

# INDEX GUIDELINE

*HSBC ESG RISK IMPROVERS INDEX*

*Version 1.0*

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## INTRODUCTION

This document (the "**GUIDELINE**") is to be used as a guideline with regard to the composition, calculation and maintenance of the (i) HSBC ESG Risk Improvers Index PR; (ii) HSBC ESG Risk Improvers Index NTR; and (iii) HSBC ESG Risk Improvers Index TR (each an "**INDEX**" and together the "**INDICES**") and references to "the **INDEX**" in this Guideline shall be construed accordingly. Any amendments to the rules made to the GUIDELINE are approved by the OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE specified in Section 5.5. The INDEX is calculated, administered and published by Solactive AG ("**SOLACTIVE**") assuming the role as administrator (the "**INDEX ADMINISTRATOR**") under the Regulation (EU) 2016/1011 (the "**BENCHMARK REGULATION**" or "**BMR**"). The name "Solactive" is trademarked.

HSBC (the "**INDEX IP OWNER**") owns the copyright and all other intellectual property rights in the INDEX. Any use of these intellectual property rights may only be made with the prior written consent of the INDEX IP OWNER.

The INDEX IP OWNER does not exercise any assessment or judgement as to the environmental, social and governance ("**ESG**") qualities of the securities comprising the INDEX at any time. THE INDEX IP OWNER therefore does not make any assurance as to the ESG qualities of the index as a whole at any time.

The INDEX IP OWNER is not responsible for the actions or inactions of the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR in accordance with the agreement on index administration and index calculation between the INDEX IP OWNER and the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR and any other separate agreements between the INDEX IP OWNER and the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR that have been or may be entered into from time to time.

The INDEX will be governed by the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR. The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR controls the creation and operation of the INDEX, including (but not limited to) all stages and processes involved in the production, calculation, maintenance, administration and dissemination of the INDEX. Notwithstanding that the INDEX relies on information from third party sources, the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR has primary responsibility for all aspects of the INDEX administration and determination process.

In no event shall the INDEX IP OWNER be liable (whether directly or indirectly, in contract, tort or otherwise) for any loss incurred by any person that arises out of or in connection with the INDEX, including in relation to the performance by the INDEX IP OWNER of any part of its role in respect of each INDEX, save in the case of gross negligence, fraud or wilful default. In no event, shall the INDEX IP OWNER have any liability to any persons for any direct, indirect, special, punitive or consequential damages (including lost profits) even if notified of the possibility of such damages. With respect to any products linked to any INDEX, the INDEX IP OWNER expressly disclaims all liability for regulatory, juridical or reputational consequences suffered by any party in any transaction connected with any INDEX.

The GUIDELINE and the policies and methodology documents referenced herein contain the underlying principles and rules regarding the structure and operation of the INDEX. The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR does not offer any explicit or tacit guarantee or assurance, neither pertaining to the results from the use of the INDEX nor the level of the INDEX at any certain point in time nor in any other respect. The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR strives to the best of its ability to ensure the correctness of the calculation. There is no obligation for the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR – irrespective of possible obligations to issuers – to advise third parties, including



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investors and/or financial intermediaries, of any errors in the INDEX. The publication of the INDEX by the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR does not constitute a recommendation for capital investment and does not contain any assurance or opinion of the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR regarding a possible investment in a financial instrument based on this INDEX.

*The text uses defined terms which are formatted with "SMALL CAPS". Such Terms shall have the meaning assigned to them as specified in Section 6 (Definitions).*



# 1. INDEX SPECIFICATIONS

## 1.1. SCOPE OF THE INDEX

Category	Description
Asset Class	Equity
Strategy	The INDEX is a rules-based strategy that represents the performance of certain securities from the Solactive GBS Developed Markets Large & Mid Cap USD Index PR (ISIN: DE000SLA41B6) (the " <b>GBS INDEX</b> ") which are selected and weighted periodically by the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR by reference to an ESG criteria and data provided by Sustainalytics and Arabesque (as further set out in the Guideline).
Regional Allocation	Developed Markets (Global)
Rebalancing Frequency	Semi-annually

