclusively reserved to the investors in such sub-fund and to those creditors whose claim has arisen in connection with the creation, operation and liquidation of that sub-fund, each sub-fund is to be considered as a separate issuer for the purpose of the application of the risk spreading rules described under items (1) to (5), (7) to (9) and (12) to (14) hereunder.

**• *Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments***

- (1) No Sub-Fund may purchase additional Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments of any single issuer if:
  - (i) upon such purchase more than 10% of its net assets would consist of Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments of one single issuer; or

- (ii) the total value of all Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments of issuers in which it invests more than 5% of its net assets would exceed 40% of the value of its net assets. This limitation does not apply to deposits and OTC derivative transactions made with financial institutions subject to prudential supervision.
- (2) A Sub-Fund may invest on a cumulative basis up to 20% of its assets in Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments issued by the same Group of Companies.
- (3) The limit of 10% set forth above under (1)(i) is increased to 35% in respect of Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments issued or guaranteed by a Member State, by its local authorities, by any Other State or by a public international body of which one or more Member State(s) are member(s).
- (4) The limit of 10% set forth above under (1)(i) is increased up to 25% in respect of qualifying debt securities which fall under the definition of covered bonds in point (1) of Article 3 of Directive (EU) 2019/2162 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the issue of covered bonds and covered bond public supervision and amending Directives 2009/65/EC and 2014/59/EU and for qualifying debt securities that were issued before 8 July 2022 by a credit institution which has its registered office in a Member State and is subject by law to special public supervision designed to protect bondholders. In particular, sums deriving from the issue of these bonds issued before 8 July 2022 must be invested, in accordance with the law, in assets which, during the whole period of validity of the bonds, are capable of covering claims attaching to the bonds and which, in the case of bankruptcy of the issuer, would be used on a priority basis for the reimbursement of principal and payment of the accrued interest. Furthermore, if a Sub-Fund invests more than 5% of its net assets in the bonds referred to in the first sub-paragraph which are issued by a single issuer, the total value of such assets may not exceed 80% of the value of the net assets of the Sub-Fund.
- (5) The securities specified above under (3) and (4) are not to be included for purposes of computing the ceiling of 40% set forth above under (1)(ii).
- (6) Notwithstanding the ceilings set forth above, each Sub-Fund is authorized to invest, in accordance with the principle of risk spreading, up to 100% of its net assets in Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments issued or guaranteed by a Member State, by its local authorities, by any other member State of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development ("OECD") or of the Group of Twenty (G20) or Singapore or Hong Kong or by a public international body of which one or more Member State(s) are member(s), provided that (i) such securities are part of at least six different issues and (ii) the securities from any such issue do not account for more than 30% of the net assets of such Sub-Fund.
- (7) Without prejudice to the limits set forth hereafter under (b), the limits set forth in (1) are raised to a maximum of 20% for investments in shares and/or bonds issued by the same body when the aim of the Sub-Fund's investment policy is to replicate the composition of a certain stock or bond index which is recognised by the Regulatory Authority, on the following basis:
- the composition of the index is sufficiently diversified,
  - the index represents an adequate benchmark for the market to which it refers,
  - it is published in an appropriate manner.

The limit of 20% is raised to 35% where that proves to be justified by exceptional market conditions in particular in Regulated Markets where certain Transferable Securities or Money Market Instruments are highly dominant. The investment up to this limit is only permitted for a single issuer.

- ***Bank Deposits***

(8) A Sub-Fund may not invest more than 20% of its assets in deposits made with the same body.

- ***Derivative Instruments and efficient portfolio management techniques***

(9) The risk exposure to a counterparty in an OTC derivative transaction and efficient portfolio management techniques may not exceed 10% of the Sub-Fund's net assets when the counterparty is a credit institution referred to in A (6) above or 5% of its net assets in other cases.

(10) Investment in financial derivative instruments shall only be made provided that the exposure to the underlying assets does not exceed in aggregate the investment limits set forth in (1) to (5), (8), (9), (13) and (14). When the Sub-Fund invests in index-based financial derivative instruments, these investments do not have to be combined to the limits set forth in (1) to (5), (8), (9), (13) and (14).

(11) When a Transferable Security or Money Market Instrument embeds a derivative, the latter must be taken into account when complying with the requirements of (A) (7) (ii) and (D)(1) as well as with the risk exposure and information requirements laid down in the present Prospectus.

- ***Units of Open-Ended Funds***

(12) No Sub-Fund may invest more than 20% of its net assets in the units of a single UCITS or other UCI. Investments made in units of other UCIs may not, in aggregate, exceed 30% of the net asset of a Sub-Fund. When a Sub-Fund has acquired units of UCITS and/or other UCIs, the underlying assets of the respective UCITS or other UCIs do not have to be combined for the purpose of the limits laid down in points (1), (2), (3), (4), (8), (9), (13) and (14).

- ***Combined limits***

(13) Notwithstanding the individual limits laid down in (1) (i), (8) and (9) above, a Sub-Fund may not combine:

- investments in Transferable Securities or Money Market Instruments issued by,
- deposits made with, and/or
- exposures arising from OTC derivative transactions and efficient portfolio management technique undertaken with

a single body in excess of 20% of its net assets.

(14) The limits set out in (1), (3), (4), (8), (9) and (13) above may not be combined, and thus investments in Transferable Securities or Money Market Instruments issued by the same body, in deposits, derivative instruments or efficient portfolio management techniques made with this body carried out in accordance with (1), (3), (4), (8), (9) and (13) above may not exceed a total of 35% of the net assets of the Fund.

## **(b) Limitations on Control**

(15) The Management Company acting in connection with all common funds which it manages and falling under the UCITS Directive may not acquire such amount of shares carrying voting rights which would enable it to exercise a significant influence over the management of the issuer.

(16) The Fund may not acquire (i) more than 10% of the outstanding non-voting shares of any one issuer; (ii) more than 10% of the outstanding debt securities of any one issuer; (iii) more than 10% of the Money Market Instruments of any one issuer; or (iv) more than 25% of the outstanding shares or units of any one UCITS and/or other UCI.

The limits set forth in (ii) to (iv) may be disregarded at the time of acquisition if at that time the gross amount of bonds or of the Money Market Instruments or the net amount of the instruments in issue cannot be calculated.

The ceilings set forth above under (15) and (16) do not apply in respect of:

- Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments issued or guaranteed by a Member State or by its local authorities;
- Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments issued or guaranteed by any Other State;
- Transferable Securities and Money Market Instruments issued by a public international body of which one or more Member State(s) are member(s); and
- Shares in the capital of a company which is incorporated under or organized pursuant to the laws of an Other State provided that (i) such company invests its assets principally in securities issued by issuers of that State, (ii) pursuant to the laws of that State a participation by the relevant Sub-Fund in the equity of such company constitutes the only possible way to purchase securities of issuers of that State, and (iii) such company observes in its investments policy the restrictions set forth under C, items (1) to (5), (8), (9) and (12) to (16).

## **D. In addition, the Fund shall comply in respect of its net assets with the following investment restrictions per instrument:**

Each Sub-Fund shall ensure that its global exposure relating to derivative instruments does not exceed the total net value of its portfolio.

The exposure is calculated taking into account the current value of the underlying assets, the counterparty risk, foreseeable market movements and the time available to liquidate the positions.

## **E. Finally, the Fund shall comply in respect of the assets of each Sub-Fund with the following investment restrictions:**

(1) No Sub-Fund may acquire commodities or precious metals or certificates representative thereof.

(2) No Sub-Fund may invest in real estate provided that investments may be made in securities secured by real estate or interests therein or issued by companies which invest in real estate or interests therein.

- (3) No Sub-Fund may use its assets to underwrite any securities.
- (4) No Sub-Fund may issue warrants or other rights to subscribe for Units in such Sub-Fund.
- (5) A Sub-Fund may not grant loans or guarantees in favour of a third party, provided that such restriction shall not prevent each Sub-Fund from investing in non-fully paid-up Transferable Securities, Money Market Instruments or other financial instruments, as mentioned under A, items (5), (7) and (8).
- (6) A Sub-Fund may not enter into uncovered sales of Transferable Securities, Money Market Instruments or other financial instruments as listed under A, items (5), (7) and (8).

**F. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary herein contained:**

- (1) While ensuring observance of the principle of risk-spreading, each Sub-Fund may derogate from paragraph C, items (1) to (9) and (12) to (14) for a period of six months following the date of its authorization.
- (2) The ceilings set forth above may be disregarded by each Sub-Fund when exercising subscription rights attaching to securities in such Sub-Fund's portfolio.
- (3) If such ceilings are exceeded for reasons beyond the control of a Sub-Fund or as a result of the exercise of subscription rights, such Sub-Fund must adopt as its priority objective in its sale transactions the remedying of such situation, taking due account of the interests of its Unitholders.

The Directors have the right to determine additional investment restrictions to the extent that those restrictions are necessary to comply with the laws and regulations of countries where Units of the Fund are offered or sold.

**G. Master-Feeder Structure**

Each Sub-Fund may act as a feeder fund (the "Feeder") of a UCITS or of a compartment of such UCITS (the "Master"), which shall neither itself be a feeder fund nor hold units/shares of a feeder fund. In such a case the Feeder shall invest at least 85% of its assets in shares/units of the Master.

The Feeder may not invest more than 15% of its assets in one or more of the following:

- (a) ancillary liquid assets in accordance with Article 41 (2), second paragraph of the Law of 2010;
- (b) financial derivative instruments, which may be used only for hedging purposes, in accordance with Article 41 (1) g) and Article 42 (2) and (3) of the Law of 2010;
- (c) movable and immovable property which is essential for the direct pursuit of the Fund's business.

When a Sub-Fund qualifying as a Feeder invests in the shares/units of a Master, the Master may not charge subscription or redemption fees on account of the Sub-Fund's investment in the shares/units of the Master.

Should a Sub-Fund qualify as a Feeder, a description of all remuneration and reimbursement of costs payable by the Feeder by virtue of its investments in shares/units of the Master, as well as the aggregate charges of both the Feeder and the Master, shall be disclosed in the Sub-Fund's



Appendix. In its annual report, the Company shall include a statement on the aggregate charges of both the Feeder and the Master.

Should a Sub-Fund qualify as a Master fund of another UCITS (the "Feeder"), the Feeder fund will not be charged any subscription fees, redemption fees or contingent deferred sales charges, conversion fees, from the Master.

#### **H. Investment by a Sub-Fund within one or more other Sub-Funds**

A Sub-Fund may subscribe, acquire and/or hold securities to be issued or issued by one or more Sub-Fund(s) (the "Target Sub-Fund") under the following conditions:

- the Target Sub-Fund does not, in turn, invest in the Sub-Fund invested in this Target Sub-Fund;
- no more than 10% of the assets of the Target Sub-Fund whose acquisition is contemplated may be invested in Units of other Target Sub-Funds; and
- in any event, for as long as these securities are held by the Fund, their value will not be taken into consideration for the calculation of the net assets of the Fund for the purpose of verifying the minimum threshold of the net assets imposed by the Law of 2010.

### **EFFICIENT PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES**

#### **A. General**

The Management Company has appointed AXA Investment Managers GS Limited as the securities lending and repurchase agent pursuant to a delegation agreement dated 15 February 2013.

Depending on the local licensing requirements of AXA Investment Managers GS Limited and/or the relevant Sub-Funds, it may, under its supervision, sub-delegate certain securities lending and repurchase agency services to AXA Investment Managers IF.

AXA Investment Managers GS, AXA Investment Managers IF and the management company are affiliates companies belonging to AXA IM group. In order to prevent any conflicts of interest and ensure Best Execution, AXA IM group has put in place a conflicts of interest policy and a Best Execution policy, details of which are available on [https://www.axa-im.lu/Our internal Policies](https://www.axa-im.lu/Our%20internal%20Policies), and which provides respectively that (i) conflict of interests are mitigated in maintaining appropriate analyses mechanisms, controls and in ensuring that securities lending and repurchase agent are kept separate from the Investment Manager teams and (ii) that best execution is ensured by using the best price achievable under current market conditions (including but not limited to size, relative demand of the transaction, duration of the trade), the nature of the transaction (including whether or not such transactions are subject to any regulatory requirements, underlying portfolio characteristics and objectives, client characteristics, type of financial instrument to be traded) and cost effectiveness of any related operational setup (e.g. triparty agent) and settlement; availability of execution venues or counterparties.

A Sub-Fund may use total return swaps ("TRS") and SFT such as securities lending, securities borrowing, repurchase and reverse transactions, buy-sell or sell-back transactions when it is specifically described in the Appendices and in accordance with the conditions set out in this section "Efficient Portfolio Management techniques the circulars issued by the Regulatory

Authority from time to time. The assets subject to SFTs and TRS and collateral received are safe-kept with the Depositary or, failing that by any third party depositary (such as Euroclear Bank SA/NV) which is subject to a prudential supervision.

All assets received by a Sub-Fund in the context of efficient portfolio management techniques with a view to reduce its counterparty risk shall be considered as collateral which is subject to the limits and conditions provided for in the relevant circulars issued by the Regulatory Authority and summarized here below under section “Collateral Management”.

In accordance with its investment objective and with the view to improve its performance, the Sub-Fund may enter into securities lending and repurchase agreements transactions under the conditions mentioned here below under sections “B. Securities Lending and Borrowing” and “C. Repurchase Agreement Transactions”.

The Sub-Fund shall enter into any SFT or financial derivative instruments with counterparties subject to prudential supervision rules considered by the Regulatory Authority as equivalent to those prescribed by EU law and selected by the Management Company in accordance with its order execution policy available on its website. In this context, the Management Company will enter into any SFT or financial derivative instruments (including total return swaps) with credit institutions established under any legal form in an OECD Member State having a long term debt rated at least BBB- according to the ratings scale of Standard & Poor’s (or deemed equivalent by the Management Company).

Any revenues from efficient portfolio management techniques, will be returned to the Fund minus direct and indirect operational costs.

- Direct operational cost is defined as the cost directly attributable to the implementation of efficient portfolio management techniques (e.g. agent lender staff cost, trading platform cost, market data, collateral management and SWIFT messaging costs, etc.);
- Indirect cost is defined as the operational cost not directly attributable to the implementation of efficient portfolio management techniques (e.g. insurance fee, premises and facilities, etc.).

Repurchase and reverse repurchase: 100% of the gross revenue generated by the repurchase (if any) and the reverse repurchase activities will benefit to the Fund.

Securities lending: Each Sub-Fund pays 35 % of the gross revenues generated from securities lending activities as costs / fees to AXA Investment Managers GS Limited in its capacity of lending agent and retain 65% of the gross revenues generated from securities lending activities. The direct and indirect operational cost fees directly linked to securities lending activities including related transaction costs are paid from the lending agent’s portion of the gross income (35%). Such direct and indirect operational costs and fees shall not include hidden revenue. AXA Investment Managers GS Limited is a related party to the Management Company and may be a related party to an Investment Manager.

Under no circumstances shall these operations cause a Sub-Fund to diverge from its investment objectives nor shall they entail any substantial supplementary risk.

Additional information on costs and fees incurred by each Sub-Fund in this respect, as well as the identity of the entities to which such costs and fees are paid and any affiliation they may have with the Depositary or the Investment Manager or the Management Company, if applicable, will be available in the annual report.

Securities lending and repurchase transactions can carry risks, as described in “Risk Considerations”, notably (i) counterparty risk, ii) legal risk, iii) custody risk, iv) liquidity risk, (v) collateral management and, if relevant, vi) risks arising from the reuse of such collateral. Repurchase transactions also have risks similar to those of derivative transactions. The risks associated with derivatives are described in other risk languages to be found in many places throughout this prospectus.

## **B. Securities Lending and Borrowing**

Unless further restricted by the investment policy of a specific Sub-Fund as described in Appendices below and provided that it complies with the following rules and the relevant circulars issued by the Regulatory Authority, each Sub-Fund may enter into securities lending and borrowing transactions governed by an agreement whereby a party transfers securities subject to a commitment that the borrower will return equivalent securities on a future date or when requested to do so by the transferor, that transaction being considered as a securities lending for the counterparty transferring the securities and being considered as securities borrowing for the counterparty to which they are transferred.

### **a) Securities lending**

- (i) A Sub-Fund may only enter into securities lending transactions provided that (i) it is entitled at all times to request the return of the securities lent, or to terminate any securities lending transaction and (ii) that these transactions do not jeopardise the management of the Sub-Fund assets in accordance with its investment policy.
- (ii) The risk exposure to a counterparty generated through a securities lending transaction or other efficient portfolio management techniques and OTC financial derivatives must be combined when calculating the limits referred to above under items 9 and 13 of sub-section (a) Risk Diversification Rules.

All the securities lending transactions carried out on behalf of the Fund will be on arm’s length basis and that transactions will be limited to 90% of each Sub-Fund’s NAV in any Valuation Day. Such limit could be reached when there is a high demand for the lendable assets available in the relevant Sub-Fund (e.g. in case of need to manage liquidity and optimize collateral management). The expected percentage of net assets of securities lending is specified in the details of each Sub-Fund.

By entering into securities lending, the Sub-Fund seeks to enhance the return on daily basis (the assets on loan will generate an incremental return for the Sub-Fund).

### **b) Securities borrowing**

- (i) The securities borrowed by the Sub-Fund may not be disposed of during the time they are held by the Sub-Fund, unless they are covered by sufficient financial instruments which enable the Sub-Fund to reconstitute the borrowed securities at the close of the transaction.
- (ii) Borrowing transactions may not exceed 50% of the global valuation of the securities portfolio of each Sub-Fund.
- (iii) A Sub-Fund may borrow securities under the following circumstances in connection

with the settlement of a sale transaction: (a) during a period the securities have been sent out for re-registration; (b) when the securities have been loaned and not returned in time; and (c) to avoid a failed settlement when the Depositary fails to make delivery.

### **C. Repurchase Agreement Transactions**

Unless further restricted by the investment policy of a specific Sub-Fund as described in Appendices below, a Sub-Fund may within the limit set out in the relevant circulars issued by the Regulatory Authority enter into repurchase agreement transactions which consist of transactions governed by an agreement whereby a party sells securities or instruments to a counterparty, with a clause reserving the counterparty or the Sub-Fund the right to repurchase or substitute securities or instruments of the same description, from respectively the Sub-Fund or the counterparty to a specified price on a future date specified, or to be specified, by the transferor.

Such transactions are commonly referred to as temporary purchases and sales of securities (also known as securities financing transactions).

These transactions shall be carried out as part of the achievement of the investment objective of the Sub-Fund, hedging, the cash management and/or efficient portfolio management.

A Sub-Fund may further enter into repurchase or reverse repurchase agreement transaction which consists of a forward transaction at the maturity of which the Sub-Fund or the counterparty has the obligation to repurchase the asset sold and the counterparty respectively the Sub-Fund the obligation to return the asset received under the transaction.

The Sub-Fund's involvement in such transactions is, however, subject to the following rules:

- (i) The Sub-Fund may enter into any repurchase agreements or reverse repurchase agreement with counterparty selected on the basis of the following combined criteria: regulatory status, protection provided by local legislations, operational processes, available credit spreads and analyses and/or external credit ratings.
- (ii) A Sub-Fund may only enter into a repurchase agreement and/or a reverse repurchase agreement provided that it shall be able at any time (i) to recall any securities subject to the repurchase agreement respectively the full amount of cash in case of reverse repurchase agreement or (ii) to terminate the agreement in accordance with the relevant circulars issued by the Regulatory Authority being understood that fixed-term repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements that do not exceed seven days should be considered as arrangements on terms that allow the assets to be recalled at any time by the Sub-Fund;
- (iii) Securities purchased with a repurchase option or through a reverse repurchase agreement transaction must be compliant with the relevant circulars issued by the Regulatory Authority and the Sub-Fund's investment policy and must together with the other securities that the Sub-Fund holds in its portfolio, globally respect the Sub-Fund's investment restrictions; and
- (iv) The risk exposure to a counterparty generated through those transactions or other efficient portfolio management techniques and OTC financial derivatives must be combined when calculating the limits referred to above under items 9 and 13 of sub-section "(a) Risk Diversification Rules".

Where a Sub-Fund uses repos/reverse repos, the expected and the maximum percentage of net assets of repo/reverse repos is specified in the details of each Sub-Fund. The maximum level may be attained when the portfolio manager, in the course of managing the Sub-Fund, needs to borrow cash (repo transaction) for example to cover margin call or when all remaining cash in the portfolio is temporary lent out (reverse repo) to generate additional return and lower custody cost.

#### **D. OTC financial derivative instruments**

Each Sub-Fund may invest into financial derivative instruments that are traded “over-the-counter” (“OTC financial derivative instruments”) including, without limitation, total return swaps (“TRS”) or other financial derivative instruments with similar characteristics, in accordance with the conditions set out in this section and the investment objective and policy of the Sub-Fund as detailed in the relevant Appendix. The counterparty to OTC financial derivative instruments will be selected among financial institutions subject to prudential supervision (such as credit institutions or investment firms) and specialized in the relevant type of transaction. The identity of the counterparties will be disclosed in the Fund’s annual report.

The counterparties will have no discretion over the composition or management of the portfolio of the Sub-Fund or the underlying assets of the financial derivative instruments. Otherwise, for regulatory purposes, the agreement between the Fund and such counterparty will be considered as an investment management delegation.

The Management Company uses a process for accurate and independent assessment of the value of OTC financial derivative instruments in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

In order to limit the exposure of a Sub-Fund to the risk of default of the counterparty under OTC financial derivative instruments, the Sub-Fund may receive cash or other assets as collateral, as further specified in section “Management of collateral and collateral policy” below.

More specifically, in relation to the TRS, unless further restricted by the investment policy of a specific Sub-Fund as described in the Appendices below, the Fund may enter into total return swaps which are swap agreements in which one party (total return payer) transfers the total economic performance of a reference obligation to the other party (total return receiver). Total economic performance includes income from interest and fees, gains or losses from market movements, and credit losses. These instruments will be carried out as part of the achievement of the investment objective of the Sub-Fund, hedging, the cash management and/or efficient portfolio management.

Each Sub-Fund may incur costs and fees in connection with total return swaps, upon entering into total return swaps and/or any increase or decrease of their notional amount. The Fund may pay fees and costs, such as brokerage fees and transaction costs, to agents or other third parties for services rendered in connection with total return swaps. Recipients of such fees and costs may be affiliated with the Fund, the Management Company or the Investment Manager, as may be applicable, as permitted by applicable laws. Fees may be calculated as a percentage of revenues earned by the Fund through the use of such total return swaps. The overall revenues or losses generated by the total return swaps agreements will be for the benefit of the Sub-Fund only. Details on these revenues/losses, the fees and costs incurred by the use of such total return swaps as well as the identity of the recipients thereof are contained in the Fund’s annual report.

The expected range of the proportion of the Sub-Fund’s Net Asset Value subject to these instruments and disclosed the relevant Appendix is expressed as the mark-to-market value of the total return swap divided by the relevant Sub-Fund’s Net Asset Value.

## **COLLATERAL MANAGEMENT**

### **General**

As part of OTC financial derivatives transactions and securities lending and repurchase agreement transactions, a Sub-Fund may receive collateral with a view to reduce its counterparty risk.

The purpose of this section is to set the collateral policy that will be applicable in such case.

### **Eligible collateral**

#### **General principles**

Collateral received by a Sub-Fund may be used to reduce its counterparty risk exposure with a counterparty if it complies with the criteria listed in circulars issued by the Regulatory Authority from time to time in terms of liquidity, valuation, issuer credit quality, correlation, risks linked to the management of collateral and enforceability. In particular, collateral should comply with the following conditions:

- Any collateral received other than cash should be of high quality, highly liquid and traded on a regulated market or multilateral trading facility with transparent pricing in order that it can be sold quickly at a price that is close to pre-sale valuation;
- It should be valued on a daily basis on a mark-to-market price basis and assets that exhibit high price volatility should not be accepted as collateral unless suitably conservative haircuts are in place Margin calls will be implemented in accordance with the terms negotiated in the collateral arrangements;
- It should be issued by an entity that is independent from the counterparty and is expected not to display a high correlation with the performance of the counterparty;
- It should be sufficiently diversified in terms of country, markets and issuers and shall not entail on an aggregate basis an exposure to a given issuer for more than 20% of its Net Asset Value. By way of derogation, a Sub-Fund may be fully collateralized in different Transferable Securities or Money Market Instruments issued or guaranteed by any of the Member States, one or more of their local authorities, a third party sovereign country such as Canada, Japan, Norway, Switzerland and the United States of America, or any public international body to which one or more Member State(s) belong(s) such as the European Investment Bank, provided that it receives such securities from at least six different issues and that securities from any single issue should not account for more than 30% of such Sub-Fund's Net Asset Value. The collateral shall further comply with the limits set forth above under section "b) Limitations on Control";
- The financial guarantees received by the Sub-Fund will be kept by the Depositary or, failing that, by any third party depositary (such as Euroclear Bank SA/NV) which is subject to a prudential supervision and that has no link with the guarantee provider.;
- It should be capable of being fully enforced by the Management Company for the account of the Sub-Fund at any time without reference to or approval from the Management Company.

### **Eligible assets**

As long as it complies with the above mentioned conditions, the collateral may consist of (i) sovereign OECD bonds; and/or (ii) direct investment in bonds issued or guaranteed by first class issuers offering an adequate liquidity or shares listed or dealt on a Regulated Market of a Member State of the European Union or on a stock exchange of a member state of the OECD provided that

they are included in a main index.

### **Level of collateral**

The Management Company will determine the required level of collateral for OTC financial derivatives transactions and stock lending and repurchase agreement transactions according to the nature and the characteristics of the executed transactions, the counterparties and the market conditions.

The Management Company may carry out OTC financial derivatives transactions with a level of collateral lower than 100% subject to be compliant with the counterparty risk authorised by the applicable regulations. For certain types of transactions such as, but not limited to, Foreign Exchange Forward, the level of collateral may be equal to zero.

As part of its lending transactions, the Sub-Fund must in principle receive previously or simultaneously to the transfer of the securities lent a guarantee the value of which must at the conclusion of and constantly during the contract to be at least equal to 90% of the global valuation of the securities lent.

### **Reinvestment of collateral**

The Sub-Fund will be able to reinvest the financial guarantees received in cash in accordance with the relevant circulars issued by the Regulatory Authority. The financial guarantees other than cash cannot be sold, reinvested or pledged. The counterparty will be able to reinvest the financial guarantee received from the Sub-Fund in accordance with any regulation applicable to the counterparty.

In particular, reinvested cash collateral must comply with the diversification requirements set forth here above under the section “Eligible collateral” and may only be (i) placed or deposited with entities referred to above under item 6 of section “A. Investments in the Fund shall consist solely of”, (ii) invested in high-quality government bonds, (iii) used for the purpose of reverse repo transactions entered into with credit institutions subject prudential supervision or (iv) invested in short term money market funds.

### **Haircut policy**

In accordance with its internal policy relating to the management of the collateral, the Management Company shall determine:

- the required level of collateral; and
- the level of haircut applicable to the assets received as collateral, taking into account in particular the type of assets, the credit standing of the issuers, the maturity, the currency, the liquidity and the price volatility of the assets.

For OTC derivatives financial instruments and repurchase agreements transactions, the following haircuts are typically applied:

<b>Collateral Instrument Type</b>	<b>Applicable haircut range</b>
Cash	0%
Sovereign debt	0%-20%

For securities lending transactions, the following haircuts are typically applied:

<b>Collateral Instrument Type</b>	<b>Applicable haircut range</b>
Cash	0%
Equities	10%
Sovereign debt	2% - 5%

Any other type of collateral instrument type and/or applicable haircut shall be specifically authorized by AXA IM's Global Risk Management.

Despite the creditworthiness of the issuer of the assets received as collateral or the assets acquired by the Sub-Fund on the basis of cash collateral re-investment, the Sub-Fund may be subject to a risk of loss in case of default of the issuers of such assets or in case of default of the counterparties to transactions in which such cash has been re-invested.

## **POOLING OF ASSETS**

For the purpose of effective management, where the investment policies of the Sub-Funds so permit, the Management Company may choose to allow intra pooling and/or co-management of the assets of certain Sub-Funds. In such a case, assets of different Sub-Funds will be managed in common. The assets which are managed in common shall be referred to as a "pool" notwithstanding the fact that such pools are used solely for internal management purposes. The pools do not constitute separate entities and are not directly accessible to Unitholders.

### **Pooling**

The Management Company may invest and manage all or any part of the portfolio assets established for two or more Sub-Funds (for the purposes hereof "Participating Sub-Funds") on a pooled basis. Any such asset pool shall be formed by transferring to it cash or other assets (subject to such assets being appropriate in respect to the investment policy of the pool concerned) from each of the Participating Sub-Funds. Thereafter, the Management Company may from time to time make further transfers to each asset pool. Assets may also be transferred back to a Participating Sub-Fund up to the amount of the participation of the Sub-Fund concerned. The unit of a Participating Sub-Fund in an asset pool shall be measured by reference to notional units of equal value in the asset pool. On formation of an asset pool, the Management Company shall determine the initial value of notional units (which shall be expressed in such currency as the Management Company may consider appropriate) and shall allocate to each Participating Sub-Fund notional units having an aggregate value equal to the amount of cash (or to the value of other assets) contributed. Thereafter, the value of the units shall be determined by dividing the net assets of the asset pool by the number of notional unit subsisting.

When additional cash or assets are contributed to or withdrawn from an asset pool, the allocation of notional units of the Participating Sub-Fund concerned will be increased or reduced, as the case may be, by a number of notional units determined by dividing the amount of cash or the value of assets contributed or withdrawn by the current value of a unit. Where a contribution is made in cash, it may be treated for the purpose of this calculation as reduced by an amount which the Management Company considers appropriate to reflect fiscal charges and dealing and purchase costs which may be incurred in investing the cash concerned; in the case of cash withdrawal, a corresponding deduction may be made to reflect costs which may be incurred in realising securities or other assets of the asset pool.



Dividends, interest and other distributions of an income nature earned in respect of the assets in an asset pool will be applied to such asset pool and cause the respective net assets to increase. Upon the dissolution of the Fund, the assets in an asset pool will be allocated to the Participating Sub-Funds in proportion to their respective participation in the asset pool.

## **Co-Management**

In order to reduce operational and administrative charges while allowing a wider diversification of the investments, the Management Company may decide that part or all of the assets of one or several Sub-Funds will be co-managed with assets attributable to other sub-funds or assets belonging to other Luxembourg collective investment schemes. In the following paragraphs, the words "co-managed entities" shall refer globally to the Fund and each of its Sub-Funds and all entities with and between which there would exist any given co-management arrangement and the words "co-managed Assets" shall refer to the entire assets of these co-managed entities and co-managed pursuant to the same co-management arrangement.

Under the co-management arrangement, the Investment Managers will be entitled to take, on a consolidated basis for the relevant co-managed entities, investment, disinvestment and portfolio readjustment decisions which will influence the composition of the assets of the Sub-Funds. Each co-managed entity shall hold a portion of the co-managed Assets corresponding to the proportion of its net assets to the total value of the co-managed Assets. This proportional holding shall be applicable to each and every line of investment held or acquired under co-management. In case of investment and/or disinvestment decisions, these proportions shall not be affected and additional investments shall be allotted to the co-managed entities pursuant to the same proportion and assets sold shall be levied proportionately on the co-managed Assets held by each co-managed entity.

In case of new subscriptions in one of the co-managed entities, the subscription proceeds shall be allotted to the co-managed entities pursuant to the modified proportions resulting from the net asset increase of the co-managed entity which has benefited from the subscriptions and all lines of investment shall be modified by a transfer of assets from one co-managed entity to the other in order to be adjusted to the modified proportions. In a similar manner, in case of redemptions in one of the co-managed entities, the cash required may be levied on the cash held by the co-managed entities pursuant to the modified proportions resulting from the net asset reduction of the co-managed entity which has suffered from the redemptions and, in such case, all lines of investment shall be adjusted to the modified proportions. Unitholders should be aware that, in the absence of any specific action by the Management Company or its appointed agents, the co-management arrangement may cause the composition of assets of the Sub-Funds to be influenced by events attributable to other co-managed entities such as subscriptions and redemptions. Thus, all other things being equal, subscriptions received in one entity with which a Sub-Fund is co-managed will lead to an increase of such Sub-Fund's reserve of cash. Conversely, redemptions made in one entity with which a Sub-Fund is co-managed will lead to a reduction of such Sub-Fund's reserve of cash. Subscriptions and redemptions may however be kept in the specific account opened for each co-managed entity outside the co-management arrangement and through which subscriptions and redemptions must pass. The possibility to allocate substantial subscriptions and redemptions to these specific accounts together with the possibility for the Management Company or its appointed agents to decide at any time to terminate the co-management arrangement permit the Management Company to avoid the readjustments of the assets of the Sub-Funds concerned if these readjustments are likely to affect the interest of the Management Company or the Sub-Funds and of their Unitholders.

If a modification of the composition of the Fund or one or several Sub-Fund's assets resulting from redemptions or payments of charges and expenses peculiar to another co-managed entity (i.e. not attributable to the Management Company or the Sub-Fund concerned) is likely to result in a breach of the applicable investment restrictions, the relevant assets shall be excluded from the co-management arrangement before the implementation of the modification in order for it not to be affected by the ensuing adjustments.

Co-managed Assets shall only be co-managed with assets intended to be invested pursuant to investment objectives identical to those applicable to the co-managed Assets in order to assure that investment decisions are fully compatible with the investment policy of the Sub-Funds. Co-managed Assets shall only be co-managed with assets for which the Depositary is also acting as Depositary in order to ensure that the Depositary is able, with respect to the Fund or its Sub-Funds, to fully carry out its functions and responsibilities pursuant to the Law of 2010. The Depositary shall at all times keep the Fund's assets segregated from the assets of other co-managed entities and shall therefore be able at all time to identify the assets of the Fund and of each Sub-Fund. Since co-managed entities may have investment policies which are not strictly identical to the investment policy of a Sub-Fund, it is possible that as a result the common policy implemented may be more restrictive than that of that Sub-Fund.

The Management Company may decide at any time and without notice to terminate the co-management arrangement.

Unitholders may at all times contact the registered office of the Management Company to be informed of the percentage of assets which are co-managed and of the entities with which there is such a co-management arrangement at the time of their request. Annual and semi-annual reports shall state the co-managed Assets' composition and percentages.

## UNITS

The Fund may issue Units of any Class within each separate Sub-Fund. There are currently 11 categories of Classes of Units available in the Fund:

- Class "A" Units are dedicated for large Institutional Investors investing directly or indirectly on their own behalf and/or financial intermediaries providing discretionary portfolio management service and with a high amount of minimum initial subscription.

The Management Company will not issue or effect any conversion into Class "A" Units to any investor who may not be considered as an Institutional Investor. The Management Company, at its discretion, may delay the acceptance of any subscription for "A" Units restricted to Institutional Investors until such date as the registrar agent has received sufficient evidence on the qualification of the relevant investor as an Institutional Investor. If it appears at any time that a Unitholder of "A" Units is not an Institutional Investor, the Management Company will instruct the registrar agent to propose that the said Unitholder convert its Units into Units of a Class within the relevant Sub-Fund which is not restricted to Institutional Investors (provided that there exists such a Class with similar characteristics). In the event that the Unitholder refuses such switching, the Management Company will, at its discretion, instruct the registrar agent to redeem the relevant Units in accordance with the provisions under section "Redemption and conversion of Units".

- Class "B" Units are dedicated for smaller Institutional Investors investing directly

or indirectly on their own behalf and/or financial intermediaries providing discretionary portfolio management service and with a smaller amount of minimum initial subscription.

The Management Company will not issue or effect any conversion into Class "B" Units to any investor who may not be considered as an Institutional Investor. The Management Company, at its discretion, may delay the acceptance of any subscription for "B" Units restricted to Institutional Investors until such date as the registrar agent has received sufficient evidence on the qualification of the relevant investor as an Institutional Investor. If it appears at any time that a Unitholder of "B" Units is not an Institutional Investor, the Management Company will instruct the registrar agent to propose that the said Unitholder convert its Units into Units of a Class within the relevant Sub-Fund which is not restricted to Institutional Investors (provided that there exists such a Class with similar characteristics). In the event that the Unitholder refuses such switching, the Management Company will, at its discretion, instruct the registrar agent to redeem the relevant Units in accordance with the provisions under section "Redemption and conversion of Units".

- Class "**BE**" Units are only available through distributors that entered into specific distribution arrangements with the Management Company.

The Management Company will not allow a Unitholder of "BE" Units to switch from/to another Class.

The Management Company will not allow a Unitholder of "BE" Units to switch from/to another Sub-Fund.

The Management Company will not issue, or effect any conversion into Class "BE" Units, to any investor directly.

- Class "**I**" Units are dedicated for all other Institutional Investors, including funds of funds investing directly or indirectly on their own behalf and/or financial intermediaries providing discretionary portfolio management service.

The Management Company will not issue or effect any conversion into Class "I" Units to any investor who may not be considered as an Institutional Investor. The Management Company, at its discretion, may delay the acceptance of any subscription for "I" Units restricted to Institutional Investors until such date as the registrar agent has received sufficient evidence on the qualification of the relevant investor as an Institutional Investor. If it appears at any time that a Unitholder of "I" Units is not an Institutional Investor, the Management Company will instruct the registrar agent to propose that the said Unitholder convert its Units into Units of a Class within the relevant Sub-Fund which is not restricted to Institutional Investors (provided that there exists such a Class with similar characteristics). In the event that the Unitholder refuses such switching, the Management Company will, at its discretion, instruct the registrar agent to redeem the relevant Units in accordance with the provisions under section "Redemption and conversion of Units".

- Class "**E**" Units are for all investors.
- Class "**F**" Units are for all investors.

- Class "M" Units are only subscribed with the prior approval of the Directors and held (i) by AXA Investment Managers or its subsidiaries for use in institutional mandates or investment management agreements for a dedicated fund contracted with the AXA Group or (ii) by Institutional Investors investing directly or indirectly on their own behalf and/or to financial intermediaries providing discretionary portfolio management service.
- Class "N" Units are offered only to distributors based in the Americas (South and North America regions, including the United States).
- Class "U" Units are offered only to distributors based in the Americas (South and North America regions, including the United States).
- Class "Z"\* Units are only offered: (i) through financial intermediaries which according to either regulatory requirements (e.g. in the European Union, financial intermediaries providing discretionary portfolio management or investment advice on an independent basis) or separate fee arrangements with their clients, are not allowed to keep trail commissions, and/ or (ii) to Institutional investors investing on their own behalf \*.
- Class "ZF" Units are offered only through larger financial intermediaries which (i) are expressly prior authorized by the Management Company and (ii) according to either regulatory requirements (e.g. in the European Union, financial intermediaries providing discretionary portfolio management or investment advice on an independent basis) or separate fee arrangements with their clients, are not allowed to keep trail commissions.

\*Investments made in the Class "Z" Units before 03/01/2018 may continue to be held after that date, even though they are no longer accessible for new subscriptions by the investors who no longer meet at least one of the eligibility criteria described in (i) or (ii) above as from this date.

The Directors may decide at any time to create within each Sub-Fund any of the Classes of Units described above. A specific fee structure, currency of denomination, dividend policy or other specific features may apply to each Class.

Details regarding the issued Classes of Units available per Sub-Fund as at the date of the Prospectus and their features are disclosed in Appendices below.

Such list of Classes may be updated from time to time. The complete list of Classes available for subscription may be obtained, free of charge and upon request, from the Management Company and is also available on the Management Company website at the following link: <https://www.axa-im.com/>.

The net proceeds from the subscription are invested in the specific portfolio of assets constituting the relevant Sub-Fund.

The Management Company will maintain for each Sub-Fund a separate portfolio of assets. As between Unitholders, each portfolio of assets will be invested for the exclusive benefit of the relevant Sub-Fund. As regards third parties, each Sub-Fund is exclusively responsible for all liabilities attributable to it.

The Management Company shall issue Units in registered form only.

The inscription of the Unitholder's name in the register of Units evidences his or her right of ownership of such registered Units. A confirmation of unitholding will be delivered upon request.

Fractions of registered Units will be issued to one thousandth of a Unit.

All Units within each Class have equal rights as to dividend, repurchase, and proceeds in a liquidation.

No general meetings of Unitholders shall be held and no voting rights shall be attached to the Units.

All Classes of Units that are in issue may be listed on the Luxembourg or other Stock Exchange at the Management Company's discretion. Information on whether a Class of Units is listed on the Luxembourg or other Stock Exchange can be obtained from the Administrator or on the website of the relevant Stock Exchange.

### **Currency Hedged Unit Classes**

Any Sub-Fund can issue any Unit Class in currency hedged form, meaning that the hedged version of the Unit Class is denominated in a currency that is different from the Sub-Fund's Reference Currency, and is hedged to that currency. Hedged Unit Classes are designated with an "Hedged".

All costs specifically associated with offering each hedged Unit Class (such as currency hedging and foreign exchange costs) will be charged to that Unit Class.

Where the Fund seeks to hedge against currency fluctuations, while not intended, this could result in over-hedged or under-hedged positions due to external factors outside the control of the Fund. However, over-hedged positions will not exceed 105%, and under-hedged position will not fall short of 95% of the Net Asset Value of the Class. Hedged positions will be kept under review to ensure that over-hedged positions do not exceed and under-hedged positions do not fall short the permitted level. This review will also incorporate a procedure to ensure that positions materially in excess of 100% of Net Asset Value of the Class will not be carried forward from month to month.

If investors invest in a hedged Unit Class, they could experience losses from currency exchange fluctuations to the extent that the Unit Class' hedging is incomplete, and they will give up any potential gains from currency exchange fluctuations to the extent that hedging is effective.

## **SUBSCRIPTION OF UNITS**

Applications for Units may be made on any Business Day.

To subscribe for Units, investors will be required to complete an Application Form or other documentation satisfactory to the Management Company and to return it to the registrar agent of the Fund (the "Registrar Agent") at the address indicated herein or to any distributor indicated on the Application Form. Applications may be made by facsimile, but must contain all the information required by the Application Form.

Unless otherwise specified in the Appendices, applications for Units received by the Registrar Agent prior to 3 p.m. C.E.T. on any Business Day will be processed at the Dealing Price plus subscription fees, if any, as mentioned in the relevant Appendix. Different subscription procedures

and time limits may apply if applications for Units are made through a distributor. In such instances, each investor should obtain from the distributor information about the subscription procedure relevant to their application together with any time limit by which the subscription must be received. Investors should note that they may be unable to subscribe for Units through a distributor on days that such distributor is not open for business.

All applications received by the Registrar Agent after 3 p.m. C.E.T. shall be deemed to have been received on the following Business Day.

Subscription amounts to be paid will be rounded in the unit or sub-unit of the relevant offering currency, by applying normal rounding rules.

Subsequent applications for Units may be made in writing by FTP, swift, post.

Settlement should be made by electronic funds transfer on the Settlement Day.

The Dealing Price may, upon approval of the Directors and subject to all applicable laws, namely with respect to a special audit report prepared by the auditor of the Fund confirming the value of any assets contributed in kind, be paid by contributing to the Fund securities acceptable to the Directors, consistent with the investment policy and investment restrictions of the Fund and the relevant Sub-Fund.

At the Unitholder's request, the Management Company may accept subscription in kind, having due regard to all applicable laws and regulations, all Unitholders' interest and the relevant Appendix of the Sub-Fund. In such case of subscription in kind, the auditor of the Management Company shall deliver, if applicable, an audit report in accordance with applicable laws. Any costs incurred in connection with a subscription in kind of securities shall be borne by the relevant Unitholder.

Where Units are registered in the names of joint holders, the Registrar Agent will only accept instructions from all the joint holders, unless otherwise instructed in writing by all the joint holders.

All transaction orders with respect to any Sub-Fund shall be deemed irrevocable and shall be accompanied by the duly completed relevant transaction forms or by the transmission of all the required data in a form determined by the Registrar Agent. A letter of confirmation will be sent to the Unitholder after completion of each transaction.

The Management Company reserves the right to reject, in whole or in part, any application for Units.

The Management Company reserves the right to do any of the following at any time:

- Reject any request to buy, redeem or switch Units as well as forcibly switch or redeem Units of which an ineligible or unqualified investor is a beneficial owner (whether sole or partial). This applies if the Management Company knows or believes any of the following to be true:
  - the investor is an U.S. Person or a Prohibited Person in the terms provided within the Management Regulations (including but not limited to Canadian Prohibited Investors);
  - the investor has failed to make the representations and warranties required by the Management Company;
  - the investor has failed to supply any information or declarations required by the Management Company with respect to corruption, anti-money laundering and

- terrorism financial matters;
  - the investor has failed to remain true to representations and warranties that were made;
- In any case where it appears that, a non-institutional investor has come to hold Units designated for institutional investors, the Management Company will either forcibly redeem the Units or switch them for retail Units of the same Sub-Fund (which Units may have higher fees and expenses) depending on whether a retail Unit Class is available or not.

Instructions for subscription may be posted through BNP Paribas Securities Services Luxembourg – 60, avenue J.F. Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg provided that investors have been accepted by the Management Company at its own discretion as eligible to the One Platform and have completed an application form with BNP Paribas Securities Services Luxembourg. Retail investors are not eligible to the One Platform.

Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, unless the Management Company otherwise determines either generally or in any particular case (including with regard to a Sub-Fund), the Management Company will not accept any subscriptions from, and Units may not be transferred to, any investor (i) which is a U.S. Person, (ii) which is not a Non-U.S. Person and (iii), whether or not a U.S. Person, who is subject to Title 1 of ERISA or the prohibited transactions provisions of Section 4975 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code or who qualifies as a Benefit Plan Investor.

## **Nominees**

Nominees are banks and financial institutions appointed as distributors by the Management Company or the company responsible for arranging the distribution of the Units of the Fund which act as intermediaries between investors and the Fund. Subject to local laws in countries where Units are offered, the distributors and their agents, if any, may, on the request of the respective investors, act as nominee for such investors. As nominee the distributor or its agents, if any, shall, in their name but as nominee for the investor, purchase, convert or redeem Units and request registration of such operations in the register of Unitholders. However, the investor is not obliged to make use of the nominee service provided by the distributor and its agents and shall be entitled at any time to claim direct title to the Units. Applicants retain the ability to directly invest in the Fund without using a nominee service.

The terms and conditions of the nominee services, if any, will be provided in the relevant distribution or nominee agreement.

The attention of ultimate investors is drawn to the fact that their rights may be affected (e.g. they may not be fully indemnified) in case of compensation payments resulting from material NAV calculation errors, breaches of investment restrictions or other errors having a financial impact when they are invested indirectly in the Fund through financial intermediaries subscribing on behalf of underlying third parties in the Fund's register of Unitholders.

The distributor and its agents, if any, will at all times comply with any obligations imposed by any applicable laws, rules and regulations with respect to anti-money laundering and will furthermore adopt procedures designed to ensure, to the extent applicable, that they shall comply with the foregoing undertaking. To the extent the distributor or its agents are not submitted to anti-money laundering regulations of countries which have similar anti-money laundering framework as in Luxembourg, the necessary control will be carried out by the Registrar Agent of the Fund.

