

# AXA WORLD FUNDS (the "Company") A Luxembourg Société d'Investissement à Capital Variable

Registered Office: 49, avenue J. F. Kennedy L-1855 Luxembourg Commercial Register: Luxembourg, B-63.116

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# THIS DOCUMENT IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. IF IN DOUBT, PLEASE SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE.

Dear Shareholders.

We are pleased to inform you that the directors of the Company (the "**Directors**" or together composing the board of directors of the Company, also referred to as the "**Board**") have decided to introduce a number of changes to the prospectus of the Company (the "**Prospectus**"), which will enable it to look after your interests more effectively.

Except as otherwise specified in this notice, words and expressions contained hereafter shall have the same meaning as in the Prospectus.

- I. Update of the performance fee mechanism disclosures
- II. Update of the disclosures regarding the use of SFTs in light of CSSF FAQ on the use of securities financing transactions by UCITS
- III. EONIA transition
- IV. Update of the SFDR disclosures and addition of Taxonomy disclosures
- V. Reshaping of the investment objective and strategy of the "Framlington Digital Economy"
- VI. Reshaping of the investment objective and strategy of the "Framlington Longevity Economy"
- VII. Reshaping of the investment objective and strategy of the "Framlington Robotech"
- VIII. Reshaping of the investment objective and strategy of the "Framlington Eurozone RI" to be renamed "ACT Eurozone Impact"
- IX. Reshaping of the investment objective and strategy of the "China Short Duration Bonds" to be renamed "China Sustainable Short Duration Bonds"
- X. Reshaping of the investment objective and strategy of "Global Credit Bonds" to be renamed "Global Sustainable Credit Bonds"
- XI. Reshaping of the investment objective and strategy of the "Emerging Markets Short Duration Bonds" and renaming of the Sub-Fund "ACT Emerging Markets Short Duration Bonds Low Carbon"

- XII. Amendment of the investment strategy of the "Asian High Yield Bonds"
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- XIV. Amendment of the investment strategy of "Global High Yield Bonds"
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- XVI. Amendment of the investment strategy of the "US High Yield Bonds"
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- XIX. Amendment of the investment strategy of the "Chorus Equity Market Neutral"
- XX. Amendments to the investment objective of the Sub-Fund "AWF ACT US Corporate Bonds Low Carbon"
- XXI. Amendments to the investment objective of the Sub-Fund "AWF ACT US High Yield Bonds Low Carbon"
- XXII. Amendment to the investment strategy of the Sub-Fund "AWF Global Emerging Market Bonds"
- XXIII. SFDR reclassification of the "AWF Framlington Italy" and "AWF Framlington Switzerland" Sub-Funds
- XXIV. Amendment to the investment strategy of the "AWF Global Optimal Income" Sub-Fund
- XXV. Amendment to the investment strategy and insertion of a new benchmark for the performance fees for the USD share classes of "AWF Optimal Income" Sub-Fund (the "Sub-Fund")
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#### . Update of the performance fee mechanism disclosures

Following the latest ESMA Guidelines on performance fees in UCITS and certain types of AIFs which apply to the Company as from 1 January 2022, the Board has decided to enhance the disclosures relating to the performance fee in accordance with the CSSF practice and with the aforementioned ESMA Guidelines.

The Board has therefore decided, in relation to sub-funds applying performance fees, to amend the section "Notes on Sub-Fund's Costs" in the general part of the Prospectus to (i) include an illustrative chart, (ii) add an example of performance fee calculation and (iii) specify (also in the relevant KIIDs) that in the case of a benchmark model, a performance fee may apply even in case of negative performance of the relevant Sub-Fund, as reflected in the revised Prospectus.

In addition, the Board has decided to amend the Sub-Funds' specific annexes of AWF – Chorus Equity Market Neutral, AWF – Chorus Multi Strategy and AWF – Chorus Systematic Macro in order to add an illustrative chart illustrating the specificities of the performance fee mechanism of these Sub-Funds.

These changes take effect as from 1 January 2022.

# II. Update of the disclosures regarding the use of SFTs in light of CSSF FAQ on the use of securities financing transactions by UCITS

Based on the recent CSSF FAQ on the use of securities financing transactions by UCITS (the "FAQ"), a review of the Prospectus has been conducted to respond to the objective of the FAQ to bring further clarity and transparency to the disclosures to investors, revenues and costs/fees, conflict of interest (if any) and best execution concerning the use by the Company's relevant sub-funds of securities financing transactions ("SFTs"), thereby taking into account the applicable regulatory framework.

As a consequence, it has been decided to enhance the disclosures with respect to the use of SFTs both in the general part of the Prospectus and in the Sub-Funds' descriptions, where applicable, in order to increase the transparency and align the level of disclosure with the new regulatory and legal requirements.

The Board has therefore decided to amend the section "Derivatives and Techniques" (to be renamed section "Derivatives and Efficient Portfolio Management Techniques") of the relevant Sub-Funds' specifics, notably (i) to update the disclosed exposure percentage to better reflect the current exposure of the relevant Sub-Funds to SFTs (notably the maximum exposure to securities lending that has been decreased from 100% to 90%) and (ii) update the section "More about Efficient Portfolio Management" in the general part of the Prospectus in order to align the disclosures regarding the use of SFTs with the FAQ. The recourse to securities borrowing has been deleted for all the Sub-Funds as this technique is not currently used.

In addition, for the following Sub-Funds, it has been clarified that SFTs (securities lending and repurchase agreements and reverse repurchase agreements as the case may be depending on the Sub-Funds) are used only for efficient portfolio management purposes:

- AWF Defensive Optimal Income
- AWF Global Optimal Income
- AWF Optimal Income
- AWF Optimal Absolute
- AWF ACT Multi Asset Optimal Impact
- AWF Chorus Equity Market Neutral
- AWF Chorus Multi Strategy
- AWF Chorus Systematic Macro

For efficient portfolio management purposes means for securities lending enhancing yield on a daily basis and for repurchase and reverse repurchase agreements, optimising the collateral management by entering in collateral transformation to manage liquidity and cash.

These changes take effect immediately, i.e. at the date of the publication of the updated prospectus.

#### **III. EONIA transition**

As the EONIA index will be replaced by €STR by the end of 2021, the Board has decided to amend the relevant Sub-Funds' specifics to reflect such change of index and replace any reference to the EONIA by the €STR + 8.5 bps.

This replacement of index has an impact on the following Sub-Funds:

- AWF Optimal Income
- AWF Optimal Absolute
- AWF Chorus Equity Market Neutral
- AWF Chorus Multi Strategy
- AWF Chorus Systematic Macro

These changes take effect as from 1 January 2022.

#### IV. Update of the SFDR disclosures and addition of Taxonomy disclosures

The Board has noted some evolution in the market practice and operational consideration of the concepts under the 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 (the "**SFDR**") as well as the update of the exclusion policies put in place by the Management Company.

The Board thus decided to amend the "Sustainable Investments and promotion of ESG characteristics" section in the introductive part of the Prospectus to reflect the update exclusion list as well as the "Sustainability Risks" sub-section under the section "Risk Descriptions" in the general part of the Prospectus.

The Board has also decided to update the table including the SFDR classification of the Sub-Funds following the creation of new Sub-Funds, the reclassification and the reshaping of certain Sub-Funds (as described below).

In addition, please be informed that the Regulation (EU) 2020/852 on the establishment of a framework to facilitate sustainable investment (the "**Taxonomy**") also requires financial products subject to the SFDR to also integrate pre-contractual disclosures regarding their alignment with the Taxonomy and other information in relation thereto. This new transparency obligation will apply as from the 1<sup>st</sup> of January, 2022.

The Board has thus decided to amend the "Sustainable Investments and promotion of ESG characteristics" section in the introductive part of the Prospectus to add the following disclaimers:

- For the Sub-Funds that neither qualify as Article 8 or Article 9 products, it is specified after the list
  of such Sub-Funds: "The investments underlying the above Sub-Funds do not take into account
  the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities."
- With respect to the Sub-Funds that qualify as Article 8 products, the following wording is added: 
  "Where the above Sub-Funds categorized as Article 8 promote 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"

- Where the Sub-Funds categorized as Article 9 do not have an environmental focus (i.e. AXA WF –
   ACT Social Progress, AXA WF ACT Human Capital, AXA WF Framlington Europe Small Cap and
   AXA WF Framlington Next Generation), their underlying investments do not take into account the EU
   criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.
- With respect to the Sub-Funds that qualify as Article 9 products, the following wording is added: "Where the above Sub-Funds categorized as Article 9 invest in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental objective, they are required to disclose certain information about the environmental objective(s) set out in the EU Taxonomy Regulation to which the investments of the Sub-Funds contribute and about the investments in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy Regulation.

These Sub-Funds consider the following environmental objective(s) set out in the Article 9 of the Taxonomy Regulation: the above Sub-Funds identified with an asterisk (\*) consider climate mitigation and the Sub-Funds identified with two asterisks (\*\*) consider climate mitigation and climate adaptation. In order to contribute to these objectives, it is expected that these Sub-Funds will make investments in EU Taxonomy-eligible economic activities, including but not limited to those reducing greenhouse gas emissions. In line with the current state of the SFDR and/or the Taxonomy Regulation (before implementation of the relevant Regulatory Technical Standards), Investment Managers currently ensure that such investments of these Sub-Funds contribute to the abovementioned objective(s) while not significantly harming any other sustainable objective as follows:

- With regards to SFDR: These Sub-Funds apply sectorial exclusions, ESG standard policies and additional investments' selectivity approach based on ESG Score, ESG indicators or United Nation Sustainable Development Goals in portfolio construction and investment processes as detailed in each Sub-Fund's relevant Appendix. The "do no significant harm" principle is considered through exclusion policies of the most material ESG risks. Stewardship policies are an additional risk mitigation on Principal Adverse Impacts through direct dialogue with companies on sustainability and governance issues.
- With regards to EU Taxonomy Regulation: AXA IM relies on a third party provider to identify those economic activities that contribute substantially to climate mitigation or climate adaptation, "do no significant harm" to any of the other environmental objectives, comply with minimum social and governance safeguards and with technical screening criteria on climate mitigation or/and climate adaptation environmental objective(s).

While these Sub-Funds do not at this stage commit to a minimum underlying investments qualifying as environmentally sustainable as per Article 3 of the EU Taxonomy regulation, based on available data we estimate that such environmentally sustainable investments should represent 5 to 10% of the Sub-Fund's assets, except for AWF - ACT Dynamic Green Bonds where such environmentally sustainable investments should represent less than 5% of its assets."

For the other Sub-Funds categorized as article 9, it will be disclosed that they "do have a sustainable investment objective. While these Sub-Funds do not at this stage commit to a minimum underlying investments qualifying as environmentally sustainable as per Article 3 of the EU Taxonomy regulation, based on available data we estimate that such environmentally sustainable investments would represent less than 5% of each Sub-Fund's assets."

These changes take effect as from 1 January 2022.

# V. Reshaping of the investment objective and strategy of the "Framlington Digital Economy" (the "Sub-Fund")

Following the obtainment of the French socially responsible investment label (ISR Label), the Board has decided to reshape the Sub-Fund in order to add the relevant applicable criteria.

The Board has also decided to (i) align the Sub-Fund's details of the Prospectus on certain disclaimers contained in its Hong Kong legal documentation as required by the Hong Kong authority and (ii) provide for the possibility to invest in China A Shares via the Hong Kong Stock Connect.

The Prospectus and the KIIDs will be updated accordingly.