## 1.2. IDENTIFIERS AND PUBLICATION

Each INDEX is published under the following identifiers:

Name	ISIN	Currency	Type	RIC	BBG ticker
HSBC ESG Risk Improvers Index PR	DE000SLOJJC43	USD	PR*	HSIEAIEP	HSIEAIEP Index
HSBC ESG Risk Improvers Index NTR	DE000SLOJJC50	USD	NTR*	HSIEAIEI	HSIEAIEI Index
HSBC ESG Risk Improvers Index TR	DE000SLOJJC68	USD	GTR*	HSIEAIEG	

\*PR, NTR, GTR means that the Index is calculated as price return, net total return, gross total return Index as described in the Equity Index Methodology, which is available on the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR'S website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/equity-index-methodology/>

The INDEX is published on the website of the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR ([www.solactive.com](http://www.solactive.com)) and is, in addition, available via the price marketing services of Boerse Stuttgart GmbH and may be distributed to all of its affiliated vendors. Each vendor decides on an individual basis as to whether it will distribute or display the INDEX via its information systems.

Any publication in relation to the INDEX (e.g. notices, amendments to the GUIDELINE) will be available at the website of the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR: <https://www.solactive.com/news/announcements/>.



### 1.3. INITIAL LEVEL OF THE INDEX

The initial level of the INDEX on the 02/01/2017, (the "**START DATE**"), is 1000. Historical values from the 16/05/2023, (the "**LIVE DATE**"), will be recorded in accordance with Article 8 of the BMR. Levels of the INDEX published for a period prior to the LIVE DATE have been back-tested.

### 1.4. PRICES AND CALCULATION FREQUENCY

The intraday level of the INDEX is calculated on each CALCULATION DAY from 9:00 a.m. to 10:50 p.m. CET based on the TRADING PRICES for the INDEX COMPONENTS on the respective EXCHANGES on which the INDEX COMPONENTS are listed. TRADING PRICES of INDEX COMPONENTS which are not listed in the INDEX CURRENCY are converted using the current Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) spot foreign exchange rate. If there is no current TRADING PRICE for an INDEX COMPONENT in respect of a CALCULATION DAY, the later of: (i) the most recent CLOSING PRICE; or (ii) the last available TRADING PRICE for the TRADING DAY preceding such CALCULATION DAY, in each case in respect of such INDEX COMPONENT, is used in the calculation of the intraday level of the INDEX for such CALCULATION DAY.

In addition to the intraday calculation of the level of the INDEX, a closing level of the INDEX for each CALCULATION DAY is also calculated. This closing level is based on the CLOSING PRICES for the INDEX COMPONENTS on the respective EXCHANGES on which the INDEX COMPONENTS are listed. If there is no CLOSING PRICE for an INDEX COMPONENT in respect of a CALCULATION DAY, the last price available in respect of such INDEX COMPONENT is used for such closing level calculation. The CLOSING PRICES of INDEX COMPONENTS which are not listed in the INDEX CURRENCY are converted using the 04:00 p.m. London time rates provided by WM/ Refinitiv (the "**WM/ REFINITIV RATE**"), provided that if there is no 04:00 p.m. London time WM/ REFINITIV RATE for the relevant CALCULATION DAY, the last available 04:00 p.m. London time WM/ REFINITIV RATE will be used for the closing level calculation of the INDEX in respect of the relevant CALCULATION DAY.

### 1.5. LICENSING

Licenses to use the INDEX as the underlying value for financial instruments, investment funds and financial contracts may be issued to stock exchanges, banks, financial services providers and investment houses by the INDEX IP OWNER.



## 2. INDEX SELECTION

On each SELECTION DAY, the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR will revise the composition of the INDEX.