In order to invest in the Fund, any prospective investor must certify that, except as otherwise authorised by the Management Company, (i) it is not a U.S. Person, (ii) it is a Non-U.S. Person,

(iii) it is not a Canadian Prohibited Investor, and (iv) it is not subscribing for Units on behalf of U.S. Persons or a Canadian Prohibited Investor.

In order to invest in the Fund, any prospective investor must also certify that it is not subject to Title 1 of ERISA or the prohibited transactions provisions of Section 4975 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code, and does not qualify as a Benefit Plan Investor.

Unitholders are required to notify the Management Company acting on behalf of the Fund through the distributors, immediately in the event that they become U.S. Persons, or Benefit Plan Investor (or become subject to Title 1 of ERISA) or a Canadian Prohibited Investor, or they cease to be a Non-U.S. Person, or they hold Units on behalf of U.S. Persons, Canadian Prohibited Investor or Benefit Plan Investor and their Units may be compulsorily redeemed by the Management Company, or they may otherwise be required by the Management Company to dispose of their Units in the manner outlined below.

In addition, the Management Company may authorize the purchase by or transfer of Units to a U.S. Person resident outside the U.S. if the U.S. Person declares that they are making their application for the beneficial account of a person who is not a U.S. Person. The Management Company may also authorize the purchase by or transfer of Units to a Canadian investor resident outside Canada if it declares that it is making its application for the beneficial account of a person who is not a Canadian Prohibited Investor.

Each prospective investor (including a prospective transferee) who is a U.S. Person or a Canadian Prohibited Investor will be required to provide such representations, warranties or documentation, including opinion of counsel, as may be required by the Management Company to ensure that such requirements are met prior to approval of such sale or transfer by the Management Company. The Management Company shall determine from time to time the number of U.S. Persons or Canadian Prohibited Investor (if any) who may be admitted into the Fund.

The Management Company shall have the authority to require compulsory transfer or redemptions of Units where any of the aforementioned conditions in respect of investment by U.S. Persons or Canadian Prohibited Investors are not or no longer satisfied.

### **Settlement by Electronic Funds Transfer**

Investors are advised to pay by electronic funds transfer (in the appropriate Reference Currency) in order to avoid any delay in the allotment of Units. The electronic funds transfer form should be completed and forwarded by investors to their banks.

### **Foreign Exchange**

In the event that the application has been made in a currency other than the offering currency of the Classes of Units within the relevant Sub-Fund(s), the Registrar Agent will perform the necessary foreign exchange transactions. Investors should be aware that the amount of currency involved and the time of day at which such foreign exchange is transacted will affect the rate of exchange. No liability shall be accepted by the Depositary, Registrar Agent or the Management Company for any losses arising from adverse currency fluctuations.

Foreign exchange transactions for Sub-Funds (as principal for Unitholders or as agent for the Sub-Funds) may be carried out by a company within AXA acting as agent on the instruction of the Management Company and any of its duly appointed delegates at rates approved by the Management Company.



## **Reporting**

All applications will be acknowledged by a contract note. Unitholders will subsequently be advised of their Personal Account Number.

## **Anti-Money Laundering**

The Management Company on behalf of the Fund and the registrar agent must comply with applicable international and Luxembourg laws and regulations regarding the prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing, including but not limited to the Luxembourg law of 12 November 2004 on the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, as amended (the “AML Law”), and CSSF Regulation 12-02 of 14 December 2012 on the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, as amended (altogether the “AML/CFT Rules”). The AML/CFT Rules require the Fund, on a risk sensitive basis, to establish and verify the identity of investors (as well as the identity of any intended beneficial owners of the units if they are not the investors) and the origin of invested monies, source of funds and, as the case may be, source of wealth, and to monitor the business relationship on an ongoing basis. The identity of investors should be verified on the basis of documents, data or information obtained from a reliable and independent source. Investors shall provide the registrar agent with the information set out in the Application Form, depending on their type and category.

The Management Company on behalf of the Fund and the registrar agent are required to establish appropriate anti-money laundering controls and will require all documentation deemed necessary to establish and verify the identity and profile of a given investor, the nature and the intended purposes of the business relationship and the origin of subscription proceeds. The registrar agent (and, as the case may be, the Management Company) has the right to request additional information until it is reasonably satisfied it understands the identity and economic purpose of the investor in order to comply with the AML/CFT Rules and, in addition, confirmation may be requested to verify the ownership of any bank account from which or to which monies are being paid. Furthermore, any investor is required to notify the registrar agent prior to the occurrence of any change in the identity of any beneficial owner of Units.

Where subscriptions of Units are made indirectly through intermediaries investing on behalf of third parties, the Management Company on behalf of the Fund and the registrar agent may be permitted to rely on the customer identification and verification measures performed by these intermediaries under the conditions described in Art. 3-3 of the AML Law. These conditions require in particular that the intermediaries apply customer due diligence and record-keeping requirements that are consistent with those laid down in the AML Law and are supervised by a competent supervisory authority in a manner consistent with these rules. Such intermediaries shall be required to provide the registrar agent with (i) information about the identity of the underlying investor(s), the persons acting on its behalf and the beneficial owners, (ii) relevant information on the source of funds, and (iii) at the request of Management Company on behalf of the Fund, provide copies of the customer due diligence documents as further specified in the relevant application subscription forms without delay, which can be used to verify the identity of the investor (and, if applicable, all beneficial owners).

The Management Company has entered into agreements with several distributors who may then enter into agreements with sub-distributors pursuant to which the distributors agree to act as or can appoint financial intermediaries for investors subscribing for Units through their facilities. In such capacity, distributors may effect subscriptions, conversions and redemptions of Units in the financial intermediary's name on behalf of individual investors and request the registration of

such operations on the register of unitholders of the Fund in such financial intermediary's name. In such circumstances, the nominee/distributor maintains its own records and provides the investor with individualized information as to its holdings of Units.

Failure to provide such information and documents deemed necessary for the Fund, the Management Company and the registrar agent to comply with their obligations pursuant to the AML/CFT Rules, may result in delays in, or rejection of, any subscription or conversion application and/or delays in any redemption application or dividend payments. No liability for any interest, costs or compensation will be accepted. Similarly, when Units are issued, they cannot be redeemed or converted until full details of registration have been completed and appropriate documents on the business relationship have been obtained.

The Management Company performs a specific due diligence and regular monitoring and applies precautionary measures on both the liability and asset side of the balance sheet (i.e. including in the context of investments/divestments by the Sub-Funds), in accordance with articles 3(7) and 4(1) of the AML Law.

Pursuant to articles 3(7) and 4(1) of the AML Law, the Management Company is also required to apply precautionary measures regarding the assets of the Sub-Funds. The Management Company assesses, using a risk based approach, the extent to which the offering of the units and services presents potential vulnerabilities to placement, layering or integration of criminal proceeds into the financial system.

Pursuant to the Luxembourg law of 19 December 2020 on the implementation of restrictive measures in financial matters, the application of international financial sanctions must be enforced by any Luxembourg natural or legal person, as well as any other natural or legal person operating in or from the Luxembourg territory. As a result, prior to the Sub-Funds investing in assets, the Management Company shall, as a minimum, ensure that the name of such assets or of the issuer is screened against the target financial sanctions lists.

The Management Company may, at any time at its discretion, temporarily discontinue, cease definitively or limit the issue of Units to persons or corporate bodies residing or established in certain countries or territories. The Management Company may also prohibit certain persons or corporate bodies from acquiring Units if such a measure is necessary for the protection of the Fund or any Sub-Fund, the Management Company or the Unitholders of the Fund or any Sub-Fund. Furthermore, the Management Company may direct the Registrar Agent of the Fund to:

- a) reject at its discretion any application for Units;
- b) repurchase at any time the Units held by Unitholders who are excluded from purchasing or holding Units.

If on any Valuation Day subscription orders relate to more than 10% of the Units in issue in a specific Sub-Fund, the Management Company may decide that part or all of such requests for subscription will be deferred for such period as the Management Company considers to be in the best interests of the Sub-Fund, but normally not exceeding one Valuation Day. On the next Valuation Day following such period, these subscription requests will be met in priority to later requests.

## **REDEMPTION AND CONVERSION OF UNITS**

Unless otherwise specified in the relevant Appendix, Unitholders may give instructions to the Registrar Agent for the conversion of Units of one Class of Units of any Sub-Fund into Units

of that same or a different Class in the same or another Sub-Fund, where available, or for the conversion of distribution Units into capitalisation Units, or for the redemption of Units, on any Business Day by FTP, swift, facsimile, or post quoting their Personal Account Number.

Unless otherwise specified in the Appendices, instructions to convert or redeem Units received by the Registrar Agent prior to 3 p.m. C.E.T. on any Business Day will be processed at the Dealing Price less any redemption or conversion fees as mentioned in the relevant Appendix. All instructions to convert or redeem Units received by the Registrar Agent after 3 p.m. C.E.T. shall be deemed to have been received on the following Business Day. Different redemption and conversion procedures and time limits may apply, if applications for redemption or conversion are made through a distributor. In such instances, each investor should obtain from the distributor information about the redemption or conversion procedure relevant to their application for redemption or conversion together with any time limit by which the application for redemption or conversion must be received. Investors should note that they may be unable to apply for redemption or conversion of their Units through a distributor on days that such distributor is not open for business.

Retail investors will not be allowed to convert their Units into Classes of Units reserved for Institutional Investors. Conversion of Units of a Sub-Fund calculating its Net Asset Value on a weekly basis into Units of another Sub-Fund calculating its Net Asset Value on a daily basis is not authorised and shall be rejected by the Management Company.

Instructions for redemptions may be refused if the redemption would result in the investor having an aggregate residual holding of less than the minimum holding indicated for each Class of Units in the Appendices.

If on any Valuation Day redemption or conversion requests relate to more than 10% of the Units in issue in a specific Sub-Fund, the Management Company may decide that part or all of such requests for repurchase or conversion will be deferred for such period as the Management Company considers to be in the best interests of the Sub-Fund, but normally not exceeding one Valuation Day. On the next Valuation Day following such period, these repurchase or conversion requests will be met in priority to later requests.

The repurchase or conversion price may, depending on the Net Asset Value per Unit applicable on the date of repurchase, be higher or lower than the price paid at the time of subscription.

Instructions for redemption or conversion may be posted through BNP Paribas Securities Services Luxembourg - 60, avenue J.F. Kennedy, L-1855 Luxembourg provided that investors have been accepted by the Management Company at its own discretion as eligible to the One Platform and have completed an application form with BNP Paribas Securities Services Luxembourg. Retail investors are not eligible to the One Platform.

### **Redemption Proceeds**

Redemption proceeds will be made on the Settlement Day by bank transfer, unless a specific payment process has been agreed in which case the redemption proceeds will be dispatched, at the Unitholders' risk. Redemption proceeds will be rounded to the nearest whole currency unit applying (normal rounding rules) or sub-unit of the relevant offering currency.

For the avoidance of doubt, the currency in which redemption proceeds are to be paid should always be specified at the time that the redemption instruction is given. In the absence of such specification, the Registrar Agent will instruct the Depositary to remit the proceeds to the

registered address of the Unitholder by bank transfer in the relevant offering currency.

Unitholders are requested to provide Standing Redemption Payment Instructions on their Application Form. Redemption proceeds can then be remitted by electronic funds transfer to the nominated bank account. These instructions may subsequently be changed by sending written instructions, signed by the Unitholder or, in case of joint unitholdership, by all the joint Unitholders, to the Registrar Agent, who will then write to confirm the change. As an additional safety feature, the change may (if the Registrar Agent so requires) only be effected when confirmation has been received from all the joint Unitholders in case of joint unitholding. In view of the time needed to obtain this confirmation, the Directors strongly advise Unitholders to keep their Standing Redemption Payment Instructions up to date.

In the event that redemption is requested in a currency other than the offering currency of the Classes of Units within the relevant Sub-Fund(s), the Registrar Agent will perform the necessary foreign exchange transactions. Unitholders should be aware that the amount of currency involved and the time of day at which such foreign exchange is transacted will affect the rate of exchange. No liability shall be accepted by the Depositary, Registrar Agent or the Management Company for any losses arising from adverse currency fluctuations.

At the Unitholder's request, the Management Company may elect to pay redemption proceeds in kind, having due regard to all applicable laws and regulations and to all Unitholders' interest. In such case of payment in kind, the auditor of the Fund shall deliver, if applicable, an audit report in accordance with applicable laws. Any costs incurred in connection with a redemption in kind of securities shall be borne by the relevant Unitholder.

### **Conversion Proceeds**

A conversion of Units of one Class or Sub-Fund for Units of another Class or Sub-Fund will be treated as a redemption of Units and a simultaneous purchase of Units of the other Class or of the acquired Sub-Fund.

In some jurisdictions a conversion of Units of one Class or Sub-Fund for Units of another Class or Sub-Fund may be considered as a disposal of Units of the original, Class or Sub-Fund for the purposes of taxation.

In the event that conversion is between Classes of Units where the Reference Currencies are not the same, the Registrar Agent will perform the necessary foreign exchange transactions. Unitholders should be aware that the amount of currency involved and the time of day at which such foreign exchange is transacted will affect the rate of exchange. No liability shall be accepted by the Depositary, Registrar Agent or the Management Company for any losses arising from adverse currency fluctuations.

The number of Units of the new Class to be allotted is calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$A = \frac{((B \times OP) - D) \times E}{NP}$$

where:

A = the number of Units in the new Sub-Fund / Class to be allotted;

- B = the number of Units in the existing Sub-Fund / Class to be converted;
- OP = the Dealing Price in the existing Sub-Fund / Class;
- D = the conversion costs (if any) retained by the existing Sub-Fund;
- E = the foreign exchange rate between the currency of the existing Sub-Fund / Class and the new Sub-Fund / Class (provided that when the existing Sub-Fund / Class and the new Sub-Fund / Class are denominated in the same currency the rate is one);
- NP = the Dealing Price of the new Sub-Fund / Class.

### **Seed Money**

Units of a Sub-Fund may be held (i) by a French fund in which AXA Investment Managers is a majority shareholder (hereinafter the "AXA IM Fund") and/or (ii) by companies which are part of the AXA group of companies and/or (iii) by investment funds which are managed by investment management companies in which AXA IM group directly or indirectly holds a shareholding ("AXA IM Group Managed Funds") for the purposes of building a track record or a specific marketing action on the Sub-Fund.

AXA IM Fund and/or companies of the AXA IM group and/or AXA IM Group Managed Funds may, at any time, choose to redeem their Units in the Sub-Fund which may result in a material decrease in the total assets of the Sub-Fund and/or a restructuring of the Sub-Fund including but not limited to restructuring causing the winding up of the Sub-Fund or its merger with another fund. Specific rules have been established by the Management Company with a view to preserve an equal treatment between the Unitholders of the Sub-Fund and will be applied in such case.

The foregoing does not prevent Units of a Sub-Fund from being held by other investors including external seed investors.

### **LATE TRADING AND MARKET TIMING**

Subscription, redemption and conversion of Units should be made for investment purposes only. The Fund does not permit market-timing or other excessive trading practices such as late trading (i.e. subscription received after the Sub-Funds cut-off time). Excessive, short-term (market-timing) trading practices may disrupt portfolio management strategies and harm Fund performance. To minimise harm to the Fund and the Unitholders, the Management Company or the Registrar Agent on its behalf has the right to reject any subscription or conversion order, or levy in addition to any subscription, redemption or conversion fees which may be charged, a fee of up to 2% of the value of the order for the benefit of the Fund from any investor who is engaging in excessive trading or has a history of excessive trading or if an investor's trading, in the opinion of the Management Company, has been or may be disruptive to the Fund. In making this judgment, the Management Company may consider trading done in multiple accounts under common ownership or control. The Management Company also has the power to redeem all Units held by a Unitholder who is or has been engaged in excessive trading. The Management Company will not be held liable for any loss resulting from rejected orders or mandatory redemptions.

Subscriptions, redemptions and conversions are dealt with at an unknown Net Asset Value per Unit. Any order received is deemed irrevocable after the Sub-Funds' cut-off time.

## **DETERMINATION OF THE NET ASSET VALUE OF UNITS**

The Net Asset Value per Unit of each Class in each Sub-Fund is determined in the offering currencies of the relevant Class within the relevant Sub-Fund on each applicable Valuation Day as disclosed in the Appendices.

If the Valuation Day indicated in said Appendices is not a Business Day, the net asset valuation shall, unless otherwise specified in the relevant Appendix, take place on the next following Business Day. In such event, the Net Asset Value shall be calculated on the basis of the closing prices of the day preceding the concerned closed Business Day. Nevertheless, units of other UCITS and/or other UCIs held by the relevant Sub-Fund will be evaluated at their last available net asset value per unit.

The Net Asset Value per Unit of each Class of Units for each Sub-Fund is determined by dividing the value of the assets of the Sub-Fund properly allocable to such Class of Units less the liabilities (including any provisions considered by the Management Company to be necessary or prudent) of the Sub-Fund attributable to such Class of Units by the total number of Units outstanding in the relevant Class at the time of the determination of the Net Asset Value. To the extent feasible, investment income, interest payable, fees and other liabilities (including management fees) will be accrued daily.

The assets of the Fund will be valued as follows:

- a) the value of any cash on hand or on deposit, bills and demand notes and accounts receivable, prepaid expenses, cash dividends and interest declared or accrued as aforesaid and not yet received is deemed to be the full amount thereof, unless in any case the same is unlikely to be paid or received in full, in which case the value thereof is arrived at after making such discount as may be considered appropriate in such case to reflect the true value thereof;
- b) securities listed or traded on any Regulated Market, stock exchange in an Other State or Other Regulated Market will be valued at the closing price on such markets. If a security is listed or traded on several markets, the closing price at the market which constitutes the main market for such securities, will be determining;
- c) securities not listed or traded on any Regulated Market, stock exchange in an Other State or Other Regulated Market will be valued at their last available price;
- d) securities for which no price quotation is available or for which the price referred to in (b) and/or (c) is not representative of the fair market value, will be valued prudently, and in good faith on the basis of their reasonably foreseeable sales prices. As far as CDOs are concerned and insofar the price quotation is not representative of the fair market value, CDOs will be valued at their Net Asset Value as transmitted to the Investment Manager by the arranging bank of each CDO in which the Fund has invested;
- e) the value of Money Market Instruments listed or traded on any Regulated Market, stock exchange in an Other State or an Other Regulated Market will be valued at the closing price on such markets. If a security is listed or traded on several markets, the closing price of the market which constitutes the main market for such securities, will be determining;
- f) the value of Money Market Instruments not listed or traded on any Regulated Market, stock exchange in an Other State or an Other Regulated Market will be valued at their last

available price;

- g) the liquidating value of futures, forward and options contracts not traded on Regulated Markets, stock exchanges in an Other State or on Other Regulated Markets shall mean their net liquidating value determined, pursuant to the policies established in good faith by the Management Company, on a basis consistently applied for each different variety of contracts. The liquidating value of futures, forward and options contracts traded on Regulated Markets, stock exchanges in an Other State or on Other Regulated Markets shall be based upon the last available settlement prices of these contracts on Regulated Markets, stock exchanges in an Other State and Other Regulated Markets on which the particular futures, forward or options contracts are traded by the Fund; provided that if a futures, forward or options contract could not be liquidated on the day with respect to which net assets are being determined, the basis for determining the liquidating value of such contract shall be such value as the Management Company may deem fair and reasonable;
- h) values expressed in a currency other than the Reference Currency of a Sub-Fund shall be translated to the Reference Currency of a Sub-Fund at the average of the last available buying and selling price for such currency;
- i) swaps and all other securities and assets will be valued at fair market value as determined prudently and in good faith by the Management Company; and
- j) shares or units of UCITS and/or other UCIs will be evaluated at their last available net asset value per share or unit as reported by such undertakings. If such net asset value is not ascertained or if the Management Company considers that some other method of valuation more accurately reflects the fair value of the relevant shares or units, the method of valuation of such shares or units will be such as the Management Company in its absolute discretion decides.

In the event that extraordinary circumstances render valuations as aforesaid impracticable or inadequate, the Management Company is authorized, prudently and in good faith, to follow other rules in order to achieve a fair valuation of the assets of the Fund.

Unless otherwise specified in the relevant Appendix, the Net Asset Value per Unit for each Sub-Fund with respect to any Valuation Day is determined by the administrator and is normally made available at the registered office of the Management Company on the first Business Day following such Valuation Day.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Net Asset Value calculated with reference to a given Valuation Day (D) will be dated as of such Valuation Day (D) and will be normally made available on the Valuation Day immediately following such Valuation Day (D + 1), unless otherwise specified with respect to any Sub-Fund in the relevant Appendix.

Each Sub-Fund shall be valued so that all agreements to purchase or sell securities are reflected as of the date of execution, and all dividends receivable and distributions receivable are accrued as of the relevant ex-dividend dates.

The Management Company reserves the right to temporarily suspend the calculation of NAVs and transactions in a Sub-Fund's Units when any of the following is true:

- i. the principal exchanges or regulated markets that supply the price of a material portion of the assets of a Sub-Fund's investments are closed when they would

normally be open, or their trading is restricted or suspended or the information or calculation sources normally used to determine a material portion of the NAV are unavailable or for any other reason, the prices or values of a material portion of the assets of a Sub-Fund cannot be accurately or promptly ascertained;

- ii. a master fund in which the Sub-Fund has invested material assets in quality of feeder fund has suspended its NAV calculations or share transactions or the underlying funds in which the Sub-Fund is invested have suspended their NAV calculations or share transactions;
- iii. a legal, political, economic, military or monetary environment or an event of force majeure, has made impractical to value or trade Sub-Fund's assets;
- iv. there has been a breakdown or malfunction in the communications systems or IT media used by the Fund, or by any securities exchange, in valuing assets;
- v. the Fund is unable to repatriate sufficient funds to make portfolio investments, transfer the capital or execute transactions at normal rates of exchange and conditions for such transactions or repatriation;
- vi. during the process of establishing exchange ratios in the context of a merger, a contribution of assets, an asset or share split or any other restructuring transaction;
- vii. during any period when the dealing of the Units of the Fund or Sub-Fund or Unit Classes on any relevant stock exchange where such shares are listed is suspended or restricted or closed;
- viii. the Fund is unable to deal with Sub-Funds' assets at normal and/or fair conditions, whether for purposes of making portfolio investments or redemption payments; and
- ix. after notice has been given to the Unitholders' informing them about the liquidation of the Fund or about the termination or liquidation of a Sub-Fund or Unit Class.

A suspension could apply to any Unit Class and Sub-Fund (or to all), and to any type of request (buy, switch, redeem).

Unitholders whose orders are not processed because of a suspension will be notified of the suspension within seven (7) days after their request and of its termination.

Any such suspension will be notified to those Unitholders who have applied for issue, repurchase or conversion and shall be published in the manner described under the heading "Unitholders' Information" below.

Any request for subscription, redemption and conversion will be irrevocable except in the event of a suspension of the calculation of the Net Asset Value per Unit in the relevant Sub-Fund.

### **Swing pricing**

When significant amounts of cash enter a Sub-Fund from new subscriptions, this often requires the Investment Manager to buy securities on behalf of the Sub-Fund to ensure that it is fully invested. Conversely, large redemption requests commonly need to be met by selling securities. The costs of these transactions can include "bid-ask" spreads, broker commissions, custody charges and/or taxes. Without a proper mechanism to deal with this spread impact, these extra



costs are borne by the Sub-Fund, causing detriment to the existing Unitholders, especially to long-term investors. This is largely because - in the absence of an anti-dilution mechanism - the Unit Class's price reflects the close of business "mid" price of its underlying investments and does not include the costs of trading them.

To protect the interests of the existing Unitholders of a Sub-Fund or a Unit Class, the Management Company may apply a swing pricing mechanism across any and all Sub-Funds or Unit Classes and on the portion of cash generated by a merger affecting a Sub-Fund, provided that the Appendix of the relevant Sub-Fund foresees the application of such swing pricing mechanism.

The governance of the swing pricing mechanism is defined and applied by the Management Company through a dedicated committee. The Management Company has adopted a partial swing methodology, meaning that the swing pricing mechanism is applied at the level of the Sub-Fund or the Unit Class only if a predetermined net capital activity threshold (the "swing threshold") is exceeded on any Valuation Day, irrespective of the specific circumstances of each individual investor transaction.

If the net subscriptions and redemptions based on the last available NAV on any Valuation Day exceed a certain threshold of the value of a Sub-Fund or a Unit Class on that Valuation Day, as determined and reviewed on a periodic basis by the Management Company, the NAV will be adjusted by a swing factor respectively upwards or downwards to reflect the extra costs borne by the Sub-Fund, as described above.

The extent of the price adjustment will be set by the Management Company and will not exceed 2% of the NAV in normal market conditions. Nevertheless, in exceptional circumstances (such as but not limited to higher market volatility) and in the best interest of the Unitholders, the Management Company may decide to go beyond this threshold.

The fluctuation of the Sub-Fund's NAV may not reflect the true Sub-Fund's performance, and therefore where applicable, might deviate from the Sub-Fund's benchmark because of the application of the swing pricing mechanism.

## **FEES AND EXPENSES**

### **A. General**

#### **Indirect fees**

In the event that the Fund invests in the units of other UCITS and/or other UCIs that are managed, directly or by delegation, by the Management Company or by any other company with which the Management Company is linked by common management or control, or by a substantial direct or indirect holding, the Management Company or that other company may not charge subscription or redemption fees on account of the Fund's investment in the units of such other UCITS and/or UCIs.

#### **Applied service fee**

In order to pay its ordinary operating expenses, and to seek to protect the investors from fluctuations in these ordinary operating expenses, the Fund will pay an Applied Service Fee to the Management Company out of the assets of the relevant of the relevant Class of Units. , The level of effective applied service fee might be set-out below the maximum level set-out in the relevant Appendices with different fixed effective applied service fee rates applicable across Classes of Units.

The effective level of the Applied Service Fee per Sub-Fund and per Class of Units is defined taking into account different criteria such as, but not limited to, the costs charged to the Class of Units and the variation of costs linked to a change of the Net Asset Value in respect of the relevant Class of Units that might be due to market effects and/or dealing in units.

By way of a board of directors resolution, the Management Company (i) may modify the level of effective Applied Service Fee and (ii), may amend at any time upon prior notice to relevant Unitholders, the Maximum Level of the Applied Service Fee applicable to all Classes of Units.

The Applied Service Fee is fixed in the sense that the Management Company will bear the excess in actual ordinary operating expenses to any such Applied Service Fee charged to the Classes of Units. Conversely, the Management Company will be entitled to retain any amount of Applied Service Fee charged to the Classes of Units exceeding the actual ordinary operating expenses incurred by the respective Classes of Units.

The effective Applied Service Fee is accrued at each calculation of the Net Asset Value and included in the ongoing charges of each Class of Units disclosed in the relevant KID.

In return for the Applied Service Fee received by the Fund, the Management Company then provides and/or procures, on behalf of the Fund the following services and bears all expenses (including any reasonable out of pocket expenses) incurred in the day to day operations and administration of the Classes of Units, including but not limited to:

- depositary fees, including all custody fees, except transaction related fees;
- auditor's fees;
- the Luxembourg "Taxe d'abonnement";
- class of Unit currency hedging cost;
- the registrar agent, the domiciliary and administrative agent, any paying agent, the depositary of already issued bearer units, and of any representatives in jurisdictions where the Units are qualified for sale, and of all other agents employed on behalf of the Fund; such remuneration may be based on the net assets of the Fund or on a transaction basis or may be a fixed sum;
- the cost of preparing, printing and publishing in such languages as are necessary, and distributing offering information or documents concerning the Fund, annual and semi-annual reports and such other reports or documents, as may be allowed or required under the applicable laws or regulations of the jurisdictions or the authorities where the Units are qualified for sale;
- registrar's fees;
- the cost of printing certificates and proxies;
- the cost of preparing and filing the Management Regulation and all other documents concerning the Fund, including registration statements and offering circulars with all authorities (including local securities dealers' associations) having jurisdiction over the Fund or the offering of Units;
- the cost of qualifying the Fund or the sale of Units in any jurisdiction or of a listing on any exchange;
- the cost of accounting and bookkeeping;
- legal fees;
- the cost of preparing, printing, publishing and distributing public notices and other communications to the Unitholders;
- the cost of calculating the NAV of each Class of Units;
- insurance, postage, telephone and telex and any communication mean;
- distribution and sales support costs (including costs charged by local routing order platforms, local transfer agent costs, local representative agent and the translation costs); and
- all similar charges and expenses.

In the cases where any of the ordinary operating expenses listed above might be directly paid out of the assets of the Fund the applied service fee amount due by the Fund to the management company will be reduced accordingly.

The applied service fee does not cover any cost or expense incurred by a Class of Units or Sub-Fund in respect of:

- all taxes which may be due on the assets and the income of the Fund (to the exception of the Luxembourg “Taxe d’abonnement” listed above);
- the cost of investment dealing (including usual banking and brokerage fees due on transactions involving portfolio securities of each Sub-Fund, the latter to be included in the acquisition price and to be deducted from the selling price);
- correspondent and other banking charges;
- securities lending fees except custody fees - the agent carrying out securities lending and repurchase agreement activities for its services. The details of the remuneration will figure out in the annual report of the Fund relative to the relevant Sub-Fund;
- extraordinary expenses including but not limited to expenses that would not be considered as ordinary expenses: litigation expenses, exceptional measures, particularly legal, business or tax expert appraisals or legal proceedings undertaken to protect Unitholders’ interests, any expense linked to non-routine arrangements made by the domiciliary agent, the registrar and transfer agent and the listing agent in the interests of the investors and all similar charges and expenses.

A portion of commissions paid to selected brokers for certain portfolio transactions may be repaid to the Sub-Funds which generated the commissions with these brokers and may be used to offset expenses.

## **B. Formation and Launching Expenses of Additional Sub-Funds**

The costs and expenses incurred in connection with the creation of a new Sub-Fund shall be written off over a period not exceeding five years against the assets of such Sub-Fund only and in such amounts each year as determined by the Management Company on an equitable basis.

## **C. Fees of the Management Company**

The Management Company is entitled to a management fee for each Class of Units, payable monthly out of the assets of each Sub-Fund. Such fee is described in detail for each Sub-Fund in the relevant section in Appendices below.

The Management Company pays to the Investment Manager a fee out of its management fee as from time to time agreed between themselves.

In addition, for specific Classes of Units, a distribution fee is calculated on top of the annual management fee, as a maximum percentage of the Net Asset Value of each Class of Units, as detailed in the relevant Appendices.

Calculation of both management fee and distribution fee is performed on a daily basis.

## **AUDITORS**

The auditor of the Fund is PriceWaterhouseCoopers Société coopérative. The auditor of the Fund is appointed by the Management Company and shall, with respect to the assets of the Fund, carry out the duties provided by the Law of 2010.

## DIVIDENDS

### Dividend Policy

Capitalisation Units do not declare any dividends and accordingly the income attributable to these Units will be accumulated in their respective NAV.

Distributing Units declare dividends at the discretion of the Board. Dividends may be paid out of the investment income and/or realised capital gains, or out of any other funds available for distribution. Dividends are paid annually. Distribution monthly “m” or Distribution quarterly “q” or Distribution semi-annually “s” Units declare dividends on a monthly, quarterly or semi-annual basis respectively. Additional interim dividends may also be declared at the discretion of the Directors and as permitted by Luxembourg law.

Whilst it is intended that Distributing Units Classes will declare and distribute dividends, investors should be aware that there may be circumstances when the level of the dividends declared is reduced or even when no distribution is made at all. They may carry a risk of capital erosion. Potential investors should carefully read the “Capital Erosion” Risk under “Risk Considerations”. All potential investors are encouraged to seek tax advice before investing in Distributing Units. The Distributing Unit types are mentioned in the “Distributing Units” table below.

Dividends are paid in cash or reinvested in Units of the same Sub-Fund and Units Class. Investors will receive a statement note detailing all cash payment or reinvestments in their account. Investors should be aware that certain intermediaries, such as Euroclear or Clearstream, do not support dividend reinvestment and will therefore receive their dividends in cash.

If investors do receive dividends in cash, they can have them converted to a different currency, at their own expenses and risk and subject to approval by the Management Company. Normal banking rates are used for calculating currency exchange values. Dividends are paid only on Units owned as at the record date.

No Sub-Fund will make a dividend payment if the assets of the Fund are below the minimum capital requirement, or if paying the dividend would cause that situation to occur.

The Management Company may apply an equalization accounting technique to ensure that the level of income attributable to each Unit is not affected by the issue, conversion or redemption of those Units during the distribution period. Investors should seek professional advice on the possible tax consequences of subscribing, redeeming or converting Units, or the effects of any equalization policy relevant in respect of Units.

Unit class Identifier	Dividend Basis	Description and Objective
Distribution	Net Income	Aims to pay all income generated during the period after deduction of expenses from the NAV of the relevant Unit.
Distribution “gr”	Gross Income	Aims to pay all income generated during the period before deduction of expenses from the NAV of the relevant Unit.

Distribution “fl”	Determined on the basis of a fixed amount or rate per annum	Aims to pay a fixed amount or rate (pro-rated according to the relevant distribution frequency) over the fiscal year regardless of the actual level of income generated during the period of the relevant Sub-fund.
Distribution “st”	Determined on the basis of gross income	Aims to pay a stable amount or rate (pro-rated according to the relevant distribution frequency) over the fiscal year without sustained excessive capital erosion.

Dividend Policy Exceptions: Unit Classes dedicated only to certain investors may operate a different distribution policy than those described above.

Where a distribution is made and not claimed within five years from its due date, it will lapse and will revert to the relevant Sub-Fund.

### **DURATION, LIQUIDATION AND AMALGAMATION OF THE FUND OR OF ANY SUB-FUND**

The Fund has been established for an unlimited period of time. The Sub-Fund can be established for a limited or unlimited period of time as disclosed under each Appendix. However, the Fund or any Sub-Fund may be terminated at any time by mutual agreement between the Management Company and the Depositary, subject to prior notice. The Management Company may, in particular decide such dissolution where the value of the net assets of the Fund or of any Sub-Fund has decreased to an amount determined by the Management Company to be the minimum level for the Fund or for such Sub-Fund to be operated in an economically efficient manner, or in case of a significant change of the economic or political situation.

The Management Company will only decide termination of any Sub-Fund established for a limited period of time before the maturity date to the extent that such early termination does not harm the interests of the Unitholders.

The liquidation of the Fund or of a Sub-Fund cannot be requested by a Unitholder.

The event leading to dissolution of the Fund must be announced by a notice published in the RESA. In addition, the event leading to dissolution of the Fund must be announced in at least two newspapers with appropriate distribution, at least one of which must be a Luxembourg newspaper. Such event will also be notified to the Unitholders in such other manner as may be deemed appropriate by the Management Company.

The Management Company or, as the case may be, the liquidator it has appointed, will realise the assets of the Fund or of the relevant Sub-Fund(s) in the best interest of the Unitholders thereof, and upon instructions given by the Management Company, the Depositary will distribute the net proceeds from such liquidation, after deducting all liquidation expenses relating thereto, amongst the Unitholders of the relevant Sub-Fund(s) in proportion to the number of Units held by them. The Management Company may distribute the assets of the Fund or of the relevant Sub-Fund wholly or partly in kind to any Unitholder who agrees in compliance with the conditions set forth by the Management Company (including, without limitation, delivery of independent valuation report issued by the auditors of the Fund) and the principle of equal treatment of Unitholders.

At the close of liquidation of the Fund or of any Sub-Fund, the proceeds thereof corresponding to Units not surrendered will be kept in safe custody with the Luxembourg *Caisse de Consignation*

until the prescription period has elapsed.

Units may be redeemed, provided that Unitholders are treated equally.

The Management Company may decide to proceed with a merger (within the meaning of the Law of 2010) of the Fund or any Sub-Fund, being either a merging or a receiving UCITS with those of (i) another existing Sub-Fund within the Fund or another sub-fund within such other Luxembourg or foreign UCITS (the "new sub-fund"), or with those of (ii) another Luxembourg or foreign UCITS (the "new UCITS"), and to redesignate the Units of the Fund or of the Sub-Fund concerned as Units of the new UCITS or the new sub-fund, as applicable.

Such merger shall be subject to the (i) prior authorisation of the Regulatory Authority in case the Fund or its Sub-Funds is/are the merging UCITS and (ii) the conditions and procedures imposed by the Law of 2010 in particular concerning the merger project and the information on the proposed merger to be provided to the Unitholders at least thirty (30) days before the last date for requesting repurchase or redemption or as the case may be conversion as explained under the paragraph below.

As from the moment Unitholders have been informed of the proposed merger, they shall have the right to request, without any charge other than those retained by the Fund to meet disinvestment costs, the repurchase or redemption of their Units or, where possible, to convert them into units in another UCITS with similar investment policy and managed by the Management Company or by any other company with which the Management Company is linked by common management or control, or by a substantial direct or indirect holding. Such right shall cease to exist five (5) working days before the date for calculating the exchange ratio of the units of the merging UCITS into those of the receiving UCITS referred to in Article 75 of the Law of 2010.

Any cost associated with the preparation and the completion of the merger shall not be charged neither to the Fund nor to its Unitholders.

## **CLOSURE OF UNITS OR AMENDMENT TO UNITS RIGHTS**

In the event that for any reason the value of the net assets of any Class of Units within a Sub-Fund has decreased to, or has not reached, an amount determined by the Management Company to be the minimum level for such Class of Units, to be operated in an economically efficient manner or as a matter of economic rationalisation, the Management Company may decide in its entire discretion to redeem all the Units of the relevant Class or Classes at the Net Asset Value per Unit (taking into account actual realisation prices of investments and realisation expenses) calculated on the Valuation Day at which such decision shall take effect. The Management Company shall serve a notice to the holders of the relevant Class or Classes of Units prior to the effective date for the compulsory redemption, which will indicate the reasons and the procedure for the redemption operations.

Under the same circumstances, the Management Company may also decide to amend the rights attached to any Class of Units so as to include them in any other existing Class of Units and redesignate the Units of the Class or Classes concerned as Units of another Class. Such decision will be subject to the right of the relevant Unitholders to request, without any charges, the redemption of their Units or, where possible, the conversion of those Units into Units of other Classes within the same Sub-Fund or into Units of same or other Classes within another Sub-Fund.

## REMUNERATION POLICY

The Management Company has approved and adopted AXA IM's Global Remuneration Policy, in accordance with the applicable regulations, which is consistent with, and promotes, sound and effective risk management; does not encourage risk-taking which is inconsistent with the risk profiles of the Fund or the Management Regulations and does not impair compliance of the Management Company's duty to act in the best interests of the Fund.

AXA IM's Global Remuneration Policy, which has been approved by the AXA IM Remuneration Committee, sets out the principles relating to remuneration within all entities of AXA IM (including the Management Company) and takes into account AXA IM's business strategy, objectives, and risk tolerance, as well as the long-term interests of AXA IM's shareholders, employees and clients (including the Company). The AXA IM Remuneration Committee is responsible for determining and reviewing the AXA IM remuneration guidelines, including the AXA IM Global Remuneration Policy, as well as reviewing the annual remuneration of senior executives of the AXA IM Group and senior officers in control functions.

AXA IM provides both fixed and variable remuneration. An employee's fixed remuneration is structured to reward organizational responsibility, professional experience and the individual's capability to perform the duties of the role. Variable remuneration is based on performance and may be awarded annually on both a non-deferred and, for certain employees, a deferred basis. Non-deferred variable remuneration may be awarded in cash or, where appropriate and subject to local laws and regulation, in instruments linked to the performance of AXA IM funds. Deferred remuneration is awarded through various instruments structured to reward medium and long term value creation for clients and AXA IM and long term value creation for the AXA Group. AXA IM ensures appropriate balances between fixed and variable remuneration and deferred and non-deferred remuneration.

Details of the up to date AXA IM Global Remuneration Policy are published online at <https://www.axa-im.com/en/remuneration>. This includes the description of how remuneration and benefits are awarded for employees, and further information on the AXA IM Remuneration Committee. The Management Company shall provide a paper copy free of charge upon request.

### **Payment of retrocessions and rebates:**

As part of its commercial development policy, the Management Company may decide to develop contacts with various financial intermediaries who, in turn, are in contact with client segments likely to invest in the funds managed by the Management Company. The Management Company applies a strict selection policy of its partners and determines the conditions of their remuneration (one-off or recurring), calculated either on a lump sum basis or in proportion to the management fees received, in order to preserve the long-term stability of the relationship.

The Management Company may, on a discretionary basis, grant rebates directly to investors on request depending on commercial interests. Rebates are used to reduce the fees or expenses of the investors concerned.

Rebates are permitted provided that they are paid out of the remuneration received by the Management Company and therefore do not represent an additional charge for the Fund and are granted on the basis of objective criteria.

For more information, please refer to the document 'Remuneration for the distribution of Undertakings for Collective Investment and rebates to certain holders' available on the website <https://www.axa-im.fr/informations-importantes>.

## **APPLICABLE LAW AND JURISDICTION**

The Management Regulations are governed by the laws of Luxembourg and any dispute arising between the Unitholders, the Management Company and the Depositary will be subject to the jurisdiction of the District Court of Luxembourg.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the Management Company and the Depositary may subject themselves and the Fund, (i) to the jurisdiction of the courts of the countries in which the Units of the Fund are offered and sold with respect to claims by investors resident in such countries, and (ii) with respect to matters relating to subscription, repurchase and conversion by Unitholders resident in such countries, to the laws of such countries.

The claims of the Unitholders against the Management Company or the Depositary will lapse five years after the date of the event which gave rise to such claims.

## **GOVERNING LANGUAGE**

English shall be the governing language of the Management Regulations.

## **TAXATION IN LUXEMBOURG**

The following is a summary of certain material Luxembourg tax consequences of purchasing, owning and disposing of the Units of the Fund. It does not purport to be a complete analysis of all possible tax situations that may be relevant to a decision to purchase, own or sell the Units. It is included herein solely for preliminary information purposes. It is not intended to be, nor should it be construed to be, legal or tax advice. Prospective purchasers of the Units should consult their own tax advisers as to the applicable tax consequences of the ownership of the Units, based on their particular circumstances. This summary does not allow any conclusions to be drawn with respect to issues not specifically addressed. The following description of Luxembourg tax law is based upon the Luxembourg law and regulations as in effect and as interpreted by the Luxembourg tax authorities on the date of this document and is subject to any amendments in law (or in interpretation) later introduced, whether or not on a retroactive basis.

Please be aware that the residence concept used under the respective headings below applies for Luxembourg income tax assessment purposes only. Any reference in the present section to a tax, duty, levy impost or other charge or withholding of a similar nature refers to Luxembourg tax law and/or concepts only. Also, please note that a reference to Luxembourg income tax encompasses corporate income tax (*impôt sur le revenu des collectivités*), municipal business tax (*impôt commercial communal*), a solidarity surcharge (*contribution au fonds pour l'emploi*) personal income tax (*impôt sur le revenu*), as well as a temporary equalisation tax (*impôt d'équilibrage budgétaire temporaire*) generally. Investors may further be subject to net worth tax (*impôt sur la fortune*) as well as other duties, levies or taxes. Corporate income tax, municipal business tax and the solidarity surcharge invariably apply to most corporate taxpayers who are residents of Luxembourg for tax purposes. Individual taxpayers are generally subject to personal income tax, the solidarity surcharge and the temporary equalisation tax. Under certain circumstances, where an individual taxpayer acts in the course of the management of a professional or business undertaking, municipal business tax may apply as well.



## *TAXATION OF THE FUND*

The Fund is not subject to any Luxembourg tax on interest or dividends received by any Sub-Fund, any realized or unrealized capital appreciation of Sub-Fund assets or any distribution paid by any Sub-Fund to Unitholders.

The Fund is not subject to any Luxembourg stamp tax or other duty payable on the issuance of Units.

The Fund is as a rule liable in Luxembourg to a subscription tax (*Taxe d'abonnement*) of 0.05% per annum of its Net Asset Value, such tax being payable quarterly on the basis of the value of the aggregate net assets of each Sub-Fund of the Fund at the end of the relevant calendar quarter.

This rate is however of 0.01% per annum for:

- individual Sub-Funds of UCIs the exclusive object of which is the collective investment in money market instruments and the placing of deposits with credit institutions;
- individual Sub-Funds of UCIs the exclusive object of which is the collective investment in deposits with credit institutions;
- individual Sub-Funds of UCIs with multiple Sub-Funds as well as for individual classes of securities issued within a UCI or within a Sub-Fund of a UCI with multiple Sub-Funds, provided that the securities of such Sub-Funds or classes are reserved to one or more institutional investors.

Are further exempt from the subscription tax:

- the value of the assets represented by units held in other UCIs, provided such units have already been subject to the subscription tax;
- UCIs as well as individual Sub-Fund of umbrella funds (i) whose securities are reserved for institutional investors, (ii) whose exclusive object is the collective investment in money market instruments and the placing of deposits with credit institutions, (iii) whose weighted residual portfolio maturity must not exceed ninety (90) days, and (iv) which have obtained the highest possible rating from a recognized rating agency; and
- UCIs whose securities are reserved for (i) institutions for occupational retirement provision, or similar investment vehicles, created on the initiative of a same group for the benefit of its employees and (ii) undertakings of this same group investing funds they hold, to provide retirement benefits to their employees.
- for UCIs as well as individual Sub-Fund of umbrella funds whose main objective is the investment in micro-finance institutions; and
- for UCIs as well as individual Sub-Fund of umbrella funds (i) whose securities are listed or traded on at least one stock exchange or another regulated market operating regularly, recognised and open to the public and (ii) whose exclusive object is to replicate the performance of one or more indices.

The Fund, together with its Management Company, is considered in Luxembourg as a single taxable person for value added tax (“VAT”) purposes without any input VAT deduction right. A VAT exemption applies in Luxembourg for services qualifying as fund management services. Other services supplied to the Fund/the Management Company could potentially trigger VAT and require the VAT registration of the Management Company in Luxembourg. As a result of such VAT registration, the Fund/the Management Company will be in a position to fulfil the duty to self-assess the VAT regarded as due in Luxembourg on taxable services (or goods to some extent) purchased from abroad.

No VAT liability arises in principle in Luxembourg in respect of any payments by the Fund to its Unitholders, to the extent such payments are linked to their subscription to the Fund’s Units and do, therefore, not constitute the consideration received for taxable services supplied.

Dividends and interest received by the Fund on its investments may be subject to non-recoverable withholding or other taxes in the countries of origin.

### *TAXATION OF THE UNITHOLDERS*

Under present Luxembourg law there are no Luxembourg ordinary income, capital gains, estate or inheritance taxes payable by the Unitholders in respect of their units in the Fund, except by Unitholders who are domiciled in, or residents of Luxembourg, or by Unitholders who have a permanent establishment or a permanent representative in the Grand-Duchy of Luxembourg to which or whom the Units in the Fund are attributable or by Unitholders that are former Luxembourg residents.

