

ALPHA BANK AE  
CORPORATE AND INVESTMENT BANKING  
OPERATIONS DIVISION  
103 ATHENS AVENUE  
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**THIS DOCUMENT IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. IF IN DOUBT, PLEASE SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE.**

5 May 2023

Dear Shareholder,

**ABERDEEN STANDARD SICAV I**

We are writing to inform you of the changes that the Board of Directors of Aberdeen Standard SICAV I (the "**Company**") proposes to make to the Company and certain of its sub-funds (the "**Funds**") with effect from 5 June 2023 (the "**Effective Date**"). The principal proposed changes are detailed in this letter as follows:

1. Change of Denomination
2. Change of Service Providers
3. Expense Model Changes
4. Changes to the Investment Management Fee and the Management Company Charge
5. Updates to the Investment Objective and Policy of:
  - a. Emerging Markets Sustainable Development Corporate Bond Fund;
  - b. Climate Transition Bond Fund;
  - c. Asian Sustainable Development Equity Fund;
  - d. Emerging Markets Sustainable Development Equity Fund;
  - e. Global Climate and Environment Equity Fund; and
  - f. Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund
6. Change of name of the Emerging Markets Sustainable Development Corporate Bond Fund, Asian Sustainable Development Equity Fund and Emerging Markets Sustainable Development Equity Fund
7. Change of benchmark of the China Onshore Bond Fund
8. Update to the Investment Objective and Policy of the Euro Government Bond Fund
9. Updates to the Investment Objective and Policy of the Frontier Markets Bond Fund
10. Update to the Investment Objective and Policy of the Global Bond Fund
11. Updates to the Investment Objective and Policy of the Select Emerging Markets Investment Grade Bond Fund
12. Updates to the Investment Objective and Policy of the Asian Credit Sustainable Bond Fund
13. Update to the VAG-compliant status of the GDP Weighted Global Government Bond Fund
14. Updates to the restrictions concerning the German VAG regulations
15. Rebranding

Capitalised terms used in this letter shall have the same meaning as set out in the latest version of the prospectus of the Company (the "**Prospectus**") unless the context otherwise requires.

**1. Change of Denomination**

The Board of Directors has decided to amend the current denomination of the Company and its Funds from "Aberdeen Standard SICAV I" into "abrdn SICAV I", with effect as of the Effective Date.

The changes to the articles of incorporation of the Company for the change of its name need to be approved by an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of the Company.

In addition, and related to the change of denomination, the following Fund will change as set out in the table below as at the Effective Date.



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Current Name	New Name as at Effective Date
ASI – CCBI Belt & Road Bond Fund	abrdrn – CCBI Belt & Road Bond Fund

## 2. Change of Service Providers

Currently, BNP Paribas S.A., Luxembourg Branch is acting as depositary and administrator of the Company.

In order for the Company to further align its operating model with that of the other Luxembourg vehicles within the abrdrn range, Citibank Europe plc., Luxembourg Branch whose office is 31 Z.A. Bourmicht, L-8070 Bertrange, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, will be appointed as depositary and administrator of the Company in replacement of BNP Paribas S.A., Luxembourg Branch, with effect from the Effective Date.

Citibank is currently a strategic provider with whom abrdrn have a long standing relationship. They have a proven track record of working with abrdrn in the UK and in Asia Pacific and will provide abrdrn with consistent oversight, a streamlined operating model and improved development process for the abrdrn SICAV fund range.

A new depositary agreement and administration agreement will be entered into between the Company, the Management Company, and Citibank Europe plc. acting through its Luxembourg Branch. Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch will carry out the same duties and responsibilities that are currently carried out by the Company's existing depositary and administrator and there will be no material change to such duties and responsibilities.

### Impact to Investors

The Board of Directors of the Company considers that the appointment of Citibank Europe plc, Luxembourg Branch as noted above is in the best interest of the Company and its shareholders.

The change in service providers will not materially change the rights or interests of existing investors of the Company, and there will be no material change to the overall risk profile of the Company as a result. There will otherwise be no material change in the operation and/or manner in which the Company is being managed and the costs of such change will ultimately be borne by abrdrn. There will be no material change in the fees and expenses applicable to the Company and its Funds, however please note the new expense model to be implemented which is set out below.