Firstly, the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR shall determine the INDEX UNIVERSE on the relevant SELECTION DAY in accordance with Section 2.1. The INDEX UNIVERSE on a SELECTION DAY shall comprise each security which fulfills the INDEX UNIVERSE REQUIREMENTS (as specified in Section 2.1) on such SELECTION DAY and will constitute a starting pool from which the INDEX COMPONENTS will be selected. The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR shall then select which securities in such INDEX UNIVERSE shall be the INDEX COMPONENTS that comprise the INDEX by applying the rules outlined in Section 2.2.

Each INDEX COMPONENT will be assigned a weight as described in Section 2.3.

### 2.1. INDEX UNIVERSE REQUIREMENTS

The INDEX UNIVERSE on a SELECTION DAY is comprised of all securities which fulfill the below requirements (the "**INDEX UNIVERSE REQUIREMENTS**"):

- Is a **GBS INDEX COMPONENT** of the GBS INDEX on such SELECTION DAY.

The determination of the INDEX UNIVERSE on a SELECTION DAY is fully rule-based and the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR cannot make any discretionary decisions as to the determination of the INDEX UNIVERSE.

### 2.2. SELECTION OF THE INDEX COMPONENTS

Based on the relevant INDEX UNIVERSE, the initial composition of the INDEX, as well as the composition of the INDEX following any ordinary rebalancing, is determined on the relevant SELECTION DAY in accordance with the following rules (the "**INDEX COMPONENT REQUIREMENTS**"):

Firstly, all the issuers of each security in the INDEX UNIVERSE on the relevant SELECTION DAY are evaluated by the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR based on the criteria outlined in the table below. The evaluation is based on data provided by DATA PROVIDER 1 and, where no data is provided in relation to the issuer of a security in the INDEX UNIVERSE on a SELECTION DAY, such security shall be deemed to be excluded from the INDEX UNIVERSE for such SELECTION DAY.

Theme	Topic	Exclusion Criterion
Overall Global Standards Compliance	Environment <hr/> Social	Non-compliance of the company's operations with the TEN UN GLOBAL COMPACT PRINCIPLES and other related international norms and standards in respect of ESG criteria.



Status Screening:	Governance	Companies rated by DATA PROVIDER 1 as "Non-Compliant" will be excluded.
Controversial Weapons	Nuclear weapons	0% involvement in core weapon systems, or in the components/services of core weapon systems that are considered tailor-made and essential for the lethal use of the weapon.
	Anti-personnel weapons	
	Cluster weapons	
	Biological weapons	
	Chemical weapons	
	Uranium munition	
Activity-Based Screening	White phosphorus munition	0% for mining; and 10% for power generation.
	Thermal Coal	
	Oil Sands	
	Oil & Gas	
	Palm Oil	
	Adult entertainment	
	Gambling	
Tobacco		

*Explanation: % figures refer to revenue threshold (for degree of involvement) above which criterion is breached. For thermal coal power generation and extraction of oil sands, the % figures refer to revenue or production capacity (whatever is higher).*

Secondly, if no data is provided by DATA PROVIDER 2 in relation to the issuer of a security in the INDEX UNIVERSE on a SELECTION DAY, such security shall be deemed to be excluded from the INDEX UNIVERSE for such SELECTION DAY.

Thirdly, any security in the INDEX UNIVERSE on a SELECTION DAY with a 1-month or 6-month AVERAGE DAILY VALUE TRADED below USD 10 million shall be deemed to be excluded for the INDEX UNIVERSE for such SELECTION DAY.





The selection of the INDEX COMPONENTS is fully rule-based and the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR cannot make any discretionary decisions as to the selection of the INDEX COMPONENTS.

## 2.3. WEIGHTING OF THE INDEX COMPONENTS

On each Selection Day, each INDEX COMPONENT which the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR has determined will comprise the INDEX pursuant to Section 2.2 above is assigned a weight determined by the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR by reference to the FREE FLOAT MARKET CAPITALIZATION and the Final Value Score in respect of such INDEX COMPONENT – subject to regional adjustment – as further described in this Section 2.3.