### *WITHHOLDING TAX*

Under current Luxembourg tax law, there is no withholding tax on any distribution, redemption or payment made by the fund to its Unitholders under the Units. There is also no withholding tax on the distribution of liquidation proceeds to the Unitholders.

**Further taxation may apply to the income or capital gains received by investors. Investors are urged to seek either professional tax advice or information from local organizations.**

### **Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act**

The foreign account tax compliance provisions (“FATCA”) of the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment Act 2010 (“HIRE Act”) which apply to certain payments are essentially designed to require reporting of U.S. person’s direct and indirect ownership of non-U.S. accounts and non-U.S. entities to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service (“IRS”), with any failure to provide the required information resulting in a 30% U.S. withholding tax on direct U.S. investments (and possibly indirect U.S. investments). In order to avoid being subject to U.S. withholding tax, both U.S. investors and non-U.S. investors are likely to be required to provide information regarding themselves and their investors. In this regard, the Luxembourg and U.S. Governments signed an intergovernmental agreement with respect to the implementation of FATCA designed to facilitate compliance with FATCA by Foreign Financial Institutions (“FFI”) in Luxembourg.

The basic terms of FATCA provisions currently appear to include the Fund as a FFI, such that in order to comply, the Fund may require all Unitholders to provide mandatory documentary evidence of their U.S. and/or non-U.S. status and may thus be required to, inter alia, disclose the name, address and taxpayer identification number of certain U.S. persons that own, directly or indirectly, an interest in the Fund, as well as certain other information relating to such interest, including amounts paid by the Fund, to the United States IRS.

While the Management Company acting on behalf of the Fund will attempt to satisfy any obligations imposed on it to avoid the imposition of the 30% withholding tax, no assurance can be given that the Fund will be able to satisfy all obligations imposed by FATCA. If the Management Company is not able to comply with the requirements imposed by FATCA and the Fund may become subject to a withholding tax on its U.S. investments (if any) as a result of FATCA, the value of Units held by all Unitholders may be materially affected and Unitholders may suffer significant loss as a result.

A Unitholder that fails to provide the documentation evidencing its U.S. and/or non-U.S. status as requested by the Management Company acting on behalf of the Fund may lead to a payment of taxes (including U.S. withholding tax) by the Fund attributable to such Unitholder's non-compliance under the HIRE Act and such tax liability may be re-charged to such non-compliant Unitholder. Provided that the Management Company is acting in good faith and on reasonable grounds, the Management Company may compulsorily redeem the Units owned by such Unitholders pursuant to the Management Regulations of the Fund. In addition, the Management Company will have the right to withhold, set-off or deduct any reasonable amounts (including any tax obligations) from the redemption proceeds as permitted by applicable laws and regulations.

Each Unitholder and prospective investor should consult its own tax advisers regarding the requirements under FATCA and the possible implication of FATCA on their investment in the Fund. In particular, Unitholders who hold their Units through intermediaries should confirm the FATCA compliance status of those intermediaries to ensure that they do not suffer U.S. withholding tax on their investment returns.

### **Common Reporting Standard**

Capitalised terms used in this section should have the meaning as set forth in the Luxembourg law dated 18 December 2015 (the "**CRS Law**"), unless provided otherwise herein.

On 9 December 2014, the Council of the European Union adopted the Directive 2014/107/EU amending the Directive 2011/16/EU of 15 February 2011 on administrative cooperation in the field of taxation which now provides for an automatic exchange of financial account information between EU Member States ("**DAC Directive**"). The adoption of the aforementioned directive implements the OECD's CRS and generalizes the automatic exchange of information within the European Union as of 1 January 2016.

In addition, Luxembourg signed the OECD's multilateral competent authority agreement ("**Multilateral Agreement**") to automatically exchange information under the CRS. Under this Multilateral Agreement, Luxembourg will automatically exchange financial account information with other participating jurisdictions as of 1 January 2016. The CRS Law implements the DAC Directive introducing the CRS in Luxembourg law.

Under the terms of the CRS Law, the Fund may be required to annually report to the Luxembourg tax authorities the name, address, Member State(s) of residence, TIN(s), as well as the date and place of birth of i) each Reportable Person that is an Account Holder within the meaning of CRS Law, ii) and, in the case of a Passive NFE within the meaning of the CRS Law, of each Controlling Person(s) that is a Reportable Person. Such information may be disclosed by the Luxembourg tax authorities to foreign tax authorities.

The Fund's ability to satisfy its reporting obligations under the CRS Law will depend on each Unitholder providing the Fund with the information, including information regarding direct or

indirect owners of each Unitholder, along with the required supporting documentary evidence. Upon request of the Fund, each Unitholder shall agree to provide the Fund such information.

Although the Fund will attempt to satisfy any obligation imposed on it to avoid any fines or penalties imposed by the CRS Law, no assurance can be given that the Fund will be able to satisfy these obligations. If the Fund becomes subject to a fine or penalty as result of the CRS Law, the value of the Units held by the Unitholders may suffer material losses.

Any Unitholder that fails to comply with the Fund's documentation requests may be charged with any fines and penalties imposed on the Fund attributable to such Unitholder's failure to provide the information and the Management Company may, in its sole discretion, redeem the Units of such Unitholder.

Unitholders should consult their own tax advisor or otherwise seek professional advice regarding the impact of the CRS Law on their investment.

### **ACCOUNTING YEAR**

The accounts of the Fund are closed each year on December 31.

The combined accounts of the Fund shall be kept in US Dollars. The financial statements relating to the separate Sub-Funds shall also be expressed in the Reference Currency of the relevant Sub-Fund.

The accounts of the Management Company and of the Fund will be audited annually by an auditor appointed from time to time by the Management Company.

### ***EQUALIZATION***

Each Sub-Fund may follow the accounting practice of equalization, to prevent the net undistributed income per Unit from fluctuating solely by reason of purchases and redemptions of Units. This is accomplished by maintaining an equalization account for the Sub-Fund. The equalization account is credited with that portion of the proceeds of purchased Units representing the net undistributed income per Unit of those Units, and is debited with that portion of any redemption payment representing the net undistributed income per Unit of the redeemed Units.

### **UNITHOLDERS' INFORMATION**

Audited annual reports and unaudited semi-annual reports are made available to the Unitholders at no cost to them at the offices of the Management Company, the Depositary and any paying agent.

Any other financial information to be published concerning the Fund or the Management Company, including the Net Asset Value, the issue, conversion and repurchase price of the Units for each Sub-Fund and any suspension of such valuation, will be made available to the public at the offices of the Management Company, the Depositary and any paying agent.

All notices to Unitholders will be sent to Unitholders at their address indicated in the register of Unitholders and, to the extent required by Luxembourg law, will be published in the RESA.

Under exceptional circumstances, changes not materially impacting Unitholders or decision of the Management Company to go beyond the maximum swing pricing factor as provided for under

section “Determination of the Net Asset Value of Units” may, be notified only by way of a publication on the following website: [Fonds - AXA IM Luxembourg \(axa-im.lu\)](http://Fonds - AXA IM Luxembourg (axa-im.lu)).

The Management Company may, subject to certain restrictions designed to protect the interests of the Fund and in compliance with applicable laws and regulations including, without limitation, those in relation to the prevention of market timing and related practices, authorise the disclosure on a confidential basis of information pertaining to a Sub-Fund's holdings. Depending on various factors pertaining to the specific Sub-Fund, including, without limitation, the investment strategy provided by the Investment Manager for that Sub-Fund, the target investors and existing Unitholders currently invested in that Sub-Fund and such other factors as the Management Company may consider appropriate, such disclosure may be made subject to a delay (referred to as a “time-lag” herein), meaning that Unitholders may not be able to obtain real-time information concerning the Sub-Fund's holdings. Sub-Funds of the Fund may have different time-lags. It is therefore possible that Unitholders in one Sub-Fund may obtain disclosure prior to Unitholders in other Sub-Funds and it is also possible that such disclosure may include information on the same underlying holdings (i.e. certain institutional Unitholders who must comply with specific regulatory reporting requirements such as those of the European Directive 2009/138/EC may receive information about the Sub-Fund's holdings before such information is available to all investors in the Sub-Fund).

## **DATA PROTECTION**

In accordance with the provisions of the Luxembourg law of 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 on the organization of the National Data Protection Commission and on the general data protection framework, together with the EU Regulation n°2016/679 of 27 April 2016 on the protection of natural persons with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data (the “General Data Protection Laws”), the Management Company has to inform Unitholders that their personal data is kept by means of a computer system.

The Management Company, acting as a data controller, collects, stores and processes by electronic or other means the data supplied by Unitholders at the time of their subscription for the purpose of fulfilling the services required by the Unitholders and complying with its legal obligations.

The data processed includes the name, address and invested amount of each Unitholder, together with the contact details of the Unitholder's ultimate beneficial owners, directors, authorized signatories and persons that own, directly or indirectly, an interest in the Fund (the “Personal Data”).

The investor may, at his/her/its discretion, refuse to communicate the Personal Data to the Management Company. In this case however the Management Company may reject his/her/its request for subscription of Units in the Fund.

In particular, the Personal Data supplied by Unitholders is processed for the purpose of (i) maintaining the register of Unitholders, (ii) processing subscriptions, redemptions and conversions of Units and payments of dividends to Unitholders, (iii) performing controls on late trading and market timing practices, (iv) complying with applicable anti-money laundering rules and (v) tax identification as may be required under Luxembourg or foreign laws and regulations (including laws and regulations relating to FATCA or Common Reporting Standard). The Management Company can delegate to another entity (the “Processors”) (the Administrative Agent and the Registrar Agent) the processing of the Personal Data, for the purpose of fulfilling the services required by the Unitholders in compliance and within the limits of the applicable laws and regulations. These entities are all located in the European Union.

A Processor may engage another processor for carrying out specific processing activities on behalf of the Fund, upon prior authorization from the latter. These entities may be located either in the European Union or in countries outside of the European Union and whose data protection laws may not offer an adequate level of protection, in particular but not exclusively in India. Such sub processor shall process the Personal Data under the same conditions and for the same purposes as the Processor. The investor may contact the Processor for more information regarding the transfer of its Personal data performed by such Processor.

The Personal Data may also be disclosed to the Luxembourg tax authorities, which in turn may, acting as data controller, disclose the same to foreign tax authorities.

Each Unitholder has a right to access his/her/its Personal Data and may ask for a rectification thereof in cases where such data is inaccurate and incomplete. It/he/she may also object to processing of its/his/her Personal Data based on legitimate interests or ask for erasure of its/her/his Personal Data if the conditions provided under the General Data Protection Laws are met. Each Unitholder may also ask, under the conditions provided under the General Data Protection Laws, for data portability. In relation thereto, the Unitholder can exercise its/his/her rights by letter addressed to the Management Company.

The Unitholder has a right of opposition regarding the use of its Personal Data for marketing purposes. This opposition can be made by letter addressed to the Management Company.

The Unitholder has a right to lodge a complaint with a data protection supervisory authority.

The Unitholder's Personal Data shall not be held for longer than necessary with regard to the purpose of the data processing carried out under the present contractual relationship, observing the legal periods of limitation.

## **QUERIES AND COMPLAINTS**

Complaints must be submitted by post to the following address:

**AXA Investment Managers Paris**

Tour Majunga, La Défense 9

6 Place de la Pyramide 92800

Puteaux

France

Attention: Complaint handling officer

Or by mail to the following address: [ComplianceLUX2@axa-im.com](mailto:ComplianceLUX2@axa-im.com)

## **DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION**

The following documents will be available for inspection during normal business hours at the registered office of the Management Company:

- 1) The Prospectus and the KID;
- 2) The Management Regulations;
- 3) The Depositary Agreement between the Management Company and State Street Bank

Luxembourg S.C.A., succeeded by State Street Bank International GmbH, Luxembourg Branch;

- 4) The Agreement relating to administration agency, domiciliary and paying agency, registrar and transfer agency and investment compliance testing between the Management Company and State Street Bank Luxembourg S.C.A., succeeded by State Street Bank International GmbH, Luxembourg Branch;
- 5) The Delegation of Investment Business Functions Agreement between the Management Company and the relevant Investment Managers;
- 6) The Delegation Agreement between the Management Company and AXA Investment Managers GS Limited;
- 7) The articles of incorporation of the Management Company;
- 8) The latest annual and semi-annual reports of the Fund;
- 9) Information regarding procedure on clients' complaints handling;
- 10) The remuneration policy of the Management Company.

Copies of the documents under (1), (2) and (8) above may be obtained without cost at the same address.

A brief description of the strategy put in place by the Management Company for determining when and how voting rights attached to instruments held in the Fund's portfolio are to be exercised shall be made available to investors in particular by way of the website [www.axa-im.com](http://www.axa-im.com).

## APPENDIX I

### *AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies - US Short Duration High Yield (the "Sub-Fund")*

#### **1. – Investment Manager**

AXA Investment Managers US Inc,

400 Atlantic Street  
Suite 1000  
Stamford, CT, 06901  
United States of America

#### **2. – Investment Objective**

The Sub-Fund is actively managed without reference to any benchmark and seeks to generate income by investing in high yield debt securities (sub-investment grade corporate bonds) denominated in USD while seeking to avoid the risk of defaults.

#### **3. – Investment Policy**

The Investment Manager anticipates that the average expected life to maturity or redemption of the Sub-Funds' investments will be three years or less, although the Investment Manager may vary this approach if market conditions so warrant.

The Investment Manager believes that the Sub-Fund will provide investors with a higher degree of principal stability than is typically available in a portfolio of lower rated longer-term, fixed-income investments.

The Sub-Fund will seek to invest in high yield, fixed-income corporate debt securities and, to a lesser extent, preferred stocks which offer, in the view of the Investment Manager, a high return, without excessive risk, at the time of purchase.

The Sub-Fund will invest primarily in lower quality corporate bonds, some of which may be purchased at a discount to face value and may, therefore, offer a potential for capital appreciation as well as high current income. Conversely, some bonds may be purchased at a premium in order to obtain a high yield, and the Sub-Fund may realize a capital loss on their disposition.

The Sub-Fund may also, and up to 10%, hold Distressed and Defaulted Securities as a result of holding bonds whose rating would have been downgraded to be defaulting or distressing, if, in the opinion of the Investment Manager, such bonds are consistent with the Sub-Fund's investment objective.

While the Investment Manager anticipates that the Sub-Fund will invest primarily in the securities of U.S. domiciled companies, it may also invest in those of foreign companies and, possibly, in obligations of foreign governments or governmental agencies or instrumentalities.

The Sub-Fund may invest its net assets in 144A securities, in a substantial way depending on the opportunity.

Companies that issue high yielding fixed-income securities are often highly leveraged and may not have more traditional methods of financing available to them. The Investment Manager



believes, nevertheless, that the short duration securities of many such companies offer the potential to generate stable, consistent coupon income.

Various investment services rate some of the types of securities in which the Sub-Fund may invest. Higher yields are ordinarily available from securities in the lower-rating categories of the recognized rating services, that is, securities rated BB+ or lower by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("S&P") or Ba1 or lower by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), and from unrated securities of comparable quality.

In this regard, securities rated CCC or Caa by S&P and Moody's, respectively, are generally regarded as predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the security.

These ratings will be considered in connection with the Sub-Fund's investment decisions, but will not necessarily be a determinative or limiting factor. The Sub-Fund may invest in securities regardless of their rating and in securities which are not rated. It is the Investment Manager's expectation, however, that the Sub-Fund will invest primarily in securities rated below investment grade (that is, securities rated below BBB- or Baa3 by S&P and Moody's, respectively), and, perhaps, to a significant extent in securities rated below CCC or Caa by S&P and Moody's, respectively. If the rating on a security held by the Sub-Fund declines, or if the security goes into default, the Sub-Fund will consider such matters in its evaluation of the merits of retaining the security in its portfolio, but will not be obligated to dispose of the security.

The Investment Manager will consider a number of other factors in its investment analysis of a security in addition to its rating, including, among other things, the issuer's financial condition, earnings prospects, anticipated cash flow, interest or dividend coverage and payment history, asset coverage, debt maturity schedules and borrowing requirements. The Investment Manager will utilize reports, statistics and other data from a variety of sources, but will base its investment decisions primarily on its own research and analysis.

Typical investors would seek high level of current income primarily through exposure to securities of U.S. domiciled companies regardless of their rating and in securities which are not rated.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of net assets in contingent convertible bonds (CoCos).

The Sub-Fund may also invest up to one third of its net assets in Money Market Instruments, money market funds and bank deposits for treasury purposes.

The Sub-Fund promotes environmental and/or social characteristics.

**More information about the promotion of environmental and/or social characteristics is available in the relative SFDR Annex of the Sub-Fund.**

The Sub-Fund uses as part of its daily investment management activity, efficient portfolio management such as securities lending and reverse repurchase transactions within the limits listed below (as a % of net assets):

- Securities lending: expected,  $\approx$  0-10%; max; 90%
- Repurchase/reverse repurchase agreements: expected,  $\approx$  0-10%; max, 20%

By entering into securities lending, the Sub-Fund seeks to enhance yield on daily basis. When using repos/ reverse repos, the Sub-Fund seeks to optimize the collateral management by entering in collateral transformation to manage liquidity and cash.

The Sub-Fund will not use total return swaps.

The Sub-fund does not use securities borrowing.

All efficient portfolio management techniques will be consistent with the terms in “Efficient Portfolio Management Techniques”.

The Sub-Fund may incur fixed or variable brokerage fees and transactions costs upon entering into such techniques and instruments as described above. Transaction costs related to the techniques and instruments will be disclosed in the annual report.

The assets of the Sub-Fund which might be subject to securities lending and repurchase/reverse repurchase agreements include but are not limited to government and corporate bonds and equities.

Securities lending and repurchase/reverse repurchase agreements shall be carried out as part of efficient portfolio management.

#### **4. – Profile of a Typical Investor**

The Sub-Fund is designed for investors who plan to invest for at least three (3) years.

#### **5. – SFDR classification**

The Sub-Fund is classified as an Article 8 Financial Product under SFDR.

#### **6. – Risk Considerations specific to the Sub-Fund**

The Sub-Fund will be subject to the risks associated with high yield fixed-income securities. Particularly, investors are warned that, due to the very nature of high yield bonds, the Net Asset Value may have a high volatility.

***Risk linked to the contingent convertible bonds:*** In the framework of new banking regulations, banking institutions are required to increase their capital buffers and have therefore issued certain types of financial instrument known as subordinated contingent capital securities (often referred to as “CoCo” or “CoCos”). The main feature of a CoCo is its ability to absorb losses as required by banking regulations, but other corporate entities may also choose to issue them.

***Trigger level risk*** – Under the terms of a CoCo, the instruments become loss absorbing upon certain triggering events, including events under the control of the management of the CoCo issuer which could cause the permanent write-down to zero of principal investment and / or accrued interest, or a conversion to equity that may coincide with the share price of the underlying equity being low. These triggering events may include (i) a deduction in the issuing bank’s capital ratio below a pre-set limit, (ii) a regulatory authority making a subjective determination that an institution is “non-viable” or (iii) a national authority deciding to inject capital.

Furthermore, the trigger event calculations may also be affected by changes in applicable accounting rules, the accounting policies of the issuer or its group and the application of these policies. Any such changes, including changes over which the issuer or its group has a discretion, may have a material adverse impact on its reported financial position and accordingly may give rise to the occurrence of a trigger event in circumstances where such a trigger event may not otherwise have occurred, notwithstanding the adverse impact this will have on the position of holders of the CoCos.

*Yield valuation risk* – CoCos are valued relative to other debt securities in the issuer's capital structure, as well as equity, with an additional premium for the risk of conversion or write-down. The relative riskiness of different CoCos will depend mainly on the distance between the current capital ratio and the effective trigger level, which once reached would result in the CoCo being automatically written-down or converted into equity.

*Coupon cancellation risk* – It is possible in certain circumstances for interest payments on certain CoCos to be cancelled in full or in part by the issuer, without prior notice to bondholders. Therefore, there can be no assurances that investors will receive payments of interest in respect of CoCos. Unpaid interest may not be cumulative or payable at any time thereafter,

*Call extension risk* – Notwithstanding that interest not being paid or being paid only in part in respect of CoCos or the principal value of such instruments may be written down to zero, there may be no restriction on the issuer paying dividends on its ordinary shares or making pecuniary or other distributions to the holders of its ordinary shares or making payments on securities ranking *pari passu* with the CoCos resulting in other securities by the same issuer potentially performing better than CoCos.

*Capital structure inversion risk* – CoCos generally rank senior to common stock in an issuer's capital structure and are consequently higher quality and entail less risk than the issuer's common stock; however, the risk involved in such securities is correlated to the solvency level and / or the access of the issuer to liquidity of the issuing financial institution.

*Unknown risk* – The structure of CoCos is yet to be tested and there is some uncertainty as to how they may be impacted in regard to liquidity challenges and industry concentration in a stressed environment of deteriorating financial condition.

*Liquidity risk* - In stressed market conditions, the liquidity profile of the issuer can deteriorate significantly and it may be difficult to find a ready buyer which means that a significant discount may be required in order to sell it.

Concentration in investments at certain times in large positions and in a relatively limited number of securities, sectors or regions (especially Europe) will make the relevant Sub-Fund more subject to the risks associated with such concentration.

***Risks linked to the Distressed Securities:*** The Sub-Fund may hold Distressed Securities as defined in the Glossary. Distressed Securities are speculative and involve significant risk. Distressed Securities frequently do not produce income while they are outstanding and may require the Sub-Fund to bear certain extraordinary expenses in order to protect and recover its holding. Therefore, to the extent the Sub-Fund seeks capital appreciation, the Sub-Fund's ability to achieve current income for its Unitholders may be diminished by its holding of distressed securities. The Sub-Fund will also be subject to significant uncertainty as to when and in what manner and for what value the obligations evidenced by the distressed securities will eventually be satisfied (e.g., through a liquidation of the obligor's assets, an exchange offer or plan of reorganisation involving

the distressed securities or a payment of some amount in satisfaction of the obligation). In addition, even if an exchange offer is made or a plan of reorganisation is adopted with respect to distressed securities held by the Sub-Fund, there can be no assurance that the securities or other assets received by the Sub-Fund in connection with such exchange offer or plan of reorganisation will not have a lower value or income potential than may have been initially anticipated. Moreover, any securities received by the Sub-Fund upon completion of an exchange offer or plan of reorganisation may be restricted as to resale. As a result of the Sub-Fund's participation in negotiations with respect to any exchange offer or plan of reorganisation with respect to an issuer of distressed securities, the Sub-Fund may be restricted from disposing quickly of such securities.

***Risks linked to the Defaulted Securities:*** The Sub-Fund may hold Defaulted Securities as defined in the Glossary that may become illiquid. The risk of loss due to default may also be considerably greater with lower-quality securities because they are generally unsecured and are often subordinated to other creditors of the issuer. If the issuer of a security in the Sub-Fund's portfolio defaults, the Sub-Fund may suffer unrealised losses on the security, which may lower the Sub-Fund's Net Asset Value per Share. Defaulted Securities typically exhibit prices that are highly discounted to their face value.

***Sustainability Risks:*** Given the Sub-Fund's Investment Strategy and risk profile, the likely impact of the Sustainability Risks on the Sub-Fund's returns is expected, according to the Management Company, to be medium.

***Risk linked to the ESG:*** Applying ESG and sustainability criteria to the investment process may exclude securities of certain issuers for non-investment reasons and therefore some market opportunities available to funds that do not use ESG or sustainability criteria may be unavailable for the Sub-Fund, and the Sub-Fund's performance may at times be better or worse than the performance of comparable funds that do not use ESG or sustainability criteria. The selection of assets may in part rely on a ESG scoring process or ban lists that rely partially on third party data. The lack of common or harmonised definitions and labels integrating ESG and sustainability criteria at EU level may result in different approaches by managers when setting ESG objectives and determining that these objectives have been met by the funds they manage. This also means that it may be difficult to compare strategies integrating ESG and sustainability criteria to the extent that the selection and weightings applied to select investments may to a certain extent be subjective or based on metrics that may share the same name but have different underlying meanings. Investors should note that the subjective value that they may or may not assign to certain types of ESG criteria may differ substantially from the Investment Manager's methodology. The lack of harmonised definitions may also potentially result in certain investments not benefitting from preferential tax treatments or credits because ESG criteria are assessed differently than initially thought.

## **7. – Investment Restrictions specific to the Sub-Fund**

Notwithstanding the limits set forth in the section "Investment Restrictions" of the Prospectus, the Sub-Fund may not invest more than 10% of its net assets in UCITS and/or other UCIs.

Moreover, the Sub-Fund is NOT allowed to:

- i) invest in financial derivative instruments. For the purpose of this subsection of Appendix I only, convertible bonds and bonds that were issued with attached warrants, commonly referred to as units, will not be considered as financial derivative instruments;
- ii) use financial derivative instruments whether for hedging purposes, except in order to hedge foreign exchange and currency risk borne by the investor which will invest in the Euro

denominated Units of the Sub-Fund, or for efficient portfolio management purposes;

iii) borrow.

## 8. – Units

At the date of this Prospectus, the Classes of Units listed in the table below are available in the Sub-Fund.

- Class A
- Class B
- Class I
- Class E
- Class F
- Class N (1)
- Class Z (2)

(1) “N” unit Classes will be available for subscription on the date of the first subscription in these Unit Classes at an initial price of USD 100.

(2) Investments made in the Class “Z” Units before 03/01/2018 may continue to be held after that date, even though they are no longer accessible for new subscriptions by the investors who no longer meet at least one of the eligibility criteria described in the Prospectus.

For a description of the Units, see section “Units” of the general part of the Prospectus. Such list of Classes of Units may be updated from time to time notably to reflect the Classes of Units created since the previous version of the Prospectus. The complete list of Classes available for subscription may be obtained, free of charge and upon request, from the Management Company and is also available on the Management Company website at the following link: <https://www.axa-im.com/>.

## 9. – Minimum Subscriptions and Holding Requirements <sup>(1)</sup>

<b>Class</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Z</b>
Minimum initial subscription	30,000,000	1,000,000	None	None	None	None	None
Minimum subsequent investment, except in case of regular saving plans	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Minimum holding requirement in the Fund	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Minimum holding requirement in each Sub-Fund	None	None	None	None	None	None	None

<sup>(1)</sup> Subscriptions in USD or the equivalent in the relevant currency of the relevant Class of

Units.

The Directors may, in their discretion, waive or modify the foregoing requirements in particular cases.

#### **10. – Conditions of Subscription, Redemption and Conversion**

Subscription, redemption and conversion requests received by the Registrar Agent no later than 3 p.m. C.E.T. on any Valuation Day will be accepted and traded on the basis of the Dealing Price applicable to such Valuation Day.

The relevant Dealing Price will be increased or decreased by any subscription, redemption or conversion fees, as mentioned below.

#### **11. – Fees**

<b>Maximum one-off charges taken when you invest</b>	<b>Maximum recurrent charges taken from the Fund over a year</b>			
Class	Subscription Fee	Management Fee	Applied Service Fee	Distribution Fee
A	-	0.70%	0.50%	-
B	-	0.75%	0.50%	-
E	-	1.00%	0.50%	0.35%
F	3.00%	1.00%	0.50%	-
I	-	1.00%	0.50%	-
N <sup>(1)</sup>	1.00%	1.00%	0.50%	1.00%
Z	2.00%	0.75%	0.50%	-

(1) “N” unit Classes will be available for subscription on the date of the first subscription in these Unit Classes at an initial price of USD 100.

#### **12. – Valuation Day**

Every Business Day shall be a Valuation Day.

#### **13. – Reference Currency**

The Reference Currency of the Sub-Fund is US Dollars.

#### **14. – Sub-Fund Business Day**

A day on which banks are open all day for business in Luxembourg and the United States of America.

## APPENDIX II

### *AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies – US Corporate Intermediate Bonds (the "Sub-Fund")*

#### **1. – Investment Manager**

AXA Investment Managers US Inc,  
400 Atlantic Street  
Suite 1000  
Stamford, CT 06901  
United States of America

#### **2. – Investment Objective**

The objective of the Sub-Fund is to achieve a mix of income and capital growth by investing in fixed and floating rate securities.

Typical investors would seek a mix of income and capital growth measured in USD.

#### **3. – Investment Policy**

The Sub-Fund is actively managed in order to capture opportunities in the US investment grade debt market, primarily investing in securities that are part of the Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate Intermediate benchmark index (the “Benchmark”) universe. As part of the investment process, the Investment Manager has broad discretion over the composition of the Sub-Fund’s portfolio and can take, based on its investment convictions, exposure to companies, countries or sectors not included in the Benchmark or take different positioning in terms of duration, geographical allocation and/or sector or issuer selection compared to the Benchmark, even though the Benchmark constituents are generally representative of the Sub-Fund’s portfolio. Thus, the deviation from the Benchmark is likely to be significant.

The Investment Manager will seek to achieve the investment objective of the Sub-Fund by investing essentially in a portfolio consisting of investment grade government bonds denominated in USD and other investment grade transferable debt securities denominated in USD and issued by corporations or public institutions. The Sub-Fund may also invest on an ancillary basis in securities which are rated sub-investment grade at the time of purchase.

Investment grade securities will be rated at least BBB- by Standard & Poor’s or equivalent rating by Moody’s or Fitch or if unrated then deemed to be so by the Investment Manager. Sub-investment grade securities will be rated between BB+ and B- by Standard & Poor’s or equivalent rating by Moody’s or Fitch or if unrated then deemed to be so by the Investment Manager.

In case of downgrade below B- by Standard & Poor’s or equivalent rating by Moody’s or Fitch or if unrated then deemed to be so by the Investment Manager, securities will be sold within 6 months.

If two different ratings of rating agencies exist, the lower rating will be considered, if more than two different ratings of rating agencies exist, the second highest rating will be considered.

The selection of credit instruments is not exclusively and mechanically based on their publicly available credit ratings but also on an internal credit or market risk analysis. The decision to

buy or sell assets is also based on other analysis criteria of the Investment Manager.

The Sub-Fund may also invest up to one third of its net assets in Money Market Instruments, money market funds and bank deposits for treasury purposes.

The Sub-Fund may invest its net assets in 144A securities, in a substantial way depending on the opportunity.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of net assets in contingent convertible bonds (CoCos).

There is no formal restriction on the proportion of the Sub-Fund's assets that can be invested in and/or exposed to any one particular market.

The Sub-Fund promotes environmental and/or social characteristics.

**More information about the promotion of environmental and/or social characteristics is available in the relative SFDR Annex of the Sub-Fund.**

For efficient portfolio management and/or hedging purposes, this Sub-Fund may also invest in derivative instruments within the limits set forth in the section "Investment Restrictions".

The Sub-Fund uses as part of its daily investment management activity, efficient portfolio management such as securities lending and reverse repurchase transactions within the limits listed below (as a % of net assets):

- Securities lending: expected,  $\approx$  0-10%; max, 90%
- Repurchase/reverse repurchase agreements: expected  $\approx$  0-10%; max, 20%.

By entering into securities lending, the Sub-Fund seeks to enhance yield on daily basis. When using repos/ reverse repos, the Sub-Fund seeks to optimize the collateral management by entering in collateral transformation to manage liquidity and cash.

The Sub-Fund will not use total return swaps.

The Sub-fund does not use securities borrowing.

All efficient portfolio management techniques will be consistent with the terms in "Efficient Portfolio Management Techniques".

The Sub-Fund may incur fixed or variable brokerage fees and transactions costs upon entering into such techniques and instruments as described above. Transaction costs related to the techniques and instruments will be disclosed in the annual report.

The assets of the Sub-Fund which might be subject to securities lending and repurchase/reverse repurchase agreements include but are not limited to government and corporate bonds and equities.

Securities lending and repurchase/reverse repurchase agreements shall be carried out as part of efficient portfolio management.

The Reference Currency of the Sub-Fund is USD.

#### **4. – Profile of a Typical Investor**

The Sub-Fund is designed for investors who plan to invest for at least three (3) years.



## 5. – SFDR classification

The Sub-Fund is classified as an Article 8 Financial Product under SFDR.

## 6. – Investment Restrictions specific to the Sub-Fund

Notwithstanding the limits set forth in the section "Investment Restrictions" of the Prospectus, the Sub-Fund may not invest more than 10% of its net assets in UCITS and/or other UCIs.

In order to achieve its investment objectives, the Sub-Fund may in particular engage in the credit derivatives markets by entering, i.a., into credit default swaps in order to sell or buy protection.

A **credit default swap “CDS”** is a bilateral financial contract in which one counterparty (the protection buyer) pays a periodic fee in return for a contingent payment by the protection seller following a credit event of a reference issuer. The protection buyer acquires the right to sell a particular bond or other designated reference obligations issued by the reference issuer for its par value or the right to receive the difference between par value and market price of the said bond or other designated reference obligations (or some other designated reference or strike price) when a credit event occurs. A credit event is commonly defined as bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership, material adverse restructuring of debt, or failure to meet payment obligations when due. The International Swap and Derivatives Association (ISDA) has produced standardised documentation for these derivatives transactions under the umbrella of its ISDA Master Agreement.

The Sub-Fund may use credit derivatives in order to hedge the specific credit risk of some of the issuers in its portfolio by buying protection. In addition, the Sub-Fund may, provided it is in its exclusive interest, buy protection under credit derivatives without holding the underlying assets.

Provided it is in its exclusive interest, the Sub-Fund may also sell protection under credit derivatives in order to acquire a specific credit exposure.

The Sub-Fund will only enter into OTC credit derivatives transactions with highly rated financial institutions specialised in this type of transaction and only in accordance with the standard terms laid down by the ISDA Master Agreement.

The maximum exposure of the Sub-Fund may not exceed 100% of its net assets.

## 7. – Risk Considerations specific to the Sub-Fund

***Risk linked to the contingent convertible bonds:*** In the framework of new banking regulations, banking institutions are required to increase their capital buffers and have therefore issued certain types of financial instrument known as subordinated contingent capital securities (often referred to as “CoCo” or “CoCos”). The main feature of a CoCo is its ability to absorb losses as required by banking regulations, but other corporate entities may also choose to issue them.

***Trigger level risk*** – Under the terms of a CoCo, the instruments become loss absorbing upon certain triggering events, including events under the control of the management of the CoCo issuer which could cause the permanent write-down to zero of principal investment and / or accrued interest, or a conversion to equity that may coincide with the share price of the underlying equity being low. These triggering events may include (i) a deduction in the issuing bank’s capital ratio below a pre-set limit, (ii) a regulatory authority making a subjective determination that an institution is “non-viable” or (iii) a national authority deciding to inject capital.

Furthermore, the trigger event calculations may also be affected by changes in applicable accounting rules, the accounting policies of the issuer or its group and the application of these policies. Any such changes, including changes over which the issuer or its group has a discretion, may have a material adverse impact on its reported financial position and accordingly may give rise to the occurrence of a trigger event in circumstances where such a trigger event may not otherwise have occurred, notwithstanding the adverse impact this will have on the position of holders of the CoCos.

*Yield/ valuation risk* – CoCos are valued relative to other debt securities in the issuer’s capital structure, as well as equity, with an additional premium for the risk of conversion or write-down. The relative riskiness of different CoCos will depend mainly on the distance between the current capital ratio and the effective trigger level, which once reached would result in the CoCo being automatically written-down or converted into equity.

*Coupon cancellation risk* – It is possible in certain circumstances for interest payments on certain CoCos to be cancelled in full or in part by the issuer, without prior notice to bondholders. Therefore, there can be no assurances that investors will receive payments of interest in respect of CoCos. Unpaid interest may not be cumulative or payable at any time thereafter,

*Call extension risk* – Notwithstanding that interest not being paid or being paid only in part in respect of CoCos or the principal value of such instruments may be written down to zero, there may be no restriction on the issuer paying dividends on its ordinary shares or making pecuniary or other distributions to the holders of its ordinary shares or making payments on securities ranking pari passu with the CoCos resulting in other securities by the same issuer potentially performing better than CoCos.

*Capital structure inversion risk* – CoCos generally rank senior to common stock in an issuer’s capital structure and are consequently higher quality and entail less risk than the issuer’s common stock; however, the risk involved in such securities is correlated to the solvency level and / or the access of the issuer to liquidity of the issuing financial institution.

*Unknown risk* – The structure of CoCos is yet to be tested and there is some uncertainty as to how they may be impacted in regard to liquidity challenges and industry concentration in a stressed environment of deteriorating financial condition.

*Liquidity risk* - In stressed market conditions, the liquidity profile of the issuer can deteriorate significantly and it may be difficult to find a ready buyer which means that a significant discount may be required in order to sell it.

Concentration in investments at certain times in large positions and in a relatively limited number of securities, sectors or regions (especially Europe) will make the relevant Sub-Fund more subject to the risks associated with such concentration.

***Sustainability Risks:*** Given the Sub-Fund’s Investment Strategy and risk profile, the likely impact of the Sustainability Risks on the Sub-Fund’s returns is expected, according to the Management Company to be medium.

***Risk linked to the ESG:*** Applying ESG and sustainability criteria to the investment process may exclude securities of certain issuers for non-investment reasons and therefore some market opportunities available to funds that do not use ESG or sustainability criteria may be unavailable for the Sub-Fund, and the Sub-Fund's performance may at times be better or worse than the

performance of relatable funds that do not use ESG or sustainability criteria. The selection of assets may in part rely on a ESG scoring process or ban lists that rely partially on third party data. The lack of common or harmonised definitions and labels integrating ESG and sustainability criteria at EU level may result in different approaches by managers when setting ESG objectives and determining that these objectives have been met by the funds they manage. This also means that it may be difficult to compare strategies integrating ESG and sustainability criteria to the extent that the selection and weightings applied to select investments may to a certain extent be subjective or based on metrics that may share the same name but have different underlying meanings. Investors should note that the subjective value that they may or may not assign to certain types of ESG criteria may differ substantially from the Investment Manager's methodology. The lack of harmonised definitions may also potentially result in certain investments not benefitting from preferential tax treatments or credits because ESG criteria are assessed differently than initially thought.

## 8. – Units

At the date of this Prospectus, the Classes of Units listed in the table below are available in the Sub-Fund.

- Class A
- Class I
- Class E
- Class F
- Class N (1)
- Class U
- Class Z (2)
- Class ZF
- Class M

(1) “N” unit Classes will be available for subscription on the date of the first following subscription in these Unit Classes at an initial price of USD 100.

(2) Investments made in the Class “Z” Units before 03/01/2018 may continue to be held after that date, even though they are no longer accessible for new subscriptions by the investors who no longer meet at least one of the eligibility criteria described in the Prospectus as from this date.

For a description of the Units, see section “Units” of the general part of the Prospectus. Such list of Classes of Units may be updated from time to time notably to reflect the Classes of Units created since the previous version of the Prospectus. The complete list of Classes available for subscription may be obtained, free of charge and upon request, from the Management Company and is also available on the Management Company website at the following link: <https://www.axa-im.com/>.

## 9. – Minimum Subscriptions and Holding Requirements <sup>(1)</sup>

Class	A	I	E	F	N	U	Z	ZF	M
Minimum initial subscription	5,000,000	500,000	None	None	None	None	None	250,000	10,000,000

Minimum subsequent investment, except in case of regular saving plans	1,000,000	10,000	None	None	None	None	None	10,000	None
Minimum holding requirement in the Fund	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Minimum holding requirement in each Sub-Fund	1,000,000	10,000	None	None	None	None	None	10,000	None

<sup>(1)</sup> Subscriptions in USD or the equivalent in the relevant currency of the relevant Class of Units.

The Directors may, in their discretion, waive or modify the foregoing requirements in particular cases.

## 10. – Conditions of Subscription, Redemption and Conversion

Subscription, redemption and conversion requests received by the Registrar Agent no later than 3 p.m. C.E.T. on any Valuation Day will be accepted and traded on the basis of the Dealing Price applicable to such Valuation Day.

The relevant Dealing Price will be increased or decreased by any subscription, redemption or conversion fees, as mentioned below.

## 11. – Fees

Maximum one-off charges taken when you invest		Maximum recurrent charges taken from the Fund over a year		
Class	Subscription Fee	Management Fee	Applied Service Fee	Distribution Fee
A	-	0.30%	0.50%	-
E	-	0.75%	0.50%	0.50%
F	3.00%	0.75%	0.50%	-
I	-	0.50%	0.50%	-
U	5.50%	0.45%	0.50%	0.55%
N <sup>(1)</sup>	1.00%	1.00%	0.50%	1.00%
Z	2.00%	0.40%	0.50%	-
ZF	2.00%	0.40%	0.50%	-
M*	-	-	0.50%	-

\* In respect of Class M Units, no management fee will be paid by the Fund to the Management Company, being provided that the Management Company may however be indirectly remunerated through institutional mandates or investment management agreements.

(1) “N” unit Classes will be available for subscription on the date of the first subscription in these Unit Classes at an initial price of USD 100.

**12. – Valuation Day**

Every Business Day shall be a Valuation Day.

**13. – Reference Currency**

The Reference Currency of the Sub-Fund is US Dollars.

**14. – Sub-Fund Business Day**

A day on which banks are open all day for business in Luxembourg and the United States of America.

## APPENDIX III

### *AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies - Europe Short Duration High Yield (the "Sub-Fund")*

#### **1. – Investment Manager**

AXA Investment Managers UK Limited  
22 Bishopsgate  
London EC2N 4BQ

#### **2. – Investment Objective**

The Sub-Fund is actively managed without reference to any benchmark and seeks to generate income by investing in high yield debt securities (sub-investment grade corporate bonds) denominated in European currencies while seeking to avoid the risk of defaults.

#### **3. – Investment Policy**

The Investment Manager anticipates that the average expected life to maturity or redemption of the Sub-Fund's investments will be three years or less, although the Investment Manager may vary this approach if market conditions so warrant.

The Investment Manager believes that the Sub-Fund will provide investors with a higher degree of principal stability than is typically available in a portfolio of lower rated longer-term, fixed-income investments.

The Sub-Fund will seek to invest in high yield, fixed-income corporate debt securities and, to a lesser extent, preferred stocks which offer, in the view of the Investment Manager, a high return at the time of purchase.

The Sub-Fund will invest mostly in lower quality corporate bonds, some of which may be purchased at a discount to face value and may, therefore, offer a potential for capital appreciation as well as high current income. Conversely, some bonds may be purchased at a premium in order to obtain a high yield, and the Sub-Fund may realize a capital loss on their disposition.

The Sub-Fund may also, and up to 10%, hold Distressed and Defaulted Securities as a result of holding bonds whose rating would have been downgraded to be defaulting or distressing, if, in the opinion of the Investment Manager, such bonds are consistent with the Sub-Fund's investment objective.

While the Investment Manager anticipates that the Sub-Fund will invest mostly in high yield debt securities denominated in a European currency, it may also invest in Investment Grade debt securities denominated in a European currency. These debt securities denominated in a European currency will be issued by foreign corporations or governments or governmental agencies or instrumentalities.

Moreover, on an ancillary basis, the Investment Manager may also invest in high yield debt securities issued in non-European currencies.

Companies that issue high yielding fixed-income securities are often highly leveraged and may

not have more traditional methods of financing available to them. The Investment Manager believes, nevertheless, that the short duration securities of many such companies offer the potential to generate stable, consistent coupon income.

Various investment services rate some of the types of securities in which the Sub-Fund may invest. Higher yields are ordinarily available from securities in the lower-rating categories of the recognized rating services, that is, securities rated BB+ or lower by Standard & Poor's Ratings Services ("S&P") or Ba1 or lower by Moody's Investors Service, Inc. ("Moody's"), and from unrated securities of comparable quality.

In this regard, securities rated CCC or Caa by S&P and Moody's, respectively, are generally regarded as predominantly speculative with respect to the issuer's capacity to pay interest and repay principal in accordance with the terms of the security.

These ratings will be considered in connection with the Sub-Fund's investment decisions, but will not necessarily be a determinative or limiting factor. The Sub-Fund may invest in securities regardless of their rating and in securities which are not rated. It is the Investment Manager's expectation, however, that the Sub-Fund will invest mostly in securities rated below investment grade (that is, securities rated below BBB- or Baa3 by S&P and Moody's, respectively), and, perhaps, to a significant extent in securities rated below CCC or Caa by S&P and Moody's, respectively. If the rating on a security held by the Sub-Fund declines, or if the security goes into default, the Sub-Fund will consider such matters in its evaluation of the merits of retaining the security in its portfolio, but will not be obligated to dispose of the security.

The Investment Manager will consider a number of other factors in its investment analysis of a security in addition to its rating, including, among other things, the issuer's financial condition, earnings prospects, anticipated cash flow, interest or dividend coverage and payment history, asset coverage, liquidity, debt maturity schedules and borrowing requirements. The Investment Manager will utilize reports, statistics and other data from a variety of sources, but will base its investment decisions primarily on its own research and analysis.

Typical investors would seek high level of current income primarily through exposure to securities denominated in a European currency regardless of their rating and in securities which are not rated.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of net assets in contingent convertible bonds (CoCos).

The Sub-Fund may also invest up to one third of its net assets in Money Market Instruments, money market funds and bank deposits for treasury purposes.

The Sub-Fund promotes environmental and/or social characteristics.

**More information about the promotion of environmental and/or social characteristics is available in the relative SFDR Annex of the Sub-Fund.**

The Sub-Fund uses as part of its daily investment management activity, efficient portfolio management such as securities lending and reverse repurchase transactions within the limits

listed below (as a % of net assets):

- Securities lending: expected,  $\approx$  0-20%; max, 90%
- Repurchase/reverse repurchase agreements: expected,  $\approx$  0-10%; max, 20%.

By entering into securities lending, the Sub-Fund seeks to enhance yield on daily basis. When using repos/ reverse repos, the Sub-Fund seeks to optimize the collateral management by entering in collateral transformation to manage liquidity and cash.

The Sub-fund does not use securities borrowing.

The Sub-Fund will not use total return swaps.

All efficient portfolio management techniques will be consistent with the terms in “Efficient Portfolio Management Techniques”.

The Sub-Fund may incur fixed or variable brokerage fees and transactions costs upon entering into such techniques and instruments as described above. Transaction costs related to the techniques and instruments will be disclosed in the annual report.

The assets of the Sub-Fund which might be subject to securities lending and repurchase/reverse repurchase agreements include but are not limited to government and corporate bonds and equities.

Securities lending and repurchase/reverse repurchase agreements shall be carried out as part of efficient portfolio management.

#### **4. – Profile of a Typical Investor**

The Sub-Fund is designed for investors who plan to invest for at least three (3) years.

#### **5. – SFDR classification**

The Sub-Fund is classified as an Article 8 Financial Product under SFDR.

#### **6. – Risk Considerations specific to the Sub-Fund**

***Risk linked to high yield debt securities:*** Some of the high yield securities held in the portfolio may involve increased credit and market risk; such securities are subject to the risk of an issuer’s inability to meet principal and interest payments on its obligations (credit risk) and may also be subject to price volatility due to such factors as interest rate movements, market perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and general market liquidity.