The new sub-sections "Objective and "Investment Strategy" of the section "Investment Objective and Strategy" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Objective** To seek long-term growth of your investment, in USD, from an actively managed listed equity and equity-related securities portfolio, in line with a socially responsible investment (SRI) approach.

**Investment Strategy** The Sub-Fund is actively managed and references MSCI AC World Total Return Net (the "Benchmark") for comparative purposes only. The Investment Manager has full discretion over the composition of the portfolio of the Sub-Fund and can take exposure to companies, countries or sectors not included in the Benchmark. There are no restrictions on the extent to which the Sub-Fund's portfolio and performance may deviate from the ones of the Benchmark.

The Sub-Fund invests in equities of companies anywhere in the world that operate within the digital economy sector.

Specifically, at all times the Sub-Fund invests at least two thirds of its net assets in equities and equity-related securities of companies active in the overall value chain of the digital economy, from the customers' initial discovery of products and services, to the buying decision and then the final payment and delivery, and also in the technology enablers providing support and data analysis to develop companies' digital presence. Investments may include companies of any market capitalisation.

The Sub-Fund may also invest in money market instruments.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of not assets in UCITS and/or UCIs. The Sub-Fund is not subject to any limitation on the portion of its net assets that may be invested in any one country or region, including emerging markets. The Sub-Fund seeks to achieve its objective through investments in securities that have implemented good practices in terms of managing their environmental impacts, governance and social ("ESG") practices, by using a socially responsible investment 'selectivity' approach which consists of selecting best issuers in the investable universe composed of equities listed on global markets, based on their extra-financial ratings with a focus on the Environmental pillar ("E scores"). The 'Best-in-universe' selectivity approach, which is bindingly applied at all times, consists in reducing by, at least, 20% the initial investable universe, by excluding issuers based on their E scores.

For illustrative purpose only, the ESG criteria may be carbon footprint and/or water intensity for the environmental aspect, health, safety and/or management of human resources and gender equality for the social aspect, remuneration policy and/or global ethics for the governance aspect. The scope of the eligible securities is reviewed every 6 months at the latest, as described in the transparency code of the Sub-Fund available at https://www.axa-im.com/fund-centre.

<u>In addition, in the securities selection process, the Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies with the exception of derivatives and underlying eligible UCIs, as described in the documents available on the website: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines.</u>

The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 90% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund, with the exception of bonds and other debt securities issued by public issuers, cash held on an ancillary basis, and solidarity assets. The ESG rating method is described in the following link: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology.

The ESG data 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.

The Sub-Fund may also invest up to 20% of net assets in money market instruments and up to 10% of net assets in Chinese A Shares listed in the Shanghai Hong-Kong Stock Connect.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of net assets in UCITS and/or UCIs.

Because of the above-mentioned update, the risk "Stock Connect" is also added.

The new section "Management Process" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

Management Process The Investment Manager uses a strategy that combines macro-economic, sector and company specific analysis. The Investment Manager selects securities by applying a 2-step approach: 1/ defining the eligible universe after application of a first exclusion filter, as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies, followed by a second 'Best-in-universe' filter, designed to eliminate the worst issuers from the investable universe defined for ESG purposes on the basis of their extra financial rating calculated on the basis of the AXA IM ESG rating methodology; 2/ The securities selection process relies on a rigorous analysis and selection of high quality companies which typically include strong management teams, robust business models and healthy competitive environments, and where the expanding digital economy is expected to have a material positive impact on their financial results on a mid to long term basis.

The Board also launched a new Share Class "N" within the Sub-Fund, the characteristics of which are further described in the revised Prospectus.

These changes will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such changes may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

VI. Reshaping of the investment objective and strategy of the "Framlington Longevity Economy" (the "Sub-Fund")

Following the obtainment of the French socially responsible investment label (ISR Label), the Board decided to reshape the Sub-Fund in order to add the relevant applicable criteria.

The Prospectus and the KIIDs will be updated accordingly.

The new sub-sections "Objective and "Investment Strategy" of the section "Investment Objective and Strategy" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Objective** To seek long-term growth of your investment, in USD, from an actively managed listed equity, equity-related securities and derivatives portfolio, in line with a socially responsible investment (SRI) approach.

**Investment Strategy** The Sub-Fund is actively managed and references MSCI AC World Total Return Net (the "Benchmark") for comparative purposes only. The Investment Manager has full discretion over the composition of the portfolio of the Sub-Fund and can take exposure to companies, countries or sectors not included in the Benchmark. There are no restrictions on the extent to which the Sub-Fund's portfolio and performance may deviate from the ones of the Benchmark.

The Sub-Fund invests in equities of companies anywhere in the world that are linked to the ageing of the population and increasing life expectancy.

Specifically, at all times the Sub-Fund invests at least two thirds of its net assets in equities and equity-related securities of companies that focus on aged care, wellness and medical treatments. The Sub-Fund also aims at benefiting from the increasing silver spending (including leisure activities, financial planning and aesthetics).

The Sub-Fund may invest in equity securities of any market capitalisation.

The Sub-Fund is not subject to any limitation on the portion of its net assets that may be invested in any one country or region.

#### The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of net assets in UCITS and/or UCIs.

The Sub-Fund seeks to achieve its objective through investments in securities that have implemented good practices in terms of managing their environmental impacts, governance and social ("ESG") practices, by using a socially responsible investment 'selectivity' approach which consists of selecting best issuers in the investable universe composed of equities listed on global markets, based on their extra-financial ratings with a focus on the Environmental pillar ("E scores").

The 'Best-in-universe' selectivity approach, which is bindingly applied at all times, consists in reducing by, at least, 20% the initial investable universe, by excluding issuers based on their E scores.

For illustrative purpose only, the ESG criteria may be carbon footprint and/or water intensity for the environmental aspect, health, safety and/or management of human resources and gender equality for the social aspect, remuneration policy and/or global ethics for the governance aspect.

The scope of the eligible securities is reviewed every 6 months at the latest, as described in the transparency code of the Sub-Fund available at https://www.axa-im.com/fund-centre.

<u>In addition,</u> in the securities selection process, the Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies with the exception of derivatives and underlying eligible UCIs, as described in the documents available on the website: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines.

The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 90% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund, with the exception of bonds and other debt securities issued by public issuers, cash held on an ancillary basis, and solidarity assets. The ESG rating method is described in the following link: <a href="https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology">https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology</a>.

The ESG data 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.

The Sub-Fund may invest and up to 10% of net assets in Chinese A Shares listed in the Shanghai Hong-Kong Stock Connect.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of net assets in UCITS and/or UCIs.

Because of the above-mentioned update, the risk "Stock Connect" is also added.

The new section "Management Process" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

Management Process The Investment Manager uses a strategy that combines macro-economic, sector and company specific analysis. The Investment Manager selects securities by applying a 2-step approach: 1/ defining the eligible universe after application of a first exclusion filter, as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies, followed by a second 'Best-in-universe' filter, designed to eliminate the worst issuers from the investable universe defined for ESG purposes on the basis of their extra financial rating calculated on the basis of the AXA IM ESG rating methodology; 2/ The securities selection process relies on a rigorous analysis of the companies' business model, management quality, growth prospects and risk/return profile with a focus on medium to long-term benefits from the expanding long-term demographic trend of the ageing of the population.

These changes will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such changes may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

VII. Reshaping of the investment objective and strategy of the "Framlington Robotech" (the "Sub-Fund")

Following the obtainment of the French socially responsible investment label (ISR Label), the Board decided to reshape the Sub-Fund in order to add the relevant applicable criteria.

The Prospectus and the KIIDs will be updated accordingly.

The new sub-sections "Objective and "Investment Strategy" of the section "Investment Objective and Strategy" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Objective** To seek long-term growth of your investment, in USD, from an actively managed listed equity and equity-related securities portfolio, in line with a socially responsible investment (SRI) approach.

**Investment Strategy** The Sub-Fund is actively managed and references MSCI AC World Total Return Net (the "Benchmark") for comparative purposes only. The Investment Manager has full discretion over the composition of the portfolio of the Sub-Fund and can take exposure to companies, countries or sectors not included in the Benchmark. There are no restrictions on the extent to which the Sub-Fund's portfolio and performance may deviate from the ones of the Benchmark.

The Sub-Fund invests in equities of companies anywhere in the world that are in the robotics technology sector.

Specifically, at all times the Sub-Fund invests at least two thirds of net assets in equities and equity-related securities of companies in the robotics technology sector and/or companies making a large use of that technology in their business such as companies in transport, healthcare, semi-conductors or software industries. Investments may include companies of any market capitalisation.

The Sub-Fund may also invest in money market instruments.

# The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of not assets in UCITS and/or UCIs.

The Sub-Fund seeks to achieve its objective through investments in securities that have implemented good practices in terms of managing their environmental impacts, governance and social ("ESG") practices, by using a socially responsible investment 'selectivity' approach which consists of selecting best issuers in the investable universe composed of equities listed on global markets, based on their extra-financial ratings with a focus on the Environmental pillar ("E scores"). The 'Best-in-universe' selectivity approach, which is bindingly applied at all times, consists in reducing by, at least, 20% the initial investable universe, by excluding issuers based on their E scores.

For illustrative purpose only, the ESG criteria may be carbon footprint and/or water intensity for the environmental aspect, health, safety and/or management of human resources and gender equality for the social aspect, remuneration policy and/or global ethics for the governance aspect.

The scope of the eligible securities is reviewed every 6 months at the latest, as described in the transparency code of the Sub-Fund available at https://www.axa-im.com/fund-centre.

<u>In addition,</u> in the securities selection process, the Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies with the exception of derivatives and underlying eligible UCIs, as described in the documents available on the website: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines.

The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 90% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund, with the exception of bonds and other debt securities issued by public issuers, cash held on an ancillary basis, and solidarity assets. The ESG rating method is described in the following link: <a href="https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology">https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology</a>.

The ESG data 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.

The Sub-Fund may also invest in money market instruments and up to 10% of net assets in Chinese A Shares listed in the Shanghai Hong-Kong Stock Connect.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of net assets in UCITS and/or UCIs.

Because of the above-mentioned update, the risk "Stock Connect" is also added.

The new section "Management Process" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

Management Process The Investment Manager uses a strategy that combines macro-economic, sector and company specific analysis. The Investment Manager selects securities by applying a 2-step approach: 1/ defining the eligible universe after application of a first exclusion filter, as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies, followed by a second 'Best-in-universe' filter, designed to eliminate the worst issuers from the investable universe defined for ESG purposes on the basis of their extra financial rating calculated on the basis of the AXA IM ESG rating methodology; 2/ The securities selection process relies on a rigorous analysis of the companies' business model, management quality, growth prospects and risk/return profile, with a focus on medium to long-term benefits from the design, production and/or use of robotics technology.

These changes will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such changes may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

VIII. Reshaping of the investment objective and strategy of the "Framlington Eurozone RI" (the "Sub-Fund") to be renamed "ACT Eurozone Impact"

The Board has decided to reshape the Sub-Fund in order to (i) transform it into an impact sub-fund and to update the Prospectus and the KIIDs accordingly and (ii) rename the Sub-Fund into "AXA World Funds – ACT Eurozone Impact".

The new sub-sections "Objective" and "Investment Strategy" of the section "Investment Objective and Strategy" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Objective** To seek both long-term growth of your investment, in EUR, and a Sustainable Investment objective, from an actively managed listed equity, equity-related securities and derivatives portfolio, in line with a socially responsible investment (SRI) approach demonstrating a positive social and environmental impact.