### Calculating z-score for each INDEX COMPONENT:

The ESG Score and ESG Momentum Score for an INDEX COMPONENT on SELECTION DAY  $t$  are determined as follows:

1. ESG Score is a value computed in respect of each INDEX COMPONENT by DATA PROVIDER 2.
2. ESG Momentum Score is computed as the relative difference between the ESG Score of such INDEX COMPONENT on SELECTION DAY  $t$  and the ESG Score of such INDEX COMPONENT 126 TRADING DAYS (6 months) before SELECTION DAY  $t$ , calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$EsgMom_t = \frac{ESGScore_t}{ESGScore_{t-126}} - 1$$

Data for the ESG Score and the ESG Momentum Score in respect of an INDEX COMPONENT is provided by DATA PROVIDER 2.

Each INDEX COMPONENT'S z-score on a SELECTION DAY  $t$  is calculated in accordance with the below at the stock level using mean and standard deviations based on all INDEX COMPONENTS which the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR has determined will comprise the INDEX pursuant to Section 2.2 above on SELECTION DAY  $t$  and their respective REGIONS.

The  $EsgMom_t^z$  for an INDEX COMPONENT at SELECTION DAY  $t$  is calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$EsgMom_t^z = \frac{EsgMom_t - MeanEsgMom_t^r}{SDEsgMom_t^r}$$

where:

$EsgMom_t$  is the ESG Momentum Score of an INDEX COMPONENT at SELECTION DAY  $t$ .

$MeanEsgMom_t^r$  is the mean of the ESG Momentum Score at SELECTION DAY  $t$  for all INDEX COMPONENTS of REGION  $r$ .

$SDEsgMom_t^r$  is the standard deviation of the ESG Momentum Score at SELECTION DAY  $t$  for all INDEX COMPONENTS of REGION  $r$ .



The  $EsgScore_t^z$  score for an INDEX COMPONENT at SELECTION DAY  $t$  is calculated in accordance with the following formula:

$$EsgScore_t^z = \frac{EsgScore_t - MeanEsgScore_t^r}{SDEsgScore_t^r}$$

where:

$EsgScore_t$  is the ESG Score of an INDEX COMPONENT at SELECTION DAY  $t$ .

$MeanEsgScore_t^r$  is the mean of the ESG Score at SELECTION DAY  $t$  for all INDEX COMPONENTS of REGION  $r$ .

$SDEsgScore_t^r$  is the standard deviation of the ESG Score at SELECTION DAY  $t$  for all INDEX COMPONENTS of REGION  $r$ .

#### Calculating the Combined Score for each INDEX COMPONENT:

The Combined Score for an INDEX COMPONENT at SELECTION DAY  $t$  is calculated by taking the average of the normalized variables  $EsgMom_t^z$  and  $EsgScore_t^z$  in accordance with the following formula:

$$CombinedScore_t = (EsgMom_t^z + ESGScore_t^z)/2$$

The Combined Score is subsequently normalized.

#### Calculating the Final Value Score:

A maximum and minimum [-2.5, 2.5] threshold is then applied to the COMBINED SCORE for an INDEX COMPONENT at SELECTION DAY  $t$  before converting it to the FINAL VALUE SCORE for such INDEX COMPONENT at SELECTION DAY  $t$ .

The FINAL VALUE SCORE is computed for each INDEX COMPONENT at SELECTION DAY  $t$  as:

$$Final\ Value\ Score_t = \begin{cases} 1 + CombinedScore_t, & CombinedScore_t \geq 0 \\ (1 - CombinedScore_t)^{-1}, & CombinedScore_t < 0 \end{cases}$$

#### Calculating Stock Weights:

The final weight of each INDEX COMPONENT at SELECTION DAY  $t$  is computed based on its FREE FLOAT MARKET CAPITALIZATION at SELECTION DAY  $t$  multiplied by its Final Value Score at SELECTION DAY  $t$ . The weights are then multiplied by a scaling factor corresponding to the respective REGION of such INDEX COMPONENT in accordance with the following formula:

$$Final\ Weight_t = \begin{cases} Weight_t * 0.7 & \text{for NA} \\ Weight_t * 0.2 & \text{for EMEA} \\ Weight_t * 0.1 & \text{for APAC} \end{cases}$$

with:

$$Weight_t = \frac{MCAP_t * Final\ Value\ Score_t}{\sum MCAP_t^r * Final\ Value\ Score_t^r}$$



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where:

$MCAP_t$  is the FREE FLOAT MARKET CAPITALIZATION of an INDEX COMPONENT at SELECTION DAY  $t$ .