***Risk linked to the contingent convertible bonds:*** In the framework of new banking regulations, banking institutions are required to increase their capital buffers and have therefore issued certain types of financial instrument known as subordinated contingent capital securities (often referred to as “CoCo” or “CoCos”). The main feature of a CoCo is its ability to absorb losses as required by banking regulations, but other corporate entities may also choose to issue them.

***Trigger level risk*** – Under the terms of a CoCo, the instruments become loss absorbing upon certain triggering events, including events under the control of the management of the CoCo issuer which could cause the permanent write-down to zero of principal investment and / or accrued interest, or a conversion to equity that may coincide with the share price of the



underlying equity being low. These triggering events may include (i) a deduction in the issuing bank's capital ratio below a pre-set limit, (ii) a regulatory authority making a subjective determination that an institution is "non-viable" or (iii) a national authority deciding to inject capital.

Furthermore, the trigger event calculations may also be affected by changes in applicable accounting rules, the accounting policies of the issuer or its group and the application of these policies. Any such changes, including changes over which the issuer or its group has a discretion, may have a material adverse impact on its reported financial position and accordingly may give rise to the occurrence of a trigger event in circumstances where such a trigger event may not otherwise have occurred, notwithstanding the adverse impact this will have on the position of holders of the CoCos.

*Yield/ valuation risk* – CoCos are valued relative to other debt securities in the issuer's capital structure, as well as equity, with an additional premium for the risk of conversion or write-down. The relative riskiness of different CoCos will depend mainly on the distance between the current capital ratio and the effective trigger level, which once reached would result in the CoCo being automatically written-down or converted into equity.

*Coupon cancellation risk* – It is possible in certain circumstances for interest payments on certain CoCos to be cancelled in full or in part by the issuer, without prior notice to bondholders. Therefore, there can be no assurances that investors will receive payments of interest in respect of CoCos. Unpaid interest may not be cumulative or payable at any time thereafter,

*Call extension risk* – Notwithstanding that interest not being paid or being paid only in part in respect of CoCos or the principal value of such instruments may be written down to zero, there may be no restriction on the issuer paying dividends on its ordinary shares or making pecuniary or other distributions to the holders of its ordinary shares or making payments on securities ranking *pari passu* with the CoCos resulting in other securities by the same issuer potentially performing better than CoCos.

*Capital structure inversion risk* – CoCos generally rank senior to common stock in an issuer's capital structure and are consequently higher quality and entail less risk than the issuer's common stock; however, the risk involved in such securities is correlated to the solvency level and / or the access of the issuer to liquidity of the issuing financial institution.

*Unknown risk* – The structure of CoCos is yet to be tested and there is some uncertainty as to how they may be impacted in regard to liquidity challenges and industry concentration in a stressed environment of deteriorating financial condition.

*Liquidity risk* - In stressed market conditions, the liquidity profile of the issuer can deteriorate significantly and it may be difficult to find a ready buyer which means that a significant discount may be required in order to sell it.

Concentration in investments at certain times in large positions and in a relatively limited number of securities, sectors or regions (especially Europe) will make the relevant Sub-Fund more subject to the risks associated with such concentration.

***Risks linked to the Distressed Securities:*** The Sub-Fund may hold Distressed Securities as defined in the Glossary. Distressed Securities are speculative and involve significant risk. Distressed Securities frequently do not produce income while they are outstanding and may require the Sub-Fund to bear certain extraordinary expenses in order to protect and recover its

holding. Therefore, to the extent the Sub-Fund seeks capital appreciation, the Sub-Fund's ability to achieve current income for its Unitholders may be diminished by its holding of distressed securities. The Sub-Fund also will be subject to significant uncertainty as to when and in what manner and for what value the obligations evidenced by the distressed securities will eventually be satisfied (e.g., through a liquidation of the obligor's assets, an exchange offer or plan of reorganisation involving the distressed securities or a payment of some amount in satisfaction of the obligation). In addition, even if an exchange offer is made or a plan of reorganisation is adopted with respect to distressed securities held by the Sub-Fund, there can be no assurance that the securities or other assets received by the Sub-Fund in connection with such exchange offer or plan of reorganisation will not have a lower value or income potential than may have been initially anticipated. Moreover, any securities received by the Sub-Fund upon completion of an exchange offer or plan of reorganisation may be restricted as to resale. As a result of the Sub-Fund's participation in negotiations with respect to any exchange offer or plan of reorganisation with respect to an issuer of distressed securities, the Sub-Fund may be restricted from disposing quickly of such securities.

***Risks linked to the Defaulted Securities:*** The Sub-Fund may hold Defaulted Securities as defined in the Glossary that may become illiquid. The risk of loss due to default may also be considerably greater with lower-quality securities because they are generally unsecured and are often subordinated to other creditors of the issuer. If the issuer of a security in the Sub-Fund's portfolio defaults, the Sub-Fund may suffer unrealised losses on the security, which may lower the Sub-Fund's Net Asset Value per Share. Defaulted Securities typically exhibit prices that are highly discounted to their face value.

***Sustainability risks:*** Given the Sub-Fund's Investment Strategy and risk profile, the likely impact of the Sustainability Risks on the Sub-Fund's returns is expected, according to the Management Company to be medium.

***Risk linked to the ESG:*** Applying ESG and sustainability criteria to the investment process may exclude securities of certain issuers for non-investment reasons and therefore some market opportunities available to funds that do not use ESG or sustainability criteria may be unavailable for the Sub-Fund, and the Sub-Fund's performance may at times be better or worse than the performance of comparable funds that do not use ESG or sustainability criteria. The selection of assets may in part rely on a ESG scoring process or ban lists that rely partially on third party data. The lack of common or harmonised definitions and labels integrating ESG and sustainability criteria at EU level may result in different approaches by managers when setting ESG objectives and determining that these objectives have been met by the funds they manage. This also means that it may be difficult to compare strategies integrating ESG and sustainability criteria to the extent that the selection and weightings applied to select investments may to a certain extent be subjective or based on metrics that may share the same name but have different underlying meanings. Investors should note that the subjective value that they may or may not assign to certain types of ESG criteria may differ substantially from the Investment Manager's methodology. The lack of harmonised definitions may also potentially result in certain investments not benefitting from preferential tax treatments or credits because ESG criteria are assessed differently than initially thought.

## **7. – Investment Restrictions specific to the Sub-Fund**

Notwithstanding the limits set forth in the section "Investment Restrictions" of the Prospectus, the Sub-Fund may not invest more than 10% of its net assets in UCITS and/or other UCIs.

The Sub-Fund will use financial derivative instruments for efficient portfolio management

purposes or hedging purposes, limited to the following purposes:

- Hedging of currency exposure;
- Managing the duration exposure of the Sub-Fund within the limits of efficient portfolio management through the use of bond/interest rate futures;
- Hedging specific credit risk by entering into credit default swaps in order to buy protection;
- Taking specific credit risk by entering into credit default swaps in order to sell protection (though without the intention to create leverage);
- Managing credit risk during periods of Sub-Fund inflows (or outflows) by selling (or buying) protection through the use of credit default swaps.

A **credit default swap “CDS”** is a bilateral financial contract in which one counterparty (the protection buyer) pays a periodic fee in return for a contingent payment by the protection seller following a credit event of a reference issuer. The protection buyer acquires the right to sell a particular bond or other designated reference obligations issued by the reference issuer for its par value or the right to receive the difference between par value and market price of the said bond or other designated reference obligations (or some other designated reference or strike price) when a credit event occurs. A credit event is commonly defined as bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership, material adverse restructuring of debt, or failure to meet payment obligations when due. The International Swap and Derivatives Association (ISDA) has produced standardised documentation for these derivatives transactions under the umbrella of its ISDA Master Agreement.

The Sub-Fund will only enter into OTC credit derivatives transactions with highly rated financial institutions specialised in this type of transaction and only in accordance with the standard terms laid down by the ISDA Master Agreement.

The maximum exposure of the Sub-Fund may not exceed 100% of its net assets.

## 8. – Units

At the date of this Prospectus, the Classes of Units listed in the table below are available in the Sub-Fund.

- Class A
- Class B
- Class E
- Class F
- Class M
- Class N (1)
- Class Z (2)

- (1) “N” unit Classes will be available for subscription on the date of the first subscription in these Unit Classes at an initial price of USD 100.
- (2) Investments made in the Class “Z” Units before 03/01/2018 may continue to be held after that date, even though they are no longer accessible for new subscriptions by the investors who no longer meet at least one of the eligibility criteria described in (i) or (ii) above as from this date.

For a description of the Units, see section “Units” of the general part of the Prospectus. Such list of Classes of Units may be updated from time to time notably to reflect the Classes of Units created

since the previous version of the Prospectus. The complete list of Classes available for subscription may be obtained, free of charge and upon request, from the Management Company and is also available on the Management Company website at the following link: <https://www.axa-im.com/>.

## **9. – Minimum Subscriptions and Holding Requirements <sup>(1)</sup>**

<b>Class</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>Z</b>
Minimum initial subscription	30,000,000	1,000,000	None	None	10,000,000	None	None
Minimum subsequent investment, except in case of regular saving plans	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Minimum holding requirement in the Fund	None	None	None	None	10,000,000	None	None
Minimum holding requirement in each Sub-Fund	None	None	None	None	None	None	None

<sup>(1)</sup> Subscriptions in EUR or the equivalent in the relevant currency of the relevant Class of Units.

The Directors may, in their discretion, waive or modify the foregoing requirements in particular cases.

## **10. – Conditions of Subscription, Redemption and Conversion**

Subscription, redemption and conversion requests received by the Registrar Agent no later than 3 p.m. C.E.T. on any Valuation Day will be accepted and traded on the basis of the Dealing Price applicable to such Valuation Day.

The relevant Dealing Price will be increased or decreased by any subscription, redemption or conversion fees, as mentioned below.

## **11. – Fees**

<b>Maximum one-off charges taken when you invest</b>		<b>Maximum recurrent charges taken from the Fund over a year</b>		
Class	Subscription Fee	Management Fee	Applied Service Fee	Distribution Fee
A	-	0.75%	0.50%	-
B	-	0.75%	0.50%	-
E	-	1.00%	0.50%	0.35%
F	3.00%	1.00%	0.50%	-
M*	-	-	0.50%	-
N (1)	1.00%	1.00%	0.50%	1.00%
Z	2.00%	0.75%	0.50%	-

\* In respect of Class M Units, no management fee will be paid by the Fund to the Management Company, being provided that the Management Company may however be indirectly remunerated through institutional mandates or investment management agreements.

(1) “N” unit Classes will be available for subscription on the date of the first subscription in these Unit Classes at an initial price of USD 100.

**12. – Valuation Day**

Every Business Day shall be a Valuation Day.

**13. – Reference Currency**

The Reference Currency of the Sub-Fund is Euro.

**14. – Sub-Fund Business Day**

A day on which banks are open all day for business in Luxembourg and United Kingdom.

## APPENDIX IV

### *AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies - US High Yield B/BB (the "Sub-Fund")*

#### **1. – Investment Manager**

AXA Investment Managers US Inc.

400 Atlantic Street  
Suite 1000  
Stamford, CT, 06901  
United States of America

#### **2. – Investment Objective**

The investment objective of the Sub-Fund is to seek high income and long-term growth, in USD, from an actively managed high yield bonds portfolio by principally investing in sub-investment grade securities.

#### **3. – Investment Policy**

The Sub-Fund is actively managed in order to capture opportunities in the US sub-investment grade corporate bond market primarily investing in securities that are part of the benchmark ICE BofA US High Yield B BB Constrained Index (the "**Benchmark**"). As part of the investment process, the Investment Manager has broad discretion over the composition of the Sub-Fund's portfolio and can take, based on its investment convictions, exposure to companies, countries or sectors not included in the Benchmark or take different positioning in terms of duration, geographical allocation and/or sector or issuer selection compared to the Benchmark, even though the Benchmark constituents are generally representative of the Sub-Fund's portfolio. Thus, the deviation from the Benchmark is likely to be significant.

The Sub-Fund mainly invests in sub-investment grade corporate bonds also named high yield bonds that are issued by US companies denominated in USD, such as fixed rate bonds (i.e. bonds that carry a predetermined interest rate which is known as coupon rate and interest is payable at specified dates before bond maturity), floating rate bonds (i.e. bonds that have a variable coupon, equal to a money market reference rate or federal funds rate, plus a rate that remains constant called quoted spread), convertible bonds (i.e. bonds that give the holder the option to exchange the bond for a predetermined number of shares in the issuing company), callable bonds (i.e. bonds that may be redeemed prior to their maturity) and perpetual bonds (i.e. bonds without maturity date).

The Sub-Fund does not invest in securities rated CCC+ or below by Standard & Poor's or equivalent rating by Moody's or Fitch. Ratings are based on the lower of two ratings or the second highest of three ratings depending on how many ratings are available. If securities are unrated, they must be judged equivalent to those levels by the Investment Manager.

However, the Sub-Fund may, and up to 3%, hold bonds that have been downgraded after purchase to a rating CCC+ or below by Standard & Poor's or equivalent rating, even counting as so called Distressed or Defaulted Securities, if, in the opinion of the Investment Manager this is in the best

interests of the investors and consistent with the Sub-Fund's investment objective. If these assets exceed 3% of the Sub-Funds' net assets, the part exceeding the 3% limit will be sold as soon as possible taking into account the best interests of the investors, but always within 6 months unless specific events prevent the Investment Manager from sourcing their liquidity.

The selection of debt securities is not exclusively and mechanically based on their publicly available credit ratings but also on an internal credit or market risk analysis. The decision to buy or sell securities is also based on other analysis criteria of the Investment Manager.

The Sub-Fund may invest less than 20% of net assets in convertible securities and up to 10% in contingent convertible bonds (CoCos).

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of its net assets in equities and equity-related securities (including equities received as a result of a conversion of convertibles bonds), and up to one third of its net assets in Money Market Instruments, money market funds and bank deposits for treasury purposes.

The Sub-Fund may invest its net assets in 144A securities, in a substantial way depending on the opportunity.

The Sub-Fund promotes environmental and/or social characteristics.

**More information about the promotion of environmental and/or social characteristics is available in the relative SFDR Annex of the Sub-Fund.**

The Sub-Fund uses as part of its daily investment management activity, efficient portfolio management such as securities lending and reverse repurchase transactions within the limits listed below (as a % of net assets):

- Securities lending: expected,  $\approx$  0-10%; max; 90%
- Repurchase/reverse repurchase agreements: expected,  $\approx$  0-10%; max, 20%

By entering into securities lending, the Sub-Fund seeks to enhance yield on daily basis. When using repos/ reverse repos, the Sub-Fund seeks to optimize the collateral management by entering in collateral transformation to manage liquidity and cash.

The Sub-Fund will not use total return swaps.

The Sub-fund does not use securities borrowing.

All efficient portfolio management techniques will be consistent with the terms in "Efficient Portfolio Management Techniques".

The Sub-Fund may incur fixed or variable brokerage fees and transactions costs upon entering into such techniques and instruments as described above. Transaction costs related to the techniques and instruments will be disclosed in the annual report.

The assets of the Sub-Fund which might be subject to securities lending and repurchase/reverse repurchase agreements include but are not limited to government and corporate bonds and equities.

Securities lending and repurchase/reverse repurchase agreements shall be carried out as part of efficient portfolio management.

#### **4. – Profile of a Typical Investor**

The Sub-Fund is designed for investors who plan to invest for at least five (5) years.

#### **5. – SFDR classification**

The Sub-Fund is classified as an Article 8 Financial Product under SFDR.

#### **6. – Risk Considerations specific to the Sub-Fund**

***Risk linked to high yield debt securities:*** Some of the high yield securities held in the portfolio may involve increased credit and market risk; such securities are subject to the risk of an issuer's inability to meet principal and interest payments on its obligations (credit risk) and may also be subject to price volatility due to such factors as interest rate movements, market perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and general market liquidity.

***Risks linked to convertible securities:*** The Sub-Fund may invest in convertible securities which are corporate securities generally offering fixed interest or dividend yields which may be converted either at a stated price or rate for common or preferred stock at specified times during the life of the convertible securities. Although to a lesser extent than with fixed income securities generally, the market value of convertible securities tends to decline as interest rates rise. Because of the conversion feature, the market value of convertible securities also tends to vary with fluctuations in the market value of the underlying common or preferred stock. Convertible bonds may also have call provisions and other features which may give rise to the risk of a call. The value and performance of the Sub-Fund may also be adversely affected as a result.

Investments in convertible securities are subject to the same interest rate risk, credit and prepayment risks associated with comparable conventional corporate bonds. Price changes in fixed interest securities are influenced significantly by interest rate developments in the capital markets, which in turn are influenced by macro-economic factors. The value of convertible securities also may be affected by changes in the credit rating, liquidity or financial condition of the issuer. The Sub-Fund may also be exposed to the credit and insolvency risks of the issuers of the securities. The NAV of the Sub-Fund may be adversely affected.

***Risk linked to the contingent convertible bonds:*** In the framework of new banking regulations, banking institutions are required to increase their capital buffers and have therefore issued certain types of financial instrument known as subordinated contingent capital securities (often referred to as “CoCo” or “CoCos”). The main feature of a CoCo is its ability to absorb losses as required by banking regulations, but other corporate entities may also choose to issue them.

***Trigger level risk*** – Under the terms of a CoCo, the instruments become loss absorbing upon certain triggering events, including events under the control of the management of the CoCo issuer which could cause the permanent write-down to zero of principal investment and / or accrued interest, or a conversion to equity that may coincide with the share price of the underlying equity being low. These triggering events may include (i) a deduction in the issuing bank's capital ratio below a pre-set limit,



(ii) a regulatory authority making a subjective determination that an institution is “non-viable” or (iii) a national authority deciding to inject capital.

Furthermore, the trigger event calculations may also be affected by changes in applicable accounting rules, the accounting policies of the issuer or its group and the application of these policies. Any such changes, including changes over which the issuer or its group has a discretion, may have a material adverse impact on its reported financial position and accordingly may give rise to the occurrence of a trigger event in circumstances where such a trigger event may not otherwise have occurred, notwithstanding the adverse impact this will have on the position of holders of the CoCos.

*Yield valuation risk* – CoCos are valued relative to other debt securities in the issuer’s capital structure, as well as equity, with an additional premium for the risk of conversion or write-down. The relative riskiness of different CoCos will depend mainly on the distance between the current capital ratio and the effective trigger level, which once reached would result in the CoCo being automatically written-down or converted into equity.

*Coupon cancellation risk* – It is possible in certain circumstances for interest payments on certain CoCos to be cancelled in full or in part by the issuer, without prior notice to bondholders. Therefore, there can be no assurances that investors will receive payments of interest in respect of CoCos. Unpaid interest may not be cumulative or payable at any time thereafter,

*Call extension risk* – Notwithstanding that interest not being paid or being paid only in part in respect of CoCos or the principal value of such instruments may be written down to zero, there may be no restriction on the issuer paying dividends on its ordinary shares or making pecuniary or other distributions to the holders of its ordinary shares or making payments on securities ranking *pari passu* with the CoCos resulting in other securities by the same issuer potentially performing better than CoCos.

*Capital structure inversion risk* – CoCos generally rank senior to common stock in an issuer’s capital structure and are consequently higher quality and entail less risk than the issuer’s common stock; however, the risk involved in such securities is correlated to the solvency level and / or the access of the issuer to liquidity of the issuing financial institution.

*Unknown risk* – The structure of CoCos is yet to be tested and there is some uncertainty as to how they may be impacted in regard to liquidity challenges and industry concentration in a stressed environment of deteriorating financial condition.

*Liquidity risk* - In stressed market conditions, the liquidity profile of the issuer can deteriorate significantly and it may be difficult to find a ready buyer which means that a significant discount may be required in order to sell it.

Concentration in investments at certain times in large positions and in a relatively limited number of securities, sectors or regions (especially Europe) will make the relevant Sub-Fund more subject to the risks associated with such concentration.

***Risks linked to the Distressed Securities:*** The Sub-Fund may hold Distressed Securities as defined in the Glossary. Distressed Securities are speculative and involve significant risk. Distressed Securities frequently do not produce income while they are outstanding and may require the Sub-Fund to bear certain extraordinary expenses in order to protect and recover its holding. Therefore, to the extent the

Sub-Fund seeks capital appreciation, the Sub-Fund's ability to achieve current income for its Unitholders may be diminished by its holding of distressed securities. The Sub-Fund will also be subject to significant uncertainty as to when and in what manner and for what value the obligations evidenced by the distressed securities will eventually be satisfied (e.g., through a liquidation of the obligor's assets, an exchange offer or plan of reorganisation involving the distressed securities or a payment of some amount in satisfaction of the obligation). In addition, even if an exchange offer is made or a plan of reorganisation is adopted with respect to distressed securities held by the Sub-Fund, there can be no assurance that the securities or other assets received by the Sub-Fund in connection with such exchange offer or plan of reorganisation will not have a lower value or income potential than may have been initially anticipated. Moreover, any securities received by the Sub-Fund upon completion of an exchange offer or plan of reorganisation may be restricted as to resale. As a result of the Sub-Fund's participation in negotiations with respect to any exchange offer or plan of reorganisation with respect to an issuer of distressed securities, the Sub-Fund may be restricted from disposing quickly of such securities.

***Risks linked to the Defaulted Securities:*** The Sub-Fund may hold Defaulted Securities as defined in the Glossary that may become illiquid. The risk of loss due to default may also be considerably greater with lower-quality securities because they are generally unsecured and are often subordinated to other creditors of the issuer. If the issuer of a security in the Sub-Fund's portfolio defaults, the Sub-Fund may suffer unrealised losses on the security, which may lower the Sub-Fund's Net Asset Value per Share. Defaulted Securities typically exhibit prices that are highly discounted to their face value.

***Sustainability Risks:*** Given the Sub-Fund's Investment Strategy and risk profile, the likely impact of the Sustainability Risks on the Sub-Fund's returns is expected, according to the Management Company, to be medium.

***Risk linked to the ESG:*** Applying ESG and sustainability criteria to the investment process may exclude securities of certain issuers for non-investment reasons and therefore some market opportunities available to funds that do not use ESG or sustainability criteria may be unavailable for the Sub-Fund, and the Sub-Fund's performance may at times be better or worse than the performance of comparable funds that do not use ESG or sustainability criteria. The selection of assets may in part rely on a ESG scoring process or ban lists that rely partially on third party data. The lack of common or harmonised definitions and labels integrating ESG and sustainability criteria at EU level may result in different approaches by managers when setting ESG objectives and determining that these objectives have been met by the funds they manage. This also means that it may be difficult to compare strategies integrating ESG and sustainability criteria to the extent that the selection and weightings applied to select investments may to a certain extent be subjective or based on metrics that may share the same name but have different underlying meanings. Investors should note that the subjective value that they may or may not assign to certain types of ESG criteria may differ substantially from the Investment Manager's methodology. The lack of harmonised definitions may also potentially result in certain investments not benefitting from preferential tax treatments or credits because ESG criteria are assessed differently than initially thought.

***144A securities risk:*** Unitholders are advised to refer to section "Risks Considerations" of the main part of the Prospectus in relation to 144A securities.

## **7. – Investment Restrictions specific to the Sub-Fund**

Notwithstanding the limits set forth in the section "Investment Restrictions" of the Prospectus, the Sub-

Fund may not invest more than 10% of its net assets in UCITS and/or other UCIs (including exchange-traded fund (ETF)).

Moreover, the Sub-Fund is NOT allowed to:

- i) invest in financial derivative instruments. For the purpose of this subsection of Appendix IV only, convertible bonds and bonds that were issued with attached warrants, commonly referred to as units, will not be considered as financial derivative instruments;
- ii) use financial derivative instruments whether for hedging purposes, except in order to hedge foreign exchange and currency risk borne by the investor which will invest in the Euro denominated Units of the Sub-Fund, or for efficient portfolio management purposes;
- iii) borrow.

## 8. – Units

At the date of this Prospectus, the Classes of Units listed in the table below are available in the Sub-Fund.

- Class A
- Class I
- Class E (1)
- Class F
- Class N (1)
- Class U (1)
- Class Z (1)
- Class ZF

(1) “E”, “N”, “U” & “Z” Unit Classes will be available for subscription on the date of the first subscription in these Unit Classes at an initial price of EUR or USD (or CHF or JPY, if Unit Classes in those currencies have been launched since the previous version of the Prospectus) 100.

For a description of the Units, see section “Units” of the general part of the Prospectus. Such list of Classes of Units may be updated from time to time, including in new denominated currencies that will be hedged (95%) notably to reflect the Classes of Units created since the previous version of the Prospectus. The complete list of Classes available for subscription may be obtained, free of charge and upon request, from the Management Company and is also available on the Management Company website at the following link: <https://www.axa-im.com/>.

## 9. – Minimum Subscriptions and Holding Requirements <sup>(1)</sup>

Class	A	I	E	F	N	U	Z	ZF
Minimum initial subscription	5,000,000	500,000	None	None	None	None	None	250,000

Minimum subsequent investment, except in case of regular saving plans	1,000,000	10,000	None	None	None	None	None	None
Minimum holding requirement in the Fund	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	10,000
Minimum holding requirement in each Sub-Fund	1,000,000	10,000	None	None	None	None	None	None

<sup>(1)</sup> Subscriptions in USD or the equivalent in the relevant currency of the relevant Class of Units.

The Directors may, in their discretion, waive or modify the foregoing requirements in particular cases.

## 10. – Conditions of Subscription, Redemption and Conversion

Subscription, redemption and conversion requests received by the Registrar Agent no later than 3 p.m. C.E.T. on any Valuation Day will be accepted and traded on the basis of the Dealing Price applicable to such Valuation Day.

The relevant Dealing Price will be increased or decreased by any subscription, redemption or conversion fees, as mentioned below.

The swing pricing mechanism described in the section of the Prospectus entitled “Determination of the Net Asset Value of Units” will apply to this Sub-Fund.

## 11. – Fees

Maximum one-off charges taken when you invest	Maximum recurrent charges taken from the Fund over a year			
Class	Subscription Fee	Management Fee	Applied Service Fee	Distribution Fee
A	-	0.35%	0.50%	-
E (1)	-	0.85%	0.50%	0.50%
F	3.00%	0.85%	0.50%	-
I	-	0.55%	0.50%	-
N (1)	1.00%	1.00%	0.50%	1.00 %

U (1)	5.50%	1.10%	0.50%	-
Z (1)	2.00%	0.55%	0.50%	-
ZF	2.00%	0.35%	0.50%	-

(1) “E”, “N”, “U” and “Z” Unit Classes will be available for subscription on the date of the first subscription in these Unit Classes at an initial price of EUR, or USD 100 (or CHF or JPY, if Unit Classes in those currencies have been launched since the previous version of the Prospectus).

## **12. – Valuation Day**

Every Business Day shall be a Valuation Day.

## **13. – Reference Currency**

The Reference Currency of the Sub-Fund is US Dollars.

## **14. – Sub-Fund Business Day**

A day on which banks are open all day for business in Luxembourg and the United States of America.

## APPENDIX V

### *AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies – Euro Credit Opportunities Target 2028 (the "Sub-Fund")*

#### **1. – Investment Manager**

AXA Investment Managers UK Limited  
22 Bishopsgate  
London EC2N 4BQ

#### **2. – Investment Objective**

The Sub-Fund is actively managed without reference to any benchmark and seeks to generate income by investing essentially in debt securities, such as public debt and fixed payer, and whose issuers are corporates and governments, based on the assumption of a holding period up to September 29<sup>th</sup> 2028 (the “**Maturity Date**”). The objective is not guaranteed and the potential return may be negatively impacted among others by the potential default risk and recovery rate of one or several issuers within the portfolio.

The Sub-Fund is designed to be held by Unitholders until the Maturity Date as, after the Subscription Period (as defined below), the Sub-Fund’s portfolio will be essentially held in debt securities in accordance with the Maturity Date. It is recommended to Unitholders to maintain their investments in the Sub-Fund until the Maturity Date.

The Sub-Fund may, during the Subscription Period and the period approaching the Maturity Date, be fully invested in Money Market Instruments and/or liquid financial instruments. However, prospective investors are advised that an investment in the Sub-Fund is not guaranteed, that the value of the principal invested in the Sub-Fund may fluctuate and that an investment in the Sub-Fund shall not be considered as an investment in a deposit.

#### **3. – Investment Policy**

The Investment Manager will seek to achieve the objective of the Sub-Fund by investing essentially in a broadly diversified portfolio of long-only European debt securities, including bonds financing environmental projects (green bonds).

The Sub-Fund will mainly invest, up to 100% of its net assets, in high yield debt securities rated at least CCC /Caa2 (as defined by S&P, Moody’s and Fitch), including unrated debt securities deemed to be of similar credit quality by the Investment Manager. However, based on analysis of market conditions and expectations with close consideration to risks and the potential for returns as further described below, e.g., if the Investment Manager believes that there is a possibility of superior risk-adjusted returns at times of elevated market stress, when losses due to high yield defaults are more likely to rise, or when markets are very strong, in which case high yield valuations may no longer offer sufficient compensation for the increased level of risk, the Sub-Fund may also invest up to 49% of its net assets in investment grade debt securities. During the Subscription Period and a period of approximately 6 months prior to the Maturity Date, the Sub-Fund may invest up to 100% of its net assets in investment grade debt securities in accordance with section 4 (Subscription period) and section 7 (Maturity Date) below. The Investment Manager will define debt securities’ rating as the second highest of the ratings available between the 3 main agencies (S&P, Moody’s and Fitch).

The Investment Manager will determine the appropriate action to take in the event that a debt security's rating is downgraded, notably by selling the debt security as soon as practicable taking into account the Unitholders' interest.

The Sub-Fund may also, and up to 10%, hold Distressed and Defaulted Securities, as a result of holding debt securities whose rating would have been downgraded to be defaulting or distressing, if, in the opinion of the Investment Manager, such debt securities are consistent with the Sub-Fund's investment objective.

Debt securities to be selected will be those that, in the Investment Manager's opinion, are the most likely to provide the best return in light of the objective of the Sub-Fund and in accordance with the Maturity Date. Factors considered for this purpose will include among others, callability (i.e. their ability to be redeemed prior to maturity), credit stability (i.e. the issuer's creditworthiness) and liquidity (i.e. the available market in the security).

The selection of debt securities is not exclusively and mechanically based on their publicly available credit ratings but also on an internal credit or market risk analysis. The decision to buy or sell securities is also based on other analysis criteria of the Investment Manager.

The Sub-Fund will not invest in debt securities with a maturity after June 2029.

The Sub-Fund will not invest in perpetual bonds (i.e. bonds without a maturity date) such as contingent convertible bonds (CoCos) or corporate hybrid bonds.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to one third of the net assets in debt securities issued by non-European corporates and governments (including emerging markets up to 10% of its net assets). The Sub-Fund may only invest up to 15% in debt securities that are not denominated in EUR (exposure of the Sub-Fund's assets in non-EUR currency will be hedged against EUR).

The Sub-Fund may also invest up to one third of its net assets in Money Market Instruments, money market funds and bank deposits for treasury purposes.

The Investment Manager will not be restricted in the industry or sectors of the issuers in which the Sub-Fund invests.

Due to the nature of debt securities, the investment policy is not solely to buy and hold the same portfolio. The Investment Manager may from time to time buy or sell debt securities in particular as a defensive mechanism where there is a change in the quality of the issuers of certain debt securities and/or where the Investment Manager at any time identifies debt securities which it considers to be appropriate to the above investment objective and investment policy of the Sub-Fund.

The Sub-Fund promotes environmental and/or social characteristics.

**More information about the promotion of environmental and/or social characteristics is available in the relative SFDR Annex of the Sub-Fund.**

The Sub-Fund uses as part of its daily investment management activity, efficient portfolio management such as securities lending within the limits listed below (as a % of net assets):

- Securities lending: expected,  $\approx$  0-30%; max;90%.

By entering into securities lending, the Sub-Fund seeks to enhance yield on daily basis.

The Sub-Fund uses neither securities borrowing transactions nor repos/reverse repos.

The Sub-Fund will not enter into total return swaps or instruments with similar characteristics. All efficient portfolio management techniques will be consistent with the terms in “Efficient Portfolio Management Techniques”.

The Sub-Fund may incur fixed or variable brokerage fees and transactions costs upon entering into such techniques and instruments as described above. Transaction costs related to the techniques and instruments will be disclosed in the annual report.

The assets of the Sub-Fund which might be subject to securities lending include but are not limited to government and corporate bonds.

Securities lending shall be carried out as part of efficient portfolio management.

#### **4. – Subscription Period**

The Subscription Period (hereinafter defined as the “**Subscription Period**”) means the period from October 15th, 2024 up to December 17th, 2024 or such other period as may be determined by the Management Company, in consultation with the Investment Manager.

During the Subscription Period, the Sub-Fund may be fully invested in Money Market Instruments and/or in other liquid financial instruments issued by governments or by rated corporate issuers such as commercial paper, bonds, treasury bills, deposits, certificates of deposits and Cash in accordance with investment restrictions applicable to the Sub-Fund. During the Subscription Period, the Sub-Fund will gradually build up its debt securities portfolio in accordance with its investment strategy.

No subscriptions will be accepted after the end of the Subscription Period.

The Management Company may, with advance notification to Unitholders, decide to re-open the Sub-Fund to subscription at a later date.

At the end of the Subscription Period, the Sub-Fund will be essentially invested in debt securities such as described above.

#### **5. – Financial Derivative Instruments (FDI)**

Where considered appropriate, the Investment Manager may utilise FDIs as described below. For hedging and efficient portfolio management purposes only, the Sub-Fund may use:

- Forward foreign exchange contracts;
- Swaps such as cross currency.

As the callable bonds in which the Sub-Fund may invest may embed a derivative element, any leverage arising from investing in such securities will be accurately monitored, measured and managed in accordance with the risk management process in place for the Sub-Fund.



## **6. – Currency hedging at portfolio level**

The Investment Manager intends to actively hedge the currency exposures of the Sub-Fund against the Reference Currency. For currency hedging purposes, forward foreign exchange contracts and/or currency swaps may be utilised. The costs of the Sub-Fund's portfolio currency hedging policy will be borne by the Sub-Fund. Please refer to the section of the Prospectus entitled "Efficient Portfolio Management Techniques".

The successful execution of a hedging strategy which mitigates exactly this risk cannot be assured. The implementation of the hedging strategy described above may generate additional costs for the Sub-Fund.

## **7. – Maturity Date**

The Sub-Fund shall terminate once the Maturity Date has been reached, at which point the Units of all remaining Unitholders shall be automatically redeemed in accordance with the procedures described in the section of the Prospectus entitled "Redemption and Conversion of Units". Over a period of approximately 6 months approaching the Maturity Date, the investment policy of the Sub-Fund will be to provide liquidity by investing in Money Market Instruments and/or in liquid financial instruments issued by governments or by corporate issuers such as commercial paper, bonds, bills, deposits, certificates of deposits and Cash in accordance with investment restrictions applicable to the Sub-Fund.

The nature of the Sub-Fund's investment objective and policy means that the risk profile of the Sub-Fund will vary over time. At the end of the Subscription Period, the Sub-Fund will be invested and/or exposed to the various risks inherent in the portfolio of debt securities. As the debt securities are redeemed and as the Maturity Date approaches, the nature of the risks associated with the debt securities portfolio will change and the Sub-Fund's exposure to risk decreases. The Sub-Fund's risk profile will therefore change significantly between its launch date and Maturity Date.

## **8. – Profile of a Typical Investor**

The Sub-Fund is suitable for investors seeking to optimize return over approximately a 4 (four) year investment period who can afford to set aside capital at least until the Maturity Date and who have a medium risk appetite.

Investors should read and consider the section of the Prospectus entitled "Risk consideration" along with the paragraph 4 "Risk Considerations specific to the Sub-Fund" of this Appendix before investing in the Sub-Fund.

## **9. – SFDR classification**

The Sub-Fund is classified as an Article 8 Financial Product under SFDR.

## **10. – Risk Considerations specific to the Sub-Fund**

In addition to the generic risk factors of the Sub-Fund as set-out in the section "Risk Considerations", this Sub-Fund may be subject to the specific risks described below:

***Risk of capital loss:*** The Sub-Fund is not a guaranteed fund and returns can be negative. The performance of the Sub-Fund may not be consistent with the objectives of investors and their investment (after deduction

of the subscription fees, as applicable) may not be fully returned. Furthermore, the Sub-Fund is intended to be held to the Maturity Date. Investors who do not hold their Units to the Maturity Date may suffer significant losses. Upon termination of the Sub-Fund, including early termination, valuation of investments could be subject to market conditions (such as unfavourable and unusual market movements) which could cause losses for the investor.

***Risk linked to high yield debt securities:*** Some of the high yield securities held in the portfolio may involve increased credit and market risk; such securities are subject to the risk of an issuer's inability to meet principal and interest payments on its obligations (credit risk) and may also be subject to price volatility due to such factors as interest rate movements, market perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and general market liquidity.

***Reinvestment Risk:*** Reinvestment risk is the risk that proceeds from bond coupons or redemptions may be reinvested at lower yields than that of the previous investment, due to the market conditions at the time that the proceeds are invested. The callability feature in corporate bonds increases reinvestment risk as companies will call their bonds when they can issue bonds with a lower yield.

***Sustainability risks:*** Sustainability risk is an environmental, social or governance event or condition that, if it occurs, could cause an actual or a potential material negative impact on the value of the investment. Given the Sub-Fund's Investment Strategy and risk profile, the likely impact of the Sustainability Risks on the Sub-Fund's returns is expected, according to the Management Company, to be medium.

***Risk linked to the ESG:*** Applying ESG and sustainability criteria to the investment process may exclude securities of certain issuers for non-investment reasons and therefore some market opportunities available to funds that do not use ESG or sustainability criteria may be unavailable for the Sub-Fund, and the Sub-Fund's performance may at times be better or worse than the performance of comparable funds that do not use ESG or sustainability criteria. The selection of assets may in part rely on a ESG scoring process or ban lists that rely partially on third party data. The lack of common or harmonised definitions and labels integrating ESG and sustainability criteria at EU level may result in different approaches by managers when setting ESG objectives and determining that these objectives have been met by the funds they manage. This also means that it may be difficult to compare strategies integrating ESG and sustainability criteria to the extent that the selection and weightings applied to select investments may to a certain extent be subjective or based on metrics that may share the same name but have different underlying meanings. Investors should note that the subjective value that they may or may not assign to certain types of ESG criteria may differ substantially from the Investment Manager's methodology. The lack of harmonised definitions may also potentially result in certain investments not benefitting from preferential tax treatments or credits because ESG criteria are assessed differently than initially thought.

***Risks linked to the Distressed Securities:*** The Sub-Fund may hold Distressed Securities as defined in the Glossary. Distressed Securities are speculative and involve significant risk. Distressed Securities frequently do not produce income while they are outstanding and may require the Sub-Fund to bear certain extraordinary expenses in order to protect and recover its holding. Therefore, to the extent the Sub-Fund seeks capital appreciation, the Sub-Fund's ability to achieve current income for its Unitholders may be diminished by its holding of Distressed Securities. The Sub-Fund will also be subject to significant uncertainty as to when and in what manner and for what value the obligations evidenced by the Distressed Securities will eventually be satisfied (e.g., through a liquidation of the obligor's assets, an exchange offer or plan of reorganisation involving the Distressed Securities or a payment of some amount in satisfaction of the obligation). In addition, even if an exchange offer is made or a plan of reorganisation is adopted with respect to Distressed Securities held by the Sub-Fund, there can be no assurance that the securities or other assets received by the

Sub-Fund in connection with such exchange offer or plan of reorganisation will not have a lower value or income potential than may have been initially anticipated. Moreover, any securities received by the Sub-Fund upon completion of an exchange offer or plan of reorganisation may be restricted as to resale. As a result of the Sub-Fund's participation in negotiations with respect to any exchange offer or plan of reorganisation with respect to an issuer of Distressed Securities, the Sub-Fund may be restricted from disposing quickly of such securities.

***Risks linked to the Defaulted Securities:*** The Sub-Fund may hold Defaulted Securities as defined in the Glossary that may become illiquid. The risk of loss due to default may also be considerably greater with lower-quality securities because they are generally unsecured and are often subordinated to other creditors of the issuer. If the issuer of a security in the Sub-Fund's portfolio defaults, the Sub-Fund may suffer unrealised losses on the security, which may lower the Sub-Fund's Net Asset Value per Share. Defaulted Securities typically exhibit prices that are highly discounted to their face value.

## **11. – Investment Restrictions specific to the Sub-Fund**

Notwithstanding the limits set forth in the section "Investment Restrictions" of the Prospectus, the Sub-Fund may not invest more than 10% of its net assets in UCITS and/or other UCIs.

## **12. – Units**

The following Classes of Units may be available in the Sub-Fund during the Subscription Period.

- Class BE (1)
- Class B (1)
- Class E
- Class F
- Class Z

(1) "BE" and "B" Unit Classes will be available for subscription on the date of the first subscription in these Unit Classes and during the Subscription Period.

For a description of the Units, see section "Units" of the general part of the Prospectus. Such list of Classes of Units may be updated from time to time. The complete list of Classes available for subscription may be obtained, free of charge and upon request, from the Management Company and is also available on the Management Company website at the following link: <https://www.axa-im.com/>.

### 13. – Minimum Subscriptions and Holding Requirements <sup>(1)</sup>

<b>Class</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Z</b>
Minimum initial subscription	None	1,000,000	None	None	None
Minimum subsequent investment, except in case of regular saving plans	None	None	None	None	None
Minimum holding requirement in the Fund	None	None	None	None	None
Minimum holding requirement in each Sub-Fund	None	None	None	None	None

<sup>(1)</sup> Subscriptions in EUR or the equivalent in the relevant currency of the relevant Class of Units.

The Directors may, in their discretion, waive or modify the foregoing requirements in particular cases.

### 14. – Conditions of Subscription, Redemption and Conversion

Subscription, redemption and conversion requests received by the Registrar Agent no later than 3 p.m. C.E.T. on any Valuation Day will be accepted and traded on the basis of the Dealing Price applicable to such Valuation Day.

The relevant Dealing Price will be increased or decreased by any subscription, redemption or conversion fees, as mentioned below.

The Swing Pricing mechanism described in the section of the Prospectus entitled “Determination of the Net Asset Value of Units” will apply to this Sub-Fund after the end of the Subscription Period.

### 15. – Fees

<b>Maximum one-off charges taken when you invest</b>		<b>Maximum recurrent charges taken from the Sub-Fund over a year</b>			
Class	Subscription Fee	Management Fee	Applied Service Fee	Distribution Fee	Redemption fee**
BE	5%	1.20% *	0.50%	0,60%	2,10%
B	-	0.45%	0,50%	-	-
E	-	1.20% *	0,50%	0,70%	-
F	3%	1.20% *	0,50%	-	-
Z	2%	0.60% *	0,50%	-	-

\*The rate is calculated as follows: maximum 0,10% during the Subscription Period, and maximum 1,20% or 0,60% depending on the Class, after the Subscription Period.

\*\*Redemption fee decreases yearly, reaching zero at the Maturity Date. A redemption fee is levied on Units that are redeemed within a certain amount of time after the end of the Subscription Period. The rate is calculated as follows: 2,10% if redeemed within the first year after the end of the Subscription Period, 1,50%

if redeemed within the second year, 0.90% if redeemed within the third year, 0.30% if redeemed within the fourth year and before the Maturity Date, without any pro-rata within the year. No redemption fee will apply at the Maturity Date. Redemption fee charged prior to the Maturity Date will be retained by the Management Company.

#### **16. – Distribution Policy**

Dividends shall be paid out of the net investment income (i.e. investment income less expenses) available for distribution. Any dividend payments will be confirmed in writing to the Unitholders of Distribution Classes. For Distribution Classes dividends are paid in cash only. Capitalization Units do not declare any dividends and accordingly the income attributable to these Units will be accumulated in their respective NAV.

#### **17. – Valuation Day**

Every Business Day shall be a Valuation Day.

#### **18. – Reference Currency**

The Reference Currency of the Sub-Fund is EUR.

#### **19. – Sub-Fund Business Day**

A day on which banks are open all day for business in Luxembourg and the United Kingdom.

## APPENDIX VI

### *AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies – Euro Credit Opportunities 2029 (the "Sub-Fund")*

#### **1. – Investment Manager**

AXA Investment Managers UK Limited  
22 Bishopsgate  
London EC2N 4BQ

#### **2. – Investment Objective**

The Sub-Fund is actively managed without reference to any benchmark and seeks to generate income by investing essentially in debt securities, such as public debt and fixed payer, and whose issuers are corporates and governments, based on the assumption of a holding period up to July 19<sup>th</sup> 2029 (the “**Maturity Date**”). The objective is not guaranteed and the potential return may be negatively impacted among others by the potential default risk and recovery rate of one or several issuers within the portfolio.

The Sub-Fund is designed to be held by Unitholders until the Maturity Date as, after the Subscription Period (as defined below), the Sub-Fund’s portfolio will be essentially held in debt securities in accordance with the Maturity Date. It is recommended to Unitholders to maintain their investments in the Sub-Fund until the Maturity Date.

The Sub-Fund may, during the Subscription Period and the period approaching the Maturity Date, be fully invested in Money Market Instruments and/or liquid financial instruments. However, prospective investors are advised that an investment in the Sub-Fund is not guaranteed, that the value of the principal invested in the Sub-Fund may fluctuate and that an investment in the Sub-Fund shall not be considered as an investment in a deposit.

#### **3. – Investment Policy**

The Investment Manager will seek to achieve the objective of the Sub-Fund by investing essentially in a broadly diversified portfolio of long-only European debt securities, including bonds financing environmental projects (green bonds).

The Sub-Fund will mainly invest, up to 100% of its net assets, in high yield debt securities rated at least CCC /Caa2 (as defined by S&P, Moody’s and Fitch), including unrated debt securities deemed to be of similar credit quality by the Investment Manager. However, based on analysis of market conditions and expectations with close consideration to risks and the potential for returns as further described below, e.g., if the Investment Manager believes that there is a possibility of superior risk-adjusted returns at times of elevated market stress, when losses due to high yield defaults are more likely to rise, or when markets are very strong, in which case high yield valuations may no longer offer sufficient compensation for the increased level of risk, the Sub-Fund may also invest up to 49% of its net assets in investment grade debt securities. During the Subscription Period and a period of approximately 6 months prior to the Maturity Date, the Sub-Fund may invest up to 100% of its net assets in investment grade debt securities in accordance with section 4 (Subscription period) and section 7 (Maturity Date) below. The Investment Manager will define debt securities’ rating as the second highest of the ratings available between the 3 main agencies (S&P, Moody’s and Fitch).

The Investment Manager will determine the appropriate action to take in the event that a debt security’s

rating is downgraded, notably by selling the debt security as soon as practicable taking into account the Unitholders' interest.