**Investment Strategy** The Sub-Fund is actively managed in order to capture opportunities in the Eurozone equities market, by mainly investing at least 20% of its net assets in equities of companies that are part of the EURO STOXX Total Return Net 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, large overweight or underweight positions on the countries, sectors or companies compared to the Benchmark's composition and/or take exposure to companies, countries or sectors not included in 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. For the sake of clarity, the Benchmark is a broad market index which is not aligned with the Sustainable Investment objective of the Sub-Fund but is used as a reference for its financial objective.

The Sub-Fund seeks to achieve its objective through investments in sustainable securities that have implemented good practices in terms of managing their environmental impacts, governance and social ("ESG") practices, by using ainvest in equities of companies listed in the Eurozone that create financial and societal value by fostering social progress and/or environmental positive impact.

The Sub-Fund mainly invests in equities which address the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in their social and environmental dimensions.

Specifically, the Fund aims to target the areas of environmental and social progress highlighted by those SDGs such as: wellbeing & safety, healthcare solutions, housing & essential infrastructure, human capital & diversity, education and entrepreneurship, tech inclusion, recycling & waste reduction, sustainable production, smart energy, and low carbon transport.

The Sub-Fund aims to support on the long run the SDGs established by the United Nations with a focus on the social and environmental themes. Thus, the Sub-Fund bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Impact approach for listed assets available on https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-

investing/impact-investing/listed-assets, according to which the Investment Manager applies an impact approach in the securities selection process, which considers five key pillars: intentionality (securities targeting a specific positive environmental or social outcome), materiality (investments in companies where the positive outcomes are of material significance to the beneficiaries, the company, or to both), additionality (decisions are judged on the likely ability to resolve unmet environmental or social needs), negative consideration (company's corporate practices or products and services may significantly undermine the positive impact it is generating elsewhere) and measurability (clear methodology and commitment to measuring and reporting the social performance of investments).

The SDGs supported by environment themes include to ensure access to affordable and clean energy (SDG 7), to develop sustainable and resilient infrastructure (SDG 9), to make cities and communities more sustainable (SDG 11), to ensure responsible consumption and production patterns (SDG 12), to take urgent action to combat climate change (SDG 13), to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources (SDG 14) and to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss (SDG 15).

The SDGs supported by social themes include alleviating poverty and access to essential products and services (SDG 1), access to safe and nutritious food (SDG 2), the promotion of health, safety and well-being (SDG 3), the promotion of education and labour upskilling (SDG 4), the attainment of gender equality (SDG 5), access to safe water and sanitation (SDG 6), access to modern and affordable electricity (SDG 7), the promotion of inclusive economic growth and decent work for all (SDG 8), the promotion of an industrialization inclusive of small businesses and fostering innovation (SDG 9), the reduction of social inequalities (SDG 10), the making of safe, resilient and affordable human settlements (SDG 11) and the promotion of peace and justice and the fight against all forms of organized crime (SDG 16).

The Sub-Fund bindingly commits to have at all times at least 70% of assets invested in companies which have been assessed internally through the above-mentioned impact assessment approach.

The Sub-Fund adopts an environmentally and socially responsible investment 'selectivity' approach taking into account non-financial criteria which consists of selecting best issuers in the investable universe composed of equities listed in the Eurozone, based on their extra-financial ratings ("ESG scores")-contribution to the SDGs. The 'bBest-in-ClassUniverse' selectivity approach, which is bindingly applied at all times, consists in reducing by, at least, 20% the investment universe as defined by the Benchmark, by excluding issuers based on their ESG scores, where applicable, todescribed above (with the exception of bonds and other debt securities issued by public or quasi-public issuers, cash held on an ancillary basis and Solidarity Assetsolidarity assets), using a combination of external and internal SDGs alignment data.

<u>For illustrative purpose only, the ESG criteria may be carbon footprint and/or water intensity for the environmental aspect, health, safety and/or management of human resources and gender equality for the social aspect, remuneration policy and/or global ethics for the governance aspect.</u>

The scope of the eligible securities is reviewed every 6 months at the latest, as described in the transparency code of the Sub-Fund available at https://www.axa-im.com/fund-centre.

In addition, in the securities selection process, the Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies with the exception of derivatives and underlying eligible UCIs, as described in the documents available on the website: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines.

The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 90% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund, with the exception of bonds and other debt securities issued by public or quasi-public issuers, cash held on an ancillary basis, and Solidarity Assets. The ESG rating method is described in the following link: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology.

The ESG data 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.

For illustrative purpose only, the ESG criteria may be carbon footprint and/or water intensity for the environmental aspect, health, safety and/or management of human resources and gender equality for the social aspect, remuneration policy and/or global ethics for the governance aspect.

The Sub-Fund invests in equities of companies of all sizes domiciled in the Eurozone.

Specifically, at all times the Sub-Fund invests at least 75% of net assets in PEA eligible securities and rights issued by companies registered in the EEA and 60% of those assets at the minimum are invested in the Eurozone markets. The Sub-Fund invests not more than 10% of net assets in equities of companies not based in the Eurozone, including emerging markets.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 25% of net assets in money market instruments.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of net assets in units of UCITS and/or UCIs.

The new section "Management Process" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

Management Process The To demonstrate a positive and measurable social and environmental impact, the Investment Manager selects investments by applying a 2-step approach: 1/ defining the eligible universe after application of a first exclusion filter, as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies, followed by a second 'Best-in-Class' filter, designed to eliminate the worst issuers from the investment universe on the basis of their extra financial rating calculated on the basis of the AXA IM proprietary ESG rating methodology; Universe filter on SDGs indicators; 2/ using a strategy that combines macro-economic, sector and company specific analysis and a rigorous analysis of the companies' business model, management quality, growth prospects, whether the company meets Responsible Investment criteria and risk/return profile, with an emphasis on their capacity to offer higher growth potential as they focus on providing product and services across a range of ecological and social needs.

Because of the above-mentioned update, a new risk "Impact" is also added.

These changes will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such changes may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

IX. Reshaping of the investment objective and strategy of the "China Short Duration Bonds" (the "Sub-Fund") to be renamed "China Sustainable Short Duration Bonds"

The Board decided to reshape the Sub-Fund in order to (i) add a more intense ESG approach to the investment strategy of the Sub-Fund and (ii) rename the Sub-Fund as "AWF – China Sustainable Short Duration Bonds".

The Prospectus and the KIIDs will be updated accordingly.

The new sub-sections "Objective" and "Investment Strategy" of the section "Investment Objective and Strategy" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Objective** To seek performance of your investment, in CNH, through dynamic exposure to the Chinese fixed income market, in line with a socially responsible investment (SRI) approach.

**Investment Strategy** The Sub-Fund is actively managed without reference to any benchmark.

The Sub-Fund invests in Chinese short duration bonds.

Specifically, the Sub-Fund invests at least two-thirds of net assets in transferable debt securities issued by Chinese governments, public institutions, supra-national entities and companies that are denominated in CNY, CNH or USD. The Sub-Fund invests between 30% and 70% of net assets in bonds denominated in CNY (through the RQFII quota and through Bond Connect), and between 30% and 70% of net assets in bonds denominated in CNH and USD.

These investments are essentially Investment Grade Securities. Investment Grade Securities are rated at least BBB- by Standard & Poor's or equivalent rating by Moody's, Fitch, Chengxin,

Dagong, and Lianhe agencies or if unrated then deemed to be so by the Investment manager. For bonds denominated in CNH, the highest of available ratings from Standard and Poor's and Moody's <u>or Fitch</u> is considered. For bonds denominated in CNY, the lowest of available ratings from Chengxin, Dagong, and Lianhe agencies is considered.

The Sub-Fund may also, and up to 5%, hold Distressed and Defaulted Securities as a result of holding bonds which 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. These securities are expected to be sold within 6 months unless specific events prevent the Investment Manager from sourcing their liquidity.

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 in the following, up to the portion of net assets shown:

- money market instruments: one-third
- Sub-Investment Grade corporate debt securities: 20%
- contingent convertible bonds (CoCos): 5%.

The Sub-Fund invests or is exposedseeks to at least 10% of achieve its net assets in Green Bonds, Social Bonds and Sustainable Bonds.

The anticipated average duration of the Sub-Fund is 3 years or less.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of net assets in units of UCITS and/or UCIs.

The Sub-Fund always aims at outperforming the extra-financial objective by bindingly applying an ESG 'rating of a parallel comparison portfolioupgrade' approach, which requires the ESG rating of the Sub-Fund to be higher than the rating of the investable universe below after omitting the worst 20% of the rated securities, on a weighted average basis, excluding bonds and other debt securities issued by public issuers, cash or cash equivalent held on an ancillary basis liquid assets held on an ancillary basis and Solidarity Assets. The investable universe internally defined by the Investment Manager for ESG purposes as a strategic asset allocation constituted is composed of 50% JP Morgan Asia Credit Markets China and 50% Ice BofA 1-5 Year China Broad Market Index, both ESG scores of the Sub-Fund and the composition of this comparison portfolio being calculated on a weighted average basis. The ESG rating method is described in the following link: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology.indices. For the sake of clarity, the above indexes indices are broad market indexes indices that do not necessarily consider in their composition or calculation methodology have neither an explicit sustainability objective nor are used for financial performance comparison purpose, but are only used as a reference for the Sub-Fund for applying the ESG characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund. The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 75% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund'rating upgrade' approach.

The ESG approach in place for the Sub-Fund is described in detail in the transparency code of the Sub-Fund available at https://www.axa-im.com/fund-centre.

The scope of the eligible securities is reviewed every 6 months at the latest, as described in the transparency code of the Sub-Fund available at https://www.axa-im.com/fund-centre.

In addition, in the securities selection process, the Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies with the exception of derivatives and underlying eligible UCIs, as described in the documents available on the website: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines. The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.

The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 90% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund, with the exception of bonds and other debt securities issued by public issuers, cash held on an ancillary basis, and solidarity assets. The ESG rating method is described in the following link: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology.

The ESG data 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.

In addition, the Sub-Fund invests or is exposed to at least 50% of its net assets in Green Bonds, Social Bonds and Sustainability Bonds.

The Investment Manager has defined a proprietary green, social and sustainability bonds assessment framework, mainly based on the ICMA Green and Social Bond Principles ("GSBP") and the Climate Bonds Initiative ("CBI") guidelines. The Investment Manager employs a rigorous internal green, social and sustainability bond selection process by filtering out bonds which are not in line with our internal green, social and sustainability bonds requirements. AXA IM's green, social and sustainability bond framework is composed of four pillars: 1/ the environmental, social and governance (ESG) quality of the issuer (a firm needs to demonstrate minimum ESG commitments, to ensure that corporations properly deal with environmental and social risks in the projects financed and that the green projects being financed are strategic activities); 2/ the use of proceeds

of a green, social or sustainability bond should reflect the issuer's efforts towards improving the environment and society and its overall sustainability strategy, full transparency regarding the projects financed and tracking the proceeds being essential; 3/ management of proceeds

(an issuer must have sufficient guarantees in place to ensure the proceeds of the bond will effectively finance the eligible projects); 4/ ESG impact (particular attention is paid to impact reporting, where both qualitative and quantitative indicators are expected, allowing to demonstrate the positive impact of a bond on the environment and society).

The Sub-Fund may also invest in the following, up to the portion of net assets shown:

- money market instruments: one-third
- Sub-Investment Grade corporate debt securities: 20%
- contingent convertible bonds (CoCos): 5%.

The anticipated average duration of the Sub-Fund is 3 years or less.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of net assets in units of UCITS and/or UCIs.