$\Sigma$  is the sum of the values for all INDEX COMPONENT of a REGION  $r$  at SELECTION DAY  $t$ .



## 3. REBALANCE

### 3.1. ORDINARY REBALANCE

In order to reflect the new selection of the INDEX COMPONENTS determined on a SELECTION DAY (in accordance with Section 2.1 and 2.2 above, the INDEX is adjusted on the REBALANCE DAY after CLOSE OF BUSINESS.

This is carried out by implementing the weighting of such INDEX COMPONENTS as determined by the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR on such SELECTION DAY in accordance with Section 2.3.

For more information on the rebalance procedure please refer to the Equity Index Methodology, which is incorporated by reference and available on the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR'S website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/equity-index-methodology/>.

The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR will publish any changes made to the INDEX COMPONENTS with sufficient notice before the REBALANCE DAY on the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR'S website under the section "Announcement", which is available at <https://www.solactive.com/news/announcements/>.

### 3.2. EXTRAORDINARY REBALANCE

The INDEX is not rebalanced extraordinarily.



## 4. CALCULATION OF THE INDEX

### 4.1. INDEX FORMULA

The INDICES are calculated on a price return, net total return or gross total return basis.

The calculation is performed according to the Equity Index Methodology, which is available on the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR'S website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/equity-index-methodology/>. The standard index formula stipulates that the level of the INDEX will change based on the change of the prices of its INDEX COMPONENTS, taking into account their weight in the INDEX and any currency conversion where the price of an INDEX COMPONENT is quoted in a currency other than the INDEX CURRENCY.

If so specified in the Equity Index Methodology, any dividends or other distributions are reinvested back into the INDEX COMPONENT paying the dividend or other distribution at the opening of the effective date (the so called ex-date) of the payment of such dividend or other distribution.

A more detailed description of the mechanics of the index calculation formula can be found in the Equity Index Methodology under Section 1.2.

### 4.2. ACCURACY

The level of the INDEX will be rounded to two decimal places. TRADING PRICES and foreign exchange rates will be rounded to six decimal places.

### 4.3. ADJUSTMENTS

Under certain circumstances, an adjustment of the INDEX may be necessary between two regular REBALANCE DAYS. Such adjustment has to be made if a corporate action (as specified in Section 4.4 below) in relation to an INDEX COMPONENT occurs. Such adjustment may have to be made in relation to an INDEX COMPONENT and/or the number of INDEX COMPONENTS and/or the weighting of certain INDEX COMPONENTS. Adjustments will be made in compliance with the Solactive Equity Index Methodology, which is incorporated by reference and available on the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR'S website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/equity-index-methodology/>.

The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR will announce the INDEX adjustment, giving a notice period of at least two TRADING DAYS prior to the adjustment of the affected INDEX COMPONENT), on the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR'S website under the Section "Announcements", which is available at <https://www.solactive.com/news/announcements/>. INDEX adjustments will be implemented on the effective day specified in the respective notice.



## 4.4. CORPORATE ACTIONS

As part of the INDEX maintenance the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR will consider various events – also referred to as corporate actions – which result in an adjustment to the INDEX between two regular REBALANCE DAYS. Such events have a material impact on the price, weighting or overall integrity of INDEX COMPONENTS. Therefore, they need to be accounted for in the calculation of the INDEX. Corporate actions will be implemented from the cum-day to the ex-day of the corporate action, so that the adjustment to the INDEX coincides with the occurrence of the price effect of the respective corporate action.