The Sub-Fund may also, and up to 10%, hold Distressed and Defaulted Securities, as a result of holding debt securities whose rating would have been downgraded to be defaulting or distressing, if, in the opinion of the Investment Manager, such debt securities are consistent with the Sub-Fund's investment objective.

Debt securities to be selected will be those that, in the Investment Manager's opinion, are the most likely to provide the best return in light of the objective of the Sub-Fund and in accordance with the Maturity Date. Factors considered for this purpose will include among others, callability (i.e. their ability to be redeemed prior to maturity), credit stability (i.e. the issuer's creditworthiness) and liquidity (i.e. the available market in the security).

The selection of debt securities is not exclusively and mechanically based on their publicly available credit ratings but also on an internal credit or market risk analysis. The decision to buy or sell securities is also based on other analysis criteria of the Investment Manager.

The Sub-Fund will not invest in debt securities with a maturity after July 2030.

The Sub-Fund will not invest in perpetual bonds (i.e. bonds without a maturity date) such as contingent convertible bonds (CoCos) or corporate hybrid bonds.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to one third of the net assets in debt securities issued by non-European corporates and governments (including emerging markets up to 10% of its net assets). The Sub-Fund may only invest up to 15% in debt securities that are not denominated in EUR (exposure of the Sub-Fund's assets in non-EUR currency will be hedged against EUR).

The Sub-Fund may also invest up to one third of its net assets in Money Market Instruments, money market funds and bank deposits for treasury purposes.

The Investment Manager will not be restricted in the industry or sectors of the issuers in which the Sub-Fund invests.

Due to the nature of debt securities, the investment policy is not solely to buy and hold the same portfolio. The Investment Manager may from time to time buy or sell debt securities in particular as a defensive mechanism where there is a change in the quality of the issuers of certain debt securities and/or where the Investment Manager at any time identifies debt securities which it considers to be appropriate to the above investment objective and investment policy of the Sub-Fund.

The Sub-Fund promotes environmental and/or social characteristics.

**More information about the promotion of environmental and/or social characteristics is available in the relative SFDR Annex of the Sub-Fund.**

The Sub-Fund uses as part of its daily investment management activity, efficient portfolio management such as securities lending within the limits listed below (as a % of net assets):

- Securities lending: expected,  $\approx$  0-30%; max;90%.

By entering into securities lending, the Sub-Fund seeks to enhance yield on daily basis.

The Sub-Fund uses neither securities borrowing transactions nor repos/reverse repos.

The Sub-Fund will not enter into total return swaps or instruments with similar characteristics. All efficient portfolio management techniques will be consistent with the terms in “Efficient Portfolio Management Techniques”.

The Sub-Fund may incur fixed or variable brokerage fees and transactions costs upon entering into such techniques and instruments as described above. Transaction costs related to the techniques and instruments will be disclosed in the annual report.

The assets of the Sub-Fund which might be subject to securities lending include but are not limited to government and corporate bonds.

Securities lending shall be carried out as part of efficient portfolio management.

#### **4. – Subscription Period**

The Subscription Period (hereinafter defined as the “**Subscription Period**”) means the period from March 1st, 2025 up to July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and from 6<sup>th</sup>, August 2025 up to 7<sup>th</sup>, August 2025 or such other period as may be determined by the Management Company, in consultation with the Investment Manager.

During the Subscription Period, the Sub-Fund may be fully invested in Money Market Instruments and/or in other liquid financial instruments issued by governments or by rated corporate issuers such as commercial paper, bonds, treasury bills, deposits, certificates of deposits and Cash in accordance with investment restrictions applicable to the Sub-Fund. During the Subscription Period, the Sub-Fund will gradually build up its debt securities portfolio in accordance with its investment strategy.

No subscriptions will be accepted after the end of the Subscription Period.

The Management Company may, with advance notification to Unitholders, decide to re-open the Sub-Fund to subscription at a later date.

At the end of the Subscription Period, the Sub-Fund will be essentially invested in debt securities such as described above.

#### **5. – Financial Derivative Instruments (FDI)**

Where considered appropriate, the Investment Manager may use FDIs as described below. For hedging and efficient portfolio management purposes only, the Sub-Fund may use:

- Forward foreign exchange contracts;
- Swaps such as cross currency.

#### **6. – Currency hedging at portfolio level**

The Investment Manager intends to actively hedge the currency exposures of the Sub-Fund against the Reference Currency. For currency hedging purposes, forward foreign exchange contracts and/or currency swaps may be used. The costs of the Sub-Fund’s portfolio currency hedging policy will be borne by the Sub-



Fund. Please refer to the section of the Prospectus entitled “Efficient Portfolio Management Techniques”.

The successful execution of a hedging strategy which mitigates exactly this risk cannot be assured. The implementation of the hedging strategy described above may generate additional costs for the Sub-Fund.

## **7. – Maturity Date**

The Sub-Fund shall terminate once the Maturity Date has been reached, at which point the Units of all remaining Unitholders shall be automatically redeemed in accordance with the procedures described in the section of the Prospectus entitled “Redemption and Conversion of Units”.

Over a period of approximately six (6) months approaching the Maturity Date, the investment policy of the Sub-Fund will be to provide liquidity by investing in Money Market Instruments and/or in liquid financial instruments issued by governments or by corporate issuers such as commercial paper, bonds, bills, deposits, certificates of deposits and Cash in accordance with investment restrictions applicable to the Sub-Fund.

The nature of the Sub-Fund’s investment objective and policy means that the risk profile of the Sub-Fund will vary over time. At the end of the Subscription Period, the Sub-Fund will be invested and/or exposed to the various risks inherent in the portfolio of debt securities. As the debt securities are redeemed and as the Maturity Date approaches, the nature of the risks associated with the debt securities portfolio will change and the Sub-Fund’s exposure to risk decreases. The Sub-Fund’s risk profile will therefore change significantly between its launch date and Maturity Date.

## **8. – Profile of a Typical Investor**

The Sub-Fund is suitable for investors seeking to optimize return over approximately a four (4) year investment period who can afford to set aside capital at least until the Maturity Date and who have a medium risk appetite.

Investors should read and consider the section of the Prospectus entitled “Risk consideration” along with the paragraph 4 “Risk Considerations specific to the Sub-Fund” of this Appendix before investing in the Sub-Fund.

## **9. – SFDR classification**

The Sub-Fund is classified as an Article 8 Financial Product under SFDR.

## **10. – Risk Considerations specific to the Sub-Fund**

In addition to the generic risk factors of the Sub-Fund as set-out in the section “Risk Considerations”, this Sub-Fund may be subject to the specific risks described below:

***Risk of capital loss:*** The Sub-Fund is not a guaranteed fund and returns can be negative. The performance of the Sub-Fund may not be consistent with the objectives of investors and their investment (after deduction of the subscription fees, as applicable) may not be fully returned. Furthermore, the Sub-Fund is intended to be held to the Maturity Date. Investors who do not hold their Units to the Maturity Date may suffer significant losses. Upon termination of the Sub-Fund, including early termination, valuation of investments could be subject to market conditions (such as unfavourable and unusual market movements) which could cause losses for the investor.

***Risk linked to high yield debt securities:*** Some of the high yield securities held in the portfolio may involve increased credit and market risk; such securities are subject to the risk of an issuer's inability to meet principal and interest payments on its obligations (credit risk) and may also be subject to price volatility due to such factors as interest rate movements, market perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and general market liquidity.

***Reinvestment Risk:*** Reinvestment risk is the risk that proceeds from bond coupons or redemptions may be reinvested at lower yields than that of the previous investment, due to the market conditions at the time that the proceeds are invested. The callability feature in corporate bonds increases reinvestment risk as companies will call their bonds when they can issue bonds with a lower yield.

***Sustainability risks:*** Sustainability risk is an environmental, social or governance event or condition that, if it occurs, could cause an actual or a potential material negative impact on the value of the investment. Given the Sub-Fund's Investment Strategy and risk profile, the likely impact of the Sustainability Risks on the Sub-Fund's returns is expected, according to the Management Company, to be medium.

***Risk linked to the ESG:*** Applying ESG and sustainability criteria to the investment process may exclude securities of certain issuers for non-investment reasons and therefore some market opportunities available to funds that do not use ESG or sustainability criteria may be unavailable for the Sub-Fund, and the Sub-Fund's performance may at times be better or worse than the performance of comparable funds that do not use ESG or sustainability criteria. The selection of assets may in part rely on a ESG scoring process or ban lists that rely partially on third party data. The lack of common or harmonised definitions and labels integrating ESG and sustainability criteria at EU level may result in different approaches by managers when setting ESG objectives and determining that these objectives have been met by the funds they manage. This also means that it may be difficult to compare strategies integrating ESG and sustainability criteria to the extent that the selection and weightings applied to select investments may to a certain extent be subjective or based on metrics that may share the same name but have different underlying meanings. Investors should note that the subjective value that they may or may not assign to certain types of ESG criteria may differ substantially from the Investment Manager's methodology. The lack of harmonised definitions may also potentially result in certain investments not benefitting from preferential tax treatments or credits because ESG criteria are assessed differently than initially thought.

***Risks linked to the Distressed Securities:*** The Sub-Fund may hold Distressed Securities as defined in the Glossary. Distressed Securities are speculative and involve significant risk. Distressed Securities frequently do not produce income while they are outstanding and may require the Sub-Fund to bear certain extraordinary expenses in order to protect and recover its holding. Therefore, to the extent the Sub-Fund seeks capital appreciation, the Sub-Fund's ability to achieve current income for its Unitholders may be diminished by its holding of Distressed Securities. The Sub-Fund will also be subject to significant uncertainty as to when and in what manner and for what value the obligations evidenced by the Distressed Securities will eventually be satisfied (e.g., through a liquidation of the obligor's assets, an exchange offer or plan of reorganisation involving the Distressed Securities or a payment of some amount in satisfaction of the obligation). In addition, even if an exchange offer is made or a plan of reorganisation is adopted with respect to Distressed Securities held by the Sub-Fund, there can be no assurance that the securities or other assets received by the Sub-Fund in connection with such exchange offer or plan of reorganisation will not have a lower value or income potential than may have been initially anticipated. Moreover, any securities received by the Sub-Fund upon completion of an exchange offer or plan of reorganisation may be restricted as to resale. As a result of the Sub-Fund's participation in negotiations with respect to any exchange offer or plan of reorganisation with respect to an issuer of Distressed Securities, the Sub-Fund may be restricted from disposing quickly of such securities.

***Risks linked to the Defaulted Securities:*** The Sub-Fund may hold Defaulted Securities as defined in the Glossary that may become illiquid. The risk of loss due to default may also be considerably greater with lower-quality securities because they are generally unsecured and are often subordinated to other creditors of the issuer. If the issuer of a security in the Sub-Fund's portfolio defaults, the Sub-Fund may suffer unrealised losses on the security, which may lower the Sub-Fund's Net Asset Value per Share. Defaulted Securities typically exhibit prices that are highly discounted to their face value.

## **11. – Investment Restrictions specific to the Sub-Fund**

Notwithstanding the limits set forth in the section "Investment Restrictions" of the Prospectus, the Sub-Fund may not invest more than 10% of its net assets in UCITS and/or other UCIs.

## **12. – Units**

The following Classes of Units may be available in the Sub-Fund during the Subscription Period.

- Class BE
- Class B
- Class E
- Class F
- Class Z

For a description of the Units, see section “Units” of the general part of the Prospectus. Such list of Classes of Units may be updated from time to time. The complete list of Classes available for subscription may be obtained, free of charge and upon request, from the Management Company and is also available on the Management Company website at the following link: <https://www.axa-im.com/>.

## **13. – Minimum Subscriptions and Holding Requirements <sup>(1)</sup>**

<b>Class</b>	<b>BE</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>Z</b>
Minimum initial subscription	None	1,000,000	None	None	None
Minimum subsequent investment, except in case of regular saving plans	None	None	None	None	None
Minimum holding requirement in the Fund	None	None	None	None	None
Minimum holding requirement in each Sub-Fund	None	None	None	None	None

<sup>(1)</sup> Subscriptions in EUR or the equivalent in the relevant currency of the relevant Class of Units.

The Directors may, in their discretion, waive or modify the foregoing requirements in particular cases.

#### 14. – Conditions of Subscription, Redemption and Conversion

Subscription, redemption and conversion requests received by the Registrar Agent no later than 3 p.m. C.E.T. on any Valuation Day will be accepted and traded on the basis of the Dealing Price applicable to such Valuation Day.

The relevant Dealing Price will be increased or decreased by any subscription, redemption or conversion fees, as mentioned below.

The Swing Pricing mechanism described in the section of the Prospectus entitled “Determination of the Net Asset Value of Units” will apply to this Sub-Fund.

#### 15. – Fees

Maximum one-off charges taken when you invest		Maximum recurrent charges taken from the Sub-Fund over a year			
Class	Subscription Fee	Management Fee	Applied Service Fee	Distribution Fee	Redemption fee*
BE	-	1.20%	0.50%	0,50%	2,00%
B	-	0.45%	0,50%	-	-
E	-	1.20%	0,50%	0,60%	-
F	3%	1.20%	0,50%	-	-
Z	2%	0.60%	0,50%	-	-

\*Redemption fee decreases yearly, reaching zero at the Maturity Date. A redemption fee is levied on Units that are redeemed within a certain amount of time after the end of the Subscription Period. The rate is calculated as follows: 2,00% if redeemed within the first year after the end of the Subscription Period, 1,50% if redeemed within the second year, 1,00% if redeemed within the third year, 0,50% if redeemed within the fourth year and before the Maturity Date, without any pro-rata within the year. No redemption fee will apply at the Maturity Date. Redemption fee charged prior to the Maturity Date will be retained by the Management Company.

#### 16. – Valuation Day

Every Business Day shall be a Valuation Day.

#### 17. – Reference Currency

The Reference Currency of the Sub-Fund is EUR.

#### 18. – Sub-Fund Business Day

A day on which banks are open all day for business in Luxembourg and the United Kingdom.

## APPENDIX VII

### *AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies – Strategic Opportunities 2030 (the "Sub-Fund")*

#### **1. – Investment Manager**

AXA Investment Managers Paris S.A.  
Tour Majunga – La Défense 9  
6, place de la Pyramide  
92800 Puteaux  
France

#### **2. – Investment Objective**

The Sub-Fund is actively managed without reference to any benchmark and seeks to provide Unitholders with a targeted annual distribution rate between 2.5% and 4% net of fees by mainly investing in a portfolio of debt securities mainly issued by corporates but which may also be issued by governments and supranational depending on market opportunities. Distributions, if any, will be made to Unitholders for years 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029.

In order to capture market opportunities and expose the Sub-Fund to a complementary source of return, the Sub-Fund may also be exposed through leverage to a basket of underlying equity indices upon implementation of a quantitative model (the “**Underlying Assets**”). In such circumstances, distribution net of fees will be reduced proportionally according to the net assets portion of the Sub-Fund exposed to the Underlying Assets.

For the avoidance of doubt, the Sub-Fund’s exposure to the Underlying Assets is at any time below the Sub-Fund’s exposure to bonds.

**There is no guarantee or assurance that the Sub-Fund’s Investment Objective will be achieved.**

The Sub-Fund is designed to be held by Unitholders until the Maturity Date (as defined in section 6. – Maturity Date). It is recommended to Unitholders to maintain their investments in the Sub-Fund until the Maturity Date.

#### **3. – Investment Policy**

The Sub-Fund aims to achieve its objective by: (i) purchasing debt securities mainly issued by corporates but which may also be issued by governments and supranational depending on market opportunities, denominated in euros and (ii) entering into OTC derivative transactions (bonds forwards, asset swaps and total return swaps) to swap the interest payments due to the Sub-Fund on its portfolio of bonds mainly issued by corporates but which may also be issued by governments and supranational depending on market opportunities, for a number of cash payments to be paid to the Sub-Fund until the Maturity Date, achieve its investment objective to the Sub-Fund and be potentially exposed to the Underlying Assets.

The Sub-Fund invests at least 50% of its net assets in Investment Grade Securities. Investment grade securities will be rated at least BBB- by Standard & Poor’s or equivalent rating by Moody’s or Fitch or if

unrated then deemed to be so by the Investment Manager. Ratings are based on the three above-mentioned main agencies considering the highest available rating.

The selection of debt securities is not exclusively and mechanically based on their publicly available credit ratings but also on an internal credit or market risk analysis. The decision to buy or sell securities is also based on other analysis criteria of the Investment Manager.

The Sub-Fund may invest:

- up to 50% of its net assets in High Yield Debt Securities (rated below BBB- by Standard & Poor's or equivalent rating by Moody's or Fitch or if unrated then deemed to be so by the Investment Manager);
- up to 100% of its net assets in callable bonds (i.e. bonds that may be redeemed prior to their maturity date);
- up to 40% of its net assets in subordinated debts; and
- up to 20% of its net assets in contingent convertible bonds ("CoCos").

The Investment Manager will not be restricted in the industry or sectors of the issuers in which the Sub-Fund invests.

The implementation of leverage is a core element of the Sub-Fund's investment strategy. Leverage may be used by the Sub-Fund through asset swaps in order to deliver the coupon to Unitholders and total return swaps ("**TRS**") to achieve its investment objective or gain exposure to the Underlying Assets.

In order to capture market opportunities and expose the Sub-Fund to a complementary source of return, the Sub-Fund may be exposed to the Underlying Assets as the Investment Manager may, at its discretion, gain leveraged exposure through TRS (including TRS index transaction) to the Underlying Assets.

The start of exposure to the Underlying Assets of the Sub-Fund (through TRS) is conditional to (i) the Investment Manager's discretionary decision and (ii) depends on the decrease of the value of the Underlying Assets by 10% compared to the end of the Subscription Period (as defined in section 4. – Subscription Period). Then, the exposure to the Underlying Assets of the Sub-Fund (through TRS) may continue to increase in case of any additional decrease of 5% of the value of the Underlying Assets.

Once entered, the Investment Manager is not expected to exit the exposure to the Underlying Assets until the Maturity Date of the Sub-Fund. In the event of a material decrease in the value of the bonds, the exposure to the Underlying Assets will passively increase.

However, the Sub-Fund's exposure to the Underlying Assets is at any time below the Sub-Fund's exposure to bonds.

#### **4. – Subscription Period**

The Subscription Period means the period from 20 October 2025 up to 17 December 2025 or such other period as may be determined by the Management Company (the "**Subscription Period**"). The Management Company may extend and/or reopen the Subscription Period. Any extension and or/ reopening of the Subscription Period will be communicated to Unitholders in advance and without any predefined prior notice.

During the Subscription Period, the Sub-Fund may be fully invested in Money Market Instruments, Money Market funds and/or other liquid financial instrument After the Subscription Period, the Sub-Fund will

gradually build up its debt securities portfolio in accordance with its Investment Policy.

**No subscriptions will be accepted after the end of the Subscription Period.**

## **5. – Financial Derivative Instruments (FDI)**

The Sub-Fund will use the following derivatives for efficient portfolio management and investment purposes only:

- Bonds forwards;
- Asset swaps; and
- Total return swaps.

The Sub-Fund may enter up to 150 % of its net assets in asset swaps to swap the interest payments due to the Sub-Fund on its portfolio of bonds mainly issued by corporates but which may also be issued by governments and supranational depending on market opportunities, for a number of cash payments to be paid annually to the Sub-Fund until the Maturity Date in order to achieve its principal Investment Objective.

- asset swaps: up to 150% of the net assets

The Sub-Fund may use TRS to receive from a counterparty, the total return and notional from broad type of single or basket assets on corporate bonds (mainly) and government bonds and supranational bonds (depending on market opportunities), in exchange of an upfront payment equal to the market value of the Underlying Assets.

- total return swaps (funded): expected, 25%; maximum 70%; and

In the market conditions as described in section 3. – Investment Policy, the Sub-Fund may be exposed to the Underlying Assets through TRS as further described in section 9. – Risk Considerations **specific to the Sub-Fund** of this Appendix.

- total return swaps to gain exposure to the Underlying Assets (unfunded): expected, 100%; maximum 150 %.

The underlying equity indices will not have significant rebalancing costs as the frequency of rebalancing is quarterly or semi-annually depending on the nature of the derivative.

The underlying indexes may consist of one or more of the following equity indices:

- MSCI ACWI Total Net Return Index
- MSCI World Growth Net Return EUR Index
- MSCI World Value Net Return EUR Index
- MSCI Emerging Markets Net EUR Index
- MSCI World Net EUR Index
- S&P 500 EUR Net Total Return Index (EUR)
- EURO STOXX 50 Net Return EUR.

The respective methodology of these equity indexes are available on the following websites:

[https://www.msci.com/indexes/documents/methodology/0\\_MSCI\\_Index\\_Calculation\\_Methodology\\_20240812.pdf](https://www.msci.com/indexes/documents/methodology/0_MSCI_Index_Calculation_Methodology_20240812.pdf); <https://www.spglobal.com/spdji/en/indices/equity/sp-500/> and EURO STOXX 50® - STOXX.

All derivatives usage will be consistent with the terms in “Efficient Portfolio Management Techniques”.

The Sub-Fund will not use neither securities lending and borrowing transactions nor repos/reverse repos.

**Unitholders must note that the Sub-Fund will only rely on Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena as sole counterparty for all derivatives used by the Sub-Fund.**

## **6. – Maturity Date**

The Sub-Fund is based on the assumption of a holding period up to 17 June 2030 (the “**Maturity Date**”) and shall terminate once the Maturity Date has been reached, at which point the Units of all remaining Unitholders shall be automatically redeemed in accordance with the procedures described in the section of the Prospectus entitled “Redemption and Conversion of Units”.

Over a period of approximately six (6) months approaching the Maturity Date, the Sub-Fund may, invest in Money Market Instruments, Money Market funds and/or in liquid financial instruments issued by governments, by corporate issuers and supranational such as commercial paper, bonds, bills, deposits, certificates of deposits and Cash in accordance with investment restrictions applicable to the Sub-Fund.

## **7. – Profile of a Typical Investor**

The Sub-Fund is designed for investors who plan to invest over at least 4.5 years. The Sub-Fund employs an investment strategy which involves numerous risks, employs leverage through the use of TRS and therefore potentially leads to high levels of volatility in returns. The Sub-Fund is intended only for those investors who understand these strategies and associated risks. Investors must be aware that they bear the risk of losing a substantial part of their investment.

The Sub-Fund is available to investors from the Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena’s Group distribution network.

Investors should read and consider the section of the Prospectus entitled “Risk consideration” along with the section 9. – Risk Considerations specific to the Sub-Fund” of this Appendix before investing in the Sub-Fund.

## **8. – SFDR classification**

The Sub-Fund neither qualifies as an Article 8 or Article 9 Product under SFDR.

## **9. – Risk Considerations specific to the Sub-Fund**

In addition to the generic risk factors of the Sub-Fund as set out in the section “Risk Considerations”, this Sub-Fund may be subject to the specific risks described below:



***Concentration risk:*** The Sub-Fund may focus its investments in certain companies, groups of companies, sectors of the economy, countries or geographical regions, or ratings. This may lead to adverse consequences for the Sub-Fund when such companies, sectors, countries or ratings become less valued.

***Equity risk:*** Shares' prices on equity markets may fluctuate namely pursuant to investor's expectations or anticipations, causing high potential volatility risk. Volatility on equity markets has historically been much greater than the volatility of fixed income markets. Should the price of Shares fall within the Sub-Fund's portfolio, the NAV of the Sub-Fund will also fall.

***Risk linked to the contingent convertible bonds:*** In the framework of new banking regulations, banking institutions are required to increase their capital buffers and have therefore issued certain types of financial instrument known as subordinated contingent capital securities (often referred to as "CoCo" or "CoCos"). The main feature of a CoCo is its ability to absorb losses as required by banking regulations, but other corporate entities may also choose to issue them.

***Trigger level risk*** – Under the terms of a CoCo, the instruments become loss absorbing upon certain triggering events, including events under the control of the management of the CoCo issuer which could cause the permanent write-down to zero of principal investment and / or accrued interest, or a conversion to equity that may coincide with the share price of the underlying equity being low. These triggering events may include (i) a deduction in the issuing bank's capital ratio below a pre-set limit, (ii) a regulatory authority making a subjective determination that an institution is "non-viable" or (iii) a national authority deciding to inject capital.

Furthermore, the trigger event calculations may also be affected by changes in applicable accounting rules, the accounting policies of the issuer or its group and the application of these policies. Any such changes, including changes over which the issuer or its group has a discretion, may have a material adverse impact on its reported financial position and accordingly may give rise to the occurrence of a trigger event in circumstances where such a trigger event may not otherwise have occurred, notwithstanding the adverse impact this will have on the position of holders of the CoCos.

***Yield valuation risk*** – CoCos are valued relative to other debt securities in the issuer's capital structure, as well as equity, with an additional premium for the risk of conversion or write-down. The relative riskiness of different CoCos will depend mainly on the distance between the current capital ratio and the effective trigger level, which once reached would result in the CoCo being automatically written-down or converted into equity.

***Coupon cancellation risk*** – It is possible in certain circumstances for interest payments on certain CoCos to be cancelled in full or in part by the issuer, without prior notice to bondholders. Therefore, there can be no assurances that investors will receive payments of interest in respect of CoCos. Unpaid interest may not be cumulative or payable at any time thereafter.

***Call extension risk*** – Notwithstanding that interest not being paid or being paid only in part in respect of CoCos or the principal value of such instruments may be written down to zero, there may be no restriction on the issuer paying dividends on its ordinary shares or making pecuniary or other distributions to the holders of its ordinary shares or making payments on securities ranking pari passu with the CoCos resulting in other securities by the same issuer potentially performing better than CoCos.

***Capital structure inversion risk*** – CoCos generally rank senior to common stock in an issuer's capital

structure and are consequently higher quality and entail less risk than the issuer's common stock; however, the risk involved in such securities is correlated to the solvency level and / or the access of the issuer to liquidity of the issuing financial institution.

Unknown risk – The structure of CoCos is yet to be tested and there is some uncertainty as to how they may be impacted in regard to liquidity challenges and industry concentration in a stressed environment of deteriorating financial condition.

Liquidity risk - In stressed market conditions, the liquidity profile of the issuer can deteriorate significantly and it may be difficult to find a ready buyer which means that a significant discount may be required in order to sell it.

Concentration risk of issuers in the financial sector – Concentration in investments at certain times in large positions and in a relatively limited number of securities, sectors or regions (especially Europe) will make the relevant Sub-Fund more subject to the risks associated with such concentration.

***Downgrading of securities into Sub-Investment Grade and/or unrated debt securities risk:*** The Sub-Fund may invest in Investment Grade debt securities. Investment Grade debt securities which the Sub-Fund acquired may subsequently be downgraded to Sub-Investment Grade. Downgrading of such debt securities will lead to reduced value of the securities concerned thereby causing losses to the Sub-Fund. The market of Sub-Investment Grade and/or unrated debt securities may be less active, making it more difficult to sell the securities. Larger credit spreads will generally be adopted in the valuation of securities issued by issuers with lower credit rating. Valuation of such securities is more difficult and thus the Sub-Fund's price may be more volatile. The investment value of such securities held by the Sub-Funds may be adversely affected.

***Risk of capital loss:*** The Sub-Fund is not a guaranteed fund and returns can be negative. The performance of the Sub-Fund may not be consistent with the objectives of investors and their investment (after deduction of the subscription fees, as applicable) may not be fully returned. Furthermore, the Sub-Fund is intended to be held to the Maturity Date. Investors who do not hold their Units to the Maturity Date may suffer significant losses. Upon termination of the Sub-Fund, including early termination, valuation of investments could be subject to market conditions (such as unfavourable and unusual market movements) which could cause losses for the investor.

***Risk linked to high yield debt securities:*** Some of the high yield securities held in the portfolio may involve increased credit and market risk; such securities are subject to the risk of an issuer's inability to meet principal and interest payments on its obligations (credit risk) and may also be subject to price volatility due to such factors as interest rate movements, market perception of the creditworthiness of the issuer and general market liquidity.

***Reinvestment Risk:*** Reinvestment risk is the risk that proceeds from bond coupons or redemptions may be reinvested at lower yields than that of the previous investment, due to the market conditions at the time that the proceeds are invested. The callability feature in corporate bonds increases reinvestment risk as companies will call their bonds when they can issue bonds with a lower yield.

***Subordinated debts risk:*** The Sub-Fund may invest in subordinated debt, including perpetual debts that have no maturity date. Subordinated debt is debt which, in the case of insolvency of the issuer, ranks after senior debts in relation to repayment. Because subordinated debt is repayable after senior debts have been re-paid, the chance of receiving any repayment on insolvency is reduced and therefore subordinated debt represents

a greater risk to the investor. These securities generally have a lower rating than senior debt issued by the same issuer.

Depending on the jurisdiction of the issuer, a financial regulator with supervisory authority may use statutory powers and deem the issuer of subordinated debt to have reached a point of non-viability, meaning that public intervention would be necessary. Under such conditions, some subordinated debt securities may absorb losses prior to bankruptcy.

The liquidity for such investments in stressed market environments may be limited, negatively impacting the price they may be sold at, which in turn may negatively impact the Fund's performance.

**Sustainability Risks:** Given the Sub-Fund's Investment Strategy and risk profile, the likely impact of the Sustainability Risks on the Sub-Fund's returns is expected, according to the Management Company to be high.

## 10. – Units

The following Class of Units is available in the Sub-Fund during the Subscription Period.

- Class <b>BE</b>
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For a description of the Units, see section "Units" of the general part of the Prospectus. Such list of Classes of Units may be updated from time to time. The complete list of Classes available for subscription may be obtained, free of charge and upon request, from the Management Company and is also available on the Management Company website at the following link: <https://www.axa-im.com/>.

## 11. – Minimum Subscriptions and Holding Requirements <sup>(1)</sup>

Class	BE
Minimum initial subscription	1.000
Minimum subsequent investment	1.000
Minimum holding requirement in the Sub-Fund	1.000

<sup>(1)</sup> Subscriptions in EUR or the equivalent in the relevant currency of the relevant Class of Units.

The Directors may, in their discretion, waive or modify the foregoing requirements in particular cases.

## 12. – Conditions of Subscription, Redemption and Conversion

Subscription, redemption and conversion requests received by the Registrar Agent no later than 3 p.m. C.E.T. on any Valuation Day will be accepted and traded on the basis of the Dealing Price applicable to such Valuation Day.

The relevant Dealing Price will be increased or decreased by any subscription, redemption or conversion fees, as mentioned below.

After the end of the Subscription Period as defined in section 4. – Subscription Period, valuation of the Sub-Fund will be at “bid” price.

In case a subscription, redemption and conversion request is received by the Registrar Agent later than 3 p.m. C.E.T. on any Valuation Day, it will be considered as received on the next Valuation Day.

### 13. – Fees

Maximum one-off charges taken when you invest		Maximum recurrent charges taken from the Sub-Fund over a year			
Class	Subscription Fee	Management Fee	Applied Service Fee	Distribution Fee***	Redemption fee***
BE	5.00%*	1.05%**	0.50	0.45%	2.00%****

\*The Subscription fee does not apply to investors subscribing through the Banca Monte dei Paschi di Siena Group’s distribution network.

\*\*The rate is calculated as follows: maximum 0.10% during the Subscription Period, and maximum 1.05% after the Subscription Period.

\*\*\*Distribution fee and Redemption fee will apply starting from the first day following the end of the Subscription Period.

\*\*\*\*Redemption fee decreases yearly, reaching zero at the Maturity Date. A redemption fee is levied on Units that are redeemed within a certain amount of time after the end of the Subscription Period. The rate is calculated as follows: 2.00% if redeemed within the first year after the end of the Subscription Period, 1.55% if redeemed within the second year after the end of the Subscription Period, 1.10% if redeemed within the third year after the end of the Subscription Period, 0.65% if redeemed within the fourth year after the end of the Subscription Period and 0.20% if redeemed during the fifth year and for the six (6) months prior to the Maturity Date. Redemption fee charged prior to the Maturity Date will be retained by the Management Company.

### 14. – Valuation Day

A Valuation Day means each Wednesday (if such calendar day is not a Sub-Fund Business Day, the preceding Sub-Fund Business Day).

### 15. – Reference Currency.

The Reference Currency of the Sub-Fund is EUR.

### 16. – Sub-Fund Business Day

A day on which banks are open all day for business in Luxembourg, France and Italy.

### 17. – Method for calculating global exposure

Absolute Value at Risk (“VaR”).

The Investment Manager monitors the market risk below a VaR limit of 7% of the Sub-Fund’s NAV, under normal market conditions. The VaR used by the Investment Manager will have a 5 Business Days horizon and 95% confidence level parameters. This means that there is a probability of 5% that the Sub-Fund’s NAV may lose more than 7% of its value within a 5 Business Days horizon. Such VaR corresponds to a 1% probability, under normal market conditions, that the Sub-Fund’s NAV may lose more than 20% of its value within a 20 Business Days.

*Value-at-Risk calculations assume normal market conditions and are statistical calculations, not guaranteed. The VaR approach is the percentage of NAV that a portfolio may lose on a given time horizon, at a given confidence level. The risk associated with the use of derivative instruments may not cause the Sub-Fund to exceed the level of VaR indicated in the above.*

#### **18. – Expected level of leverage**

Between 0 and 4.

*The effective level of leverage may be higher or lower than the expected level of leverage from time to time due to market conditions.*

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Sustainable investment** means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

**Product name:** AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies - US **Legal entity identifier:** 2138004B7W05WYWQR680  
Short Duration High Yield (The "Financial Product")

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

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

☒ ☐ YES

☐ ☒ NO

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

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

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

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

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

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

☐ with a social objective

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

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



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

The environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product consist of investing in:

- issuers considering the **ESG score** further described below.

The Financial Product promotes environmental and/or social characteristics by investing in securities that have implemented good practices in terms of managing their environmental, governance and social ("ESG") practices.

The Financial Product also promotes other specific environmental and social characteristics, mainly:

- Preservation of climate with exclusion policies on coal and unconventional oil & gas activities
- Protection of ecosystem and prevention of deforestation
- Better health with exclusion on tobacco
- Labour rights, society and human rights, business ethics, anti-corruption with exclusion on companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Conventions or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Protection of human rights avoiding investing in debt instruments issued by countries where the worst forms of human right violations are observed

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

A parallel Comparison Portfolio has been internally defined by the Investment Manager for ESG purposes and is constituted of the ICE BofA US High Yield (the "Comparison Portfolio").

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

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

The attainment of the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product and described above is measured with the following sustainability indicator:

The weighted average ESG Score of the Financial Product and of the parallel Comparison Portfolio which is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

The Financial Product outperforms its parallel Comparison Portfolio on this sustainability indicator in order to promote the environmental and/or social characteristics described above.

● ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

Not applicable as the Financial Product has no objective of sustainable investments.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

● ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Not applicable as the Financial Product has no objective of sustainable investments.

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

Not applicable as the Financial Product has no objective of sustainable investments.

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

Not applicable as the Financial Product has no objective of sustainable investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a “do not significant harm” principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

*The “do no significant harm” principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.*

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*



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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Principal adverse impacts are considered with both (i) qualitative and (ii) quantitative approaches:

(i) Qualitative approach to consider principal adverse impact is based on exclusion and, where relevant, stewardship policies. Exclusion applied as part of the application of AXA IM Sectorial policies and AXA IM ESG standards cover the most material sustainability factors' risks and are applied bindingly on a continuous basis.

Where relevant, stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through its engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors.

Voting at general meetings is an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invests and mitigates adverse impacts.

Through those exclusion and stewardship policies the Financial Product takes into consideration potential negative impact on those specific PAI indicators:

For Corporates:

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
Climate and other environment related indicators	Climate Risk policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2 & 3 starting 01/2023)
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	



	Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
	Climate Risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
	Climate risk policy (considering an expected correlation between GHG emissions and energy consumption) <sup>1</sup>	PAI 6: Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive area
	ESG standard policy / violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violation of UN global compact principles & OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
<b>Social and employee respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti bribery matters</b>	ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards (considering an expected correlation between companies non-compliant with international norms and standards and the lack of implementation by companies of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with those standards) <sup>2</sup>	PAI 11: Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
	Voting and Engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board Gender diversity
	Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

For Sovereigns and Supranationals :

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
<b>Social</b>	AXA IM ESG standards with the exclusion of investee countries with severe social violations	PAI 16: Sovereign Investee countries subject to social violations
	AXA IM Compliance black-list based on international and EU sanctions	

(ii) Principal adverse impacts are also considered quantitatively through the PAI indicators' measurement and reported annually in the SFDR annex in the periodic reporting. The objective is to provide transparency to investors on significant

<sup>1</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively. Not all high impact climate sectors are targeted by the exclusion policy for the time being.

<sup>2</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively.

negative impact on other sustainability factors. AXA IM measures all the mandatory PAI indicators, plus additional optional environmental indicator and additional optional social indicator.



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

## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

The Investment Manager selects investments by applying an extra-financial approach based on the exclusion filters as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies. Those sectorial exclusions cover areas such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities and Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation and Tobacco. The ESG Standards encompass specific exclusions on white phosphorus weapons and exclude investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to adaptation) . Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: [Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](https://www.axa-im.com/en/policies-and-reports).

In addition, the Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the Comparison Portfolio, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Comparison Portfolio being calculated on a weighted average basis. ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions that include the environmental and social characteristics described above and promoted by the Financial Product.

The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.

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

The Financial Product bindingly applies at all times the following elements described below.

1. The Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times its Sectorial Exclusion Policies and ESG Standards Policy as a first exclusion filter.

The Sectorial Exclusions Policies exclude companies linked to Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities (based on food and basic agricultural or the marine commodities), unsustainable practices relating to Ecosystem Protection and Deforestation and Tobacco.

The ESG Standards Policy (the "ESG Standards") encompass specific exclusions such as white phosphorus weapons and exclude investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to adaptation). Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: [Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](https://www.axa-im.com/en/policies-and-reports).

2. In addition, the Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the Comparison Portfolio, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Comparison Portfolio being calculated on a weighted average basis. ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions that include the environmental and social characteristics described above and promoted by the Financial Product. AXA IM ESG analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

AXA IM has implemented scoring methodologies to rate issuers (corporates, sovereigns, green, social and sustainability bonds) on ESG criteria. These methodologies allow to rate corporates and sovereign issuers and are based on quantitative data from several data providers as well as on qualitative analysis from internal and external research. The data used in these methodologies include carbon emissions, water stress, health and safety at work, supply chain labour

standards, business ethics, corruption and instability. The corporate and sovereign scoring methodologies rely on three pillars and several sub factors that cover the most material risk factors encountered by issuers in the E, S and G fields. The frame of reference draws on fundamental principles, such as United Nations Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines, the International Labour Organisation conventions, and other international principles and conventions that guide companies and governments activities in the field of sustainable development and social responsibility. The analysis is based on the most material ESG risks and opportunities previously identified for each sector and company, with 10 factors: Climate Change, Natural Capital, Pollution and Waste, Environmental Opportunities, Human Capital, Product Liability, Stakeholder Opposition, Social Opportunities, Corporate Governance and Corporate Behaviour. The final ESG score also incorporates the concept of industry dependent factors and deliberately differentiates between sectors, to overweight the most material factors for each industry. Materiality is not limited to impacts relating to a company's operations, it also includes the impacts on external stakeholders as well as the underlying reputational risk arising from a poor grasp of major ESG issues. In the corporate methodology, the severity of controversies is assessed and monitored on an ongoing basis to make sure that the most material risks are reflected in the final ESG score. The controversies with high severity will trigger large penalties on the sub factor scores and ultimately on the ESG scores.

These ESG scores provide a standardized and holistic view on the performance of issuers on ESG factors and enable to both promote Environmental and/or Social characteristics of the Financial Product.

3. The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 75% of the net assets of the Financial Product.

The ESG data (of which ESG score or SDG score wherever relevant) used in the investment process are based on ESG methodologies which rely in part on third party data, and in some cases are internally developed. They are subjective and may change over time. Despite several initiatives, the lack of harmonised definitions can make ESG criteria heterogeneous. As such, the different investment strategies that use ESG criteria and ESG reporting are difficult to compare with each other. Strategies that incorporate ESG criteria and those that incorporate sustainable development criteria may use ESG data that appear similar but which should be distinguished because their calculation method may be different. AXA IM's ESG different methodologies described herein may evolve in the future to take into account any improvements in data availability and reliability, or any developments of regulations or other external frameworks or initiatives - among others.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered.

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

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

The Financial Product does not invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labour and Environment and as such, provide a methodology to help assess the good governance practices of an issuer, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. AXA IM relies on an external provider's screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as "non-compliant" to UN's Global Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

In addition, ensuring good governance practices is also addressed by the engagement policies. AXA IM implemented a comprehensive active ownership strategy – engagement and voting – where AXA IM acts as stewards of investments made on the clients' behalf. AXA IM views engagement as a means for investors to influence, shape and shift investee company policies and practices to mitigate risks and secure long-term value. Governance practices of companies are engaged at first level by the portfolio managers and dedicated ESG analysts when meeting companies' management team. It is through the long-term investor status and in-depth knowledge of the investment targets that AXA IM feels legitimate to engage in a constructive but demanding dialogue with them.

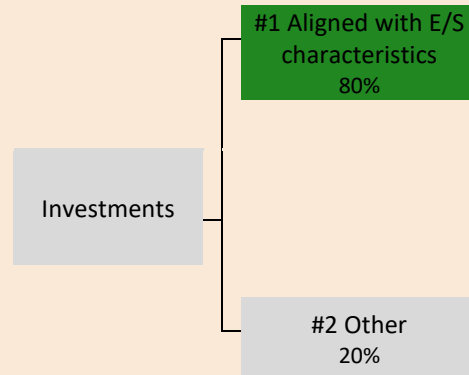


## What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

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

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

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



**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The Financial Product aims to plan its assets' allocation as presented in the graph above. This planned asset allocation might deviate on a temporary basis.

The planned minimum proportion of the investments of the Financial Product used to meet the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product is 80% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. Remaining "Other" investments are used for hedging, liquidity and portfolio management of the Financial Product. Minimum environmental or social safeguards based on AXA IM exclusion policies are assessed and applied on all "Other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.

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

Not applicable.



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

The Financial Product does not take into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives. The Financial Product is not considering the "do not significantly harm" criteria of the EU Taxonomy.

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

☐ Yes

☐ In fossil gas

☐ In nuclear energy

☒ No

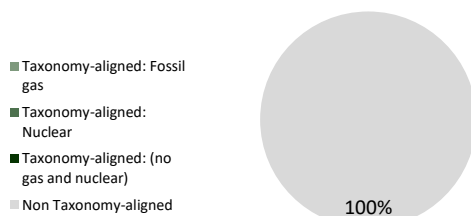
To comply with the EU taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas** include limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

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

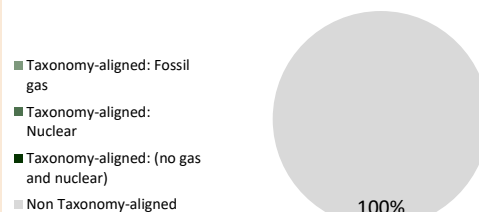
**Transitional activities** are activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

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

1. Taxonomy-alignment of investments including sovereign bonds\*



2. Taxonomy-alignment of investments excluding sovereign bonds\*



This graph represents 100% of the total investments\*\*

\* For the purpose of these graphs, "sovereign bonds" consist of all sovereign exposures.

\*\* The proportion of total investments shown in this graph is purely indicative and may vary.

● **What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?**

Not applicable.



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

Not applicable.



are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not**

<sup>3</sup> Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objectives -see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

take into account the criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.



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

Not applicable.



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

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. The "other" assets may consist in:

- cash and cash equivalent investments and
- other instruments eligible to the Financial Product and that do not meet the Environmental and/or Social criteria described in this appendix. Such assets may be transferable securities, derivatives investments and investment collective schemes that do not promote environmental or social characteristics and that are used to attain the financial objective of the Financial Product and/or for diversification and/or hedging purposes.

Environmental or social safeguards are applied and assessed on all "other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.



### **Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

Not applicable as the designated index composing the Comparison Portfolio is a broad market index which is not aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product.



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

More information can be found on the AXA IM fund centre following that link: [Funds - AXA IM Global](#).

More details on AXA IM sustainable investment frameworks are available on [Sustainable Finance | SFDR | AXA IM Corporate](#).

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Sustainable investment** means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

**Product name:** AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies - US **Legal entity identifier:** 213800BRVSRRTT22NBI83  
Corporate Intermediate Bonds (The "Financial Product")

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

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



☐ YES



☒ NO

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

☒ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 10% of sustainable investments

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

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

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

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

☒ with a social objective

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

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



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

The environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product consist of investing in:

- issuers considering the **ESG score** further described below.

The Financial Product promotes environmental and/or social characteristics by investing in securities that have implemented good practices in terms of managing their environmental, governance and social ("ESG") practices.

The Financial Product also promotes other specific environmental and social characteristics, mainly:

- Preservation of climate with exclusion policies on coal and unconventional oil & gas activities
- Protection of ecosystem and prevention of deforestation
- Better health with exclusion on tobacco

- Labour rights, society and human rights, business ethics, anti-corruption with exclusion on companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Conventions or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Protection of human rights avoiding investing in debt instruments issued by countries where the worst forms of human right violations are observed

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

A broad market index, Bloomberg US Corporate Intermediate (the "Benchmark"), has been designated by the Financial Product.

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

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

The attainment of the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product and described above is measured with the following sustainability indicator:

The weighted average ESG Score of the Financial Product and of the Benchmark which is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

The Financial Product outperforms its Benchmark on this sustainability indicator in order to promote the environmental and/or social characteristics described above.

### ● ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

The Financial Product intends to partially invest in instruments qualifying as sustainable investments with various social and environmental objectives (without any limitation) by assessing the positive contribution of investee companies through at least one of the following dimensions:

**1. UN Sustainable Development Goals alignment (SDG)** of investee companies as reference framework, considering companies which contribute positively to at least one SDG either through the Products and Services they offer or the way they carry their activities ("Operations"). To be considered as a sustainable asset, a company must satisfy the following criteria:

- a. the SDG scoring related to the "products and services" offered by the issuer is equal or above 2, corresponding to at least 20% of their revenues being derived from a sustainable activity, or
- b. using a best in universe approach consisting of giving priority to the issuers best rated from a non-financial viewpoint irrespective of their sector of activity, the SDG scoring of the issuer's operations is on the better top 2.5%, except in consideration to the SDG-5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption) and SDG 16 (peace & justice), for which the SDG scoring of the issuer's Operation is on the better top 5%. For SDG 5, 8, 10 and 16 the selectivity criteria on issuer's "Operations" is less restrictive as such SDGs are better addressed considering the way the issuer carries their activities than the Products and Services offered by the investee company. It is also less restrictive for SDG 12 which can be addressed through the Products & Services or the way the investee company carries their activities.