The new section "Management Process" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Management Process** The Investment Manager selects investments <u>by applying a 2-step approach</u>: 1/ defining the eligible universe after omitting the worst 20% of the rated securities composing the comparison portfolio, followed by the application of a second exclusion filter, as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies, and of a green, social and sustainability bond filter, and 2/ analysis of the market based on a number of factors, including macro- and microeconomic analysis and credit analysis of issuers. The Investment Manager also manages the Sub-Fund's sensitivity to interest rate variations, the yield curve positioning and the exposure to different geographical areas.

As a result of the above-mentioned update, a new risk "Bond Connect" is also added.

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

X. Reshaping of the investment objective and strategy of "Global Credit Bonds" (the "Sub-Fund") to be renamed "Global Sustainable Credit Bonds"

The Board decided to reshape the Sub-Fund in order to (i) add a more intense ESG approach to the investment strategy of the Sub-Fund and (ii) rename the Sub-Fund as "AWF - Global Sustainable Credit Bonds".

The Prospectus and the KIIDs will be updated accordingly.

The new sub-sections "Objective" and "Investment Strategy" of the section "Investment Objective and Strategy" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Objective** To seek both income and growth of your investment, in USD, and a sustainable investment objective, from an actively managed bond portfolio in line with a socially responsible investment approach.

Investment Strategy The Sub-Fund is actively managed in reference to the BofA Merrill Lynch Global Large Cap Hedged USD benchmark index (the "Benchmark") in order to capture opportunities in global corporate credit markets. The Sub-Fund invests at minimum 20% of its net assets in the components of the Benchmark. Depending on its investment convictions and after comprehensive macroeconomic and microeconomic analysis of the market, the Investment Manager can take more active positioning in terms of duration (duration measures in numbers of years, the portfolio's sensitivity to interest rate variations), geographical allocation and/or sector or issuer selection compared to the Benchmark. Thus, the deviation from the Benchmark is expected to be significant. However, in certain market conditions (high credit market volatility, turmoil...), the Sub-Fund's positioning on the above indicators may be close to the Benchmark. For the sake of clarity, the Benchmark is a broad market index that does not necessarily consider in its composition or calculation methodology the ESG characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund.

The Sub-Fund seeks to achieve its objective through investments in sustainable securities that have implemented good practices in terms of managing their environmental impacts, governance and social ("ESG") practices, by using a socially responsible investment 'selectivity' approach taking into account non-financial criteria which consists of selecting best issuers in the investable universe based on their extra-financial ratings ("ESG scores"). The 'Best-in-Class' selectivity approach, which is bindingly applied at all times, consists in reducing by, at least, 20% the investment universe as defined by the Benchmark, by excluding issuers based on their ESG scores, where applicable, to the exception of bonds and other debt securities issued by public issuers, cash held on an ancillary basis and Solidarity Assets.

For illustrative purpose only, the ESG criteria may be carbon footprint and/or water intensity for the environmental aspect, health, safety and/or management of human resources and gender equality for the social aspect, remuneration policy and/or global ethics for the governance aspect. The scope of the eligible securities is reviewed every 6 months at the latest, as described in the transparency code of the Sub-Fund available at https://www.axa-im.com/fund-centre.

In addition, in the securities selection process, the Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies with the exception of derivatives and underlying eligible UCIs, as described in the documents available on the website: <a href="https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines.">https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines.</a>

The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 90% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund, with the exception of bonds and other debt securities issued by public issuers, cash held on an ancillary basis, and Solidarity Assets. The ESG rating method is described in the following link: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology. The ESG data 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.

The Sub-Fund invests in fixed and floating rate debt securities issued anywhere in the world by governments and Investment Grade companies or public institutions, and that are denominated in any freely convertible currencies. The Sub-Fund also invests in mortgage and asset backed securities from issuers anywhere in the world.

Specifically, at all times the Sub-Fund invests at least two thirds of net assets in bonds from issuers located anywhere in the world. The Sub-Fund may invest up to 15% in Sub-Investment Grade Securities. However, 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. In case of a credit downgrade below such minimum, securities will be sold within 6 months.

The Sub-Fund may also, and up to 10%, hold Distressed and Defaulted Securities as a result of holding bonds which 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. These securities are expected to be sold 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 up to 10% of net assets in assets backed securities (ABS) and up to 10% in contingent convertible bonds (CoCos).

The Sub-Fund may invest up to one third of net assets in money market instruments.

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 UCITS and/or UCIs that are managed by an AXA IM group entity and will then themselves not invest in securities rated in accordance with the above rating limits. The Sub-Fund may not invest in external UCITS or UCIs.

The Sub-Fund always aims at outperforming the ESG rating of the investment universe as defined by the Benchmark, both ESG scores of the Sub-Fund and the Benchmark being calculated on a weighted average basis. The ESG rating method is described in the following link: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology. For the sake of clarity, the Benchmark is a broad market index that does not necessarily consider in its composition or calculation methodology the ESG characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund. The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 90% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund.

In addition, in the securities selection process, the Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies with the exception of derivatives and underlying eligible UCIs, as described in the documents available on the website: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines. The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.

The new section "Management Process" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Management Process** The Investment Manager selects investments by applying a 2-step approach: 1/ defining the eligible universe after application of a first exclusion filter, as described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies, followed by a second 'Best-in-Class' filter, designed to eliminate the worst issuers from the investment universe on the basis of their extra financial rating calculated on the basis of the AXA IM ESG rating methodology; 2/ selecting investments based on a number of factors, including macro- and microeconomic analysis and credit analysis of issuers. The Investment Manager also manages the credit curve positioning and the exposure to different geographical areas, sectors and types of instruments.

The above amendments will require partial rebalancing of the portfolio of the Sub-Fund, which would entail estimated costs of approximately 0.08%. The risks as well as the investment strategy and policy will not materially change.

This addition of the application of the enhanced ESG assessment as part of the investment process of the Sub-Fund results in the ESG risk to apply and the Sub-Fund being reclassified under article 9 under the SFDR rather than under article 8. The Sustainability Risk profile of the Sub-Fund is also updated from medium to low.

In addition and as further described below, the name of the sub-investment manager appointed for dealing with American non-government fixed income securities is changed from AXA IM Inc. to AXA Investment Managers US Inc. following the internal restructuring

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

XI. Reshaping of the investment objective and strategy of the "Emerging Markets Short Duration Bonds" (the "Sub-Fund") and renaming of the Sub-Fund "ACT Emerging Markets Short Duration Bonds Low Carbon"

The Board decided to reshape the Sub-Fund in order to (i) add a low carbon approach to the investment strategy of the Sub-Fund, (ii) increase the sustainable profile of the Sub-Fund and consequently and (iii) rename the Sub-Fund as "AWF - ACT Emerging Markets Short Duration Bonds Low Carbon".

The Prospectus and the KIIDs will be updated accordingly.

The new sub-sections "Objective" and "Investment Strategy" of the section "Investment Objective and Strategy" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Objective** To seek performance, in USD, from an actively managed short duration emerging debt securities portfolio whose carbon footprint, measured as carbon intensity, is at least 30% lower than that of the index composed of 75% J. P. Morgan Corporate Emerging Market Bond Index Broad Diversified + 25% J. P. Morgan Emerging Market Bond Index Global Diversified (the "Benchmark"). As a secondary 'extra-financial objective', the water intensity of the portfolio aims also at being at least 30% lower than the Benchmark

The Sub-Fund's objective to invest in lower carbon emissions intensive exposures than the Benchmark is not performed in view of achieving the long-term global warming objectives of the Paris Agreement.

### Investment Strategy The Sub-Fund is actively managed without reference to any benchmark.

The Sub-Fund is actively managed in order to capture opportunities in emerging short duration bonds market, primarily investing in securities that are part of 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 Sub-Fund also references the Benchmark by seeking in order to achieve its extra-financial objectives. For the sake of clarity, the Sub-Fund's Benchmark is a broad market index that has neither an explicit investment nor sustainability objective but is used to measure the success of the Sub-Fund's investment and sustainability objectives.

The Investment Manager uses an 'extra-financial indicator improvement' approach in relation to the investable universe, the average of each extra-financial indicator - carbon intensity and water intensity - calculated at Sub-Fund's level being at least 30% better than that calculated for the Benchmark.

The Sub-Fund adopts a sustainable investment approach according to which the Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times carbon intensity and water intensity assessments in the securities selection process. The Sub-Fund completely excludes from its investment universe the securities of all issuers exceeding 800 CO2s tons/mn\$ revenue and non-green steel and oil sovereign owned entities. The Sub-Fund aims at excluding securities within the most carbon-intensive sectors such as utilities and basic industries (e.g. metals and protein producers). The Sub-Fund has the opportunity to invest in issuers who are transitioning to a more carbon sustainable path in sectors such as renewable energy and basic industry issuers who are focusing on de-carbonising their process and supply-chain.

The scope of the eligible securities is reviewed at least every 6 months, as described in the transparency code of the Sub-Fund available at https://www.axa-im.com/fund-centre.

In addition, in the securities selection process, the Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies with the exception of derivatives and underlying eligible UCIs, as described in the documents available on the website: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines.

The coverage rate for the carbon intensity indicator and the ESG analysis rating within the portfolio are each at least 90% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund, while the coverage rate for the water

intensity indicator within the portfolio will be at least 70% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund. These coverage rates exclude bonds and other debt securities issued by sovereign issuers, and cash or cash equivalent held on an ancillary basis. The carbon intensity and water intensity indicators will be obtained from an external provider. The ESG rating method is described in the following link: <a href="https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology">https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology</a>.

The ESG data 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.

The Sub-Fund invests in short duration bonds from emerging markets.

Specifically, the Sub-Fund invests mainly in transferable debt securities, including warrants, that are issued by governments, supranational entities, private or public companies in emerging countries in non-local currencies. The Sub-Fund may invest up to 100% of net assets in debt securities rated Sub-Investment Grade or unrated (i.e. neither the security itself nor its issuer has a credit rating).

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 100% in sovereign debt securities but it is not the current intention that the Sub-Fund will invest more than 10% of net assets in Sub-Investment Grade securities issued or guaranteed by any single country (including its government, public or local authority of that country). The Sub-Fund may invest up to 15% of net assets in local currency bonds.

The Sub-Fund may also, and up to 10%, hold Distressed and Defaulted Securities as a result of holding bonds which 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. These securities are expected to be sold within 6 months unless specific events prevent the Investment Manager from sourcing their liquidity.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 5% of net assets in contingent convertible bonds (CoCos).

The Sub-Fund may invest up to one-third of net assets in money market instruments and up to 49% of net assets in anticipation of or during unfavourable market conditions.

The Sub-Fund's average duration is expected to be three years or less.

The Sub-Fund does not invest in equity and equity related instruments.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of net assets in UCITS and/or UCIs.

The Sub-Fund always aims at outperforming the ESG rating of a parallel comparison portfolio internally defined by the Investment Manager for ESG purposes as a strategic asset allocation constituted of 75% J. P. Morgan Corporate Emerging Market Bond Index Broad Diversified + 25% J. P. Morgan Emerging Market Bond Index Global Diversified, both ESG scores of the Sub-Fund and the composition of this comparison portfolio being calculated on a weighted average basis. The ESG rating method is described in the following link: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology. For the sake of clarity, the above indexes are broad market indexes that do not necessarily consider in their composition or calculation methodology the ESG characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund. The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 75% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund.

In addition, in the securities selection process, the Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies with the exception of derivatives and underlying eligible UCIs, as described in the documents available on the website: <a href="https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines.">https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines.</a>. The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.