## 3. Expense Model Changes

abrdrn has conducted a review of the way the fund operating expenses are charged across the abrdrn SICAV range and, as a result, plan to standardise the way that fees and expenses are charged across the funds. The Board of Directors believe these changes, which are set out in detail below, are a fair and appropriate application method which provide shareholders with a simplified and standardised methodology for the application of fund operating expenses. These changes aim to deliver clarity and certainty as to how the operating costs being incurred by each Fund are charged to those Funds and make it easier for Shareholders to compare the ongoing costs of the Funds within the abrdrn SICAV range. The changes will be implemented on the Effective Date.

There will be no material increase in the level of the Ongoing Charges Figure ("**OCF**"), as quoted in the Packaged Retail and Insurance-based Investment Products - Key Information Document ("**PRIIPS KID**")<sup>1</sup>, incurred by Shareholders in the Company as a direct result of this change however where, as a result of the change in expense model, any individual Fund would see an increase of its OCF, abrdrn will absorb such incremental increase in the OCF on behalf of the Company for a period of 12 months,

<sup>1</sup> For UK investors only, the reference to PRIIPS KID should be understood as UCITS Key Investor Information Document ("**KIID**"), as defined by Commission Regulation (EU) No 583/2010 of 1 July 2010 implementing Directive 2009/65/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council as regards key investor information and conditions to be met when providing key investor information or the prospectus in a durable medium other than paper or by means of a website.



beginning on the Effective Date. The OCF rate of each Fund is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the rate remains appropriate.

The new standardised fund operating expense charging structure will consist of the following elements:

- **General Administration Charge** – each Fund will pay a fixed rate charge out of the assets of the Fund up to a maximum of 0.10% of the net asset value of each Fund, to facilitate each Fund's share of the ongoing operating expenses incurred, such as administration services. This will now be referred to consistently for the Company as the "**General Administration Charge**". This is a single fixed percentage fee that does not vary month on month and will be calculated in the same way as the Investment Management Fee from the Effective Date. Details of the specific fees and expenses covered by this General Administration Charge are set out in Schedule 1 to this letter.
- **Other Fees and Expenses** – Other fees and expenses may also be paid out of the assets of each Fund. These are fees and expenses specific to each individual Fund, such as depositary asset safe keeping fees, and those related to buying and selling investments for the Funds, known as "**transaction costs**". Details of the other fees and expenses are set out in Schedule 2 to this letter.

Any previous operating expense application methodology on the Funds will be replaced by this new approach. For the avoidance of doubt, the Management Company Charge and the Annual Management Charge do not form part of the expense model changes.

**There are no new fees being introduced as a result of these changes, rather this is just a change to the way that the fees and expenses are disclosed and applied to each individual Fund.**

#### 4. Changes to the Investment Management Fee and the Management Company Charge

From the Effective Date in order to align approaches across the abrdn SICAV range (i) part of the "fund servicing fee" payable to the Management Company which had previously formed part of the Operating, Administrative and Servicing Expenses will be renamed a "Management Company Charge" and will be charged as an annual standalone fee subject to a maximum of 0.05% of the Net Asset Value of each Fund and (ii) both the Investment Management Fee and the Management Company Charge shall be calculated based on the value of each Fund (and the value attributable to each Share Class) taken as at the Net Asset Value per Share Class on the previous Dealing Day, taking into account any subscriptions and/or redemptions on that day. There will be no material impact as a result of the change in methodology.

#### 5. Updates to the Investment Objective and Policy of (a) Emerging Markets Sustainable Development Corporate Bond Fund, (b) Climate Transition Bond Fund, (c) Asian Sustainable Development Equity Fund, (d) Emerging Markets Sustainable Development Equity Fund, (e) Global Climate and Environment Equity Fund and (f) Emerging Markets Sustainable Equity Fund

### ESG Enhancements

abrdn is committed to continuously reviewing its range of Funds to ensure that they continue to meet client requirements as they develop and change over time. As part of the regular review of the environment, social and governance ("**ESG**") framework that applies to the abrdn SICAV range, we are making a number of updates to the Funds noted below to provide greater clarity and transparency, and to bring more consistency to the framework applied. These commitments are being formalised within the IOP, but do not require any portfolio rebalancing.