The quantitative SDG results are sourced from external data providers and can be overridden by a duly supported qualitative analysis performed by the Investment Manager.

The assessment is done at entity level and an investee company that satisfies the contribution to UN SDG criteria outlined above is considered as sustainable.

**2. Integration of issuers engaged in a solid Transition Pathway** consistently with the European Commission's ambition to help fund the transition to a 1.5°C world - based on the framework developed by the Science Based Targets Initiative, considering companies which have validated Science-Based targets.

#### **3. Investments in Green, Social or Sustainability Bonds (GSSB), Sustainability Linked Bonds:**

a. GSSB are instruments which aim to contribute to various sustainable objectives by nature. As such, investments in bonds issued by corporates and sovereigns that have been identified as green bonds, social bonds or sustainability bonds in Bloomberg data base are considered as "sustainable investments" under AXA IM's SFDR framework.

b. With regards to Sustainability Linked Bonds, an internal framework was developed to assess the robustness of those bonds that are used to finance general sustainable purpose. As these instruments are newer leading to heterogeneous practices from issuers, only Sustainability Linked Bonds that get a positive or neutral opinion from AXA IM's internal analysis process are considered as "sustainable investments". This analysis framework draws on the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) guidelines with a stringent proprietary approach based on the following defined criteria: (i) issued for sustainability



strategy and key performance indicators relevance and materiality, (ii) Sustainability performance target’s ambition, (iii) bond characteristics and (iv) sustainability performance target’s monitoring & reporting.

Investments in Green, Social or Sustainability Bonds (GSSB), Sustainability Linked Bonds comply with AXA IM GSS Bond Framework. We have designed our framework to be compliant with Green Bonds Principles and Social Bond Principles, adding more stringent criteria on some aspects.

Those methodologies may evolve in the future to take into account any improvements for example in data availability and reliability, or any developments of, but not limited to, regulations or other external frameworks or initiatives.

The Financial Product is not taking into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives.

**How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?**

The application of the Do No Significant Harm Principle for the sustainable investments the Financial Product partially intends to make means that an investee company cannot qualify as sustainable if it meets any of the criteria listed below:

- The issuer causes harm along any of the SDGs when one of its SDG scores is below –5 based on a quantitative database from an external provider on a scale ranging from +10 corresponding to "significantly contributing" to -10 corresponding to "significantly obstructing", unless the quantitative score has been qualitatively overridden. This criterion is applied on the investee companies that are considered as sustainable.
- The issuer is in AXA IM’s sectorial and ESG standards ban lists (as described below), which consider among other factors the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This criterion is applied on the entire portfolio.
- The issuer has a CCC (or 1.43) or lower ESG rating according to AXA IM ESG scoring methodology. The ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body. This criterion is applied on the entire portfolio.

Indicators for principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered, including through the application of AXA IM’s exclusion and stewardship policies.

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

The Financial Product takes into consideration Principal Adverse Impacts (“PAIs”) indicators to ensure that the sustainable investments are not harming significantly any other sustainability objectives under SFDR.

Principal adverse impacts are mitigated through sectorial exclusion policies and AXA IM ESG standards (as described below) that are applied bindingly at all times by the Financial Product, as well as through the filters based on UN Sustainable Development Goals scoring. No specific threshold or comparison with reference value have been defined within the DNSH approach.

Where relevant, Stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through the engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors.

Voting at general meetings is also an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invests and mitigate adverse impacts.

**Exclusion Policies:**

**- Environmental:**

Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
Climate Risk policy Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2, & 3 starting 01/2023)
	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies
Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to Companies active in the fossil fuel sector
Climate Risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

Climate risk policy (considering an expected correlation between GHG emissions and energy consumption) <sup>4</sup>	PAI 6: Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: Activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive areas

- **Social and Governance :**

Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards (considering an expected correlation between companies non-compliant with international norms and standards and the lack of implementation by companies of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with those standards) <sup>5</sup>	PAI 11: Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
Voting and Engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board Gender diversity
Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

**Filter based on UN SDGs:**

The Investment Manager also relies on the SDG pillar of its sustainable investment framework to monitor and take into account adverse impacts on those sustainability factors by excluding investee companies which have a SDG score under – 5 on any SDG (on a scale from + 10 corresponding to ‘significant contributing impact’ to – 10 corresponding to ‘significant obstructing impact’), unless the quantitative score has been qualitatively overridden following a duly documented analysis by the Investment Manager’s Core ESG & Impact Research. This approach enables AXA IM to ensure investee companies with the worst adverse impacts on any SDG are not considered as sustainable investments.

Data availability and quality is lower for the time being on certain sustainability factors related to biodiversity as an example, which may impact the coverage for the following PAI indicators: emissions to water (PAI 8), hazardous and radioactive waste ratio (PAI 9) and unadjusted gender pay gap (PAI 12). Those sustainability factors are part of the 17 objectives targeted by the United Nations SDGs (more specifically they are covered through SDG 5 “Gender equality”, SDGs 6 “Clean water and sanitation”, SDG 8 “Economic growth”, SDG 10 “Reduced inequalities”, SDG 12 “Responsible production and consumption” and SDG 14 “Life below water”) and AXA IM’s framework there enables to mitigate the worst impacts pending the increase on data availability and quality.

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

The Financial Product does not invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labour and Environment and as such, provide a methodology to help assess the good governance practices of an issuer, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. AXA IM relies on an external provider’s screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as “non-compliant” to UN’s Global Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation’s (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

<sup>4</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively. Not all high impact climate sectors are targeted by the exclusion policy for the time being.

<sup>5</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a “do not significant harm” principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

*The “do no significant harm” principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.*

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*



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

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No

Principal adverse impacts are considered with both (i) qualitative and (ii) quantitative approaches:

(i) Qualitative approach to consider principal adverse impact is based on exclusion and, where relevant, stewardship policies. Exclusion applied as part of the application of AXA IM Sectorial policies and AXA IM ESG standards cover the most material sustainability factors' risks and are applied bindingly on a continuous basis.

Where relevant, stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through its engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors.

Voting at general meetings is an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invests and mitigates adverse impacts.

Through those exclusion and stewardship policies the Financial Product takes into consideration potential negative impact on those specific PAI indicators:

For Corporates:

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
Climate and other environment related indicators	Climate Risk policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2 & 3 starting 01/2023)
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
	Climate Risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
	Climate risk policy (considering an expected correlation between GHG emissions and energy consumption) <sup>6</sup>	PAI 6: Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive area
Social and employee respect for human rights, anti-corruption	ESG standard policy / violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violation of UN global compact principles & OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
	ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards (considering an expected correlation between companies non-compliant with international norms and standards and the lack of implementation by	PAI 11: Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises

<sup>6</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively. Not all high impact climate sectors are targeted by the exclusion policy for the time being.

<b>and anti bribery matters</b>	companies of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with those standards) <sup>7</sup>	
	Voting and Engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board Gender diversity
	Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

For Sovereigns and Supranationals :

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
<b>Social</b>	AXA IM ESG standards with the exclusion of investee countries with severe social violations	PAI 16: Sovereign Investee countries subject to social violations
	AXA IM Compliance black-list based on international and EU sanctions	

(ii) Principal adverse impacts are also considered quantitatively through the PAI indicators' measurement and reported annually in the SFDR annex in the periodic reporting. The objective is to provide transparency to investors on significant negative impact on other sustainability factors. AXA IM measures all the mandatory PAI indicators, plus additional optional environmental indicator and additional optional social indicator.



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The Investment Manager selects investments by applying an extra-financial approach based on the exclusion filters as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies. Those sectorial exclusions cover areas such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities and Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation and Tobacco. The ESG Standards encompass specific exclusions on white phosphorus weapons and exclude investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to adaptation) . Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: [Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](#).

In addition, the Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the investment universe as defined by the Benchmark, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Benchmark being calculated on a weighted average basis. ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions that include the environmental and social characteristics described above and promoted by the Financial Product.

The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.

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

The Financial Product bindingly applies at all times the following elements described below.

1. The Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times its Sectorial Exclusion Policies and ESG Standards Policy as a first exclusion filter.

The Sectorial Exclusions Policies exclude companies linked to Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities (based on food and basic agricultural or the marine commodities), unsustainable practices relating to Ecosystem Protection and Deforestation and Tobacco.

The ESG Standards Policy (the "ESG Standards") encompass specific exclusions such as white phosphorus weapons and exclude investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this

<sup>7</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively.

Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to adaptation). Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: [Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](#).

2. In addition, the Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the investment universe as defined by the Benchmark, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Benchmark being calculated on a weighted average basis. ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions that include the environmental and social characteristics described above and promoted by the Financial Product. AXA IM ESG analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

AXA IM has implemented scoring methodologies to rate issuers (corporates, sovereigns, green, social and sustainability bonds) on ESG criteria. These methodologies allow to rate corporates and sovereign issuers and are based on quantitative data from several data providers as well as on qualitative analysis from internal and external research. The data used in these methodologies include carbon emissions, water stress, health and safety at work, supply chain labour standards, business ethics, corruption and instability. The corporate and sovereign scoring methodologies rely on three pillars and several sub-factors that cover the most material risk factors encountered by issuers in the E, S and G fields. The frame of reference draws on fundamental principles, such as United Nations Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines, the International Labour Organisation conventions, and other international principles and conventions that guide companies and governments activities in the field of sustainable development and social responsibility. The analysis is based on the most material ESG risks and opportunities previously identified for each sector and company, with 10 factors: Climate Change, Natural Capital, Pollution and Waste, Environmental Opportunities, Human Capital, Product Liability, Stakeholder Opposition, Social Opportunities, Corporate Governance and Corporate Behaviour. The final ESG score also incorporates the concept of industry dependent factors and deliberately differentiates between sectors, to overweight the most material factors for each industry. Materiality is not limited to impacts relating to a company's operations, it also includes the impacts on external stakeholders as well as the underlying reputational risk arising from a poor grasp of major ESG issues. In the corporate methodology, the severity of controversies is assessed and monitored on an ongoing basis to make sure that the most material risks are reflected in the final ESG score. The controversies with high severity will trigger large penalties on the sub factor scores and ultimately on the ESG scores.

These ESG scores provide a standardized and holistic view on the performance of issuers on ESG factors and enable to both promote Environmental and/or Social characteristics of the Financial Product.

3. The ESG analysis coverage rate of the Financial Product net assets is at 90% minimum.

The ESG data (of which ESG score or SDG score wherever relevant) used in the investment process are based on ESG methodologies which rely in part on third party data, and in some cases are internally developed. They are subjective and may change over time. Despite several initiatives, the lack of harmonised definitions can make ESG criteria heterogeneous. As such, the different investment strategies that use ESG criteria and ESG reporting are difficult to compare with each other. Strategies that incorporate ESG criteria and those that incorporate sustainable development criteria may use ESG data that appear similar but which should be distinguished because their calculation method may be different. AXA IM's ESG different methodologies described herein may evolve in the future to take into account any improvements in data availability and reliability, or any developments of regulations or other external frameworks or initiatives - among others.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered.

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

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

The Financial Product does not invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labour and Environment and as such provide a methodology to help assess the good governance practices of an issuer, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. AXA IM relies on an external provider's screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as "non-compliant" to UN's Global Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

In addition, ensuring good governance practices is also addressed by the engagement policies. AXA IM implemented a comprehensive active ownership strategy – engagement and voting – where AXA IM acts as stewards of investments made on the clients' behalf. AXA IM views engagement as a means for investors to influence, shape and shift investee company policies and practices to mitigate risks and secure long-term value. Governance practices of companies are engaged at first level by the portfolio managers and dedicated ESG analysts when meeting companies' management team. It is through the long-term investor status and in-depth knowledge of the investment targets that AXA IM feels legitimate to engage in a constructive but demanding dialogue with them.

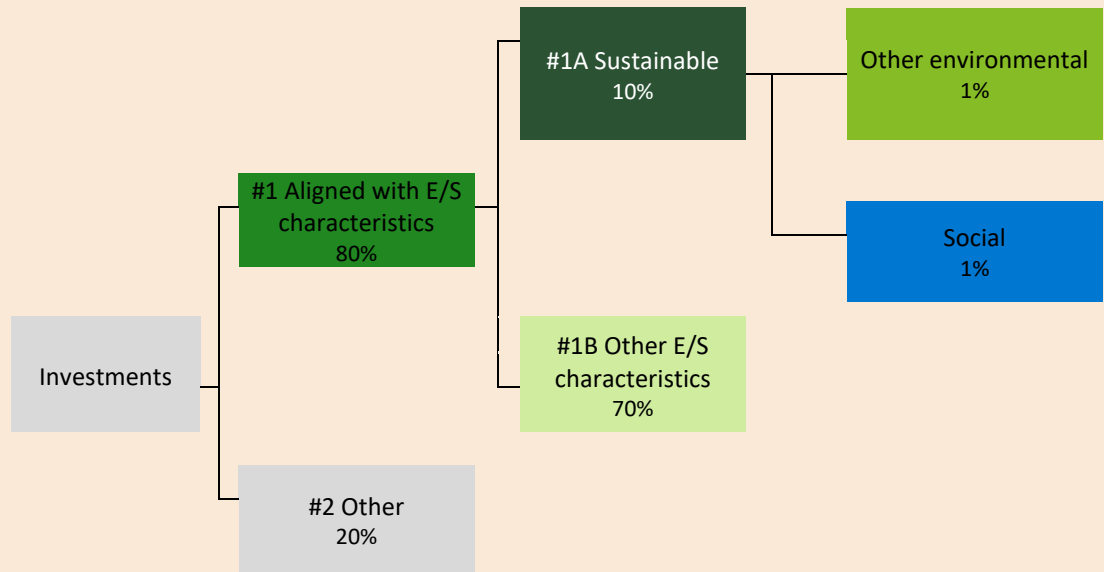


## What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

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

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

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



**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

The Financial Product aims to plan its assets' allocation as presented in the graph above. This planned asset allocation might deviate on a temporary basis.

The planned minimum proportion of the investments of the Financial Product used to meet the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product is 80% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The planned minimum proportion of sustainable investments of the Financial Product where that Financial Products commits to making sustainable investments is 10% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. Remaining "Other" investments are used for hedging, liquidity and portfolio management of the Financial Product. Minimum environmental or social safeguards based on AXA IM exclusion policies are assessed and applied on all "Other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.

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

Single names derivatives used for investment purpose apply exclusion policies and thus contribute to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product.





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

The Financial Product does not take into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives. The Financial Product is not considering the "do not significantly harm" criteria of the EU Taxonomy.

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

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

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

### Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>8</sup> ?

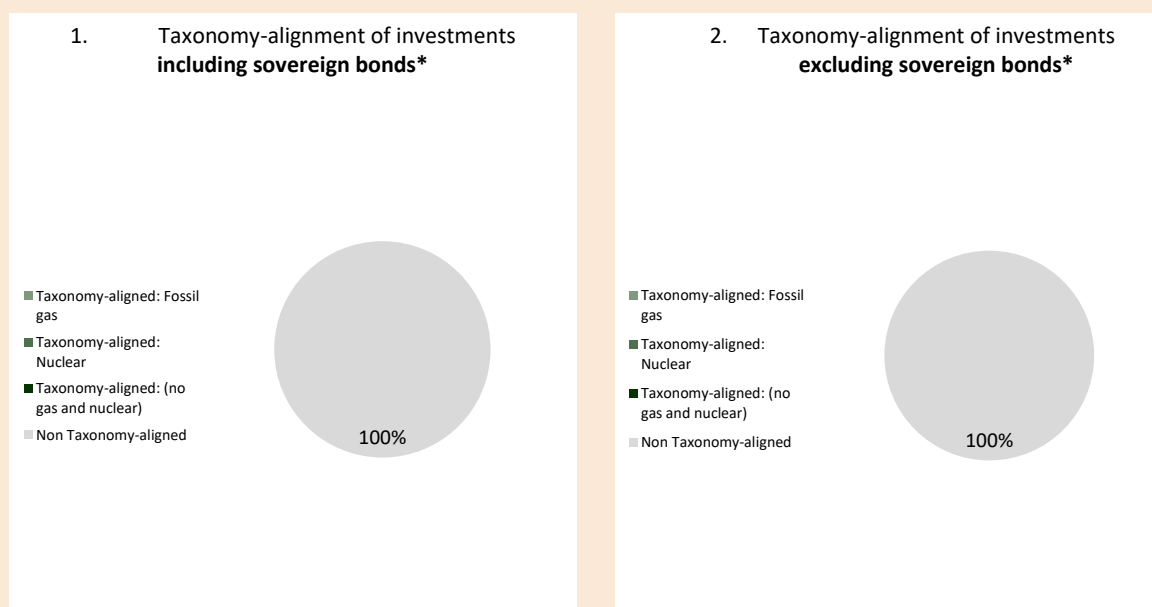
☐ Yes

☐ In fossil gas

☐ In nuclear energy

☒ No

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



This graph represents 100% of the total investments\*\*

\* For the purpose of these graphs, "sovereign bonds" consist of all sovereign exposures.

\*\* The proportion of total investments shown in this graph is purely indicative and may vary.

### What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?

Not applicable.



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

The minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy is 1% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The proportion of investments between environmental sustainable assets not aligned with EU Taxonomy and social sustainable assets is freely allocated and adds up to at least the total sustainable investments.

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

<sup>8</sup> Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objectives -see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.





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

The minimum share of sustainable investments with social objectives is 1% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The proportion of investments between environmental sustainable assets not aligned with EU Taxonomy and social sustainable assets is freely allocated and adds up to at least the total sustainable investments.



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

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. The "other" assets may consist in:

- cash and cash equivalent investments and
- other instruments eligible to the Financial Product and that do not meet the Environmental and/or Social criteria described in this appendix. Such assets may be transferable securities, derivatives investments and investment collective schemes that do not promote environmental or social characteristics and that are used to attain the financial objective of the Financial Product and/or for diversification and/or hedging purposes.

Environmental or social safeguards are applied and assessed on all "other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.



### **Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

Not applicable as the designated Benchmark is a broad market index which is not aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product.



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

More information can be found on the AXA IM fund centre following that link: [Funds - AXA IM Global](#).

More details on AXA IM sustainable investment frameworks are available on [Sustainable Finance](#) | [SFDR](#) | [AXA IM Corporate](#).

Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852

**Sustainable investment** means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

**Product name:** AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies - Europe Short Duration High Yield (The “Financial Product”) **Legal entity identifier:** 213800FTL8OP544CLZ24

Environmental and/or social characteristics

Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?

☐ YES

☒ NO

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

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

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

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

☒ It promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 10% of sustainable investments

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

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

☒ with a social objective

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



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

The environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product consist of investing in:

- issuers considering the **ESG score** further described below.

The Financial Product promotes environmental and/or social characteristics by investing in securities that have implemented good practices in terms of managing their environmental, governance and social ("ESG") practices.

The Financial Product also promotes other specific environmental and social characteristics, mainly:

- Preservation of climate with exclusion policies on coal and unconventional oil & gas activities
- Protection of ecosystem and prevention of deforestation
- Better health with exclusion on tobacco
- Labour rights, society and human rights, business ethics, anti-corruption with exclusion on companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Conventions or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Protection of human rights avoiding investing in debt instruments issued by countries where the worst forms of human right violations are observed

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

A parallel Comparison Portfolio has been internally defined by the Investment Manager for ESG purposes and is constituted of the ICE BofA European Currency High Yield (the "Comparison Portfolio").

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

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

The attainment of the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product and described above is measured with the following sustainability indicator:

The weighted average ESG Score of the Financial Product and of a parallel Comparison Portfolio which is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

The Financial Product outperforms its parallel Comparison Portfolio on this sustainability indicator in order to promote the environmental and/or social characteristics described above.

● **What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?**

The Financial Product intends to partially invest in instruments qualifying as sustainable investments with various social and environmental objectives (without any limitation) by assessing the positive contribution of investee companies through at least one of the following dimensions:

**1. UN Sustainable Development Goals alignment (SDG)** of investee companies as reference framework, considering companies which contribute positively to at least one SDG either through the Products and Services they offer or the way they carry their activities ("Operations"). To be considered as a sustainable asset, a company must satisfy the following criteria:

a. the SDG scoring related to the "products and services" offered by the issuer is equal or above 2, corresponding to at least 20% of their revenues being derived from a sustainable activity, or

b. using a best in universe approach consisting of giving priority to the issuers best rated from a non-financial viewpoint irrespective of their sector of activity, the SDG scoring of the issuer's operations is on the better top 2.5%, except in consideration to the SDG-5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption) and SDG 16 (peace & justice), for which the SDG scoring of the issuer's Operation is on the better top 5%. For SDG 5, 8, 10 and 16 the selectivity criteria on issuer's "Operations" is less restrictive as such SDGs are better addressed considering the way the issuer carries their activities than the Products and Services offered by the investee company. It is also less restrictive for SDG 12 which can be addressed through the Products & Services or the way the investee company carries their activities.

The quantitative SDG results are sourced from external data providers and can be overridden by a duly supported qualitative analysis performed by the Investment Manager.

The assessment is done at entity level and an investee company that satisfies the contribution to UN SDG criteria outlined above is considered as sustainable.

**2. Integration of issuers engaged in a solid Transition Pathway** consistently with the European Commission's ambition to help fund the transition to a 1.5°C world - based on the framework developed by the Science Based Targets Initiative, considering companies which have validated Science-Based targets.

**3. Investments in Green, Social or Sustainability Bonds (GSSB), Sustainability Linked Bonds:**

a. GSSB are instruments which aim to contribute to various sustainable objectives by nature. As such, investments in bonds issued by corporates and sovereigns that have been identified as green bonds, social bonds or sustainability bonds in Bloomberg data base are considered as "sustainable investments" under AXA IM's SFDR framework.

b. With regards to Sustainability Linked Bonds, an internal framework was developed to assess the robustness of those bonds that are used to finance general sustainable purpose. As these instruments are newer leading to heterogeneous practices from issuers, only Sustainability Linked Bonds that get a positive or neutral opinion from AXA IM's internal analysis process are considered as "sustainable investments". This analysis framework draws on the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) guidelines with a stringent proprietary approach based on the following defined criteria: (i) issuer's sustainability strategy and key performance indicators relevance and materiality, (ii) Sustainability performance target's ambition, (iii) bond characteristics and (iv) sustainability performance target's monitoring & reporting.

Investments in Green, Social or Sustainability Bonds (GSSB), Sustainability Linked Bonds comply with AXA IM GSS Bond Framework. We have designed our framework to be compliant with Green Bonds Principles and Social Bond Principles, adding more stringent criteria on some aspects.

Those methodologies may evolve in the future to take into account any improvements for example in data availability and reliability, or any developments of, but not limited to, regulations or other external frameworks or initiatives.

The Financial Product is not taking into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives.

● **How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?**

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

The application of the Do No Significant Harm Principle for the sustainable investments the Financial Product partially intends to make means that an investee company cannot qualify as sustainable if it meets any of the criteria listed below:

- The issuer causes harm along any of the SDGs when one of its SDG scores is below –5 based on a quantitative database from an external provider on a scale ranging from +10 corresponding to "significantly contributing" to -10 corresponding to "significantly obstructing", unless the quantitative score has been qualitatively overridden. This criterion is applied on the investee companies that are considered as sustainable.
- The issuer is in AXA IM's sectorial and ESG standards ban lists (as described below), which consider among other factors the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This criterion is applied on the entire portfolio.
- The issuer has a CCC (or 1.43) or lower ESG rating according to AXA IM ESG scoring methodology. The ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body. This criterion is applied on the entire portfolio.

Indicators for principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered, including through the application of AXA IM's exclusion and stewardship policies.

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

The Financial Product takes into consideration Principal Adverse Impacts ("PAIs") indicators to ensure that the sustainable investments are not harming significantly any other sustainability objectives under SFDR.

Principal adverse impacts are mitigated through sectorial exclusion policies and AXA IM ESG standards (as described below) that are applied bindingly at all times by the Financial Product, as well as through the filters based on UN Sustainable Development Goals scoring. No specific threshold or comparison with reference value have been defined within the DNSH approach.

Where relevant, Stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through the engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors.

Voting at general meetings is also an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invests and mitigate adverse impacts.

**Exclusion Policies:**

**- Environmental:**

Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
Climate Risk policy Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2, & 3 starting 01/2023)
	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies
Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to Companies active in the fossil fuel sector
Climate Risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
Climate risk policy (considering an expected correlation between GHG emissions and energy consumption) <sup>9</sup>	PAI 6: Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: Activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive areas

<sup>9</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively. Not all high impact climate sectors are targeted by the exclusion policy for the time being.

- **Social and Governance :**

Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards (considering an expected correlation between companies non-compliant with international norms and standards and the lack of implementation by companies of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with those standards) <sup>10</sup>	PAI 11: Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
Voting and Engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board Gender diversity
Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

**Filter based on UN SDGs:**

The Investment Manager also relies on the SDG pillar of its sustainable investment framework to monitor and take into account adverse impacts on those sustainability factors by excluding investee companies which have a SDG score under – 5 on any SDG (on a scale from + 10 corresponding to ‘significant contributing impact’ to – 10 corresponding to ‘significant obstructing impact’), unless the quantitative score has been qualitatively overridden following a duly documented analysis by the Investment Manager’s Core ESG & Impact Research. This approach enables AXA IM to ensure investee companies with the worst adverse impacts on any SDG are not considered as sustainable investments.

Data availability and quality is lower for the time being on certain sustainability factors related to biodiversity as an example, which may impact the coverage for the following PAI indicators: emissions to water (PAI 8), hazardous and radioactive waste ratio (PAI 9) and unadjusted gender pay gap (PAI 12). Those sustainability factors are part of the 17 objectives targeted by the United Nations SDGs (more specifically they are covered through SDG 5 “Gender equality”, SDGs 6 “Clean water and sanitation”, SDG 8 “Economic growth”, SDG 10 “Reduced inequalities”, SDG 12 “Responsible production and consumption” and SDG 14 “Life below water”) and AXA IM’s framework there enables to mitigate the worst impacts pending the increase on data availability and quality.

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

The Financial Product does not invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labour and Environment and as such, provide a methodology to help assess the good governance practices of an issuer, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. AXA IM relies on an external provider’s screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as “non-compliant” to UN’s Global Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation’s (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a “do not significant harm” principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

*The “do no significant harm” principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.*

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

<sup>10</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively.



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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Principal adverse impacts are considered with both (i) qualitative and (ii) quantitative approaches:

(i) Qualitative approach to consider principal adverse impact is based on exclusion and, where relevant, stewardship policies. Exclusion applied as part of the application of AXA IM Sectorial policies and AXA IM ESG standards cover the most material sustainability factors' risks and are applied bindingly on a continuous basis.

Where relevant, stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through its engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors.

Voting at general meetings is an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invests and mitigates adverse impacts.

Through those exclusion and stewardship policies the Financial Product takes into consideration potential negative impact on those specific PAI indicators:

For Corporates:

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
<b>Climate and other environment related indicators</b>	Climate Risk policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2 & 3 starting 01/2023)
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
	Climate Risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
	Climate risk policy (considering an expected correlation between GHG emissions and energy consumption) <sup>11</sup>	PAI 6: Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive area
	ESG standard policy / violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violation of UN global compact principles & OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
<b>Social and employee respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters</b>	ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards (considering an expected correlation between companies non-compliant with international norms and standards and the lack of implementation by companies of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with those standards) <sup>12</sup>	PAI 11: Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises

<sup>11</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively. Not all high impact climate sectors are targeted by the exclusion policy for the time being.

<sup>12</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively.

	Voting and Engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board Gender diversity
	Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

For Sovereigns and Supranationals :

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
Social	AXA IM ESG standards with the exclusion of investee countries with severe social violations	PAI 16: Sovereign Investee countries subject to social violations
	AXA IM Compliance black-list based on international and EU sanctions	

(ii) Principal adverse impacts are also considered quantitatively through the PAI indicators' measurement and reported annually in the SFDR annex in the periodic reporting. The objective is to provide transparency to investors on significant negative impact on other sustainability factors. AXA IM measures all the mandatory PAI indicators, plus additional optional environmental indicator and additional optional social indicator.



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The Investment Manager selects investments by applying an extra-financial approach based on the exclusion filters as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies.

Those sectorial exclusions cover areas such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities and Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation and Tobacco. The ESG Standards encompass specific exclusions on white phosphorus weapons and exclude investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to adaptation) . Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: [Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](#).

In addition, the Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the Comparison Portfolio, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Comparison Portfolio being calculated on a weighted average basis. ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions that include the environmental and social characteristics described above and promoted by the Financial Product.

The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.

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

The Financial Product bindingly applies at all times the following elements described below.

1. The Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times its Sectorial Exclusion Policies and ESG Standards Policy as a first exclusion filter.

The Sectorial Exclusions Policies exclude companies linked to Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities (based on food and basic agricultural or the marine commodities), unsustainable practices relating to Ecosystem Protection and Deforestation and Tobacco.

The ESG Standards Policy (the "ESG Standards") encompass specific exclusions such as white phosphorus weapons and exclude investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to adaptation). Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: [Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](#).



2. In addition, the Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the Comparison Portfolio, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Comparison Portfolio being calculated on a weighted average basis. ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions that include the environmental and social characteristics described above and promoted by the Financial Product. AXA IM ESG analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

AXA IM has implemented scoring methodologies to rate issuers (corporates, sovereigns, green, social and sustainability bonds) on ESG criteria. These methodologies allow to rate corporates and sovereign issuers and are based on quantitative data from several data providers as well as on qualitative analysis from internal and external research. The data used in these methodologies include carbon emissions, water stress, health and safety at work, supply chain labour standards, business ethics, corruption and instability.

The corporate and sovereign scoring methodologies rely on three pillars and several sub factors that cover the most material risk factors encountered by issuers in the E, S and G fields. The frame of reference draws on fundamental principles, such as United Nations Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines, the International Labour Organisation conventions, and other international principles and conventions that guide companies and governments activities in the field of sustainable development and social responsibility. The analysis is based on the most material ESG risks and opportunities previously identified for each sector and company, with 10 factors: Climate Change, Natural Capital, Pollution and Waste, Environmental Opportunities, Human Capital, Product Liability, Stakeholder Opposition, Social Opportunities, Corporate Governance and Corporate Behaviour. The final ESG score also incorporates the concept of industry dependent factors and deliberately differentiates between sectors, to overweight the most material factors for each industry. Materiality is not limited to impacts relating to a company's operations, it also includes the impacts on external stakeholders as well as the underlying reputational risk arising from a poor grasp of major ESG issues. In the corporate methodology, the severity of controversies is assessed and monitored on an ongoing basis to make sure that the most material risks are reflected in the final ESG score. The controversies with high severity will trigger large penalties on the sub factor scores and ultimately on the ESG scores.

These ESG scores provide a standardized and holistic view on the performance of issuers on ESG factors and enable to both promote Environmental and/or Social characteristics of the Financial Product.

3. The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 75% of the net assets of the Financial Product.

The ESG data (of which ESG score or SDG score wherever relevant) used in the investment process are based on ESG methodologies which rely in part on third party data, and in some cases are internally developed. They are subjective and may change over time. Despite several initiatives, the lack of harmonised definitions can make ESG criteria heterogeneous. As such, the different investment strategies that use ESG criteria and ESG reporting are difficult to compare with each other. Strategies that incorporate ESG criteria and those that incorporate sustainable development criteria may use ESG data that appear similar but which should be distinguished because their calculation method may be different. AXA IM's ESG different methodologies described herein may evolve in the future to take into account any improvements in data availability and reliability, or any developments of regulations or other external frameworks or initiatives - among others.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered.

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

The Financial Product does not invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labour and Environment and as such, provide a methodology to help assess the good governance practices of an issuer, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. AXA IM relies on an external provider's screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as "non-compliant" to UN's Global Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

In addition, ensuring good governance practices is also addressed by the engagement policies. AXA IM implemented a comprehensive active ownership strategy – engagement and voting – where AXA IM acts as stewards of investments made on the clients' behalf. AXA IM views engagement as a means for investors to influence, shape and shift investee company policies and practices to mitigate risks and secure long-term value. Governance practices of companies are engaged at first level by the portfolio managers and dedicated ESG analysts when meeting companies' management

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

team. It is through the long-term investor status and in-depth knowledge of the investment targets that AXA IM feels legitimate to engage in a constructive but demanding dialogue with them.

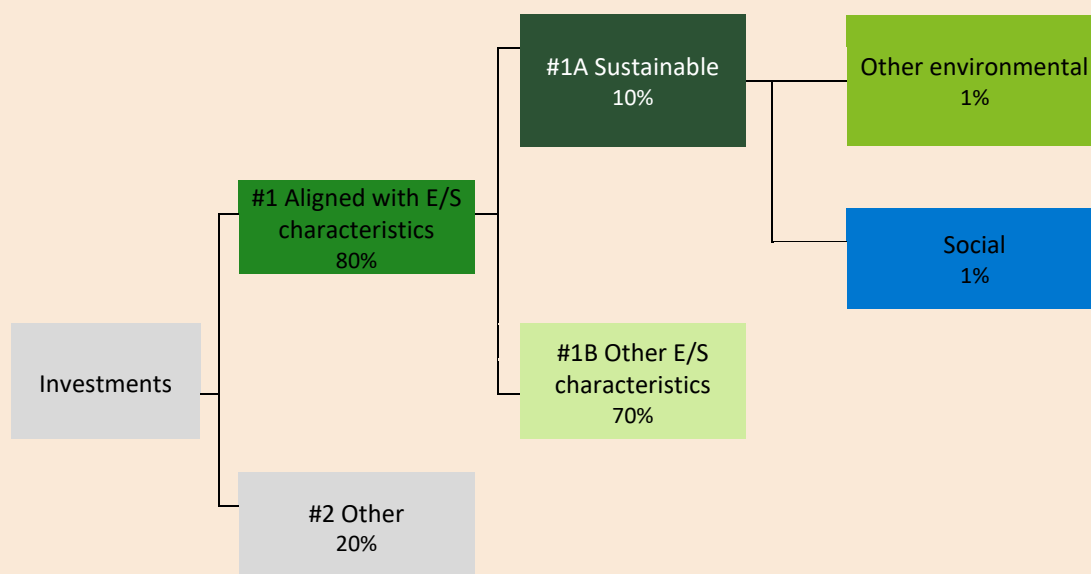


## What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

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

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

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



**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

The Financial Product aims to plan its assets' allocation as presented in the graph above. This planned asset allocation might deviate on a temporary basis.

The planned minimum proportion of the investments of the Financial Product used to meet the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product is 80% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The planned minimum proportion of sustainable investments of the Financial Product where that Financial Products commits to making sustainable investments is 10% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. Remaining "Other" investments are used for hedging, liquidity and portfolio management of the Financial Product. Minimum environmental or social safeguards based on AXA IM exclusion policies are assessed and applied on all "Other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.

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

Not applicable



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

The Financial Product does not take into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives. The Financial Product is not considering the "do not significantly harm" criteria of the EU Taxonomy.

- **Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>13</sup> ?**

☐ Yes

☐ In fossil gas

☐ In nuclear energy

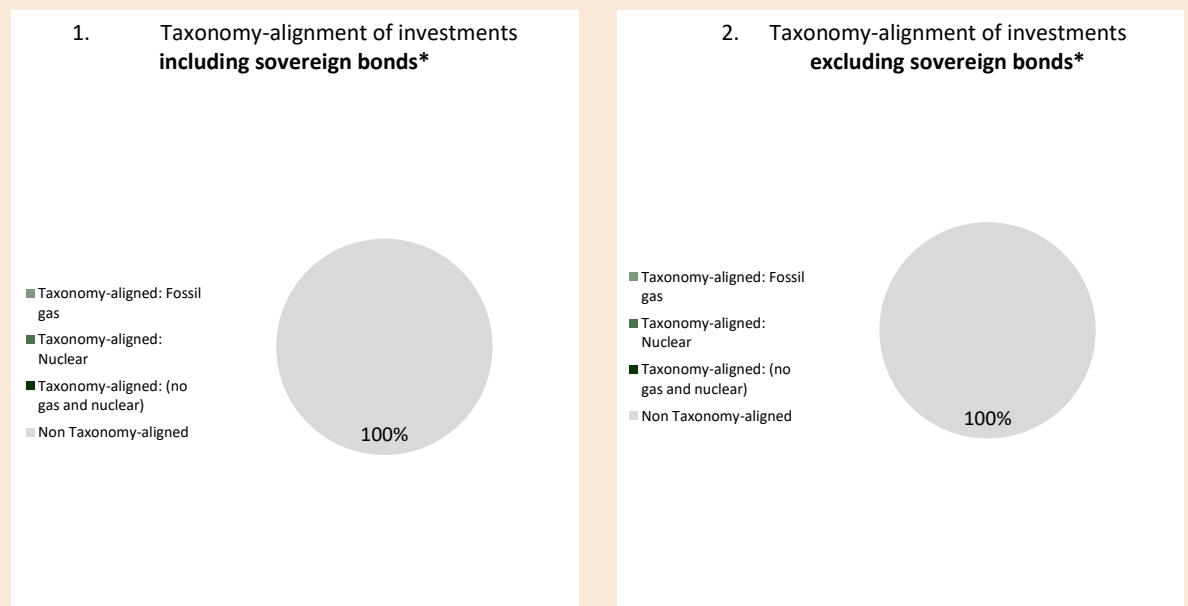
☒ No

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

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

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

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



This graph represents 100% of the total investments\*\*

\* For the purpose of these graphs, "sovereign bonds" consist of all sovereign exposures.

\*\* The proportion of total investments shown in this graph is purely indicative and may vary.

- **What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?**

Not applicable

<sup>13</sup> Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objectives -see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

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



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

The minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy is 1% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The proportion of investments between environmental sustainable assets not aligned with EU Taxonomy and social sustainable assets is freely allocated and adds up to at least the total sustainable investments.



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

The minimum share of sustainable investments with social objectives is 1% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The proportion of investments between environmental sustainable assets not aligned with EU Taxonomy and social sustainable assets is freely allocated and adds up to at least the total sustainable investments.



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

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. The "other" assets may consist in:

- cash and cash equivalent investments, and
- other instruments eligible to the Financial Product and that do not meet the Environmental and/or Social criteria described in this appendix. Such assets may be transferable securities, derivatives investments and investment collective schemes that do not promote environmental or social characteristics and that are used to attain the financial objective of the Financial Product and / or for diversification and / or hedging purposes.

Environmental or social safeguards are applied and assessed on all "other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.



### **Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

Not applicable as the designated Comparison Portfolio is a broad market index which is not aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product.



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

More information can be found on the AXA IM fund centre following that link: [Funds - AXA IM Global](#).

More details on AXA IM sustainable investment frameworks are available on [Sustainable Finance](#) | [SFDR](#) | [AXA IM Corporate](#).

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name:** AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies - US High Yield B/BB (The "Financial Product") **Legal entity identifier:** 213800E3FURAVHMWCV89

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

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



☐ YES



☒ NO

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

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

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

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

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

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

☐ with a social objective

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

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

**Sustainable investment** means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.



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

The environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product consist of investing in:

- issuers considering the **ESG score** further described below.

The Financial Product promotes environmental and/or social characteristics, by investing in securities that have implemented good practices in terms of managing their environmental, governance and social ("ESG") practices.

The Financial Product also promotes other specific environmental and social characteristics, mainly:

- Preservation of climate with exclusion policies on coal and unconventional oil & gas activities
- Protection of ecosystem and prevention of deforestation
- Better health with exclusion on tobacco
- Labour rights, society and human rights, business ethics, anti-corruption with exclusion on companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Conventions or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Protection of human rights avoiding investing in debt instruments issued by countries where the worst forms of human right violations are observed

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

A broad market index, ICE BofA BB-B US High Yield Constrained USD Index (the "Benchmark"), has been designated by the Financial Product.

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

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

The attainment of the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product and described above is measured with the following sustainability indicator:

The weighted average ESG Score of the Financial Product and of the Benchmark which is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

The Financial Product outperforms its Benchmark on this sustainability indicator in order to promote the environmental and/or social characteristics described above.

### What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?

Not applicable as the Financial Product has no objective of sustainable investments.

### How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?

Not applicable as the Financial Product has no objective of sustainable investments.

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

Not applicable as the Financial Product has no objective of sustainable investments.

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

Not applicable as the Financial Product has no objective of sustainable investments.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

The EU Taxonomy sets out a “do not significant harm” principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.

The “do no significant harm” principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.



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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Principal adverse impacts are considered with both (i) qualitative and (ii) quantitative approaches:

(i) Qualitative approach to consider principal adverse impact is based on exclusion and, where relevant, stewardship policies. Exclusion applied as part of the application of AXA IM Sectorial policies and AXA IM ESG standards cover the most material sustainability factors' risks and are applied bindingly on a continuous basis.

Where relevant, stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through its engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors.

Voting at general meetings is an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invests and mitigates adverse impacts.

Through those exclusion and stewardship policies the Financial Product takes into consideration potential negative impact on those specific PAI indicators:

For Corporates:

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
Climate and other environment related indicators	Climate Risk policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2 & 3 starting 01/2023)
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
	Climate Risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
	Climate risk policy (considering an expected correlation between GHG emissions and energy consumption) <sup>14</sup>	PAI 6: Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive area

<sup>14</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively. Not all high impact climate sectors are targeted by the exclusion policy for the time being.

	ESG standard policy / violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violation of UN global compact principles & OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
<b>Social and employee respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters</b>	ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards (considering an expected correlation between companies non-compliant with international norms and standards and the lack of implementation by companies of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with those standards) <sup>15</sup>	PAI 11: Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
	Voting and Engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board Gender diversity
	Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

For Sovereigns and Supranationals :

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
<b>Social</b>	AXA IM ESG standards with the exclusion of investee countries with severe social violations	PAI 16: Sovereign Investee countries subject to social violations
	AXA IM Compliance black-list based on international and EU sanctions	

(ii) Principal adverse impacts are also considered quantitatively through the PAI indicators' measurement and reported annually in the SFDR annex in the periodic reporting. The objective is to provide transparency to investors on significant negative impact on other sustainability factors. AXA IM measures all the mandatory PAI indicators, plus additional optional environmental indicator and additional optional social indicator.

## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The Investment Manager selects investments by applying an extra-financial approach based on the exclusion filters as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies. Those sectorial exclusions cover areas such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities and Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation and Tobacco. The ESG Standards encompass specific exclusions as white phosphorus weapons and exclude investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to adaptation) . Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: [Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](#).

The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.

In addition, the Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the investment universe as defined by the Benchmark, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Benchmark being calculated on a weighted average basis. ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions that include the environmental and social characteristics described above and promoted by the Financial Product

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

The Financial Product bindingly applies at all times the following elements described below.

<sup>15</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively.



1. The Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times a first exclusion filter such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities and Ecosystem Protection and Deforestation (based on food and basic agricultural or the marine commodities), unsustainable practices relating to Ecosystem Protection and Deforestation and Tobacco.

The ESG Standards Policy (the "ESG Standards") encompass specific exclusions such as white phosphorus weapons and by excluding investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to adaptation). Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: [Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](#).

2. The Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the investment universe as defined by the Benchmark, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Benchmark being calculated on a weighted average basis. ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions that include the environmental and social characteristics described above and promoted by the Financial Product. AXA IM ESG analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

AXA IM has implemented scoring methodologies to rate issuers (corporates, sovereigns, green, social and sustainability bonds) on ESG criteria. These methodologies allow to rate corporates and sovereign issuers and are based on quantitative data from several data providers as well as on qualitative analysis from internal and external research. The data used in these methodologies include carbon emissions, water stress, health and safety at work, supply chain labour standards, business ethics, corruption and instability.

The corporate and sovereign scoring methodologies rely on three pillars and several sub-factors that cover the most material risk factors encountered by issuers in the E, S and G fields. The frame of reference draws on fundamental principles, such as United Nations Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines, the International Labour Organisation conventions, and other international principles and conventions that guide companies and governments activities in the field of sustainable development and social responsibility. The analysis is based on the most material ESG risks and opportunities previously identified for each sector and company, with 10 factors: Climate Change, Natural Capital, Pollution and Waste, Environmental Opportunities, Human Capital, Product Liability, Stakeholder Opposition, Social Opportunities, Corporate Governance and Corporate Behaviour. The final ESG score also incorporates the concept of industry dependent factors and deliberately differentiates between sectors, to overweight the most material factors for each industry. Materiality is not limited to impacts relating to a company's operations, it also includes the impacts on external stakeholders as well as the underlying reputational risk arising from a poor grasp of major ESG issues. In the corporate methodology, the severity of controversies is assessed and monitored on an ongoing basis to make sure that the most material risks are reflected in the final ESG score. The controversies with high severity will trigger large penalties on the sub-factor scores and ultimately on the ESG scores.

These ESG scores provide a standardized and holistic view on the performance of issuers on ESG factors and enable to both promote Environmental and/or Social characteristics of the Financial Product.

3. The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 75% of the net assets of the Financial Product.

The ESG data (of which ESG score or SDG score wherever relevant) used in the investment process are based on ESG methodologies which rely in part on third party data, and in some cases are internally developed. They are subjective and may change over time. Despite several initiatives, the lack of harmonised definitions can make ESG criteria heterogeneous. As such, the different investment strategies that use ESG criteria and ESG reporting are difficult to compare with each other. Strategies that incorporate ESG criteria and those that incorporate sustainable development criteria may use ESG data that appear similar but which should be distinguished because their calculation method may be different. AXA IM's ESG different methodologies described herein may evolve in the future to take into account any improvements in data availability and reliability, or any developments of regulations or other external frameworks or initiatives - among others.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered.

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

The Financial Product does not invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labour and Environment and as such, provide a methodology to help assess the good governance practices of an issuer, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. AXA IM relies on an external provider's screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as "non-compliant" to UN's Global

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

Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

In addition, ensuring good governance practices is also addressed by the engagement policies. AXA IM implemented a comprehensive active ownership strategy – engagement and voting – where AXA IM acts as stewards of investments made on the clients' behalf. AXA IM views engagement as a means for investors to influence, shape and shift investee company policies and practices to mitigate risks and secure long-term value. Governance practices of companies are engaged at first level by the portfolio managers and dedicated ESG analysts when meeting companies' management team. It is through the long-term investor status and in-depth knowledge of the investment targets that AXA IM feels legitimate to engage in a constructive but demanding dialogue with them.