Adjustments to the INDEX to account for corporate actions will be made in compliance with the Equity Index Methodology, which is available on the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR'S website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/equity-index-methodology/>. This document contains for each corporate action a brief definition and specifies the relevant adjustment to the INDEX variables.

While SOLACTIVE aims at creating and maintaining its methodology for treatment of corporate actions as generic and transparent as possible and in line with regulatory requirements, the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR retains the right in accordance with the Equity Index Methodology to deviate from these standard procedures in case of any unusual or complex corporate action, or if such a deviation is made to preserve the comparability and representativeness of the INDEX over time.

The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR considers the following list, which is not exhaustive, of corporate actions as relevant for INDEX maintenance:

- > Cash Distributions (e.g. payment of a dividend);
- > Stock distributions (e.g. payment of a dividend in form of additional shares);
- > Stock distributions of another company (e.g. payment of a dividend in form of additional shares of another company (e.g. of a subsidiary));
- > Share splits (company's present shares are divided and therefore multiplied by a given factor);
- > Reverse splits (company's present shares are effectively merged);
- > Capital increases (such as issuing additional shares);
- > Share repurchases (a company offers its shareholders the option to sell their shares to a fixed price);
- > Spin-offs (the company splits its business activities into two or more entities and distributes new equity shares in the created entities to the shareholders of the former entity);
- > Mergers & Acquisitions (transaction in which the ownership of a company (or other business organizations) are transferred or consolidated with other entities, e.g. fusion of two or more separate companies into one entity);
- > Delistings (company's shares are no longer publicly traded at a stock exchange);
- > Nationalization of a company (effective control of a legal entity is taken over by a state); and
- > Insolvency.



## 4.5. RECALCULATION

The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR makes the greatest possible efforts to accurately calculate and maintain the INDEX. However, errors in the determination process may occur from time to time for a variety of reasons (internal or external) and therefore, cannot be completely ruled out. The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR endeavors to correct all errors that have been identified within a reasonable period of time. The understanding of "a reasonable period of time" as well as the general measures to be taken are generally depending on the underlying and is specified in the Solactive Correction Policy, which is incorporated by reference and available on the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR's website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/correction-policy/>.

## 4.6. MARKET DISRUPTION

In periods of market stress the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR shall calculate the INDEX following predefined and exhaustive arrangements as described in the Solactive Disruption Policy, which is incorporated by reference and available on the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR's website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/disruption-policy/>. Such market stress can arise due to a variety of reasons, but generally results in inaccurate or delayed prices for one or more INDEX COMPONENTS. The determination of the INDEX may be limited or impaired at times of illiquid or fragmented markets and market stress.



## 5. MISCELLANEOUS

### 5.1. DISCRETION

Any discretion which may need to be exercised in relation to the determination of the INDEX (for example the determination of the INDEX UNIVERSE (if applicable), the selection of the INDEX COMPONENTS (if applicable) or any other relevant decisions in relation to the INDEX) shall be made in accordance with strict rules regarding the exercise of discretion or expert judgement by the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR.

### 5.2. METHODOLOGY REVIEW

The methodology of the INDEX is subject to regular review, at least annually. If a change of the methodology has been identified within such review (e.g. if the underlying market or economic reality has changed since the launch of the INDEX or if the present methodology is based on obsolete assumptions and factors and no longer reflects the reality as accurately, reliably and appropriately as before), such change will be made in accordance with the Solactive Methodology Policy, which is incorporated by reference and available on the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR'S website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/methodology-policy/>.

Such change in the methodology will be announced on the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR'S website under the Section "Announcement", which is available at <https://www.solactive.com/news/announcements/>. The date of the last amendment of this INDEX is contained in this GUIDELINE.

### 5.3. CHANGES IN CALCULATION METHOD

The application by the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR of the method described in this document is final and binding. The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR shall apply the method described above for the composition and calculation of the INDEX. However, it cannot be excluded that the market environment, supervisory, legal and financial or tax reasons may require changes to be made to this method. The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR may also make changes to the terms and conditions of the INDEX and the method applied to calculate the INDEX that it deems to be necessary and desirable in order to prevent obvious or demonstrable error or to remedy, correct or supplement incorrect terms and conditions. The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR is not obliged to provide information on any such modifications or changes. Despite the modifications and changes, the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR will take the appropriate steps to ensure a calculation method is applied that is consistent with the method described above.