As such, from the Effective Date, the Investment Objective and Policy for each of the following Funds will include updates to the screening criteria applied:

- Emerging Markets Sustainable Development Corporate Bond Fund;
- Climate Transition Bond Fund;
- Asian Sustainable Development Equity Fund;



## Schedule 1

The expenses that are included within the General Administration Charge include, but are not limited to:

- a) fees and expenses of the auditors;
- b) directors' fees and expenses and costs incurred in respect of meetings. Any non-executive Director of abrdn SICAV I will be entitled to a fee in remuneration for their services as a Director or in their capacity as a member of any committee of the Board of Directors. In addition, all Directors may be paid reasonable travelling, hotel and other incidental expenses for attending meetings of the Board of Directors (or any committee thereof) or of Shareholders of abrdn SICAV I;
- c) Domiciliary Agent, Registrar and Transfer Agent fees and expenses;
- d) principal and local Paying Agent's fees and expenses;
- e) the Administrator's fees and expenses;
- f) the fees and any proper expenses of any tax, legal or other professional advisers retained by abrdn SICAV I or by the Management Company in relation to abrdn SICAV I;
- g) any costs incurred in respect of any meeting of Shareholders (including meetings of Shareholders in any particular Fund or any particular share class within a Fund);
- h) insurance which abrdn SICAV I may purchase and/or maintain for the benefit of and against any liability incurred by any Directors of abrdn SICAV I in the performance of their duties;
- i) miscellaneous fees – including but not limited to: the cost of publication of the Share prices, rating fees, postage, telephone, facsimile transmission and other electronic means of communication, registration costs and expenses of preparing, printing and distributing the Prospectus and associated notices, translation costs, Key Investor Information Documents or any offering document, financial reports and other documents made available to Shareholders, fees payable to permanent representatives and other agents of abrdn SICAV I and any other costs as required and deemed appropriate relating to the regulatory compliance of abrdn SICAV I;
- j) fees of the CSSF and the corresponding fees of any regulatory authority in a country or territory outside Luxembourg in which shares are or may be marketed; and
- k) any Value-added tax (VAT), Goods and Services Tax (GST) or similar taxes that might apply in any jurisdiction applicable to any of the costs, charges, fees and expenses listed above.



## Schedule 2

Other Fees and Expenses include, but are not limited to:

- a) Depositary fees and customary transaction fees and charges charged by the Depositary and its agents (including fee payments and receipts and any reasonable out-of-pocket expenses, i.e. stamp taxes, registration costs, scrip fees, special transportation costs, etc.). The depositary fee is calculated at a rate determined by the territory or country in which the Fund assets are held;
- b) dilution levy or adjustment, brokerage charges, asset spreads and margins on the purchase or sale of portfolio assets (including the forward and spot foreign exchange transactions used for the hedging of Hedged Share Classes), non-custody related transactions and any other disbursements which are necessarily incurred in effecting transactions. For the avoidance of doubt, no cost or expense related to investment research will be paid out the assets of a Fund;
- c) costs of examination, asserting and enforcement of any claims for reduction, offsetting or refund of withholding taxes or other taxes or fiscal duties;
- d) Luxembourg annual subscription tax (taxe d'abonnement) - referred to in the "Taxation" section of this Prospectus;
- e) the full amount of any current and future tax, levy, duty or similar charge which may be due on the assets and/or on the income of abrdn SICAV I, the Funds or their assets;
- f) any amount payable by abrdn SICAV I under any indemnity provisions contained in the instrument of incorporation or any agreement binding upon abrdn SICAV I;
- g) all charges and expenses incurred in connection with the collection of income and collateral management services;
- h) correspondent and other banking charges;
- i) extraordinary expenses (i.e. expenses that would not be considered ordinary expenses) including but not limited to: litigation expenses, exceptional measures, particularly legal, business or tax expert appraisals or legal proceedings undertaken to protect Shareholders' interests, any expense linked to non-routine arrangements made by the Domiciliary Agent and the Registrar & Transfer Agent in the interests of the investors and all similar charges and expenses;
- j) in the case of a Fund investing in another UCITS or UCI: any double charging of fees and expenses, in particular the duplication of the fees payable to the depositary(s), transfer agent(s), investment manager(s) and other agents and also subscription and redemption charges, which are generated both at the level of the Fund and of the target funds in which the Fund invests;
- k) interest on and other charges relating to permitted borrowings;
- l) benchmark licence fees and royalty fees incurred for the use of any index names; and
- m) any Value-added tax (VAT), Goods and Services Tax (GST) or similar taxes that might apply in any jurisdiction applicable to any of the costs, charges, fees and expenses listed above.



