

## **Additional Information with regards to sustainability practices**

### **Schroder ISF Global Sustainable Convertible Bond (“The Fund”)**

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## **A. Statement of Purpose**

The Fund aims to provide capital growth by investing in convertible bonds issued by companies worldwide which meet the manager's sustainability criteria.

The fund invests at least two-thirds of its assets in a diversified range of convertible bonds issued by companies worldwide. The fund may also invest in equities of companies worldwide. As the fund is index-unconstrained it is managed without reference to an index. Convertible bonds are typically corporate bonds that can be converted into equities at a given price. The fund may invest in excess of 50% of its assets in bonds that have a below investment grade credit rating (as measured by Standard & Poor's or any equivalent grade of other credit rating agencies). The fund is managed with reference to material environmental, social and governance factors. This means issues such as climate change, environmental performance, labour standards or board composition that could impact a company's value may be considered in the assessment of companies. The fund may use derivatives with the aim of achieving investment gains, reducing risk or managing the fund more efficiently. The fund may also hold cash."

## B. Proprietary Tools

### 1. CONTEXT

Our flagship ESG research tool, provides a systematic framework for analysing a company's relationship with its stakeholders and the sustainability of its business model. Comprising over 260 metrics across over 13,000 companies, it is designed to support our investors' understanding of the sustainability of companies' business models and profitability, and provides structured, logical and wide-ranging data to support our analysts' views. This consistent structure makes information sharing easier and allows us to identify market wide trends and insights.

The tool is interactive and highly customisable, enabling analysts to select the most material ESG factors for each sector, weight their importance and apply relevant metrics. Analysts are then able to compare companies based on the metrics selected, their own company assessment scores or adjusted rankings (size, sector or region), with the flexibility to make company specific adjustments to reflect their detailed knowledge. The tool is fully integrated within Schroders' global research platform, which is readily accessible across investment desks and geographies.

We have also developed a number of proprietary quantitative metrics that can be used to demonstrate and measure a portfolio's sustainability characteristics.

### 2. SustainEx

SustainEx™ is a proprietary model which scientifically combines measures of both the harm companies can do and the good they can bring to arrive at an aggregate measure of each firm's social and environmental impact, allowing investors to target their ESG investments effectively. It quantifies the extent to which companies are in credit or deficit with the societies to which they belong, and the risks they face if the costs they externalise are pushed into companies' own costs.

## C. ESG Strategies

### 1. ESG Integration

We use an internal ESG model. CONTEXT is based more than 200 observations and aggregates finding in a stakeholder model. We rank companies to their peers with regard to Customers, Employees, Environment, Regulator & governments, Suppliers, Governance and Management Quality. The weight of each of these vary from sector to sector. Zero weighting the bottom quintile provides us with free capital and free risk budget to overweight top ESG companies. To this extend we have integrated CONTEXT in our scoring model. A convertible bond that scores high on convexity and momentum will be a natural overweight position. A positive CONTEXT score will trigger a further overweighting, a mediocre CONTEXT score will result in a smaller overweight.

### 2. Normative Screening

We recognise the importance of companies respecting and protecting human rights, ensuring decent working conditions and upholding labour rights, promoting greater environmental responsibility and having robust anti-corruption measures and practices in place. Through our ESG integration and active ownership process we take into consideration how companies are interacting with all their stakeholders (customers, suppliers, environment, regulators, employees and communities) and the contribution this might have (both negative and positive) to their long-term success. That analysis also informs our engagement with companies; where we consider companies' business practices may be unsustainable we regularly engage management teams to better understand their plans, and to promote more responsible behaviour.

The Fund uses SustainEx and CONTEXT to exclude companies from the investment universe.

As part of this framework, our investment process excludes from consideration, companies which are deemed to be UNGC fails, in addition to a broader range of issues. Furthermore, we screen using the Global Norms MSCI screens for:

- compliance with the UN Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights
- compliance with the International Labour Organisation's broader set of labour standards.

In addition and beyond this systematic screening, managers will take into account any information they are aware of with regards to a company's behaviour

As detailed below, at a firm level we also exclude investments that fail to comply with the international conventions on cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, biological weapons and chemical weapons.

**The Fund will not knowingly invest in companies not meeting these minimum norms.**

### 3. Exclusion

#### a. Tobacco

The World Health Organisation has estimated that tobacco use (smoking and smokeless) is currently responsible for the death of about seven million people across the world each year, with more than 10% of deaths due to the effects of second-hand smoke.