## 5.4. TERMINATION

The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR makes the greatest possible efforts to ensure the resilience and continued integrity of its indices over time. Where necessary, the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR shall follow a clearly defined and transparent procedure to adapt Index methodologies to account for changing underlying markets (see Section 5.2 "Methodology Review") in order to maintain continued reliability and comparability of the indices. Nevertheless, if no other options are available the orderly cessation of the INDEX may be indicated. This is usually the case when the underlying market or economic reality, which an index is set to measure or to reflect, changes substantially and in a way not foreseeable at the time of inception of the INDEX, the index rules, and particularly the selection criteria, can no longer be applied coherently or the index is no longer used as the underlying value for financial instruments, investment funds and financial contracts.

The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR has established and maintains clear guidelines on how to identify situations in which the cessation of an index is unavoidable, how stakeholders are to be informed and consulted and the procedures to be followed for a termination or the transition to an alternative index. Details are specified in the Solactive Termination Policy, which is incorporated by reference and available on the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR'S website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/termination-policy/>.

## 5.5. OVERSIGHT

An oversight committee composed of staff from the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR and its subsidiaries (the "**OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**") is responsible for decisions regarding any amendments to the rules of the INDEX. Any such amendment, which may result in an amendment of the GUIDELINE, must be submitted to the OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE for prior approval and will be made in compliance with the Methodology Policy, which is available on the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR'S website: <https://www.solactive.com/documents/methodology-policy/>.



## 6. DEFINITIONS

“**AVERAGE DAILY VALUE TRADED**” means, in respect of an INDEX COMPONENT, the sum of DAILY VALUE TRADED over the specified period divided by the number of TRADING DAYS that fall in the specified period.

“**BENCHMARK REGULATION**” shall have the meaning as defined in Section “Introduction”.

“**BMR**” shall have the meaning as defined in Section “Introduction”.

“**BUSINESS DAY**” is every weekday from Monday to Friday.

“**CALCULATION DAY**” is every BUSINESS DAY.

“**CLOSE OF BUSINESS**” is the calculation time of the closing level of the INDEX as outlined in Section 1.4.

The “**CLOSING PRICE**” in respect of an INDEX COMPONENT and a TRADING DAY is a security's final regular-hours TRADING PRICE published by the EXCHANGE and determined in accordance with the EXCHANGE regulations. If the EXCHANGE has no or has not published a CLOSING PRICE in accordance with the EXCHANGE rules for an INDEX COMPONENT, the last TRADING PRICE will be used.

“**DAILY VALUE TRADED**” means, in respect of an INDEX COMPONENT and a TRADING DAY, the product of (i) the CLOSING PRICE of such INDEX COMPONENT and (ii) the volume traded (measured as a number of shares) of such INDEX COMPONENT on the EXCHANGE during such TRADING DAY.

“**DATA PROVIDER 1**” is Sustainalytics. For more information, please visit: <https://www.sustainalytics.com/>. The ESG-related information, methodologies, data and opinions contained or reflected herein are not directed to or intended for use or distribution to India-based clients or users and their distribution to Indian resident individuals or entities is not permitted, and Morningstar Sustainalytics accepts no responsibility or liability whatsoever for the actions of third parties in this respect.

“**DATA PROVIDER 2**” is Arabesque. For more information, please visit: <https://www.arabesque.com/>.

“**ELIGIBLE REBALANCE DAY**” is each day that is a TRADING DAY at the New York Stock Exchange, the London Stock Exchange, the EUREX Exchange and the Tokyo Stock Exchange.

“**EXCHANGE**” is, with respect to every INDEX COMPONENT, the respective exchange where the INDEX COMPONENT has its listing, as determined by the INDEX ADMINISTRATOR in accordance with the rules of the GBS INDEX.