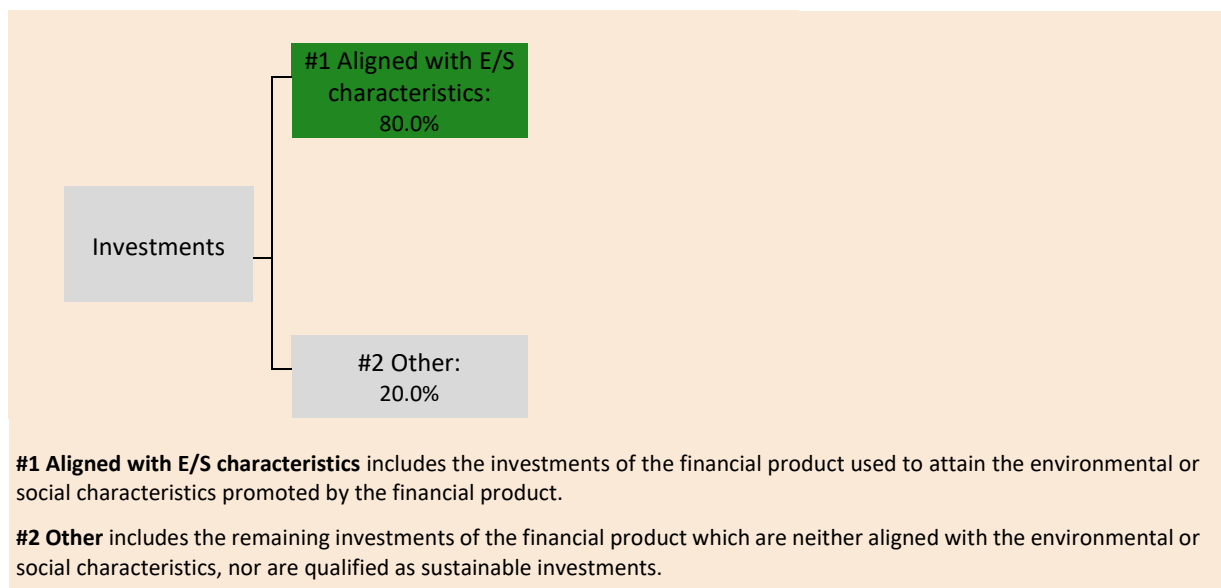


## What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

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

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

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



The Financial Product aims to plan its assets' allocation as presented in the graph above. This planned asset allocation might deviate on a temporary basis.

The planned minimum proportion of the investments of the Financial Product used to meet the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product is 80% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. Remaining "Other" investments are used for hedging, liquidity and portfolio management of the Financial Product. Minimum environmental or social safeguards based on AXA IM exclusion policies are assessed and applied on all "Other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.

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

Not applicable



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

The Financial Product does not take into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives. The Financial Product is not considering the "do not significantly harm" criteria of the EU Taxonomy.

**Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>16</sup> ?**

☐ Yes

☐ In fossil gas

☐ In nuclear energy

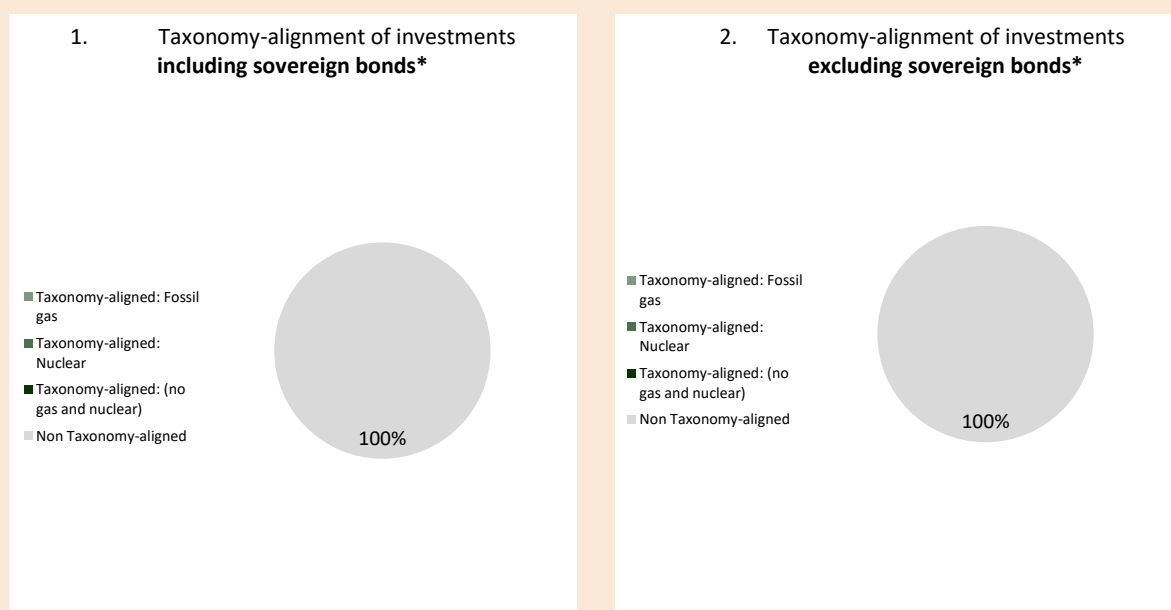
☒ No

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

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

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

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



This graph represents 100% of the total investments\*\*

\* For the purpose of these graphs, "sovereign bonds" consist of all sovereign exposures.

\*\* The proportion of total investments shown in this graph is purely indicative and may vary.

<sup>16</sup> Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objectives -see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

● **What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?**

Not applicable

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



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

Not applicable



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

Not applicable



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

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. The "other" assets may consist in:

- cash and cash equivalent investments, and
- other instruments eligible to the Financial Product and that do not meet the Environmental and/or Social criteria described in this appendix. Such assets may be transferable securities, derivatives investments and investment collective schemes that do not promote environmental or social characteristics and that are used to attain the financial objective of the Financial Product and / or for diversification and / or hedging purposes.

Environmental or social safeguards are applied and assessed on all "other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.



**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

Not applicable as the designated Benchmark is a broad market index which is not aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product.



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

More information can be found on the AXA IM fund centre following that link: [Funds - AXA IM Global](#).

More details on AXA IM sustainable investment frameworks are available on [Sustainable Finance](#) | [SFDR](#) | [AXA IM Corporate](#).

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name:** AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies - Euro **Legal entity identifier:** 213800AAVWIL66BDU594  
Credit Opportunities Target 2028 (The "Financial Product")

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

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



☐ YES



☒ NO

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

☒ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 10% of sustainable investments

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

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

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

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

☒ with a social objective

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

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



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

The environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product consist of investing in:

- issuers considering the **ESG score** further described below.

The Financial Product promotes environmental and/or social characteristics by investing in securities that have implemented good practices in terms of managing their environmental, governance and social ("ESG") practices.

The Financial Product also promotes other specific environmental and social characteristics, mainly:

- Preservation of climate with exclusion policies on coal and unconventional oil & gas activities
- Protection of ecosystem and prevention of deforestation
- Better health with exclusion on tobacco

- Labour rights, society and human rights, business ethics, anti-corruption with exclusion on companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Conventions or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
- Protection of human rights avoiding investing in debt instruments issued by countries where the worst forms of human right violations are observed

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

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

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

The attainment of the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product and described above is measured with the following sustainability indicator:

- The weighted average ESG Score of the Financial Product is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs, assessing key issues across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM ESG analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

### ● ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

The Financial Product intends to invest in instruments qualifying as sustainable investments by assessing the positive contribution of investee companies through at least one of the following dimensions:

**1. UN Sustainable Development Goals alignment (SDG)** of investee companies as reference framework, considering companies which contribute positively to at least one SDG either through the Products and Services they offer or the way they carry their activities ("Operations"). To be considered as a sustainable asset, a company must satisfy the following criteria:

- a. the SDG scoring related to the "products and services" offered by the issuer is equal or above 2, corresponding to at least 20% of their revenues being derived from a sustainable activity, or
- b. using a best in universe approach consisting of giving priority to the issuers best rated from a non-financial viewpoint irrespective of their sector of activity, the SDG scoring of the issuer's operations is on the better top 2.5%, except in consideration to the SDG-5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption) and SDG 16 (peace & justice), for which the SDG scoring of the issuer's Operation is on the better top 5%. For SDG 5, 8, 10 and 16 the selectivity criteria on issuer's "Operations" is less restrictive as such SDGs are better addressed considering the way the issuer carries their activities than the Products and Services offered by the investee company. It is also less restrictive for SDG 12 which can be addressed through the Products & Services or the way the investee company carries their activities.

The quantitative SDG results are sourced from external data providers and can be overridden by a duly supported qualitative analysis performed by the Investment Manager.

The assessment is done at entity level and an investee company that satisfies the contribution to UN SDG criteria outlined above is considered as sustainable.

**2. Integration of issuers engaged in a solid Transition Pathway** consistently with the European Commission's ambition to help fund the transition to a 1.5°C world - based on the framework developed by the Science Based Targets Initiative, considering companies which have validated Science-Based targets.

### **3. Investments in Green, Social or Sustainability Bonds (GSSB), Sustainability Linked Bonds:**

- a. GSSB are instruments which aim to contribute to various sustainable objectives by nature. As such, investments in bonds issued by corporates and sovereigns that have been identified as green bonds, social bonds or sustainability bonds in Bloomberg data base are considered as "sustainable investments" under AXA IM's SFDR framework.
- b. With regards to Sustainability Linked Bonds, an internal framework was developed to assess the robustness of those bonds that are used to finance general sustainable purpose. As these instruments are newer leading to heterogeneous practices from issuers, only Sustainability Linked Bonds that get a positive or neutral opinion from AXA IM's internal analysis process are considered as "sustainable investments". This analysis framework draws on the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) guidelines with a stringent proprietary approach based on the following defined criteria: (i) issuer's sustainability strategy and key performance indicators relevance and materiality, (ii) Sustainability performance target's ambition, (iii) bond characteristics and (iv) sustainability performance target's monitoring & reporting.

Investments in Green, Social or Sustainability Bonds (GSSB), Sustainability Linked Bonds comply with AXA IM GSS Bond Framework. We have designed our framework to be compliant with Green Bonds Principles and Social Bond Principles, adding more stringent criteria on some aspects.

Those methodologies may evolve in the future to take into account any improvements for example in data availability and reliability, or any developments of, but not limited to, regulations or other external frameworks or initiatives.

The Financial Product is not taking into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives.

### ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti- corruption and anti- bribery matters.

The application of the Do No Significant Harm Principle for the sustainable investments the Financial Product partially intends to make means that an investee company cannot qualify as sustainable if it meets any of the criteria listed below:

- The issuer causes harm along any of the SDGs when one of its SDG scores is below –5 based on a quantitative database from an external provider on a scale ranging from +10 corresponding to "significantly contributing" to -10 corresponding to "significantly obstructing", unless the quantitative score has been qualitatively overridden. This criterion is applied on the investee companies that are considered as sustainable.
- The issuer is in AXA IM's sectorial and ESG standards ban lists (as described below), which consider among other factors the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This criterion is applied on the entire portfolio.
- The issuer has a CCC (or 1.43) or lower ESG rating according to AXA IM ESG scoring methodology. The ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body. This criterion is applied on the entire portfolio.

Indicators for principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered, including through the application of AXA IM's exclusion and stewardship policies.

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

The Financial Product takes into consideration Principal Adverse Impacts ("PAIs") indicators to ensure that the sustainable investments are not harming significantly any other sustainability objectives under SFDR.

Principal adverse impacts are mitigated through sectorial exclusion policies and AXA IM ESG standards (as described below) that are applied bindingly at all times by the Financial Product, as well as through the filters based on UN Sustainable Development Goals scoring. No specific threshold or comparison with reference value have been defined within the DNSH approach.

Where relevant, Stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through the engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors.

Voting at general meetings is also an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invests and mitigate adverse impacts.

#### **Exclusion Policies:**

##### **- Environmental:**

Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
Climate Risk policy Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2, & 3 starting 01/2023)
	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies
Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to Companies active in the fossil fuel sector
Climate Risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production

Climate risk policy (considering an expected correlation between GHG emissions and energy consumption) <sup>17</sup>	PAI 6: Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: Activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive areas

- **Social and Governance :**

Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards (considering an expected correlation between companies non-compliant with international norms and standards and the lack of implementation by companies of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with those standards) <sup>18</sup>	PAI 11: Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
Voting and Engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board Gender diversity
Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

**Filter based on UN SDGs:**

The Investment Manager also relies on the SDG pillar of its sustainable investment framework to monitor and take into account adverse impacts on those sustainability factors by excluding investee companies which have a SDG score under – 5 on any SDG (on a scale from + 10 corresponding to ‘significant contributing impact’ to – 10 corresponding to ‘significant obstructing impact’), unless the quantitative score has been qualitatively overridden following a duly documented analysis by the Investment Manager’s Core ESG & Impact Research. This approach enables AXA IM to ensure investee companies with the worst adverse impacts on any SDG are not considered as sustainable investments.

Data availability and quality is lower for the time being on certain sustainability factors related to biodiversity as an example, which may impact the coverage for the following PAI indicators: emissions to water (PAI 8), hazardous and radioactive waste ratio (PAI 9) and unadjusted gender pay gap (PAI 12). Those sustainability factors are part of the 17 objectives targeted by the United Nations SDGs (more specifically they are covered through SDG 5 “Gender equality”, SDGs 6 “Clean water and sanitation”, SDG 8 “Economic growth”, SDG 10 “Reduced inequalities”, SDG 12 “Responsible production and consumption” and SDG 14 “Life below water”) and AXA IM’s framework there enables to mitigate the worst impacts pending the increase on data availability and quality.

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

The Financial Product does not invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labour and Environment and as such, provide a methodology to help assess the good governance practices of an issuer, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. AXA IM relies on an external provider’s screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as “non-compliant” to UN’s Global Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation’s (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

<sup>17</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively. Not all high impact climate sectors are targeted by the exclusion policy for the time being.

<sup>18</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively.



The EU Taxonomy sets out a “do not significant harm” principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.

The “do no significant harm” principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.



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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Principal adverse impacts are considered with both (i) qualitative and (ii) quantitative approaches:

(i) Qualitative approach to consider principal adverse impact is based on exclusion and, where relevant, stewardship policies. Exclusion applied as part of the application of AXA IM Sectorial policies and AXA IM ESG standards cover the most material sustainability factors' risks and are applied bindingly on a continuous basis.

Where relevant, stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through its engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors.

Voting at general meetings is an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invests and mitigates adverse impacts.

Through those exclusion and stewardship policies the Financial Product takes into consideration potential negative impact on those specific PAI indicators:

For Corporates:

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
<b>Climate and other environment related indicators</b>	Climate Risk policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2 & 3 starting 01/2023)
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
	Climate Risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
	Climate risk policy (considering an expected correlation between GHG emissions and energy consumption) <sup>19</sup>	PAI 6: Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive area
<b>Social and employee</b>	ESG standard policy / violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violation of UN global compact principles & OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

<sup>19</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively. Not all high impact climate sectors are targeted by the exclusion policy for the time being.

respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti bribery matters	ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards (considering an expected correlation between companies non-compliant with international norms and standards and the lack of implementation by companies of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with those standards) <sup>20</sup>	PAI 11: Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
	Voting and Engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board Gender diversity
	Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

For Sovereigns and Supranationals :

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
Social	AXA IM ESG standards with the exclusion of investee countries with severe social violations	PAI 16: Sovereign Investee countries subject to social violations
	AXA IM Compliance black-list based on international and EU sanctions	

(ii) Principal adverse impacts are also considered quantitatively through the PAI indicators' measurement and reported annually in the SFDR annex in the periodic reporting. The objective is to provide transparency to investors on significant negative impact on other sustainability factors. AXA IM measures all the mandatory PAI indicators, plus additional optional environmental indicator and additional optional social indicator.

## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The Investment Manager selects investments by applying an extra-financial approach based on the exclusion filters as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies. Those sectorial exclusions cover areas such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities and Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation and Tobacco. The ESG Standards encompass specific exclusions on white phosphorus weapons and exclude investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to adaptation) . Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: <https://www.axa-im.com/our-policies-and-reports> Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate ([axa-im.com](https://www.axa-im.com)).

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

The Financial Product bindingly applies at all times the following elements described below.

1. The Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times its Sectorial Exclusion Policies and ESG Standards Policy as a first exclusion filter.

The Sectorial Exclusions Policies exclude companies linked to Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities (based on food and basic agricultural or the marine commodities), unsustainable practices relating to Ecosystem Protection and Deforestation and Tobacco.

The ESG Standards Policy (the "ESG Standards") encompass specific exclusions such as white phosphorus weapons and exclude investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to adaptation). Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on

<sup>20</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively.

those policies are available under the following link: [https://www.axa-im.com/our-policies-and-reportsPolicies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\).](https://www.axa-im.com/our-policies-and-reportsPolicies and reports | AXA IM Corporate (axa-im.com).)

AXA IM has implemented scoring methodologies to rate issuers (corporates, sovereigns, green, social and sustainability bonds) on ESG criteria. These methodologies allow to rate corporates and sovereign issuers and are based on quantitative data from several data providers as well as on qualitative analysis from internal and external research. The data used in these methodologies include carbon emissions, water stress, health and safety at work, supply chain labour standards, business ethics, corruption and instability.

The corporate and sovereign scoring methodologies rely on three pillars and several sub-factors that cover the most material risk factors encountered by issuers in the E, S and G fields. The frame of reference draws on fundamental principles, such as United Nations Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines, the International Labour Organisation conventions, and other international principles and conventions that guide companies and governments activities in the field of sustainable development and social responsibility. The analysis is based on the most material ESG risks and opportunities previously identified for each sector and company, with 10 factors: Climate Change, Natural Capital, Pollution and Waste, Environmental Opportunities, Human Capital, Product Liability, Stakeholder Opposition, Social Opportunities, Corporate Governance and Corporate Behaviour. The final ESG score also incorporates the concept of industry dependent factors and deliberately differentiates between sectors, to overweight the most material factors for each industry. Materiality is not limited to impacts relating to a company's operations, it also includes the impacts on external stakeholders as well as the underlying reputational risk arising from a poor grasp of major ESG issues. In the corporate methodology, the severity of controversies is assessed and monitored on an ongoing basis to make sure that the most material risks are reflected in the final ESG score. The controversies with high severity will trigger large penalties on the sub-factor scores and ultimately on the ESG scores.

These ESG scores provide a standardized and holistic view on the performance of issuers on ESG factors and enable to both promote Environmental and/or Social characteristics of the Financial Product.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered.

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

The Financial Product does not invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labour and Environment and as such, provide a methodology to help assess the good governance practices of an issuer, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. AXA IM relies on an external provider's screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as "non-compliant" to UN's Global Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

In addition, ensuring good governance practices is also addressed by the engagement policies. AXA IM implemented a comprehensive active ownership strategy – engagement and voting – where AXA IM acts as stewards of investments made on the clients' behalf. AXA IM views engagement as a means for investors to influence, shape and shift investee company policies and practices to mitigate risks and secure long-term value. Governance practices of companies are engaged at first level by the portfolio managers and dedicated ESG analysts when meeting companies' management team. It is through the long-term investor status and in-depth knowledge of the investment targets that AXA IM feels legitimate to engage in a constructive but demanding dialogue with them.

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

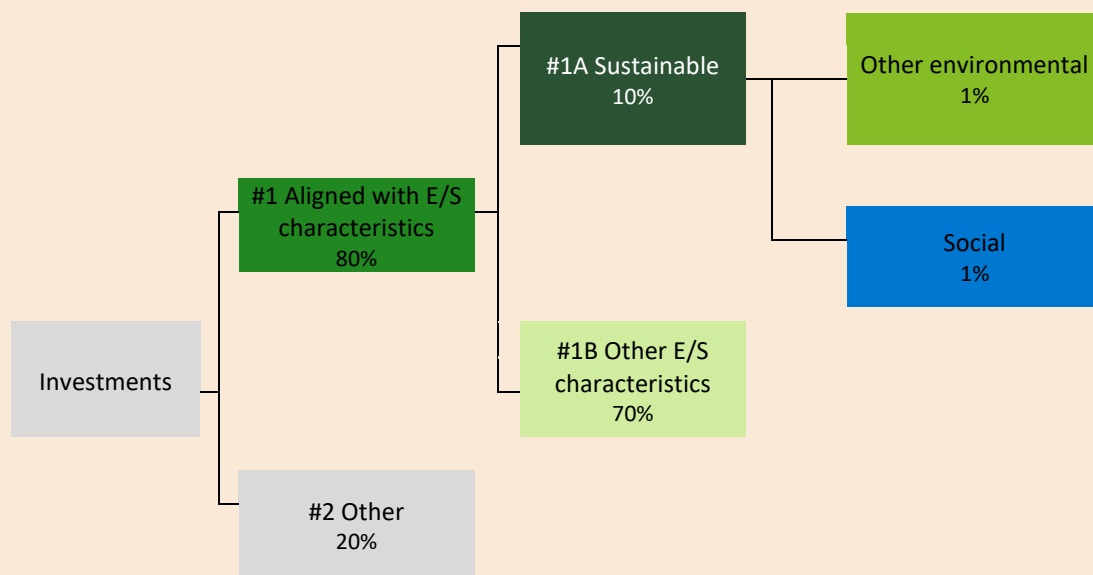


## What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

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

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

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



**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

The Financial Product aims to plan its assets' allocation as presented in the graph above. This planned asset allocation might deviate on a temporary basis.

The planned minimum proportion of the investments of the Financial Product used to meet the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product is 80% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The planned minimum proportion of sustainable investments of the Financial Product where that Financial Products commits to making sustainable investments is 10% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. Remaining "Other" investments are used for hedging, liquidity and portfolio management of the Financial Product. Minimum environmental or social safeguards based on AXA IM exclusion policies are assessed and applied on all "Other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.

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

Not applicable.



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

The Financial Product does not take into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives. The Financial Product is not considering the "do not significantly harm" criteria of the EU Taxonomy.

- **Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>21</sup> ?**

☐ Yes

☐ In fossil gas

☐ In nuclear energy

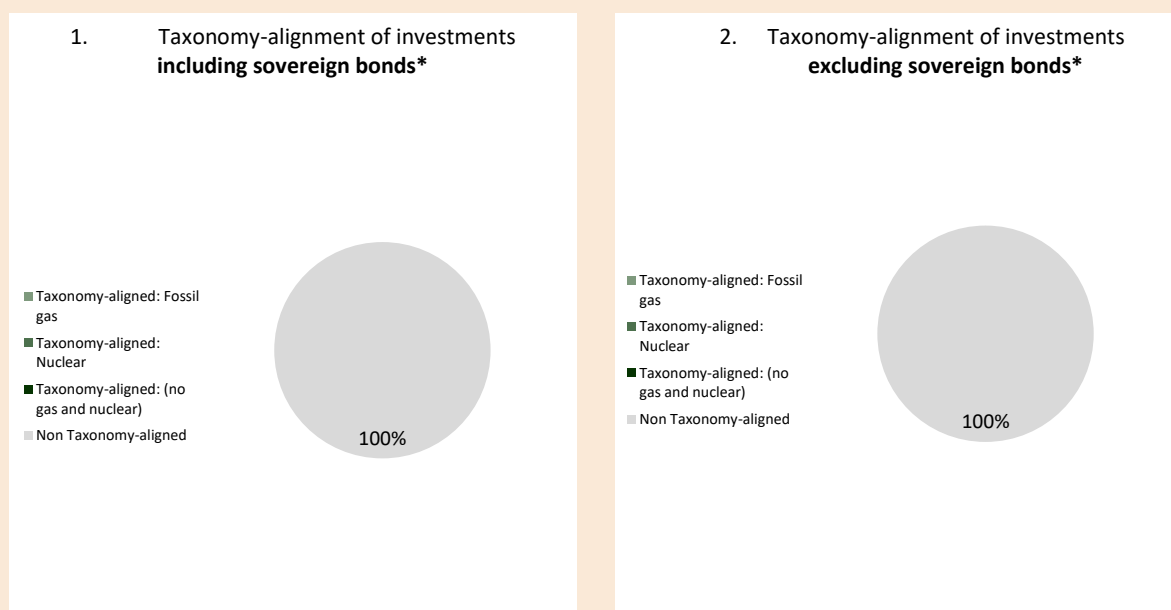
☒ No

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

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

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

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



This graph represents 100% of the total investments\*\*

\* For the purpose of these graphs, "sovereign bonds" consist of all sovereign exposures.

\*\* The proportion of total investments shown in this graph is purely indicative and may vary.

<sup>21</sup> Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objectives -see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

● **What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?**

Not applicable.

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



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

The minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy is 1% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The proportion of investments between environmental sustainable assets not aligned with EU Taxonomy and social sustainable assets is freely allocated and adds up to at least the total sustainable investments.



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

The minimum share of sustainable investments with social objectives is 1% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The proportion of investments between environmental sustainable assets not aligned with EU Taxonomy and social sustainable assets is freely allocated and adds up to at least the total sustainable investments.



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

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. The "other" assets may consist in:

- cash and cash equivalent investments, and
- other instruments eligible to the Financial Product and that do not meet the Environmental and/or Social criteria described in this appendix. Such assets may be transferable securities, derivatives investments and investment collective schemes that do not promote environmental or social characteristics and that are used to attain the financial objective of the Financial Product and / or for diversification and / or hedging purposes.

Environmental or social safeguards are applied and assessed on all "other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.



**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

Not applicable as there is no specific index designated as an ESG reference benchmark.



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

More information can be found on the AXA IM fund centre following that link: <https://funds.axa-im.lu/fund-centre>**Funds - AXA IM Global.**

More details on AXA IM sustainable investment frameworks are available on <https://www.axa-im.com/important-information/sfdr>**Sustainable Finance | SFDR | AXA IM Corporate.**

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Sustainable investment** means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

**Product name:** AXA IM FIIS Euro Credit Opportunities 2029 (The “Financial Product”)      **Legal entity identifier:** 213800H26NBIT4HNU513

## Environmental and/or social characteristics

☒ YES

☒ NO

☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective: 0%**

☒ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 10% of sustainable investments

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

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

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

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

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

☒ with a social objective

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



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

The environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product consist of investing in:

- issuers considering the **ESG score** further described below.

The Financial Product promotes environmental and/or social characteristics by investing in securities that have implemented good practices in terms of managing their environmental, governance and social ("ESG") practices.

The Financial Product also promotes other specific environmental and social characteristics, mainly:

- Preservation of climate with exclusion policies on coal and unconventional oil & gas activities
- Protection of ecosystem and prevention of deforestation
- Better health with exclusion on tobacco
- Labour rights, society and human rights, business ethics, anti-corruption with exclusion on companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Conventions or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises



- Protection of human rights avoiding investing in debt instruments issued by countries where the worst forms of human right violations are observed

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

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

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

The attainment of the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product and described above is measured with the following sustainability indicator:

- The weighted average ESG Score of the Financial Product is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs, assessing key issues across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM ESG analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

### ● ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

The Financial Product intends to invest in instruments qualifying as sustainable investments by assessing the positive contribution of investee companies through at least one of the following dimensions:

**1. UN Sustainable Development Goals alignment (SDG)** of investee companies as reference framework, considering companies which contribute positively to at least one SDG either through the Products and Services they offer or the way they carry their activities ("Operations"). To be considered as a sustainable asset, a company must satisfy the following criteria:

a. the SDG scoring related to the "products and services" offered by the issuer is equal or above 2, corresponding to at least 20% of their revenues being derived from a sustainable activity, or

b. using a best in universe approach consisting of giving priority to the issuers best rated from a non-financial viewpoint irrespective of their sector of activity, the SDG scoring of the issuer's operations is on the better top 2.5%, except in consideration to the SDG-5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption) and SDG 16 (peace & justice), for which the SDG scoring of the issuer's Operation is on the better top 5%. For SDG 5, 8, 10 and 16 the selectivity criteria on issuer's "Operations" is less restrictive as such SDGs are better addressed considering the way the issuer carries their activities than the Products and Services offered by the investee company. It is also less restrictive for SDG 12 which can be addressed through the Products & Services or the way the investee company carries their activities.

The quantitative SDG results are sourced from external data providers and can be overridden by a duly supported qualitative analysis performed by the Investment Manager.

The assessment is done at entity level and an investee company that satisfies the contribution to UN SDG criteria outlined above is considered as sustainable.

**2. Integration of issuers engaged in a solid Transition Pathway** consistently with the European Commission's ambition to help fund the transition to a 1.5°C world - based on the framework developed by the Science Based Targets Initiative, considering companies which have validated Science-Based targets.

#### **3. Investments in Green, Social or Sustainability Bonds (GSSB), Sustainability Linked Bonds:**

a. GSSB are instruments which aim to contribute to various sustainable objectives by nature. As such, investments in bonds issued by corporates and sovereigns that have been identified as green bonds, social bonds or sustainability bonds in Bloomberg data base are considered as "sustainable investments" under AXA IM's SFDR framework.

b. With regards to Sustainability Linked Bonds, an internal framework was developed to assess the robustness of those bonds that are used to finance general sustainable purpose. As these instruments are newer leading to heterogeneous practices from issuers, only Sustainability Linked Bonds that get a positive or neutral opinion from AXA IM's internal analysis process are considered as "sustainable investments". This analysis framework draws on the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) guidelines with a stringent proprietary approach based on the following defined criteria: (i) issuer's sustainability strategy and key performance indicators relevance and materiality, (ii) Sustainability performance target's ambition, (iii) bond characteristics and (iv) sustainability performance target's monitoring & reporting.

Investments in Green, Social or Sustainability Bonds (GSSB), Sustainability Linked Bonds comply with AXA IM GSS Bond Framework. We have designed our framework to be compliant with Green Bonds Principles and Social Bond Principles, adding more stringent criteria on some aspects.

Those methodologies may evolve in the future to take into account any improvements for example in data availability and reliability, or any developments of, but not limited to, regulations or other external frameworks or initiatives.

The Financial Product is not taking into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives.



## How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti- corruption and anti- bribery matters.

The application of the Do No Significant Harm Principle for the sustainable investments the Financial Product partially intends to make means that an investee company cannot qualify as sustainable if it meets any of the criteria listed below:

- The issuer causes harm along any of the SDGs when one of its SDG scores is below –5 based on a quantitative database from an external provider on a scale ranging from +10 corresponding to "significantly contributing" to -10 corresponding to "significantly obstructing", unless the quantitative score has been qualitatively overridden. This criterion is applied on the investee companies that are considered as sustainable.
- The issuer is in AXA IM's sectorial and ESG standards ban lists (as described below), which consider among other factors the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This criterion is applied on the entire portfolio.
- The issuer has a CCC (or 1.43) or lower ESG rating according to AXA IM ESG scoring methodology. The ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body. This criterion is applied on the entire portfolio.

Indicators for principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered, including through the application of AXA IM's exclusion and stewardship policies.

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

The Financial Product takes into consideration Principal Adverse Impacts ("PAIs") indicators to ensure that the sustainable investments are not harming significantly any other sustainability objectives under SFDR.

Principal adverse impacts are mitigated through sectorial exclusion policies and AXA IM ESG standards (as described below) that are applied bindingly at all times by the Financial Product, as well as through the filters based on UN Sustainable Development Goals scoring. No specific threshold or comparison with reference value have been defined within the DNSH approach.

Where relevant, Stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through the engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors.

Voting at general meetings is also an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invests and mitigate adverse impacts.

### Exclusion Policies:

#### - Environmental:

Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
Climate Risk policy Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2, & 3 starting 01/2023)
	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies
Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to Companies active in the fossil fuel sector
Climate Risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
Climate risk policy (considering an expected correlation between GHG emissions and energy consumption) <sup>22</sup>	PAI 6: Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector

<sup>22</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively. Not all high impact climate sectors are targeted by the exclusion policy for the time being.

Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: Activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive areas
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- **Social and Governance :**

Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards (considering an expected correlation between companies non-compliant with international norms and standards and the lack of implementation by companies of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with those standards) <sup>23</sup>	PAI 11: Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
Voting and Engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board Gender diversity
Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

**Filter based on UN SDGs:**

The Investment Manager also relies on the SDG pillar of its sustainable investment framework to monitor and take into account adverse impacts on those sustainability factors by excluding investee companies which have a SDG score under – 5 on any SDG (on a scale from + 10 corresponding to ‘significant contributing impact’ to – 10 corresponding to ‘significant obstructing impact’), unless the quantitative score has been qualitatively overridden following a duly documented analysis by the Investment Manager’s Core ESG & Impact Research. This approach enables AXA IM to ensure investee companies with the worst adverse impacts on any SDG are not considered as sustainable investments.

Data availability and quality is lower for the time being on certain sustainability factors related to biodiversity as an example, which may impact the coverage for the following PAI indicators: emissions to water (PAI 8), hazardous and radioactive waste ratio (PAI 9) and unadjusted gender pay gap (PAI 12). Those sustainability factors are part of the 17 objectives targeted by the United Nations SDGs (more specifically they are covered through SDG 5 “Gender equality”, SDGs 6 “Clean water and sanitation”, SDG 8 “Economic growth”, SDG 10 “Reduced inequalities”, SDG 12 “Responsible production and consumption” and SDG 14 “Life below water”) and AXA IM’s framework there enables to mitigate the worst impacts pending the increase on data availability and quality.

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

The Financial Product does not invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labour and Environment and as such, provide a methodology to help assess the good governance practices of an issuer, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. AXA IM relies on an external provider’s screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as “non-compliant” to UN’s Global Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation’s (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

The EU Taxonomy sets out a “do not significant harm” principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.

The “do no significant harm” principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.

<sup>23</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively.



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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Principal adverse impacts are considered with both (i) qualitative and (ii) quantitative approaches:

(i) Qualitative approach to consider principal adverse impact is based on exclusion and, where relevant, stewardship policies. Exclusion applied as part of the application of AXA IM Sectorial policies and AXA IM ESG standards cover the most material sustainability factors' risks and are applied bindingly on a continuous basis.

Where relevant, stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through its engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors.

Voting at general meetings is an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invests and mitigates adverse impacts.

Through those exclusion and stewardship policies the Financial Product takes into consideration potential negative impact on those specific PAI indicators:

For Corporates:

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
<b>Climate and other environment related indicators</b>	Climate Risk policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2 & 3 starting 01/2023)
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
	Climate Risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
	Climate risk policy (considering an expected correlation between GHG emissions and energy consumption) <sup>24</sup>	PAI 6: Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive area
<b>Social and employee respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti bribery matters</b>	ESG standard policy / violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violation of UN global compact principles & OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
	ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards (considering an expected correlation between companies non-compliant with international norms and standards and the lack of implementation by companies of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with those standards) <sup>25</sup>	PAI 11: Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises

<sup>24</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively. Not all high impact climate sectors are targeted by the exclusion policy for the time being.

<sup>25</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables AXA IM to use the PAI more effectively.

	Voting and Engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board Gender diversity
	Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

For Sovereigns and Supranationals :

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
Social	AXA IM ESG standards with the exclusion of investee countries with severe social violations	PAI 16: Sovereign Investee countries subject to social violations
	AXA IM Compliance black-list based on international and EU sanctions	

(ii) Principal adverse impacts are also considered quantitatively through the PAI indicators' measurement and reported annually in the SFDR annex in the periodic reporting. The objective is to provide transparency to investors on significant negative impact on other sustainability factors. AXA IM measures all the mandatory PAI indicators, plus additional optional environmental indicator and additional optional social indicator.

## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The Investment Manager selects investments by applying an extra-financial approach based on the exclusion filters as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies. Those sectorial exclusions cover areas such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities and Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation and Tobacco. The ESG Standards encompass specific exclusions on white phosphorus weapons and exclude investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to adaptation) . Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: <https://www.axa-im.com/our-policies-and-reports> Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate (axa-im.com).

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

The Financial Product bindingly applies at all times the following elements described below.

1. The Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times its Sectorial Exclusion Policies and ESG Standards Policy as a first exclusion filter.

The Sectorial Exclusions Policies exclude companies linked to Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities (based on food and basic agricultural or the marine commodities), unsustainable practices relating to Ecosystem Protection and Deforestation and Tobacco.

The ESG Standards Policy (the "ESG Standards") encompass specific exclusions such as white phosphorus weapons and exclude investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to adaptation). Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: <https://www.axa-im.com/our-policies-and-reports> Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate (axa-im.com).

AXA IM has implemented scoring methodologies to rate issuers (corporates, sovereigns, green, social and sustainability bonds) on ESG criteria. These methodologies allow to rate corporates and sovereign issuers and are based on quantitative data from several data providers as well as on qualitative analysis from internal and external research. The data used in these methodologies include carbon emissions, water stress, health and safety at work, supply chain labour standards, business ethics, corruption and instability.

The corporate and sovereign scoring methodologies rely on three pillars and several sub-factors that cover the most material risk factors encountered by issuers in the E, S and G fields. The frame of reference draws on fundamental principles, such as United Nations Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines, the International Labour Organisation conventions, and other

international principles and conventions that guide companies and governments activities in the field of sustainable development and social responsibility. The analysis is based on the most material ESG risks and opportunities previously identified for each sector and company, with 10 factors: Climate Change, Natural Capital, Pollution and Waste, Environmental Opportunities, Human Capital, Product Liability, Stakeholder Opposition, Social Opportunities, Corporate Governance and Corporate Behaviour. The final ESG score also incorporates the concept of industry dependent factors and deliberately differentiates between sectors, to overweight the most material factors for each industry. Materiality is not limited to impacts relating to a company's operations, it also includes the impacts on external stakeholders as well as the underlying reputational risk arising from a poor grasp of major ESG issues. In the corporate methodology, the severity of controversies is assessed and monitored on an ongoing basis to make sure that the most material risks are reflected in the final ESG score. The controversies with high severity will trigger large penalties on the sub-factor scores and ultimately on the ESG scores.

These ESG scores provide a standardized and holistic view on the performance of issuers on ESG factors and enable to both promote Environmental and/or Social characteristics of the Financial Product.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered.

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

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

The Financial Product does not invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labour and Environment and as such, provide a methodology to help assess the good governance practices of an issuer, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. AXA IM relies on an external provider's screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as "non-compliant" to UN's Global Compact Principles, International Labour Organisation's (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

In addition, ensuring good governance practices is also addressed by the engagement policies. AXA IM implemented a comprehensive active ownership strategy – engagement and voting – where AXA IM acts as stewards of investments made on the clients' behalf. AXA IM views engagement as a means for investors to influence, shape and shift investee company policies and practices to mitigate risks and secure long-term value. Governance practices of companies are engaged at first level by the portfolio managers and dedicated ESG analysts when meeting companies' management team. It is through the long-term investor status and in-depth knowledge of the investment targets that AXA IM feels legitimate to engage in a constructive but demanding dialogue with them.

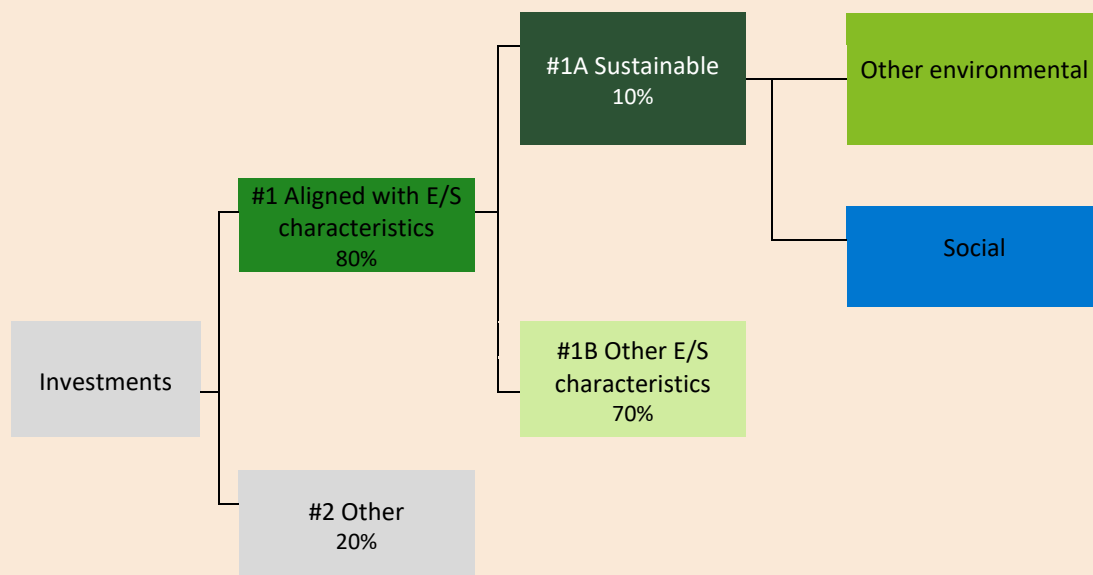


## What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?

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

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

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



**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.
- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

The Financial Product aims to plan its assets' allocation as presented in the graph above. This planned asset allocation might deviate on a temporary basis.

The planned minimum proportion of the investments of the Financial Product used to meet the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product is 80% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The planned minimum proportion of sustainable investments with an environmental and/or social objective of the Financial Product where that Financial Products commits to making sustainable investments with an environmental and/or social objective is 10% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. Remaining "Other" investments are used for hedging, liquidity and portfolio management of the Financial Product. Minimum environmental or social safeguards based on AXA IM exclusion policies are assessed and applied on all "Other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.

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

Not applicable.



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

The Financial Product does not take into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives. The Financial Product is not considering the "do not significantly harm" criteria of the EU Taxonomy.

- **Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy<sup>26</sup> ?**

☐ Yes

☐ In fossil gas

☐ In nuclear energy

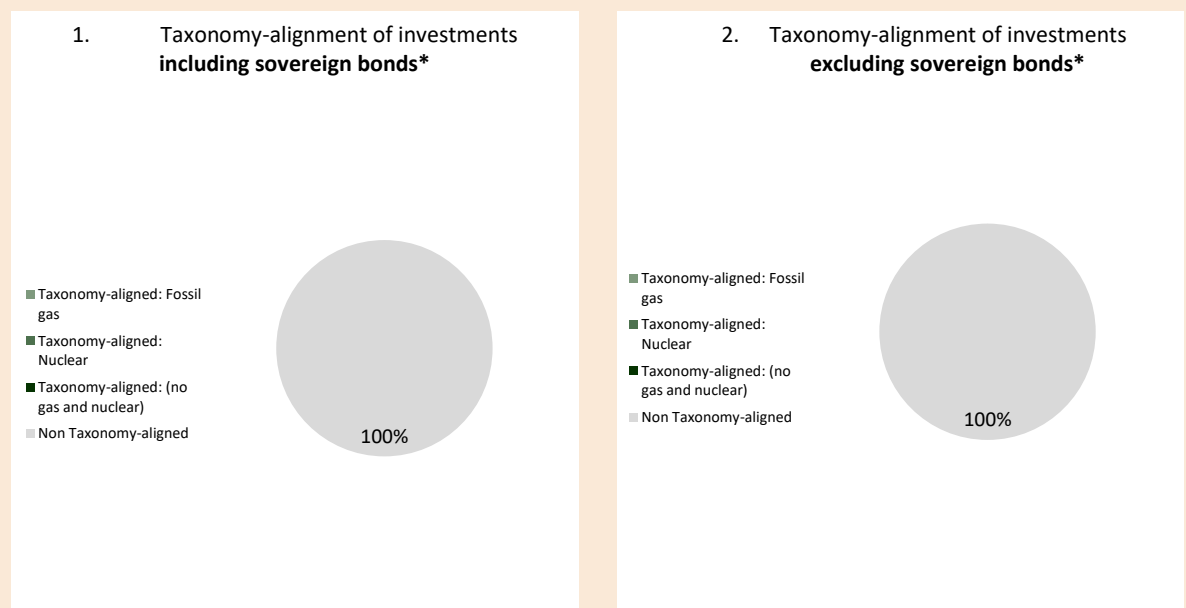
☒ No

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

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

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

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



This graph represents 100% of the total investments\*\*

\* For the purpose of these graphs, "sovereign bonds" consist of all sovereign exposures.

\*\* The proportion of total investments shown in this graph is purely indicative and may vary.

- **What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?**

Not applicable.

<sup>26</sup> Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objectives -see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2022/1214.

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



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

The Financial Product commits to invest at least 10% of its assets in sustainable investments.

Within this overall commitment, there is no minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy. This means that the proportion of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy will vary.



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

The Financial Product commits to invest at least 10% of its assets in sustainable investments.

Within this overall commitment, there is no minimum share of sustainable investments with specifically a social objective. This means that the proportion of sustainable investments with a social objective will vary.



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

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. The "other" assets may consist in:

- cash and cash equivalent investments, and
- other instruments eligible to the Financial Product and that do not meet the Environmental and/or Social criteria described in this appendix. Such assets may be transferable securities, derivatives investments and investment collective schemes that do not promote environmental or social characteristics and that are used to attain the financial objective of the Financial Product and / or for diversification and / or hedging purposes.

Environmental or social safeguards are applied and assessed on all "other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.



### **Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

Not applicable as there is no specific index designated as an ESG reference benchmark.



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

More information can be found on the AXA IM fund centre following that link: <https://funds.axa-im.lu/fund-centre> **Funds - AXA IM Global.**

More details on AXA IM sustainable investment frameworks are available on <https://www.axa-im.com/important-information/sfdr> **Sustainable Finance | SFDR | AXA IM Corporate.**



**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name:** AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies - US SHORT DURATION HIGH YIELD (the “Financial Product”)

**Legal entity identifier:**  
2138004B7WO5WYWQR680

## Environmental and / or social characteristics

<p><b>Sustainable investment</b> means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.</p> <p>The <b>EU Taxonomy</b> is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of <b>environmentally sustainable economic activities</b>. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.</p>	<p><b>Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?</b></p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="checkbox"/> YES         <span style="margin-left: 100px;"><input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO</span> </p>	
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with an environmental objective:</b> %</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with a social objective:</b> %</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> It <b>promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics</b> and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of __ % of sustainable investments</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> with a social objective</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It promotes E/S characteristics, but <b>will not make any sustainable investments</b></p>



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

The environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product consist of investing in companies considering the ESG score further described below.

The Financial Product also promotes other specific environmental and social characteristics, mainly:

- Preservation of climate with exclusion policies on coal and oil sand activities
- Protection of ecosystem and prevention of deforestation
- Better health with exclusion on tobacco
- Labor rights, society and human rights, business ethics, anti-corruption with exclusion on companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles, International Labor Organization's (ILO) Conventions or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

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

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

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

The attainment of the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product and described above is measured with the following sustainability indicator:

The weighted average ESG Score of the Financial Product and of a parallel comparison portfolio internally defined by the Investment Manager for ESG purposes as being that of the ICE BofA US High Yield index (the "Comparison Portfolio").

The ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

Not applicable as the Financial Product has no objective of sustainable investments.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

Not applicable as the Financial Product has no objective of sustainable investments.

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

Not applicable as the Financial Product has no objective of sustainable investments.

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

Not applicable as the Financial Product has no objective of sustainable investments.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a “do not significant harm” principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

*The “do no significant harm” principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.*

*Any other sustainable investment must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*



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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Principal adverse impacts are considered with both (i) qualitative and (ii) quantitative approaches:

(i) Qualitative approach to consider principal adverse impact is based on exclusion and, where relevant, stewardship policies. Exclusion policies as part of the AXA IM ESG standards cover the most material sustainability factors' risks and are applied bindingly on a continuous basis. Where relevant, stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through its engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors. Voting at general meetings is an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invest and mitigate adverse impacts.