The new section "Management Process" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Management Process** The Investment Manager selects investments <u>by applying a 2-step approach: 1/ Analysing carbon intensity and water intensity data to ensure that the average of KPI carbon intensity and water intensity calculated at Sub-Fund's level is at least 30% better than that calculated for the investable universe, followed by the application of a second exclusion filter, described in AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion Policies and ESG Standards Policies; 2/ Evaluation of</u>

<u>market views: of economic, valuation, technical analysis of the markets</u> based on a number of factors, including macro- and microeconomic analysis and credit analysis of issuers. The Investment Manager also manages the Interest Rate Sensitivity, the yield curve positioning and the exposure to different geographical areas.

The above amendments will require partial rebalancing of the portfolio of the Sub-Fund, which would entail estimated costs in a range of approximately 0.075% to 0.12%. The risks as well as the investment strategy and policy will not materially change.

This addition of the application of the enhanced ESG assessment as part of the investment process of the Sub-Fund results in the Sub-Fund being reclassified under article 9 SFDR while being classified under article 8 SFDR previously.

The Sustainability Risk profile of the Sub-Fund has also changed from medium to low.

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

#### XII. Amendment of the investment strategy of the "Asian High Yield Bonds" (the "Sub-Fund")

The Board decided to amend the Sub-Fund in order to reclassify it from article 6 SFDR to article 8 SFDR product, in order to provide a more environmentally conscious way to invest in Asian high yield bonds market and to highlight clearly the competitive advantage of this sub-fund from an ESG perspective. Such a change also aims at anticipating potential requirements from our global distributors.

The Prospectus and the KIIDs will be updated accordingly.

The new sub-section "Investment Strategy" of the section "Investment Objective and Strategy" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Investment Strategy** The Sub-Fund is actively managed in order to capture opportunities in transferable debt securities issued in the Asian fixed income market, by mainly investing in securities that are part of the JP Morgan Asia Credit Non-Investment Grade 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 Sub-Fund invests in Sub-Investment Grade bonds (high yield bonds) from Asia that are denominated in Hard Currency.

Specifically, the Sub-Fund invests at least 70% of net assets in Sub-Investment Grade transferable debt securities that are issued by governments, supranational entities, public or private companies in Asia.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 100% of net assets in sovereign debt securities but does not invest more than 10% in securities issued or guaranteed by a single country (including its government and any public or local authority there) that are Sub-Investment Grade.

The Sub-Fund may also, and up to 10%, hold Distressed and Defaulted Securities as a result of holding bonds which 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. These securities are expected to be sold within 6 months unless specific events prevent the Investment Manager from sourcing their liquidity.

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 invest less than 30% of net assets in Investment Grade transferable debt securities that may include bonds denominated in CNY (through the RQFII quota or indirectly through investments in other Sub-Funds) or in other local currencies.

The Sub-Fund may also invest in the following, in the portion of net assets shown:

- money market instruments: less than 30%
- convertible bonds: up to 10%
- equity instruments: up to 5%.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 5% of net assets in contingent convertible bonds (CoCos).

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of net assets in units of UCITS and/or UCIs.

The Sub-Fund always aims at outperforming the ESG rating of the investment universe as defined by the Benchmark, both ESG scores of the Sub-Fund and the Benchmark being calculated on a weighted average basis. The ESG rating method is described in the following link: <a href="https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology">https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology</a>. For the sake of clarity, the Benchmark is a broad market index that does not necessarily consider in its composition or calculation methodology the ESG characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund.

The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 75% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund, with the exception of bonds and other debt securities issued by public issuers, cash held on an ancillary basis, and Solidarity Assets.

In addition, in the securities selection process, the Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion Policyand ESG Standards Policies, as described in the document available on https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines website, with the exception of derivatives and underlying eligible UCIs. The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.

The above amendments will require partial rebalancing of the portfolio of the Sub-Fund, which would entail estimated costs of approximately 0.016%. The risks as well as the investment strategy and policy will not materially change.

This addition of the application of the enhanced ESG assessment as part of the investment process of the Sub-Fund results in the ESG risk to apply and the Sub-Fund being reclassified under article 8 under the SFDR. The Sustainability Risk profile of the Sub-Fund is also updated from high to medium.

These changes will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such changes may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

XIII. Amendment of the investment strategy of the "Global Sustainable Aggregate" (the "Sub-Fund")

The Board has decided to amend the Sub-Fund details in the Prospectus in order to:

(i) add specific exclusions by inserting the following 6<sup>th</sup> paragraph in the investment strategy section of the Sub-Fund:

The Investment Manager also applies specific exclusions as follows:

- an exclusion list based on ethical criteria, as further described in the transparency code of the Sub-Fund available at https://www.axa-im.com/fund-centre; and
- a specific companies ban list, based on the Norges Bank Investment Management exclusion list (Observation and exclusion of companies (nbim.no)), excluding certain investments in companies on the basis of their conduct or sector. This

list is updated by the Investment Manager every 6 months at the latest and should disinvestments be needed as a consequence, the Investment Manager will use its best efforts to sell these securities within 1 month.

- (ii) reflect these specific exclusions in the Management Process;
- (iii) update the name of the benchmark used for the purposes of the Best-in-Class selectivity approach (as follows: Bloomberg <del>Barclays</del> Global Aggregate OECD Currencies benchmark) to reflect the change of name decided by Bloomberg; and
- (iv) lower the maximum limit of investment in Sub-Investment Grade Securities, from 30% to less than 20%.

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

#### XIV. Amendment of the investment strategy of "Global High Yield Bonds" (the "Sub-Fund")

After a detailed internal analysis, the Board decided to (i) change the benchmark of the sub-fund from ICE BofAML Global High Yield Hedged USD to ICE BofA Developed Markets High Yield Constrained (which aligns significantly better with the investment positioning of AXA IM's Global High Yield strategy) and (ii) amend the Sub-Fund's details of the Prospectus in order to reclassify it from article 6 SFDR to article 8 SFDR product, in order to provide a more environmentally conscious way to invest in global high yield bonds market and to anticipate potential requirements from our global distributors.

The Prospectus and the KIIDs will be updated accordingly.

The new sub-section "Investment Strategy" of the section "Investment Objective and Strategy" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Investment Strategy** The Sub-Fund is actively managed in order to capture opportunities in international high yield corporate debt market, primarily investing in securities that are part of the ICE BofA Developed Markets High Yield Constrained ICE BofAML Global High Yield Hedged USD 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 Sub-Fund invests in international fixed and floating rate securities mainly issued by European or American companies.

Specifically, the Sub-Fund invests in fixed income debt securities issued by companies that are mainly rated Sub-Investment Grade or if unrated then deemed to be so by the Investment Manager. The Sub-Fund will not invest more than 10% of net assets in securities issued or guaranteed by a single country (including its government and any public or local authority there) that are Sub-Investment Grade.

The Sub-Fund may also, and up to 10%, hold Distressed and Defaulted Securities as a result of holding bonds which 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. These securities are expected to be sold 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 up to 10% of net assets in contingent convertible bonds (CoCos).

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 5% of net assets in units of UCITS and/or UCIs.

The Sub-Fund always aims at outperforming the ESG rating of the investment universe as defined by Benchmark, both ESG scores of the Sub-Fund and the Benchmark being calculated on a weighted average basis. The ESG rating method is described in the following link: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology. For the sake of clarity, the Benchmark is a broad market index that does not necessarily consider in its composition or calculation methodology the ESG characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund.

The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 75% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund, with the exception of bonds and other debt securities issued by public issuers, cash held on an ancillary basis, and Solidarity Assets.

In addition, in the securities selection process, the Investment Manager

The Sub-Fund bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards PoliciesPolicy, as described in the document available on the following website: <a href="https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelineswebsite">https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelineswebsite</a>, with the exception of derivatives and underlying eligible UCIs. The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.

The above amendments will require partial rebalancing of the portfolio of the Sub-Fund, which would entail estimated costs in a range of approximately 0.01% to 0.02%. The risks as well as the investment strategy and policy will not materially change.

This addition of the application of the enhanced ESG assessment as part of the investment process of the Sub-Fund results in the ESG risk to apply and the Sub-Fund being reclassified under Article 8 under the SFDR.

These changes will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such changes may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

In addition and as further described below, the name of the investment manager of the Sub-Fund is changed from AXA Investment Managers Inc. to AXA Investment Managers US Inc. following the internal restructuring.

This change will take effect on 1 January 2022.

XV. Amendment of the "US Enhanced High Yield Bonds" (the "Sub-Fund") details of the Prospectus

The Board decided to amend the Sub-Fund's details of the prospectus in order to remove the reference to a benchmark and to reclassify it from article 6 SFDR to article 8 SFDR product in order to provide a more environmentally conscious way to invest in US high yield bonds market and to anticipate potential requirements from our global distributors.

The Prospectus and the KIIDs will be updated accordingly.

The new sub-section "Investment Strategy" of the section "Investment Objective and Strategy" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Investment Strategy** The Sub-Fund is actively managed and uses for some share classes as reference the benchmark index specified in the section "Benchmark for performance fee" below (the "Benchmark"), for the purpose of performance fees' calculation of the performance fee share

class against it. As the Benchmark is a rate notably used for performance measurement and the Sub-Fund's investment allocation or holdings' composition is not constituted in relation to the Benchmark, the deviation from the Benchmark is likely to be significant.

#### without reference to any benchmark.

The Sub-Fund is exposed to Sub-Investment Grade corporate bonds and floating rate debt securities (high yield bonds) with short duration issued by US companies.

Specifically, the Sub-Fund mainly invests in or is exposed through derivatives to Sub-Investment Grade corporate bonds and floating rate debt securities that are issued primarily by companies domiciled in the US. The Sub-Fund may be exposed up to 25% of net assets to transferable debt securities issued by non-OECD domiciled issuers.

The implementation of leverage is a core element of the Sub-Fund's investment strategy. Leverage may be used by the Sub-Fund through total return swaps (TRS) referencing single securities. The TRS will be dynamically managed to gain exposure to underlying single-name short duration corporate high yield bonds primarily issued by US companies. Leverage may vary over time depending on the market conditions. Therefore, there is no guarantee that the leverage is consistent during the minimum recommended investment period of the Sub-Fund.

The anticipated average expected time to maturity or redemption of investments is three years or less, although the Investment Manager may vary this approach if market conditions warrant.

The Sub-Fund may invest in or be exposed through derivatives to a significant extent to securities rated CCC or below by Standard & Poor's or equivalent rating by Moody's. If securities are unrated, they must be judged equivalent to those levels by the Investment Manager.

The Sub-Fund may also, and up to 10%, hold Distressed and Defaulted Securities as a result of holding bonds which 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. These securities are expected to be sold 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.

To a lesser extent, the Sub-Fund may invest in or be exposed to preferred shares from corporate issuers domiciled inside or outside the US.

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

The Sub-Fund may invest in or be exposed to 144A securities, in a substantial way depending on the opportunity.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to 10% of net assets in UCITS and/or UCIs.

The Sub-Fund always aims at outperforming the ESG rating 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, both ESG scores of the Sub-Fund and the composition of this comparison portfolio being calculated on a weighted average basis. The ESG rating method is described in the following link: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology. For the sake of clarity, the above index is a broad market index that does not necessarily consider in its composition or calculation methodology the ESG characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund.

The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 75% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund, with the exception of bonds and other debt securities issued by public issuers, cash held on an ancillary basis, and Solidarity Assets.