The “**FREE FLOAT**” is, with regard to each of the securities in the INDEX COMPONENT REQUIREMENTS on a **SELECTION DAY**, the share class-specific fraction of the total number of shares of such share class issued that are available for trading by market participants and not locked-in by long term holders, as sourced from data vendors.

The “**FREE FLOAT MARKET CAPITALIZATION**” is, with regard to each of the securities in the INDEX COMPONENT REQUIREMENTS on a **SELECTION DAY**, the share class-specific free float market capitalization. It is calculated as the multiplication of the shares outstanding in **FREE FLOAT** (as sourced from data vendors) with the **CLOSING PRICE** of the share class as of the respective **SELECTION DAY**.

“**GBS INDEX**” shall have the meaning as defined in Section 1.1.



“**GBS INDEX COMPONENT**” is each security which comprises the GBS Index.

“**GUIDELINE**” shall have the meaning as defined in Section “Introduction”.

“**INDEX**” shall have the meaning as defined in Section “Introduction”.

“**INDEX ADMINISTRATOR**” shall have the meaning as defined in Section “Introduction”.

“**INDEX COMPONENT**” is each security reflected in the INDEX.

“**INDEX COMPONENT REQUIREMENTS**” shall have the meaning as defined in Section 2.2.

“**INDEX CURRENCY**” is the currency specified in the column “Currency” in the table in Section 1.2.

“**INDEX IP OWNER**” shall have the meaning as defined in Section “Introduction”.

“**INDEX UNIVERSE REQUIREMENTS**” shall have the meaning as defined in Section 2.1.

“**INDEX UNIVERSE**” is the sum of all financial instruments which fulfill the INDEX UNIVERSE REQUIREMENTS.

“**LIVE DATE**” shall have the meaning as defined in Section 1.3.

“**OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**” shall have the meaning as defined in Section 5.5.

“**REBALANCE DAY**” is the first ELIGIBLE REBALANCE DAY of the months February and August.

“**REGIONS**” are defined as North America (“NA”), Europe, the Middle East and Africa (“EMEA”) and Asia-Pacific (“APAC”) as defined by the country and region classification framework of the GBS INDEX UNIVERSE and its list of eligible exchanges (<https://solactive.com/downloads/Guideline-Solactive-GBS-Benchmark-Series.pdf>).

“**SELECTION DAY**” is ten BUSINESS DAYS before the scheduled REBALANCE DAY, disregarding any potential change of the REBALANCE DAY.

“**SOLACTIVE**” shall have the meaning as defined in Section “Introduction”.

“**START DATE**” shall have the meaning as defined in Section 1.3.

“**TEN UN GLOBAL COMPACT PRINCIPLES**” means the ten (10) Global Compact Principles published by the United Nations available on its website (<https://unglobalcompact.org/what-is-gc/mission/principles>).

“**TRADING DAY**” is with respect to an INDEX COMPONENT included in the INDEX at the REBALANCE DAY and every INDEX COMPONENT included in the INDEX at the CALCULATION DAY immediately following the REBALANCE DAY (for clarification: this provision is intended to capture the TRADING DAYS for the securities to be included in the INDEX as new INDEX COMPONENTS with close of trading on the relevant EXCHANGE on the REBALANCE DAY) a day on which the relevant EXCHANGE is open for trading (or a day that would have been such a day if a market disruption had not occurred), excluding days on which trading may be ceased prior to the scheduled EXCHANGE closing time and days on which the EXCHANGE is open for a scheduled shortened period. The INDEX ADMINISTRATOR is ultimately responsible as to whether a certain day is a TRADING DAY.

The “**TRADING PRICE**” in respect of an INDEX COMPONENT and a TRADING DAY is the most recent published price at which the INDEX COMPONENT was traded on the respective EXCHANGE.

“**WM / REFINITIV RATE**” shall have the meaning as defined in Section 1.4.





## 7. HISTORY OF INDEX CHANGES

Version	Date	Description
1.0	17 August 2023	Index Guideline creation ( <i>initial version</i> )

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