Through those exclusion and stewardship policies the Financial Product takes into consideration potential negative impact on those specific PAI indicators:

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
<b>Climate and other environment related indicators</b>	Climate Risk policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2 & 3 starting 01/2023)
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
	Climate risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive area
<b>Social and employee respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti bribery matters</b>	ESG standard policy / violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violation of UN global compact principles & OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
	Voting and engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board gender diversity
	Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

(ii) Principal adverse impacts are also considered quantitatively through the PAI indicators' measurement and reported annually in the SFDR annex in the periodic reporting. The objective is to provide transparency to investors on significant negative impact on other sustainability factors. AXA

IM is measuring all the mandatory PAI indicators, additional optional environmental and social indicators.



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The Investment Manager selects investments by applying an extra-financial approach based on the exclusion filters as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies. Those sectorial exclusions cover areas such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities and Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation. The ESG Standards encompass specific sectorial exclusions such as tobacco and white phosphorus weapons and exclusion of investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to regular review and adaptation). Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: [Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](#).

In addition, the Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the Comparison Portfolio, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Comparison Portfolio being calculated on a weighted average basis. ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions that include the environmental and social characteristics described above and promoted by the Financial Product.

The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.

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

The Financial Product bindingly applies at all times the following elements described below.

1. The Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times a first exclusion filter, encompassing areas such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities and Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation. The Financial Product also applies the AXA IM's Environmental, Social and Governance standards policy ("ESG Standards") integrating the ESG Standards in the investment process by applying specific sectorial exclusions such as tobacco and white phosphorus weapons and by excluding investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to regular review and adaptation). Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: [Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](#).

2. In addition, the Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the Comparison Portfolio, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Comparison Portfolio being calculated on a weighted

average basis. ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions that include the environmental and social characteristics described above and promoted by the Financial Product. AXA IM ESG analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

AXA IM has implemented scoring methodologies to rate issuers (corporates, sovereigns, green, social and sustainability bonds) on ESG criteria. These methodologies allow to rate corporates and sovereign issuers and are based on quantitative data from several data providers as well as on qualitative analysis from internal and external research. The data used in these methodologies include carbon emissions, water stress, health and safety at work, supply chain labour standards, business ethics, corruption and instability.

The corporate and sovereign scoring methodologies rely on three pillars and several sub-factors that cover the most material risk factors encountered by issuers in the E, S and G fields. The frame of reference draws on fundamental principles, such as United Nations Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines, the International Labour Organisation conventions, and other international principles and conventions that guide companies and governments activities in the field of sustainable development and social responsibility. The analysis is based on the most material ESG risks and opportunities previously identified for each sector and company, with 10 factors: Climate Change, Natural Capital, Pollution and Waste, Environmental Opportunities, Human Capital, Product Liability, Stakeholder Opposition, Social Opportunities, Corporate Governance and Corporate Behavior. The final ESG score also incorporates the concept of industry dependent factors and deliberately differentiates between sectors, to overweight the most material factors for each industry. Materiality is not limited to impacts relating to a company's operations, it also includes the impacts on external stakeholders as well as the underlying reputational risk arising from a poor grasp of major ESG issues. In the corporate methodology, the severity of controversies is assessed and monitored on an ongoing basis to make sure that the most material risks are reflected in the final ESG score. The controversies with high severity will trigger large penalties on the sub-factor scores and ultimately on the ESG scores.

These ESG scores provide a standardized and holistic view on the performance of issuers on ESG factors and enable to both promote Environmental and/or Social characteristics of the Financial Product.

### 3. The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 75% of the net assets of the Financial Product.

The ESG data (of which ESG score or SDG score wherever relevant) used in the investment process are based on ESG methodologies which rely in part on third party data, and in some cases are internally developed. They are subjective and may change over time. Despite several initiatives, the lack of harmonised definitions can make ESG criteria heterogeneous. As such, the different investment strategies that use ESG criteria and ESG reporting are difficult to compare with each other. Strategies that incorporate ESG criteria and those that incorporate sustainable development criteria may use ESG data that appear similar but which should be distinguished because their calculation method may be different. AXA IM's ESG different methodologies described herein may evolve in the future to take into account any improvements in data availability and reliability, or any developments of regulations or other external frameworks or initiatives - among others.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered.

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

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

The Financial Product does not invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labor and Environment and as such, provide a methodology to help assess the good governance practices of an issuer, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. AXA IM relies on an external provider's screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as "non compliant" to UN's Global Compact Principles, International Labor Organization's (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

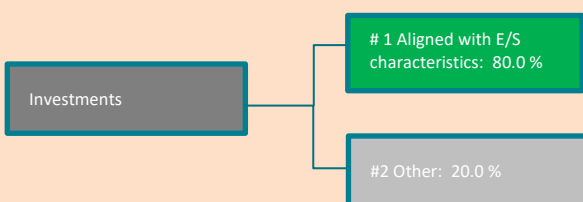
In addition, ensuring good governance practices is also addressed by the engagement policies. AXA IM implemented a comprehensive active ownership strategy – engagement and voting – where AXA IM acts as stewards of investments made on the clients' behalf. AXA IM views engagement as a means for investors to influence, shape and shift investee company policies and practices to mitigate risks and secure long-term value. Governance practices of companies are engaged at first level by the portfolio managers and dedicated ESG analysts when meeting companies' management team. It is through the long-term investor status and in-depth knowledge of the investment targets that AXA IM feels legitimate to engage in a constructive but demanding dialogue with them.



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

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

The Financial Product aims to plan its assets' allocation as presented in the graph below. This planned asset allocation might deviate on a temporary basis.



**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The planned minimum proportion of the investments of the Financial Product used to meet the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product is 80.0 % of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. Remaining "Other" investments are used for hedging, liquidity and portfolio management of the Financial Product. Minimum environmental or social safeguards based on AXA IM exclusion policies are assessed and applied on all "Other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.

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

Not applicable

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

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





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

The Financial Product is not taking into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives. The Financial Product is not considering the 'do not significant harm criteria' of the EU Taxonomy.

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



\* For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures

- **What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?**

Not applicable



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

Not applicable



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

Not applicable



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

The remaining “Other” investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. The “other” assets may consist in:

- cash and cash equivalent investments being bank deposit, eligible money market instruments and money market funds used for managing the liquidity of the Financial Product and
- other instruments eligible to the Financial Product and that do not meet the Environmental and/or Social criteria described in this appendix. Such assets may be debt instruments, derivatives investments and investment collective schemes that do not promote environmental or social characteristics and that are used to attain the financial objective of the Financial Product and/or for diversification and/or hedging purposes.

Environmental or social safeguards are applied and assessed on all “other” assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.



**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

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

Not applicable as the designated index composing the Comparison Portfolio is a broad market index which is not aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product.



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

More information can be found on the AXA IM fund center following that link: [Funds - AXA IM Global \(axa-im.com\)](https://axa-im.com)

More details on AXA IM sustainable investment frameworks are available on [Sustainable Finance | SFDR | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](https://axa-im.com)

**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name:** AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies - US CORPORATE INTERMEDIATE BONDS (the “Financial Product”)

**Legal entity identifier:** 213800BRVSRTTZ2NBI83

## Environmental and / or social characteristics

<p><b>Sustainable investment</b> means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.</p> <p>The <b>EU Taxonomy</b> is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of <b>environmentally sustainable economic activities</b>. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.</p>	<p><b>Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?</b></p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="checkbox"/> YES         <span style="margin-left: 200px;"> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO         </span> </p>	
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with an environmental objective:</b> %</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with a social objective:</b> %</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It <b>promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics</b> and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 10.0 % of sustainable investments</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with a social objective</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It promotes E/S characteristics, but <b>will not make any sustainable investments</b></p>



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

The environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product consist of investing in companies considering the ESG score further described below.

The Financial Product also promotes other specific environmental and social characteristics, mainly:

- Preservation of climate with exclusion policies on coal and oil sand activities
- Protection of ecosystem and prevention of deforestation
- Better health with exclusion on tobacco
- Labor rights, society and human rights, business ethics, anti-corruption with exclusion on companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles, International Labor Organization's (ILO) Conventions or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

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

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

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

The attainment of the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product and described above is measured with the following sustainability indicator:

The weighted average ESG Score of the Financial Product and of the Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate Intermediate benchmark index (the "Benchmark").

The ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

The Financial Product intends to partially invest in instruments qualifying as sustainable investments with various social and environmental objectives (without any limitation) by assessing the positive contribution of investee companies through at least one of the following dimensions:

1. **UN Sustainable Development Goals alignment (SDG)** of investee companies as reference framework, considering companies which contribute positively to at least one SDG either through the Products and Services they offer or the way they carry their activities ("Operations"). To be considered as a sustainable asset, a company must satisfy the following criteria:

- a. the SDG scoring related to the "products and services" offered by the issuer is equal or above 2, corresponding to at least 20% of their revenues being derived from a sustainable activity, or
- b. using a best in universe approach consisting of giving priority to the issuers best rated from a non-financial viewpoint irrespective of their sector of activity, the SDG scoring of the issuer's operations is on the better top 2.5%, except in consideration to the SDG-5 (gender equality), SDG 8

(decent work), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption) and SDG 16 (peace & justice), for which the SDG scoring of the issuer's Operation is on the better top 5%. For SDG 5, 8, 10 and 16 the selectivity criteria on issuer's "Operations" is less restrictive as such SDGs are better addressed considering the way the issuer carries their activities than the Products and Services offered by the investee company. It is also less restrictive for SDG 12 which can be addressed through the Products & Services or the way the investee company carries their activities.

The quantitative SDG results are sourced from external data providers and can be overridden by a duly supported qualitative analysis performed by the Investment Manager. The assessment is done at entity level and an investee company that satisfies the contribution to UN SDG criteria outlined above is considered as sustainable.

**2. Integration of issuers engaged in a solid Transition Pathway** consistently with the European Commission's ambition to help fund the transition to a 1.5°C world - based on the framework developed by the Science Based Targets Initiative, considering companies which have validated Science-Based targets.

**3. Investments in Green, Social or Sustainability Bonds (GSSB), Sustainability Linked Bonds:**

a. GSSB are instruments which aim to contribute to various sustainable objectives by nature. As such, investments in bonds issued by corporates and sovereigns that have been identified as green bonds, social bonds or sustainability bonds in Bloomberg data base are considered as "sustainable investments" under AXA IM's SFDR framework.

b. With regards to Sustainability Linked Bonds, an internal framework was developed to assess the robustness of those bonds that are used to finance general sustainable purpose. As these instruments are newer leading to heterogeneous practices from issuers, only Sustainability Linked Bonds that get a positive or neutral opinion from AXA IM's internal analysis process are considered as "sustainable investments". This analysis framework draws on the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) guidelines with a stringent proprietary approach based on the following defined criteria: (i) issuer's sustainability strategy and key performance indicators relevance and materiality, (ii) sustainability performance target's ambition, (iii) bond characteristics and (iv) sustainability performance target's monitoring & reporting.

Investments in Green, Social or Sustainability Bonds (GSSB), Sustainability Linked Bonds comply with AXA IM GSS Bond Framework. We have designed our framework to be compliant with Green Bonds Principles and Social Bond Principles, adding more stringent criteria on some aspects.

Those methodologies may evolve in the future to take into account any improvements for example in data availability and reliability, or any developments of, but not limited to, regulations or other external frameworks or initiatives.

The Financial Product is not taking into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

The application of the Do No Significant Harm Principle for the sustainable investments the Financial Product partially intends to make means that an investee company cannot qualify as sustainable if it meets any of the criteria listed below:

- The issuer causes harm along any of the SDGs when one of its SDG scores is below –5 based on a quantitative database from an external provider on a scale ranging from +10 corresponding to ‘significantly contributing’ to -10 corresponding to ‘significantly obstructing’, unless the quantitative score has been qualitatively overridden. This criterion is applied on the investee companies that are considered as sustainable.
- The issuer is in AXA IM’s sectorial and ESG standards ban lists (as described below), which consider among other factors the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This criterion is applied on the entire portfolio.
- The issuer has a CCC (or 1.43) or lower ESG rating according to AXA IM ESG scoring methodology. The ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body. This criterion is applied on the entire portfolio.

Indicators for principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered, including through the application of AXA IM’s exclusion and stewardship policies.

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

The Financial Product takes into consideration Principal Adverse Impacts (“PAIs”) indicators to ensure that the sustainable investments are not harming significantly any other sustainability objectives under SFDR.

Principal adverse impacts are mitigated through sectorial exclusion policies and AXA IM ESG standards (as described below) that are applied bindingly at all times by the Financial Product, as well as through the filters based on UN Sustainable Development Goals scoring. No specific threshold or comparison with reference value have been defined within the DNSH approach.

Where relevant, Stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through the engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors.

Voting at general meetings is also an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invests and mitigate adverse impacts.

#### **Exclusion Policies:**

- **Environment:**

Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
Climate Risk policy Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2, & 3 starting 01/2023)
	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies

Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to Companies active in the fossil fuel sector
Climate Risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
Climate risk policy (considering an expected correlation between GHG emissions and energy consumption) <sup>1</sup>	PAI 6: Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: Activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive areas

**- Social and Governance:**

Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
Voting and Engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board Gender diversity
ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards (considering an expected correlation between companies non-compliant with international norms and standards and the lack of implementation by companies of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with those standards) <sup>2</sup>	PAI 11: Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

**Filter based on UN SDGs:**

AXA IM also relies on the SDG pillar of its sustainable investment framework to monitor and take into account adverse impacts on those sustainability factors by excluding investee companies which have a SDG score under – 5 on any SDG (on a scale from + 10 corresponding to ‘significant contributing impact’ to – 10 corresponding to ‘significant obstructing impact’), unless the quantitative score has been qualitatively overridden following a duly documented analysis by AXA IM Core ESG & Impact Research. This approach enables us to ensure investee companies with the worst adverse impacts on any SDG are not considered as sustainable investments.

Data availability and quality is lower for the time being on certain sustainability factors related to biodiversity as an example, which may impact the coverage for the following PAI indicators: emissions to water (PAI 8), hazardous and radioactive waste ratio (PAI 9) and unadjusted gender pay gap (PAI 12). Those sustainability factors are part of the 17 objectives targeted by the United Nations SDGs (more specifically they are covered through SDG 5 “Gender equality”, SDGs 6 “Clean water and sanitation”, SDG 8 “Economic growth”, SDG 10 “Reduced inequalities”, SDG 12 “Responsible production and consumption” and SDG 14 “Life below water”) and AXA IM’s framework there enables to mitigate the worst impacts pending the increase on data availability and quality.

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

<sup>1</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables us to use the PAI more effectively. Not all high impact climate sectors are targeted by the exclusion policy for the time being.

<sup>2</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables us to use the PAI more effectively.

The Financial Product doesn't invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labor and Environment. AXA IM relies on an external provider's screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as "non compliant" to UN's Global Compact Principles, International Labor Organization's (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investment must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*





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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Principal adverse impacts are considered with both (i) qualitative and (ii) quantitative approaches:

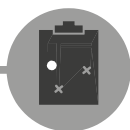
**(i)** Qualitative approach to consider principal adverse impact is based on exclusion and, where relevant, stewardship policies. Exclusion policies as part of the AXA IM ESG standards cover the most material sustainability factors' risks and are applied bindingly on a continuous basis. Where relevant, stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through its engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors. Voting at general meetings is an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invest and mitigate adverse impacts.

Through those exclusion and stewardship policies the Financial Product takes into consideration potential negative impact on those specific PAI indicators:

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
<b>Climate and other environment related indicators</b>	Climate Risk policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2 & 3 starting 01/2023)
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
	Climate risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive area
<b>Social and employee respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti bribery matters</b>	ESG standard policy / violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violation of UN global compact principles & OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
	Voting and engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board gender diversity
	Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

**(ii)** Principal adverse impacts are also considered quantitatively through the PAI indicators' measurement and reported annually in the SFDR annex in the periodic reporting. The objective is to provide transparency to investors on significant negative impact on other sustainability factors. AXA

IM is measuring all the mandatory PAI indicators, additional optional environmental and social indicators.



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The Investment Manager selects investments by applying an extra-financial approach based on the exclusion filters as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies. Those sectorial exclusions cover areas such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities and Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation. The ESG Standards encompass specific sectorial exclusions such as tobacco and white phosphorus weapons and exclusion of investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to regular review and adaptation). Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: [Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](#)

In addition, the Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the investment universe as defined by the Benchmark, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Benchmark being calculated on a weighted average basis. ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions that include the environmental and social characteristics described above and promoted by the Financial Product.

The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.

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

The Financial Product bindingly applies at all times the following elements described below.

1. The Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times a first exclusion filter, encompassing areas such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities and Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation. The Financial Product also applies the AXA IM's Environmental, Social and Governance standards policy ("ESG Standards") integrating the ESG Standards in the investment process by applying specific sectorial exclusions such as tobacco and white phosphorus weapons and by excluding investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to regular review and adaptation). Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: [Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](#)

2. In addition, the Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the investment universe as defined by the Benchmark, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Benchmark being calculated on a weighted average basis. ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions that include the environmental and social characteristics described above and promoted by the Financial Product. AXA IM ESG analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

AXA IM has implemented scoring methodologies to rate issuers (corporates, sovereigns, green, social and sustainability bonds) on ESG criteria. These methodologies allow to rate corporates and sovereign issuers and are based on quantitative data from several data providers as well as on qualitative analysis from internal and external research. The data used in these methodologies include carbon emissions, water stress, health and safety at work, supply chain labour standards, business ethics, corruption and instability.

The corporate and sovereign scoring methodologies rely on three pillars and several sub-factors that cover the most material risk factors encountered by issuers in the E, S and G fields. The frame of reference draws on fundamental principles, such as United Nations Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines, the International Labour Organisation conventions, and other international principles and conventions that guide companies and governments activities in the field of sustainable development and social responsibility. The analysis is based on the most material ESG risks and opportunities previously identified for each sector and company, with 10 factors: Climate Change, Natural Capital, Pollution and Waste, Environmental Opportunities, Human Capital, Product Liability, Stakeholder Opposition, Social Opportunities, Corporate Governance and Corporate Behavior. The final ESG score also incorporates the concept of industry dependent factors and deliberately differentiates between sectors, to overweight the most material factors for each industry. Materiality is not limited to impacts relating to a company's operations, it also includes the impacts on external stakeholders as well as the underlying reputational risk arising from a poor grasp of major ESG issues. In the corporate methodology, the severity of controversies is assessed and monitored on an ongoing basis to make sure that the most material risks are reflected in the final ESG score. The controversies with high severity will trigger large penalties on the sub-factor scores and ultimately on the ESG scores.

These ESG scores provide a standardized and holistic view on the performance of issuers on ESG factors and enable to both promote Environmental and/or Social characteristics of the Financial Product.

3. The ESG analysis coverage rate of the Financial Product net assets is at 90% minimum.

The ESG data (of which ESG score or SDG score wherever relevant) used in the investment process are based on ESG methodologies which rely in part on third party data, and in some cases are internally developed. They are subjective and may change over time. Despite several initiatives, the lack of harmonised definitions can make ESG criteria heterogeneous. As such, the different investment strategies that use ESG criteria and ESG reporting are difficult to compare with each other. Strategies that incorporate ESG criteria and those that incorporate sustainable development criteria may use ESG data that appear similar but which should be distinguished because their calculation method may be different. AXA IM's ESG different methodologies described herein may evolve in the future to take into account any improvements in data availability and reliability, or any developments of regulations or other external frameworks or initiatives - among others.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered.

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

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

The Financial Product does not invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labor and Environment and as such, provide a methodology to help assess the good governance practices of an issuer, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. AXA IM relies on an external provider's screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as "non compliant" to UN's Global Compact Principles, International Labor Organization's (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

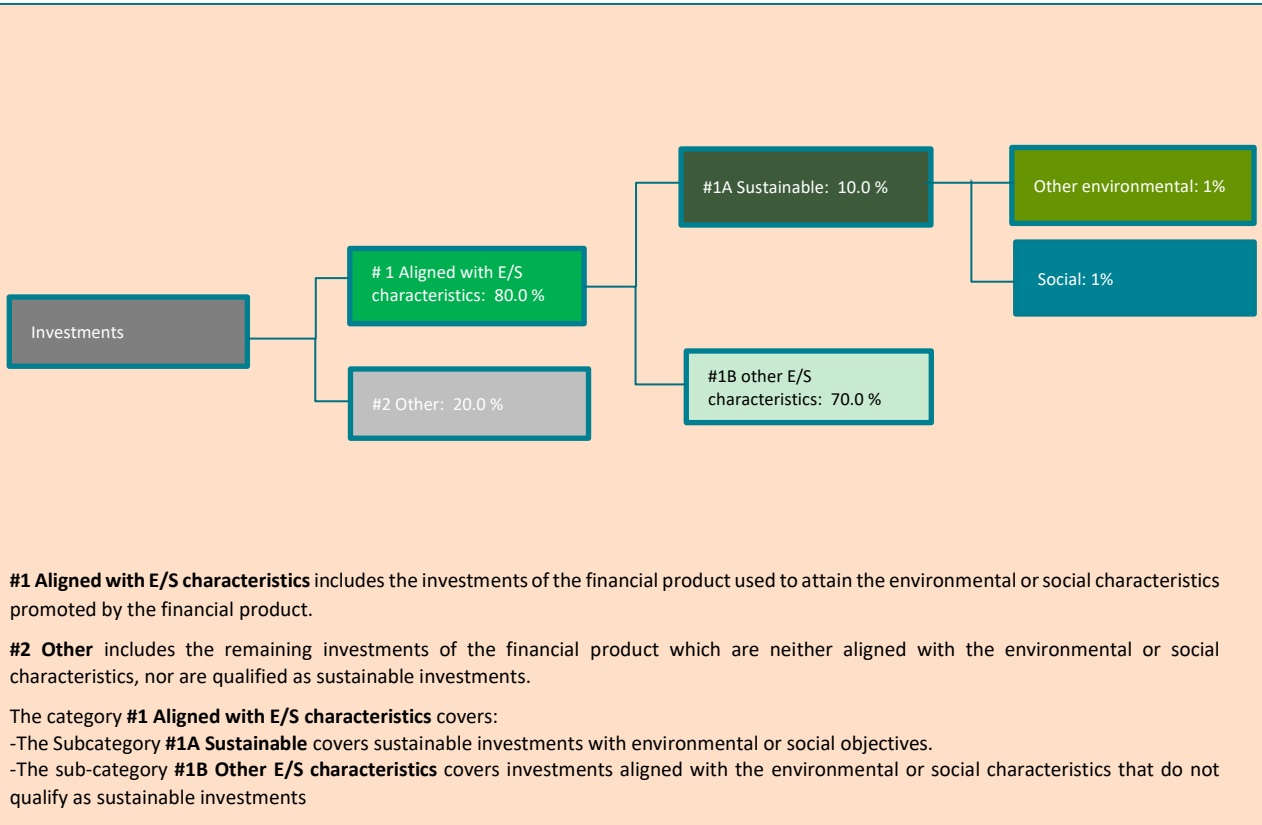
In addition, ensuring good governance practices is also addressed by the engagement policies. AXA IM implemented a comprehensive active ownership strategy – engagement and voting – where AXA IM acts as stewards of investments made on the clients' behalf. AXA IM views engagement as a means for investors to influence, shape and shift investee company policies and practices to mitigate risks and secure long-term value. Governance practices of companies are engaged at first level by the portfolio managers and dedicated ESG analysts when meeting companies' management team. It is through the long-term investor status and in-depth knowledge of the investment targets that AXA IM feels legitimate to engage in a constructive but demanding dialogue with them.



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

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

The Financial Product aims to plan its assets' allocation as presented in the graph below. This planned asset allocation might deviate on a temporary basis.



The planned minimum proportion of the investments of the Financial Product used to meet the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product is 80.0 % of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The planned minimum proportion of sustainable investments of the Financial Product where that Financial Product commits to making sustainable investments is 10.0 % of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. Remaining "Other" investments are used for hedging, liquidity and portfolio management of the Financial Product. Minimum environmental or social safeguards based on AXA IM exclusion policies are assessed and applied on all "Other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.

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

Single names derivatives used for investment purpose apply exclusion policies and thus contribute to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.



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

The Financial Product is not taking into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives. The Financial Product is not considering the 'do not significant harm criteria' of the EU Taxonomy.

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



\* For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures

### What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?

Not applicable



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

The minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy is 1.0 % of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. The proportion of investments between environmental sustainable assets not aligned with EU Taxonomy and social sustainable assets is freely allocated and adds up to at least the total sustainable investments.



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

The minimum share of sustainable investments with social objective is 1.0 % of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. The proportion of investments between environmental sustainable assets not aligned with EU Taxonomy and social sustainable assets is freely allocated and adds up to at least the total sustainable investments.



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

The remaining “Other” investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. The “other” assets may consist in:

- cash and cash equivalent investments being bank deposit, eligible money market instruments and money market funds used for managing the liquidity of the Financial Product and
- other instruments eligible to the Financial Product and that do not meet the Environmental and/or Social criteria described in this appendix. Such assets may be debt instruments, derivatives investments and investment collective schemes that do not promote environmental or social characteristics and that are used to attain the financial objective of the Financial Product and/or for diversification and/or hedging purposes.

Environmental or social safeguards are applied and assessed on all “other” assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.



## **Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

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

Not applicable as the designated Benchmark is a broad market index which is not aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product.



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

More information can be found on the AXA IM fund center following that link: [Funds - AXA IM Global \(axa-im.com\)](https://www.axa-im.com/funds)

More details on AXA IM sustainable investment frameworks are available on [Sustainable Finance | SFDR | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](https://www.axa-im.com/sustainable-finance)





**Pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name:** AXA IM Fixed Income Investment Strategies - EUROPE SHORT DURATION HIGH YIELD (the “Financial Product”)

**Legal entity identifier:** 213800FTL8OP544CLZ24

## Environmental and / or social characteristics

<p><b>Sustainable investment</b> means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.</p> <p>The <b>EU Taxonomy</b> is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of <b>environmentally sustainable economic activities</b>. That Regulation does not include a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.</p>	<p><b>Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?</b></p> <p> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="checkbox"/> YES         <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input checked="" type="radio"/> <input type="radio"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO</span> </p>	
	<p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with an environmental objective:</b> %</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It will make a minimum of <b>sustainable investments with a social objective:</b> %</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> It <b>promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics</b> and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will have a minimum proportion of 10.0 % of sustainable investments</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> with a social objective</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> It promotes E/S characteristics, but <b>will not make any sustainable investments</b></p>



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

The environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product consist of investing in companies considering the ESG score further described below.

The Financial Product also promotes other specific environmental and social characteristics, mainly:

- Preservation of climate with exclusion policies on coal and oil sand activities
- Protection of ecosystem and prevention of deforestation
- Better health with exclusion on tobacco
- Labor rights, society and human rights, business ethics, anti-corruption with exclusion on companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles, International Labor Organization's (ILO) Conventions or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises

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

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

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

The attainment of the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product and described above is measured with the following sustainability indicator:

The weighted average ESG Score of the Financial Product and of a parallel comparison portfolio internally defined by the Investment Manager for ESG purposes as being that of the ICE BofA European Currency High Yield index (the "Comparison Portfolio").

The ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

The Financial Product intends to partially invest in instruments qualifying as sustainable investments with various social and environmental objectives (without any limitation) by assessing the positive contribution of investee companies through at least one of the following dimensions:

1. **UN Sustainable Development Goals alignment (SDG)** of investee companies as reference framework, considering companies which contribute positively to at least one SDG either through the Products and Services they offer or the way they carry their activities ("Operations"). To be considered as a sustainable asset, a company must satisfy the following criteria:

a. the SDG scoring related to the "products and services" offered by the issuer is equal or above 2, corresponding to at least 20% of their revenues being derived from a sustainable activity, or

b. using a best in universe approach consisting of giving priority to the issuers best rated from a non-financial viewpoint irrespective of their sector of activity, the SDG scoring of the issuer's operations is on the better top 2.5%, except in consideration to the SDG-5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 12 (Responsible Production and Consumption) and SDG 16 (peace & justice), for which the SDG scoring of the issuer's Operation is on the better top 5%. For SDG 5, 8, 10 and 16 the selectivity criteria on issuer's "Operations" is less restrictive as such SDGs are better addressed considering the way the issuer carries their activities than the Products and Services offered by the investee company. It is also less restrictive for SDG 12 which can be addressed through the Products & Services or the way the investee company carries their activities.

The quantitative SDG results are sourced from external data providers and can be overridden by a duly supported qualitative analysis performed by the Investment Manager. The assessment is done at entity level and an investee company that satisfies the contribution to UN SDG criteria outlined above is considered as sustainable.

**2. Integration of issuers engaged in a solid Transition Pathway** consistently with the European Commission's ambition to help fund the transition to a 1.5°C world - based on the framework developed by the Science Based Targets Initiative, considering companies which have validated Science-Based targets.

**3. Investments in Green, Social or Sustainability Bonds (GSSB), Sustainability Linked Bonds:**

a. GSSB are instruments which aim to contribute to various sustainable objectives by nature. As such, investments in bonds issued by corporates and sovereigns that have been identified as green bonds, social bonds or sustainability bonds in Bloomberg data base are considered as "sustainable investments" under AXA IM's SFDR framework.

b. With regards to Sustainability Linked Bonds, an internal framework was developed to assess the robustness of those bonds that are used to finance general sustainable purpose. As these instruments are newer leading to heterogeneous practices from issuers, only Sustainability Linked Bonds that get a positive or neutral opinion from AXA IM's internal analysis process are considered as "sustainable investments". This analysis framework draws on the International Capital Market Association (ICMA) guidelines with a stringent proprietary approach based on the following defined criteria: (i) issuer's sustainability strategy and key performance indicators relevance and materiality, (ii) sustainability performance target's ambition, (iii) bond characteristics and (iv) sustainability performance target's monitoring & reporting.

Investments in Green, Social or Sustainability Bonds (GSSB), Sustainability Linked Bonds comply with AXA IM GSS Bond Framework. We have designed our framework to be compliant with Green Bonds Principles and Social Bond Principles, adding more stringent criteria on some aspects.

Those methodologies may evolve in the future to take into account any improvements for example in data availability and reliability, or any developments of, but not limited to, regulations or other external frameworks or initiatives.

The Financial Product is not taking into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives.

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

- ***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

The application of the Do No Significant Harm Principle for the sustainable investments the Financial Product partially intends to make means that an investee company cannot qualify as sustainable if it meets any of the criteria listed below:

- The issuer causes harm along any of the SDGs when one of its SDG scores is below –5 based on a quantitative database from an external provider on a scale ranging from +10 corresponding to ‘significantly contributing’ to -10 corresponding to ‘significantly obstructing’, unless the quantitative score has been qualitatively overridden. This criterion is applied on the investee companies that are considered as sustainable.
- The issuer is in AXA IM’s sectorial and ESG standards ban lists (as described below), which consider among other factors the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This criterion is applied on the entire portfolio.
- The issuer has a CCC (or 1.43) or lower ESG rating according to AXA IM ESG scoring methodology. The ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions. AXA IM analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body. This criterion is applied on the entire portfolio.

Indicators for principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors are considered, including through the application of AXA IM’s exclusion and stewardship policies.

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

The Financial Product takes into consideration Principal Adverse Impacts (“PAIs”) indicators to ensure that the sustainable investments are not harming significantly any other sustainability objectives under SFDR.

Principal adverse impacts are mitigated through sectorial exclusion policies and AXA IM ESG standards (as described below) that are applied bindingly at all times by the Financial Product, as well as through the filters based on UN Sustainable Development Goals scoring. No specific threshold or comparison with reference value have been defined within the DNSH approach.

Where relevant, Stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through the engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors.

Voting at general meetings is also an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invests and mitigate adverse impacts.

**Exclusion Policies:**

- **Environment:**

Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
Climate Risk policy Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2, & 3 starting 01/2023)
	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies

Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to Companies active in the fossil fuel sector
Climate Risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
Climate risk policy (considering an expected correlation between GHG emissions and energy consumption) <sup>1</sup>	PAI 6: Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector
Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: Activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive areas

**- Social and Governance:**

Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
Voting and Engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board Gender diversity
ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violations of UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
ESG standards policy: violation of international norms and standards (considering an expected correlation between companies non-compliant with international norms and standards and the lack of implementation by companies of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with those standards) <sup>2</sup>	PAI 11: Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles & OECD Guidelines for multinational enterprises
Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

**Filter based on UN SDGs:**

AXA IM also relies on the SDG pillar of its sustainable investment framework to monitor and take into account adverse impacts on those sustainability factors by excluding investee companies which have a SDG score under – 5 on any SDG (on a scale from + 10 corresponding to ‘significant contributing impact’ to – 10 corresponding to ‘significant obstructing impact’), unless the quantitative score has been qualitatively overridden following a duly documented analysis by AXA IM Core ESG & Impact Research. This approach enables us to ensure investee companies with the worst adverse impacts on any SDG are not considered as sustainable investments.

Data availability and quality is lower for the time being on certain sustainability factors related to biodiversity as an example, which may impact the coverage for the following PAI indicators: emissions to water (PAI 8), hazardous and radioactive waste ratio (PAI 9) and unadjusted gender pay gap (PAI 12). Those sustainability factors are part of the 17 objectives targeted by the United Nations SDGs (more specifically they are covered through SDG 5 “Gender equality”, SDGs 6 “Clean water and sanitation”, SDG 8 “Economic growth”, SDG 10 “Reduced inequalities”, SDG 12 “Responsible production and consumption” and SDG 14 “Life below water”) and AXA IM’s framework there enables to mitigate the worst impacts pending the increase on data availability and quality.

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

<sup>1</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables us to use the PAI more effectively. Not all high impact climate sectors are targeted by the exclusion policy for the time being.

<sup>2</sup> The approach used to mitigate the PAI indicators through this exclusion policy will evolve as the improvement in data availability and quality enables us to use the PAI more effectively.

The Financial Product does not invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labor and Environment. AXA IM relies on an external provider's screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as "non compliant" to UN's Global Compact Principles, International Labor Organization's (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investment must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*



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

☒ Yes

☐ No

Principal adverse impacts are considered with both (i) qualitative and (ii) quantitative approaches:

(i) Qualitative approach to consider principal adverse impact is based on exclusion and, where relevant, stewardship policies. Exclusion policies as part of the AXA IM ESG standards cover the most material sustainability factors' risks and are applied bindingly on a continuous basis. Where relevant, stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on principal adverse impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues. Through its engagement activities, the Financial Product will use its influence as an investor to encourage companies to mitigate environmental and social risks relevant to their sectors. Voting at general meetings is an important element of the dialogue with investee companies in order to foster sustainably long-term value of the companies in which the Financial Product invest and mitigate adverse impacts.

Through those exclusion and stewardship policies the Financial Product takes into consideration potential negative impact on those specific PAI indicators:

	Relevant AXA IM policies	PAI indicator
<b>Climate and other environment related indicators</b>	Climate Risk policy	PAI 1: Green House Gas (GHG) emissions (scope 1, 2 & 3 starting 01/2023)
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 2: Carbon Footprint
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 3: GHG intensity of investee companies
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	
	Climate Risk policy	PAI 4: Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
	Climate risk policy (engagement only)	PAI 5: Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production
	Ecosystem protection & Deforestation policy	PAI 7: activities negatively affecting biodiversity sensitive area
<b>Social and employee respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti bribery matters</b>	ESG standard policy / violation of international norms and standards	PAI 10: Violation of UN global compact principles & OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises
	Voting and engagement policy with systematic voting criteria linked with board gender diversity	PAI 13: Board gender diversity
	Controversial weapons policy	PAI 14: Exposure to controversial weapons

(ii) Principal adverse impacts are also considered quantitatively through the PAI indicators' measurement and reported annually in the SFDR annex in the periodic reporting. The objective is to provide transparency to investors on significant negative impact on other sustainability factors. AXA



IM is measuring all the mandatory PAI indicators, additional optional environmental and social indicators.



## What investment strategy does this financial product follow?

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

The Investment Manager selects investments by applying an extra-financial approach based on the exclusion filters as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies. Those sectorial exclusions cover areas such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities and Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation. The ESG Standards encompass specific sectorial exclusions such as tobacco and white phosphorus weapons and exclusion of investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to regular review and adaptation). Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: [Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](#)

In addition, the Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the Comparison Portfolio, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Comparison Portfolio being calculated on a weighted average basis. ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions that include the environmental and social characteristics described above and promoted by the Financial Product.

The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.

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

The Financial Product bindingly applies at all times the following elements described below.

1. The Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times a first exclusion filter, encompassing areas such as Controversial Weapons, Climate risks, Soft Commodities and Ecosystem Protection & Deforestation. The Financial Product also applies the AXA IM's Environmental, Social and Governance standards policy ("ESG Standards") integrating the ESG Standards in the investment process by applying specific sectorial exclusions such as tobacco and white phosphorus weapons and by excluding investments in securities issued by companies in violation of international norms and standards such as the United Nations Global Compact Principles or the OECD guidelines for Multinational Enterprises; as well as investments in companies which are involved in severe ESG-related incidents and investments in issuers with a Low ESG quality (which is, as of the date of this Prospectus, below 1.43 (on a scale of 0 to 10) – such number being subject to regular review and adaptation). Instruments issued by countries where serious specific categories of violations of Human Rights are observed are also banned. More details on those policies are available under the following link: [Policies and reports | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](#)

2. In addition, the Financial Product always outperforms the ESG score of the Comparison Portfolio, both ESG scores of the Financial Product and the Comparison Portfolio being calculated on a weighted average basis. ESG score is based on ESG scoring from external data provider as primary inputs assessing data points across Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) dimensions that include the environmental and social characteristics described above and promoted by the Financial Product. AXA IM ESG analysts can complement with a fundamental and documented ESG analysis in case of lack of coverage or disagreement on the ESG rating provided that it is approved by AXA IM dedicated internal governance body.

AXA IM has implemented scoring methodologies to rate issuers (corporates, sovereigns, green, social and sustainability bonds) on ESG criteria. These methodologies allow to rate corporates and sovereign issuers and are based on quantitative data from several data providers as well as on qualitative analysis from internal and external research. The data used in these methodologies include carbon emissions, water stress, health and safety at work, supply chain labour standards, business ethics, corruption and instability.

The corporate and sovereign scoring methodologies rely on three pillars and several sub-factors that cover the most material risk factors encountered by issuers in the E, S and G fields. The frame of reference draws on fundamental principles, such as United Nations Global Compact, the OECD Guidelines, the International Labour Organisation conventions, and other international principles and conventions that guide companies and governments activities in the field of sustainable development and social responsibility. The analysis is based on the most material ESG risks and opportunities previously identified for each sector and company, with 10 factors: Climate Change, Natural Capital, Pollution and Waste, Environmental Opportunities, Human Capital, Product Liability, Stakeholder Opposition, Social Opportunities, Corporate Governance and Corporate Behavior. The final ESG score also incorporates the concept of industry dependent factors and deliberately differentiates between sectors, to overweight the most material factors for each industry. Materiality is not limited to impacts relating to a company's operations, it also includes the impacts on external stakeholders as well as the underlying reputational risk arising from a poor grasp of major ESG issues. In the corporate methodology, the severity of controversies is assessed and monitored on an ongoing basis to make sure that the most material risks are reflected in the final ESG score. The controversies with high severity will trigger large penalties on the sub-factor scores and ultimately on the ESG scores.

These ESG scores provide a standardized and holistic view on the performance of issuers on ESG factors and enable to both promote Environmental and/or Social characteristics of the Financial Product.

3. The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 75% of the net assets of the Financial Product.

The ESG data (of which ESG score or SDG score wherever relevant) used in the investment process are based on ESG methodologies which rely in part on third party data, and in some cases are internally developed. They are subjective and may change over time. Despite several initiatives, the lack of harmonised definitions can make ESG criteria heterogeneous. As such, the different investment strategies that use ESG criteria and ESG reporting are difficult to compare with each other. Strategies that incorporate ESG criteria and those that incorporate sustainable development criteria may use ESG data that appear similar but which should be distinguished because their calculation method may be different. AXA IM's ESG different methodologies described herein may evolve in the future to take into account any improvements in data availability and reliability, or any developments of regulations or other external frameworks or initiatives - among others.

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

There is no committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered.

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

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

The Financial Product does not invest in companies which cause, contribute or are linked to violations of international norms and standards in a material manner. Those standards focus on Human Rights, Society, Labor and Environment and as such, provide a methodology to help assess the good governance practices of an issuer, in particular with respect to sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. AXA IM relies on an external provider's screening framework and excludes any companies that have been assessed as "non compliant" to UN's Global Compact Principles, International Labor Organization's (ILO) Conventions, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

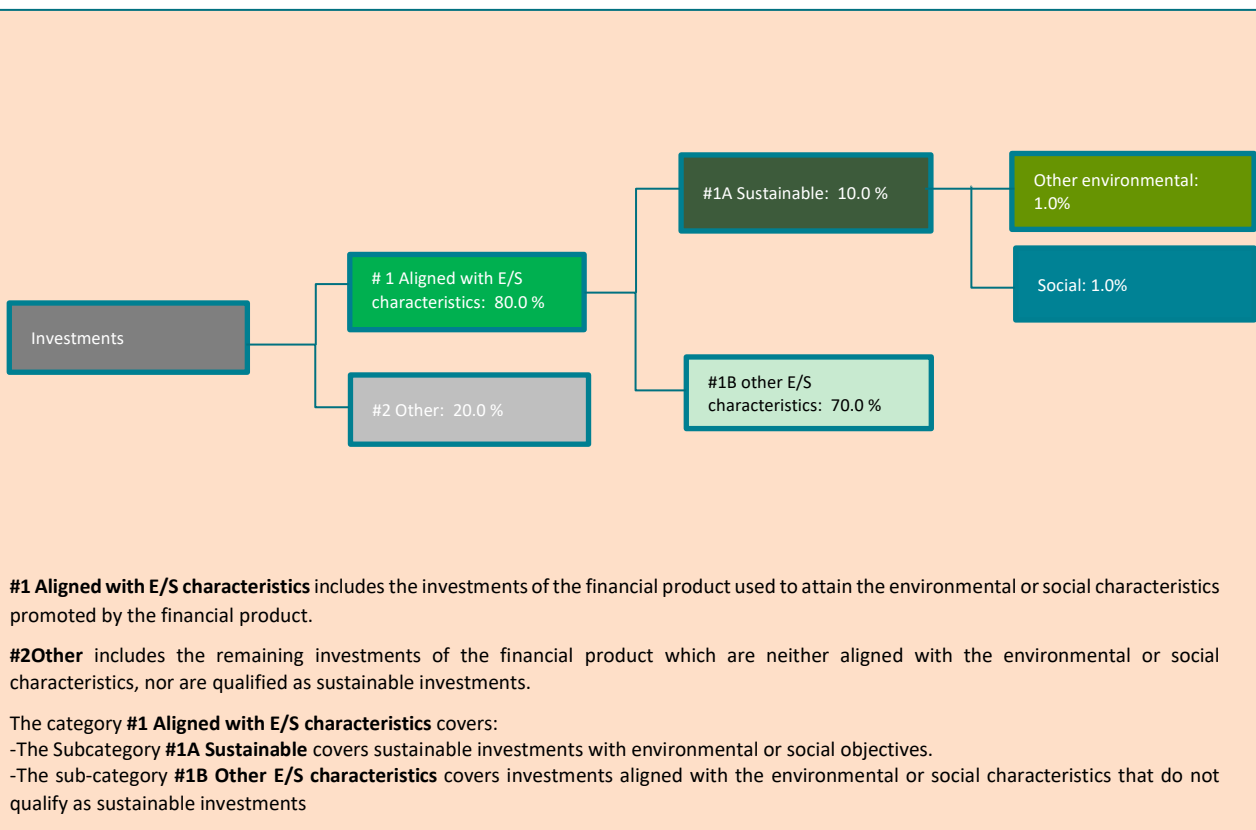
In addition, ensuring good governance practices is also addressed by the engagement policies. AXA IM implemented a comprehensive active ownership strategy – engagement and voting – where AXA IM acts as stewards of investments made on the clients' behalf. AXA IM views engagement as a means for investors to influence, shape and shift investee company policies and practices to mitigate risks and secure long-term value. Governance practices of companies are engaged at first level by the portfolio managers and dedicated ESG analysts when meeting companies' management team. It is through the long-term investor status and in-depth knowledge of the investment targets that AXA IM feels legitimate to engage in a constructive but demanding dialogue with them.



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

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

The Financial Product aims to plan its assets' allocation as presented in the graph below. This planned asset allocation might deviate on a temporary basis.



The planned minimum proportion of the investments of the Financial Product used to meet the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product is 80.0 % of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The planned minimum proportion of sustainable investments of the Financial Product where that Financial Product commits to making sustainable investments is 10.0 % of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The remaining "Other" investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. Remaining "Other" investments are used for hedging, liquidity and portfolio management of the Financial Product. Minimum environmental or social safeguards based on AXA IM exclusion policies are assessed and applied on all "Other" assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.

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

Not applicable



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

The Financial Product is not taking into consideration the criteria of the EU Taxonomy environmental objectives. The Financial Product is not considering the 'do not significant harm criteria' of the EU Taxonomy.

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



\* For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures

### What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?

Not applicable



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

The minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy is 1.0 % of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The proportion of investments between environmental sustainable assets not aligned with EU Taxonomy and social sustainable assets is freely allocated and adds up to at least the total sustainable investments.



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

The minimum share of sustainable investments with social objective is 1.0 % of the Financial Product Net Asset Value.

The proportion of investments between environmental sustainable assets not aligned with EU Taxonomy and social sustainable assets is freely allocated and adds up to at least the total sustainable investments.



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

The remaining “Other” investments will represent a maximum of 20% of the Financial Product Net Asset Value. The “other” assets may consist in:

- cash and cash equivalent investments being bank deposit, eligible money market instruments and money market funds used for managing the liquidity of the Financial Product and
- other instruments eligible to the Financial Product and that do not meet the Environmental and/or Social criteria described in this appendix. Such assets may be debt instruments, derivatives investments and investment collective schemes that do not promote environmental or social characteristics and that are used to attain the financial objective of the Financial Product and/or for diversification and/or hedging purposes.

Environmental or social safeguards are applied and assessed on all “other” assets except on (i) non single name derivatives, (ii) on UCITS and/or UCIs managed by other management company and (iii) on cash and cash equivalent investments described above.



## **Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

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

Not applicable as the designated index composing the Comparison Portfolio is a broad market index which is not aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Financial Product.



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

More information can be found on the AXA IM fund center following that link: [Funds - AXA IM Global \(axa-im.com\)](https://axa-im.com)

More details on AXA IM sustainable investment frameworks are available on [Sustainable Finance | SFDR | AXA IM Corporate \(axa-im.com\)](https://axa-im.com)