**The Fund excludes any companies involved in the production or wholesale trading of tobacco products or providing dedicated equipment or services. Companies are considered belonging in the excluded category in case their revenues from these activities exceed the 5% threshold.**

**The Fund excludes any company that generates more than 5% of its revenues from any form of tobacco-related activity (including production, distribution, sales and licensing).**

#### b. Weapons

We fully support the international convention on Cluster Munitions and Anti-Personnel Mines:

- The Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008): prohibits the production, stockpiling, transfer and use of cluster munitions
- The Anti-Personnel Landmines Treaty (1997), also known as The Ottawa Treaty (1997): prohibits the production, stockpiling, transfer and use of anti-personnel landmines

We will not knowingly hold any security that will derive revenue from these sources.

**The Fund excludes for 100% (e.g. no revenue threshold) any company for companies active in the production of Nuclear, Biological or Chemical weapons, anti-personnel mines, submunitions, depleted or industrial uranium, white phosphorous or any components hereof.**

**The Fund excludes any company that generates more than 5% of revenues from the production of other (civilian) weapons or components hereof.**

#### c. Coal

Coal producers will bear the brunt of decarbonisation's impact. Coal is the most carbon intensive fossil fuel, generating twice as much carbon as gas to produce the same amount of energy.

**The Fund excludes any company that generates any revenues from thermal coal extraction and production (i.e. with a 0% revenue threshold).**

#### d. Unconventional oil and gas

Unconventional oil and gas, such as tar sands, oil shale and shale gas, Arctic onshore and offshore, require more energy-intensive production methods compared to conventional oil and gas. There are also health and environmental impacts through air, water, land and soil pollution.

**The Fund excludes any company that generates any revenues from unconventional oil and gas extraction and production (i.e. with a 0% revenue threshold).**

#### e. Conventional oil and gas

While conventional oil and gas are less carbon intensive than coal, they are major contributors to global greenhouse gas emissions and their use will have to fall significantly in the future.

**The Fund excludes any company that generates any revenues from conventional oil and gas extraction and production (i.e. with a 0% revenue threshold).**

#### f. Power Generation

Thorough due diligence carried out by analysts and fund managers during an ongoing research process that includes regular company interaction ensures that we are kept aware of any changes in capacity / production levels. Were a company to initiate or expand we are therefore in a position to take swift action. Given the revenue based investment exclusions in place and the positive societal contribution focus of the portfolio, we do not currently hold any fossil fuel or Nuclear power generation companies.

**The fund will not invest in companies whose absolute capacity or production for coal or nuclear based energy is structurally increasing.**

This will be identified during the multi-layered sustainability approach.

**No company in the fund will generate any power using coal or oil & gas.**

**No company in the fund will derive more than 5% of their revenues from producing nuclear based energy.**

### 4. Engagement

Dialogue between investors and companies is key. With engagement, the aim is to focus on positively influencing corporate behaviour, which will lead to improved performance on the topics of the engagement and on the long-term sustainable returns.

One of the engagements that we have is regarding the exclusion of companies active in the fossil fuel sector. In addition, corporate engagement and shareholder action is important for our company, so this is also an element that we take into consideration when building our portfolio.

## Additional Information with regards to sustainability practices – Schroder ISF Global Sustainable Convertible Bond

Schroders has a large Sustainable Investment team that co-ordinate voting and engagement on behalf the firm. Quarterly updates, as well as a yearly, reports are published. More information can found on the following page:

Schroders Sustainability Report: <https://publications.schroders.com/view/408145965/>

The investment team engages directly during its meetings with management in the course of analysing investee companies and active ownership once owned. Engagement covers a wide range of issues such as mergers and acquisitions, capital structure, board structure, remuneration incentives and company specific social and environmental engagement. Schroders dynamic ESG tools help the team identify key issues to raise with company management teams and help to track progress made over time on ESG issues.

### 5. Objective to outperform BM on ESG indicator

The Fund maintains a higher overall sustainability score than its sustainability benchmark based on the investment manager's rating system.

## D. Embedded Policies

### Biodiversity

The variety of plants and animals, and where they live – is critical for our everyday lives. It provides us with food, water, clean air, shelter and medicines. Loss of biodiversity and changes to ecosystems can increase the risk of infectious diseases in animals, plants and humans.

We recognise that deforestation, changes in land use, increasing agricultural intensity, over-population, climate change and pollution contribute to biodiversity loss and we therefore take these factors into consideration in our ESG analysis of companies and engage with companies where we believe their practices are unsustainable.