In addition, in the securities selection process, the Investment Manager bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion Policyand ESG Standards Policies, as described in the document available on the following website: <a href="https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines">https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines</a> website, with the exception of derivatives and underlying eligible UCIs. The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.

The above amendments will require partial rebalancing of the portfolio of the Sub-Fund, which would entail estimated costs in a range of approximately 0.01% to 0.02%. The risks as well as the investment strategy and policy will not materially change.

This addition of the application of the enhanced ESG assessment as part of the investment process of the Sub-Fund results in the ESG risk to apply and the Sub-Fund being reclassification as Article 8 under the SFDR.

These changes will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such changes may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

The reference to the use of Total Return Swaps is moved up in the Sub-section "Derivatives and Efficient Portfolio Management Techniques" and removed from the paragraph on efficient portfolio management techniques.

Sub-section "Benchmark for performance fee" in section "Additional Features" is also deleted and Share Classes applying performance fee are removed from the Share Classes table following their liquidation.

These changes have no impact on shareholders and will take effect immediately, i.e. as from the date of publication of the updated prospectus.

In addition and as further described below, the name of the investment manager of the Sub-Fund is changed from AXA Investment Managers Inc. to AXA Investment Managers US Inc. following the internal restructuring.

This change will take effect on 1 January 2022.

### XVI. Amendment of the investment strategy of the "US High Yield Bonds" (the "Sub-Fund")

The Board has decided to amend the Sub-Fund in order to add a more intense ESG approach to reclassify it from article 6 SFDR to article 8 SFDR product in order to provide a more environmentally conscious way to invest in US high yield bonds market and to anticipate potential requirements from our global distributors.

The Prospectus and the KIIDs will be updated accordingly.

The new sub-section "Investment Strategy" of the section "Investment Objective and Strategy" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Investment Strategy** The Sub-Fund is actively managed in order to capture opportunities in the US high yield debt market, primarily investing in securities that are part of the ICE BofAML US High Yield Master II 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 Sub-Fund invests in Sub-Investment Grade corporate bonds (high yield bonds) that are issued by US companies.

Specifically, at all times the Sub-Fund invests at least two thirds of net assets in Sub-Investment Grade fixed income transferable debt securities issued by private or public companies domiciled in the United States. If securities are unrated, they must be judged equivalent to those levels by the Investment Manager.

The Sub-Fund may invest up to one third of net assets in sovereign debt securities but does not invest more than 10% in securities issued or guaranteed by a single country (including its government and any public or local authority there) that are Sub-Investment Grade or are unrated.

The Sub-Fund may also, and up to 10%, hold Distressed and Defaulted Securities as a result of holding bonds which 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. These securities are expected to be sold 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 up to one third of net assets in securities domiciled or listed in Canadian or European markets.

The Sub-Fund may also invest in the following, up to the portion of net assets shown:

- money market instruments: one third
- convertible securities: one quarterless than 20%
- equities: one tenth

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

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 UCITS and/or UCIs.

The Sub-Fund always aims at outperforming the ESG rating of the investment universe as defined by the Benchmark, both ESG scores of the Sub-Fund and the Benchmark being calculated on a weighted average basis. The ESG rating method is described in the following link: <a href="https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology">https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology</a>. For the sake of clarity, the Benchmark is a broad market index that does not necessarily consider in its composition or calculation methodology the ESG characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund.

The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 75% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund, with the exception of bonds and other debt securities issued by public issuers, cash held on an ancillary basis, and Solidarity Assets.

In addition, in the securities selection process, the Investment Manager

The Sub Fund bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion <u>and ESG Standards Policies Policy</u>, as described in the document available on the <u>following website</u>: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines <u>website</u>, with the exception of derivatives and underlying eligible UCIs. <u>The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.</u>

The above amendments will require partial rebalancing of the portfolio of the Sub-Fund, which would entail estimated costs in a range of approximately 0.01% to 0.02%. The risks as well as the investment strategy and policy will not materially change.

This addition of the application of the enhanced ESG assessment as part of the investment process of the Sub-Fund results in the ESG risk to apply and the Sub-Fund being reclassified under article 8 under the SFDR.

These changes will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such changes may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

In addition and as further described below, the name of the investment manager of the Sub-Fund is changed from AXA Investment Managers Inc. to AXA Investment Managers US Inc. following the internal restructuring.

This change will take effect on 1 January 2022.

# XVII. Amendment of the investment strategy of "US Short Duration High Yield Bonds" (the "Sub-Fund")

The Board decided to amend the Sub-Fund in order to reclassify it from article 6 SFDR to article 8 SFDR product in order to provide a more environmentally conscious way to invest in US high yield bonds market and to anticipate potential requirements from our global distributors.

The Prospectus and the KIIDs will be updated accordingly.

The new sub-section "Investment Strategy" of the section "Investment Objective and Strategy" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Investment Strategy** The Sub-Fund is actively managed without reference to any benchmark. The Sub-Fund invests in Sub-Investment Grade corporate bonds (high yield bonds) with short duration issued by US companies.

Specifically, the Sub-Fund invests mainly in Sub-Investment Grade fixed income debt securities that are issued primarily by companies domiciled in the United States.

For Sub-Fund's investments, the anticipated average expected time to maturity or redemption is three years or less, although the Investment Manager may vary this approach if market conditions warrant.

The Sub-Fund may invest to a significant extent in securities rated below CCC by Standard & Poor's or equivalent rating by Moody's. If securities are unrated, they must be judged equivalent to those levels by the Investment Manager.

The Sub-Fund may also, and up to 10%, hold Distressed and Defaulted Securities as a result of holding bonds which 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. These securities are expected to be sold within 6 months unless specific events prevent the Investment Manager from sourcing their liquidity.

To a lesser extent, the Sub-Fund may invest in preferred shares and in bonds from public or corporate issuers domiciled outside the United States.

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

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 UCITS and/or UCIs.

The Sub-Fund always aims at outperforming the ESG rating 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, both ESG scores of the Sub-Fund and the composition of this comparison portfolio being calculated on a weighted average basis. The ESG rating method is described in the following link: <a href="https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology">https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/framework-and-scoring-methodology</a>. For the sake of clarity, the above index is a broad market index that does not necessarily consider in its composition or calculation methodology the ESG characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund.

The ESG analysis coverage rate within the portfolio is at least 75% of the net assets of the Sub-Fund, with the exception of bonds and other debt securities issued by public issuers, cash held on an ancillary basis, and Solidarity Assets.

In addition, in the securities selection process, the Investment Manager

The Sub-Fund bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion and ESG Standards Policies Policies, as described in the document available on https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines website, with the exception of derivatives and underlying eligible UCIs. The ESG criteria contribute to, but are not a determining factor in, the Investment Manager's decision making.

The above amendments will require partial rebalancing of the portfolio of the Sub-Fund, which would entail estimated costs in a range of approximately 0.01% to 0.02%. The risks as well as the investment strategy and policy will not materially change.

This addition of the application of the enhanced ESG assessment as part of the investment process of the Sub-Fund results in the ESG risk to apply and the Sub-Fund being reclassification as Article 8 under the SFDR.

These changes will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such changes may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

In addition and as further described below, the name of the investment manager of the Sub-Fund is changed from AXA Investment Managers Inc. to AXA Investment Managers US Inc. following the internal restructuring.

This change will take effect on 1 January 2022.

### XVIII. Amendment of the investment strategy of the "Global Strategic Bonds" (the "Sub-Fund")

The Board decided to amend the Sub-Fund details in the Prospectus in order to add additional disclosures to be aligned on the ones contained in its Hong Kong legal documentation as required by the Hong Kong authority.

The new sub-section "Investment Strategy" of the section "Investment Objective and Strategy" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Investment Strategy** The Sub-Fund is actively managed without reference to any benchmark. The Sub-Fund invests in bonds of any type, credit quality and currency from issuers anywhere in the world, including emerging markets, and in money market instruments.

Specifically, the Sub-Fund invests <u>mainly</u> in <u>fixed and floating rate</u> Investment Grade and Sub-Investment Grade transferable debt securities, including inflation-linked bonds, <u>debt securities</u> issued by governments, public institutions and companies. It is expected that the <u>Sub-Fund will invest at least two-thirds of its net assets in such securities under normal circumstances. The <u>Sub-Fund may invest up to 100% of net assets in debt securities that are rated Sub-Investment Grade or if unrated (i.e. neither the security itself nor its issuer has a credit rating) then deemed to be so by the Investment Manager. The <u>Sub-Fund may invest up to 25% of net assets in securities issued</u> or guaranteed by a single sovereign issuer that are <u>Sub-Investment Grade</u>.</u></u>

The Sub-Fund may also invest up to 25% of net assets in subordinated debts issued by banks, insurance companies and non-financial corporates. (...)

The new section "Management Process" of the Sub-Fund will read as follows:

**Management Process** The Investment Manager selects investments based on a number of factors, including macroeconomic analysis, <u>core strategies</u> <del>best ideas</del> of the AXA Fixed Income expertise and credit analysis of issuers. The Investment Manager also manages the Interest Rate Sensitivity and the exposure to different geographical areas and types of instruments.

In addition and as further described below, the name of the sub-investment manager for US credit securities is changed from AXA Investment Managers Inc. to AXA Investment Managers US Inc. following the internal restructuring.

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

# XIX. Amendment of the investment strategy of the "Chorus Equity Market Neutral" (the "Sub-Fund")

The Board decided to amend the Sub-Fund's details of the Prospectus as follows:

- enhance the exposure to emerging markets, and therefore to amend the 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph of its investment strategy as follows:

The Sub-Fund provides long and short investment exposure to equities and equities related instruments of companies located in global developed markets. (including emerging markets up to 15%). At least 6040% of the gross notional of equities and equity related instruments are expected to reference issuers incorporated or listed in the United States and Canada.

This addition of the application of the enhanced exposure to emerging markets as part of the investment process of the Sub-Fund results in the emerging markets risk to apply.

- The maximum percentage of total return swaps is increased from 600% to 800%.
- The expected level of leverage is also amended as follows:

 $(\dots)$ 

Expected level of leverage of the equity exposure: Between 2 and 68.

Expected total level of leverage: Between 3 and 810.

The reason is that the Sub-Fund has improved both investment and risk models through the years, leading to some reduction of risks per unit of leverage. Therefore, the sub-fund is close to its maximum gross level of equity leverage but has in the meantime reduced risks and volatility. The investment managers now wish to increase the level of leverage in order to slightly increase the actual realized volatility while keeping it close to the average target.

- The "Sub-Fund Business Day" sub-section is finally amended as follows:

**Sub-Fund Business Day** Orders to subscribe, switch or redeem Sub-Fund Shares are processed every day (i) that is a full bank and relevant stock exchange business day in Luxembourg, Japan and the United States and (ii) for which there is no holiday on an exchange which is a market for significant part of the Sub-Fund's investment, as determined by the Investment Manager.

- In addition, one should note that within the Sub-Funds, the following processes co-exist in term of application of the dealing price to the orders received and accepted by the registrar agent of the Company:
  - Forward Pricing Basis: a policy under which orders received before the cut off are processed at the valuation day; and
  - Forward-Forward Pricing Basis: a policy under which orders received before the cut off are processed at the following valuation day.

In that context, the Management Company has performed an analysis and the review that has been handled has permitted to confirm that the Sub-Fund should be moved to a Forward-Forward Pricing Basis rather than a Forward Pricing Basis, under an appropriate governance.

The Board thus amended the orders process from a Forward Pricing Basis to a Forward-Forward Pricing Basis.