- Emerging Markets Sustainable Development Equity Fund; and
- Global Climate and Environment Equity Fund.

Details of the updated assessment criteria are available in the aforementioned Funds' investment approach documents, which can be found at [www.abrdn.com](http://www.abrdn.com).

### **Emerging Markets Sustainable Development Corporate Bond Fund**

The Investment Objective and Policy of the Emerging Markets Sustainable Development Corporate Bond Fund will be updated to allow the Fund flexibility to invest up to 10% in Green bonds, Social bonds or Sustainable bonds issued by companies that do not meet the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals ("SDG") materiality thresholds, or are not regarded as SDG leaders. Further, the Prospectus will be amended such that the limit of investment in contingent convertible securities for the Fund will be increased from a maximum of 10% to 15%, in order to help the Fund achieve its performance targets when compared with the benchmark.

### **6. Change of name of (a) Emerging Markets Sustainable Development Corporate Bond Fund, (b) Asian Sustainable Development Equity Fund and (c) Emerging Markets Sustainable Development Equity Fund**

From the Effective Date, the names of the following Funds will be updated to replace 'Sustainable Development' with 'SDG', as set out in the table below. The term 'SDG' is an increasingly industry recognised naming convention for funds investing in companies viewed to have alignment with achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

<b>Existing name</b>	<b>New name</b>
Emerging Markets Sustainable Development Corporate Bond Fund	Emerging Markets SDG Corporate Bond Fund
Emerging Markets Sustainable Development Equity Fund	Emerging Markets SDG Equity Fund
Asian Sustainable Development Equity Fund	Asian SDG Equity Fund

### **7. Change of benchmark of the China Onshore Bond Fund**

From the Effective Date, the benchmark for the Fund will be changed from the FTSE World Government Bond Extended China (1-10 Year) Index (CNH) (the "**Existing Benchmark**") to FTSE Chinese Government Bond Index (the "**New Benchmark**"). Please note that the Existing Benchmark as referred to in the prospectus underwent a change in name to FTSE Chinese Government Bond 1-10 Year Index (CNH), with effect from 29<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The Fund was launched in 2018 and was initially aimed at investors who were new to the China onshore bond market. As such, the Existing Benchmark was selected, as this was regarded as a lower interest rate risk alternative to the wider New Benchmark.

As the investment universe has evolved and the number of funds in the sector has expanded, we believe the use of the New Benchmark, which provides a greater investment universe with an increased number of bonds across differing maturities, has become more prevalent for similar funds in the market. As such, the New Benchmark will be more reflective of the investment universe, while remaining within the existing risk profile parameters of the strategy.

Therefore, we believe that changing the Fund's Existing Benchmark to the New Benchmark will benefit shareholders, as the additional flexibility aligned to peers will allow for enhanced performance, while maintaining the existing focus on high quality bonds.

While the change to the New Benchmark is expected to result in a marginal increase in overall volatility, the risk profile of the Fund remains within the existing parameters and the synthetic risk and reward indicator (SRRRI) disclosed in the PRIIPS KID remains the same.



## **8. Update to the Investment Objective and Policy of the Euro Government Bond Fund**

From the Effective Date, the Investment Objective and Policy for the Fund will be updated to include an additional disclosure - that the Fund may invest up to a maximum of 10% in European Emerging Market countries.

For clarity, the Fund was already permitted to invest in such assets and the update is simply to add an explicit disclosure for this. There is no change to the Fund strategy or portfolio or fees as a result of this update.

## **9. Updates to the Investment Objective and Policy of the Frontier Markets Bond Fund**

From the Effective Date, the Investment Objective and Policy for the Fund will be updated to clarify that the Fund seeks long term total return, rather than just income. Further, the definition of Frontier Market countries used within the Fund's Investment Objective and Policy will be updated.