### Water use

Water is critical to human and ecosystem health, necessary in many industrial processes, indispensable in food and energy production, an important vehicle for disposing of wastes, and integral to many forms of recreation. While ~70% of the earth's surface is covered in water, less than 1% of this is water available for consumption by people and business, and the supply of clean, fresh water is decreasing. At the same time, there is an increasing demand for water through agriculture, a growing global population and economic development. Supply side and demand side pressure means that water is increasingly becoming a material risk for companies that are struggling to source scarce, clean water. Understanding and managing water risk may be fundamental to a company's ability to continue as a going concern.

As a result, the water intensity of companies' operations, scarcity in the regions in which they operate and their strategies to manage their use all feature in our ESG analysis of companies. We also engage companies with direct or indirect exposure.

### Taxation

Taxes are probably the clearest form of companies' social contribution. They are reinvested by the state into society, providing vital public services. We believe it is important that companies behave responsibly and conduct their tax affairs in an open and transparent way. Responsible tax payment is reflected in the tools available to our analysts when examining ESG performances and is regularly included in our engagement with companies.

### Oppressive regimes

Oppressive regimes are commonly associated with systematic human rights abuses, and often an absence of the rule of law, a lack of freedom of expression and land rights abuses. Through our ESG integration and active ownership process we seek to understand whether companies operate or have supply chains in countries governed by oppressive regimes.

We comply with the sanctions regimes issued by the EU, the UN, Her Majesty's Treasury (HMT), and the Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC) in the United States.



### Cannabis

The Single Convention and the Psychotropic Convention have been implemented in the UK through the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (“MDA”) and the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 2001 (“MDR”) – making it a criminal offense to invest in companies that produce, distribute and sell cannabis in the form of THC. Investments in companies with exposure to the industry but for medicinal purposes only are still permitted. Please note this a regulatory requirement and not part of the ESG framework.

### Pollution & waste (e.g. plastics)

While the Fund does not have a specific policy on pollution & waste, the Context score takes this into account when scoring the E (Environment) dimension.

### Gender & diversity

While the Fund does not have a specific policy on gender & diversity, the Context score takes this into account when scoring the S (Social) and G (Governance) dimensions.

### Death penalty

The Fund does not have a specific policy on death penalty

### Forward contracts on agricultural commodities

The Fund does not invest in any agricultural commodities

## **Risk Considerations**

**Credit risk:** A decline in the financial health of an issuer could cause the value of its bonds to fall or become worthless.

**Currency risk:** The fund may lose value as a result of movements in foreign exchange rates.

**Emerging Markets & Frontier risk:** Emerging markets, and especially frontier markets, generally carry greater political, legal, counterparty, operational and liquidity risk than developed markets.

**High yield bond risk:** High yield bonds (normally lower rated or unrated) generally carry greater market, credit and liquidity risk.

**Interest rate risk:** The fund may lose value as a direct result of interest rate changes.

**Liquidity risk:** In difficult market conditions, the fund may not be able to sell a security for full value or at all. This could affect performance and could cause the fund to defer or suspend redemptions of its shares.

**Operational risk:** Operational processes, including those related to the safekeeping of assets, may fail. This may result in losses to the fund.

**Performance risk:** Investment objectives express an intended result but there is no guarantee that such a result will be achieved. Depending on market conditions and the macro economic environment, investment objectives may become more difficult to achieve.

**IBOR:** The transition of the financial markets away from the use of interbank offered rates (IBORs) to alternative reference rates may impact the valuation of certain holdings and disrupt liquidity in certain instruments. This may impact the investment performance of the fund.

**Derivatives risk:** A derivative may not perform as expected, may create losses greater than the cost of the derivative and may result in losses to the fund. The fund may also materially invest in derivatives including using short selling and leverage techniques with the aim of making a return. When the value of an asset changes, the value of a derivative based on that asset may change to a much greater extent. This may result in greater losses than investing in the underlying asset.

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### **Schroders sustainability accreditation**

Our Schroders sustainability accreditation helps investors distinguish how ESG factors are considered across our products. The fund has been awarded an Integrated accreditation. ESG factors are embedded into the investment process and can be clearly evidenced. There is a strong commitment to stewardship and company engagement. The fund has been awarded a Sustainable accreditation. Sustainability is a cornerstone of the investment process. The fund has been awarded a Screened accreditation. The fund has additional stock/security restrictions (not necessarily for ethical reasons) beyond cluster munitions and anti-personnel mines. For further information about our Schroders Sustainability Accreditation please visit [www.schroders.lu/sustainabilityaccreditation](http://www.schroders.lu/sustainabilityaccreditation)