The KIIDs shall be amended accordingly.

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

XX. Amendments to the investment objective of the Sub-Fund "AWF – ACT US Corporate Bonds Low Carbon" (the "Sub-Fund")

The Board has decided to amend of the investment objective of the Sub-Fund (and as applicable to update the relevant figures in the remainder of the Sub-Fund's details) as follows: "seek both income and growth of your investment, in USD, from an actively managed bond portfolio. whose carbon footprint, measured as carbon intensity, is at least  $2\underline{3}0\%$  lower than that of the Bloomberg Barclays US Corporate Investment Grade index (the "Benchmark"). As a secondary 'extra-financial objective', the water intensity of the portfolio aims also at being at least  $2\underline{3}0\%$  lower than the Benchmark".

The KIIDs shall be amended accordingly.

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

XXI. Amendments to the investment objective of the Sub-Fund "AWF – ACT US High Yield Bonds Low Carbon" (the "Sub-Fund")

The Board has decided to amend of the investment objective (and as applicable to update the relevant figures in the remainder of the Sub-Fund's details) as follows: "seek to achieve high income, in USD, from an actively managed bond portfolio whose carbon footprint, measured as carbon intensity, is at least 230% lower than that of the ICE BofA US High Yield Index (the "Benchmark"). As a secondary 'extra-financial objective', the water intensity of the portfolio aims also at being at least 230% lower than the Benchmark".

The KIIDs shall be amended accordingly.

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

XXII. Amendment to the investment strategy of the Sub-Fund "AWF – Global Emerging Market Bonds" (the "Sub-Fund")

The Board has decided to add the possibility for the Sub-Fund to invest in or be exposed to securities traded on the CIBM through Bond Connect (up to 10 % of its net assets) as well as to insert of a risk factor in the Sub-Fund's Description in this respect.

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

XXIII. SFDR reclassification of the "AWF - Framlington Italy" and "AWF - Framlington

#### Switzerland" Sub-Funds (the "Sub-Funds")

The Board has decided to amend the two above-mentioned Sub-Funds in order to add the application of the ESG Standards Policies as part of the investment process of the Sub-Funds, resulting in the ESG risk factor to apply and the Sub-Funds being reclassified under article 8 under the SFDR.

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

XXIV. Amendment to the investment strategy of the "AWF – Global Optimal Income" Sub-Fund (the "Sub-Fund")

The Board has decided to amend the Interest Rate Sensitivity in which the Sub-Fund is managed from "minus 2 to 8" to "minus 4 to 8".

Further to the above, the Sub-Fund's appendix is also slightly amended to remove one of the mentions that the Sub-Fund may be exposed to money market instruments, to avoid repetition.

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

XXV. Amendment to the investment strategy and insertion of a new benchmark for the performance fees for the USD share classes of "AWF – Optimal Income" Sub-Fund (the "Sub-Fund")

The Board has decided to amend the Interest Rate Sensitivity in which the Sub-Fund is managed from "minus 2 to 8" to "minus 4 to 8".

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

The Board has further decided to add a new benchmark for the calculation of the performance fee of the USD share classes in order to ensure that the benchmark used for performance fees would always be in the best interest of the shareholders. To this purpose, the EUR short term rate must be replaced by the relevant reference short term rate related to the non-EU share class currency on the benchmark used for performance fees calculation (i.e. for USD hedged share classes, Fed Fund rates).

As a consequence, the relevant paragraph of the sub-Fund's details shall be amended as follows:

"Benchmark for performance fee €STR + 8.5 bps cap + 200 bps denominated in EUR for EUR Share Classes; €STR + 208.5 bps cap denominated in EUR converted in the currency of the Share Class for non-EUR Share Classes and US Federal Funds (Effective) – Middle Rate Capi +200bps for USD Share Classes.

The performance fee only applies to the outperformance of the benchmark according to the Absolute High Water Mark formula."

This change will take effect on 1 January 2022.

#### XXVI. Amendment to the investment strategy of the AWF - Euro Strategic Bonds

The Board has decided to amend the maximum limit of investments in callable bonds from 30% to 100% in order to add flexibility and to update the Prospectus and the KIIDs accordingly.

This change does not impact the risk profile or the SRRI.

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

#### XXVII. Performance fee of AWF - Chorus Multi Strategy

With reference to item I. above and the ESMA Guidelines on performance fees in UCITS and certain types of AIFs, the Board has decided to update the hurdle level used for the USD share classes of AWF – Chorus Multi Strategy from US Federal Funds rate minus 1% capitalized to US Federal Funds rate capitalized.

As a consequence of the above, the maximum performance fee corresponding to an annualized performance of the Share Class ranging from 0 and 10% will be updated as well, from 15% to 18%. The other share classes as well as the other percentages will not be impacted.

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders invested in the impacted share classes who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

#### XXVIII. Aggregate limit of investment in certain instruments

Following the request of certain distributors to limit the aggregate percentage of certain instruments such as asset backed securities (ABS), contingent convertible bonds (Cocos) and convertible bonds, the Board intends to amend the relevant concerned Sub-Funds' details of the Prospectus as follows:

- **AWF Global Flexible Property**: addition of the possibility for the Sub-Fund to invest in ABS assets up to 10% of its net assets;
- **AWF Euro Credit Plus**: decrease of the limit in which the Sub-Fund may invest in convertible securities from one quarter to one tenth of its net assets;
- **AWF Euro Credit Total Return**: decrease of the limit in which the Sub-Fund may invest in asset backed securities from 10% to 5% of its net assets:
- **AWF ACT Global Green Bonds**: decrease of the limit in which the Sub-Fund may invest in asset-backed securities from less than 20% to less than 10% and in convertible securities from one quarter to one tenth of its net assets;
- AWF US Credit Short Duration IG: decrease of the limit in which the Sub-Fund may invest in Investment Grade mortgage and asset backed securities and in transferable debt securities issued by governments or public institutions, and non-USD denominated bonds from 20% to 15% of its net assets;
- **AWF US Dynamic High Yield Bonds**: decrease of the limit in which the Sub-Fund may invest in convertible securities from one quarter to less than 20% of its net assets; and
- **AWF ACT US High Yield Bonds Low Carbon**: decrease of the limit in which the Sub-Fund may invest in convertible securities from one quarter to less than 20% of its net assets.

The relevant KIIDs will be amended accordingly.

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

#### XXIX. Business Days update

The Board has decided to amend the appendices of the Sub-Funds listed below in order to update the list of Business Days, as follows:

- AWF Framlington Italy: addition of an exception (i.e. 31 December) in the Sub-Fund Business
  Day being a day where orders to subscribe, switch or redeem the Sub-Fund shares are processed
  as the 31<sup>st</sup> of December is a business day in Italy;
- AWF Framlington Talents Global: addition that a Sub-Fund Business Day is also a full bank Business Day in the United States of America in addition to Luxembourg due to the Sub-Fund's exposure to the US market;

These changes take effect on 1 January 2022.

#### XXX. Benchmarks renaming

**WHEREAS** benchmarks administrators BofA and Bloomberg have decided to rename their benchmarks respectively to replace "BofAML" by "BofA" and to remove the mention of "Barclays".

As a consequence, the Board **RESOLVES** to update the Sub-Funds Descriptions of the following Sub-Funds to reflect this change in the name of the indices they use:

- AWF Euro Credit Short Duration;
- AWF Euro Sustainable Credit;
- AWF Euro Inflation Plus;
- AWF European High Yield Bonds;
- AWF Global Inflation Bonds;
- AWF Global Inflation Short Duration Bonds;
- AWF Global Income Generation;
- AWF US Dynamic High Yield Bonds;
- AWF Defensive Optimal Income;
- AWF Global Optimal Income;
- AWF US High Yield Bonds; and
- AWF Optimal Income.

These changes take effect immediately, i.e. at the date of the publication of the updated prospectus.

### XXXI. Costs relating to the use of financial indices

The Board decided to reflect that the costs relating to the use of financial indices should be borne by the relevant investment managers of the Sub-Funds.

The Board has also decided to add a new sub-section "Costs relating to the use of financial indices" within the section "Notes on Sub-Fund's Costs" which will read as follows:

#### Costs relating to the use of financial indices

The costs relating to the use of financial indices (if any), including the fees accounted at index level, are borne by the relevant Investment Managers

These changes take effect immediately, i.e. at the date of the publication of the updated prospectus.

#### XXXII. Use of derivatives for hedging purposes

For the Sub-Funds listed below the Board has decided to align the disclosures across the Prospectus and to clarify that they can use derivatives for hedging purposes.

This concerns the following Sub-Funds:

- AWF Euro Credit Total Return
- AWF Euro Government Bonds
- AWF Euro Inflation Bonds
- AWF US High Yield Bonds
- AWF Global Optimal Income
- AWF Optimal Income

These changes take effect immediately, i.e. at the date of the publication of the updated prospectus.

#### XXXIII. Launch of several share classes

The Board decided to create two new Share Classes and to amend the Prospectus (Share Classes Table of the general part and where applicable, the relevant Sub-Funds' specifics) in order to describe their characteristics, which will be as follows:

1. **BL shares**, created notably for the purposes of responding to the commercial appetite in Taiwan for this type of share class. The BL shares are subject to a Contingent Deferred Sales Charge.

Therefore the Board also decided to add a new sub-section "Contingent Deferred Sales Charges" within the section "buying, switching, redeeming and transferring Shares" which read as follows:

Contingent Deferred Sales Charges (CDSC)

On BL Shares, a deferred sales charge is levied on Shares that are redeemed within a certain amount of time after purchase. The rate for the BL Shares is calculated based on the length of the investment, as follows: 3% if redeemed within the first year of purchase, 2% if redeemed within the second year and 1% if redeemed within the third year, without any pro-rata within the year. No CDSC will apply after the end of the third year of investment.

Shareholders should note that for the purpose of determining the number of years BL Shares have been held:

- (a) the anniversary of the date of subscription shall be used.
- (b) the BL Shares held the longest period are redeemed first.
- (c) the BL Shares which a Shareholder receives upon a conversion from a BL Share from another Sub-Fund carry the holding period(s) which corresponds to the holding period(s) of the BL Shares which were converted.
- (d) when a Shareholder converts BL Shares which have been subscribed at different times to BL Shares of another Sub-Fund, the Registrar and Transfer Agent will convert the BL Shares held for the longest period.

Shares acquired by reinvestment of dividends or distributions will be subject to the same characteristics as shares eligible for such dividends or distributions. Shares acquired by reinvestment of dividends or distributions will be exempt from the deferred sales charge.

The amount of any deferred sales charge is based on the purchase price of the Shares being redeemed, as following: CDSC = Redeemed Shares \* Subscription Price \* Payable % depending on the length of investment.

In case of merger or of any material amendment requiring a one month notice period allowing shareholders to request the redemption of their shares free of charge, the CDSC will apply only if the investors decide to opt for a redemption while he/she/it has been provided with an option to stay in the existing sub-fund or to switch to another sub-fund having similar characteristics. In case of liquidation of the concerned sub-funds, no CDSC will apply if the investors stay until the liquidation date (the CDSC will apply in case of redemption prior to the liquidation date).

In determining whether a deferred sales charge is payable on any redemption, the Sub-Fund will first redeem Shares not subject to any deferred sales charge, and then Shares held longest during the deferred sales charge period. Any deferred sales charge due will be retained by the Management Company, which is entitled to such deferred sales charge.

#### The Board further decided to

- Insert the details of the BL Share Class in the table of the general part of the Prospectus summarizing the characteristics of the Share Classes, and notably the "Notes", by indicating that: "Conversion into a BL Share Class of another Sub-Fund requires SICAV's approval. Shares of the "BL" Share Classes will automatically be converted into Shares of a "A" Share-Class of the same Sub-Fund, with equivalent features in terms of capitalization/distribution policy and hedging, after three years at no cost"
- amend the "Switching Shares" section in order to specify that BL Shares may only be converted into BL Shares of another Sub-Fund.
- N shares, low-entry-fee/higher distribution fee share class created for the purposes of including a new segment of Latin American domestic distributors and US Offshore independent broker dealers.

These changes take effect immediately, i.e. at the date of the publication of the updated prospectus.

#### XXXIV. Renaming of Sub-Funds

The Board has decided to rename the Sub-Funds listed below and as follows:

- "AWF ACT Framlington Clean Economy" in "AWF ACT Clean Economy";
- "AWF ACT Framlington Social Progress" in "AWF ACT Social Progress";
- "AWF ACT Framlington Human Capital" in "AWF ACT Human Capital"; and
- "AWF ACT Global Green Bonds" in "AWF ACT Green Bonds".

These changes take effect as from 10 January 2022.

#### XXXV. Sustainability Risk profile update

The Board has decided to update the Sustainability Risk profile of Sub-Funds listed below, from 'Medium' to 'Low', following the most recent risk reassessment (which is performed on a regular basis):

- AWF Framlington Europe Real Estate Securities;
- AWF Euro Credit Short Duration;
- AWF Euro Short Duration Bonds;
- AWF Euro Strategic Bonds;

- AWF Euro Bonds:
- AWF Euro Credit Total Return
- AWF Framlington Robotech;
- AWF Global Credit Bonds (to be renamed "Global Sustainable Credit Bonds"); and
- AWF Emerging Markets Short Duration Bonds (to be renamed "ACT Emerging Markets Short Duration Bonds Low Carbon").

These changes take effect immediately, i.e. at the date of the publication of the updated prospectus.

#### XXXVI. RedEx Share Classes fees

The Board has decided to update section "Investment in the Sub-Funds" of the general part of the Prospectus to reflect that the Board may close a RedEx Share Class of any Sub-Fund if the value of this RedEx Share Class falls below EUR 5 million or equivalent value in another currency (instead of 2 million for any RedEx Share Class of AXA World Funds – Global Inflation Bonds and 1 million for any RedEx Share Class of any other relevant Sub-Fund).

This change will take effect on 18 February 2022, i.e. one month after the date of the present Notice.

Shareholders who do not agree with such change may request the redemption of their shares free of charge until 18 February 2022.

### XXXVII. ESG selectivity approach terms

The Board has noted that the ESG integration selectivity approaches based on the reduction of a pre-set universe were not always properly reflected by the terms used in the prospectus and KIIDs of certain Sub-Funds. This regards in particular the currently used concept of "Best-in-Class" which could be better translated by "Best-in-Universe".

The Board has decided to replace, where relevant in the Sub-Fund's Description, of the mention to the "Best-In-Class" approach by the "Best-In-Universe" approach, to reflect more accurately the selectivity method applied by the concerned following Sub-Funds, without any change in the actual and operational management of the concerned Sub-Funds:

- AWF ACT Framlington Clean Economy (to be renamed "AWF ACT Clean Economy");
- AWF Framlington Sustainable Eurozone;
- AWF Framlington Sustainable Europe;
- AWF Framlington Euro Selection;
- AWF Framlington Europe Small Cap;
- AWF Framlington Evolving Trends;
- AWF Framlington Next Generation;
- AWF ACT Framlington Human Capital (to be renamed "AWF ACT Human Capital");
- AWF ACT Framlington Social Progress (to be renamed "AWF ACT Social Progress"); and
- AWF ACT Multi Asset Optimal Impact;

In addition, the Board has decided to add of the following defined terms within the section "Terms with Specific Meanings":

- Best-In-Class; and
- Best-In-Universe.

These changes take effect immediately, i.e. at the date of the publication of the updated prospectus.

## XXXVIII. Investment managers and sub-investment managers restructuring

AXA Rosenberg Investment Management LLC will be merged into AXA Investment Managers Inc. due to an internal restructuring. In the process, AXA Investment Managers Inc will be renamed AXA Investment Managers US Inc.

The restructuring is essentially an internal reorganization of activities and should not impact investors or the services provided by the relevant Investment Managers. This restructuring is contemplated to take effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2022.

As a result, The Board has decided to update of the name of the (sub-)investment manager AXA Investment Managers Inc. (USA) to AXA Investment Managers US Inc. (USA).

Sub-Funds impacted by the above are the following:

- AWF ACT Factors Climate Equity Fund;
- AWF Global Sustainable Aggregate;
- AWF Global Short Duration Bonds;
- AWF ACT US Corporate Bonds Low Carbon;
- AWF US Credit Short Duration IG;
- AWF US Dynamic High Yield Bonds;
- AWF ACT US High Yield Bonds Low Carbon;
- AWF Global Credit Bonds (to be renamed AWF Global Sustainable Credit Bonds as from 18 February 2022);
- AWF Global High Yield Bonds;
- AWF US Enhanced High Yield Bonds;
- AWF US High Yield Bonds;
- AWF US Short Duration High Yield Bonds;
- AWF Global Strategic Bonds;

In addition to the US restructuring, it has been independently decided to combine our Rosenberg and Framlington investment platforms to create the single "AXA IM Equity" platform. As part of this new set up, our equity quantitative investment approach will be renamed "AXA IM Equity QI" (Quant Investing) so they can be easily distinguished from the non-quantitative AXA IM equity Framlington investment approach and while combining our equity teams under one roof will bring resourcing benefits, the investment independence and philosophy of our Equity QI team remains unaltered.

As a result, all portfolio management activity that is currently done in the US or Singapore will be conducted out of London by AXA Investment Managers UK Ltd as of January 1, 2022. It is not anticipated that this internal restructuring will impact investors or the services provided as the Investment Manager will provide substantially the same services as those currently provided by the current relevant Sub-Investment Managers.

The below sub-investment management delegations agreements from AXA Investment Managers UK Ltd. will therefore be terminated and the prospectus will be updated accordingly:

- AWF Global Factors Sustainable Equity;
- AWF Global Income Generation;
- AWF ACT Factors Climate Equity Fund.

These changes take effect as from 1 January 2022.

#### XXXIX. Miscellaneous

The Board finally decided to implement a limited number of other clerical changes, amendments, clarifications, corrections, adjustments and/or updates, including reference update and adjustment of defined terms, including the following:

- Removal from the relevant Sub-Funds specifics of the mention of "quasi-public issuers" following a change in the requirements in relation to the obtainment of the ISR Label (no more reference to "quasi-public issuers").
- Deletion of the word "proprietary" from the mention made to the AXA IM ESG rating methodology.
- For consistency purposes and only where applicable, amendment of the reference to the AXA IM website for more information on the Sectorial Exclusion Policy, as follows: "The Sub-Fund bindingly applies at all times AXA IM's Sectorial Exclusion Policy, as described in the document available on the following website: https://www.axa-im.com/responsible-investing/sector-investment-guidelines website, with the exception of derivatives and underlying eligible UCIs."
- Replacement of the word "indexes" by "indices".
- Amendment of column "Notes" of the Class "G" in the Share Classes table within the general part of the Prospectus as follows:

The Share Class will be closed to subscriptions the day after the threshold of 100 million EUR or equivalent\* in all the G Share Class currencies is reached or exceeded at the Sub-Fund's level. The SICAV also reserves the right to close subscriptions before the threshold of 100 million\* in all the G Share Class currencies is reached at the Sub-Fund's level.

- \* By exception, the threshold in all the G Share Class currencies of:
- (i) AXA World Funds US Enhanced High Yield Bonds <u>and AXA World Funds ACT Factors Climate Equity Fund</u> is set at 150 million;
- (ii) AXA World Funds ACT Factors Climate Equity Fund is set at 150 million;
- -(iii) AXA World Funds ACT US High Yield Bonds Low Carbon, AXA World Funds Framlington Evolving Trends, AXA World Funds ACT US Corporate Bonds Low Carbon, AXA World Funds ACT Global High Yield Bonds Low Carbon, AXA World Funds ACT Global High Yield Bonds Low Carbon, AXA World Funds ACT US Short Duration High Yield Bonds Low Carbon, AXA World Funds ACT Social Bonds, AXA World Funds ACT Dynamic Green Bonds; AXA World Funds Euro Inflation Plus and AXA World Funds Dynamic Optimal Income is set at 300 million.;
- (iv) AXA World Funds ACT US Corporate Bonds Low Carbon is set at 300 million. Reflection of the new date of the Management Company Services Agreement which has been updated on the 26th of July, 2021.
- Deletion of SPDB Global Funds from the list of other funds managed by the Management Company following its liquidation.
- Update of the definition section in order to (i) change the term "Sustainable Bonds" into "Sustainability Bonds", as referred to in the regulation (for the sake of clarity, there is no change of definition) and (ii) insert a definition of "Callable Bonds";
- Update the Risk Description section in order to (i) slightly amend the subordinated debt, reinvestment risk, extension risk in order to capture to perpetual bonds and (ii) insert a definition of "low carbon emission concentration risk";
- Clarify in the General Investment Rules for UCITS section that "Sub-Funds may, within the limits set out in the 2010 Law, invest in other UCIs (including REITs, commodities funds, exchange-traded funds, hedged funds) provided that they are eligible securities in accordance with applicable Luxembourg laws and regulations. In particular, such UCIs shall be regulated and be compliant with article 2 (2) and article 41 (1) e) of the 2010 Law";
- Following the simplification of the "Minimum Subscription and Holding Exceptions Amounts" table in section "Minimum Subscriptions and Holdings" within the sub-section "Share Classes" under section "Investing in the Sub-Funds" of the general part of revised Prospectus (removal the "Share Class Type" column) back in July 2021, simplification and amendment of the share classes table detailing the minimum amounts (deletion of the distinction between distribution and capitalization share classes);
- The directory of the SICAV and of the Management Company have been updated mainly in

order to respectively reflect (i) the resignation of Emmanuel de Taffanel de la Jonquière, as director and Chairman of the SICAV and (ii) the replacement of Godefroy Joly-Lyautey de Colombe, as director of the Management Company, by Laurent Caillot, as director and chairman of the Management Company.

These changes take effect immediately, i.e. at the date of the publication of the updated prospectus.

\* \*

The Prospectus, taking into account the changes mentioned in this letter, will be available at the registered office of the Company.

#### For the attention of the Belgian shareholders:

When redemption is offered free of charge (except potential taxes) to the shareholders of the sub-fund concerned, such redemption request may be made to the financial service located in Belgium: CACEIS Belgium SA, Avenue du Port 86 C b320, 1000 Brussels. The prospectus taking into account the changes mentioned here above, the Key Investor Information Documents, the articles of incorporation as well as the annual and half year reports may also be freely obtained at the office of the financial service in Belgium. The Belgian shareholders should note that the class I shares is not open for subscription in Belgium.

#### For the attention of the Swiss shareholders:

The Swiss representative: First Independent Fund Services S.A., Klausstrasse 33, 8008 Zurich The Swiss paying agent: Credit Suisse (Switzerland) Ltd., Paradeplatz 8, 8001 Zurich The articles of incorporation, the prospectus, the Key Investor Information Documents as well as the annual and semi-annual reports can be obtained free of charge from the Swiss representative.

Yours faithfully,

The Board of Directors AXA World Funds