Finally, an explicit disclosure will be added to the Fund's Investment Objective and Policy – that the Fund may invest up to 100% of its assets in sub-investment grade debt and debt-related securities.

These updates are to improve disclosures only and there is no change to the Fund strategy or portfolio or fees as a result of these updates.

## **10. Update to the Investment Objective and Policy of the Global Bond Fund**

From the Effective Date, the Investment Objective and Policy for the Fund will be updated to include an additional disclosure – that investment in global debt and debt-related securities may include investment in Emerging Markets.

For clarity, investment in Emerging Markets was already part of the Fund's mandate and the update is simply to add an explicit disclosure for this. There is no change to the Fund strategy or portfolio or fees as a result of this update.

## **11. Updates to the Investment Objective and Policy of the Select Emerging Markets Investment Grade Bond Fund**

From the Effective Date, the Investment Objective and Policy for the Fund will be updated to include a definition of investment grade.

Further, the Investment Objective and Policy for the Fund will be updated to clarify that, in terms of derivative usage, the Fund will only enter into forward FX. As such, the Prospectus will also be updated to remove the derivative risk warning.

These updates are to improve disclosures only and there is no change to the Fund strategy or portfolio or fees as a result.

## **12. Updates to the Investment Objective and Policy of the Asian Credit Sustainable Bond Fund**

From the Effective Date, the Investment Objective and Policy for the Fund will be updated to include a commitment that a minimum of 20% of the benchmark investable universe will be excluded by the sustainable investment approach applied.

For clarity, the Fund is already meeting this commitment and the update is simply to add an explicit disclosure for this to allow the Fund to be registered as "ESG Funds" in Hong Kong (and potentially





other jurisdictions in future). This registration aims to assist in the growth of the Fund's size by allowing it to be marketed to a wider audience in the Asia Pacific region which would be of benefit to all investors.

There is no change to the Fund strategy or portfolio or fees as a result of this update.

### **13. Update to the VAG-compliant status of the GDP Weighted Global Government Bond Fund**

From the Effective Date, the Prospectus will be updated to indicate that the Fund is compliant with the German Versicherungsaufsichtsgesetz regulations ("VAG"). Further, the Prospectus will be updated to indicate that the Fund is not permitted to invest in securities rated below B- (or BBB- for ABS/MBS) as this is a VAG requirement.

Compliance with the VAG regulations is required in order for the Fund to be an eligible investment for German pension and insurance clients.

For clarity, this requirement is already part of the Fund's mandate and the update is simply to add an explicit disclosure for this. There is no change to the Fund strategy or portfolio or fees as a result of this update.

### **14. Updates to the restrictions concerning the German VAG regulations**

The restrictions set out in the Prospectus relating to the German Versicherungsaufsichtsgesetz regulations ("VAG") were updated on 1 January 2023 to reflect the latest regulatory requirements.

For the avoidance of doubt, these changes do not entail a change to the way in which Funds compliant with VAG (as set out in the Prospectus) are currently managed.

### **15. Rebranding**

As communicated previously, as part of a company wide rebranding initiative, a number of entities within the abrdn group of companies have undergone change of name since July 2021. Accordingly, the Prospectus has been updated to reflect the following name changes:

<b>Previous Name</b>	<b>New Name</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Aberdeen Standard Investments Luxembourg S.A.	abrdn Investments Luxembourg S.A.	3 October 2022
Aberdeen Asset Managers Limited	abrdn Investments Limited	25 November 2022
Aberdeen Asset Management plc	abrdn Holdings Limited	25 November 2022

### **Rights of Shareholders**

Shareholders affected by the changes mentioned above who feel that they no longer meet their investment requirements may request redemption or switching of their Shares until 13:00 hours Luxembourg time on 2 June 2023.

### **Prospectus**

The changes detailed in this letter will be reflected in a new Prospectus to be dated 5 June 2023. The relevant Key Investor Information Documents will be updated accordingly.

Your Board of Directors accepts responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained in this letter. To the best of the knowledge and belief of your Board of Directors (who have taken reasonable care to



ensure this is the case) the information contained in this letter is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the importance of such information.

If you have any questions or would like any further information please contact us at our registered office or, alternatively, call one of the following Shareholder Service Centre helplines:

**Europe (excluding UK) and rest of the World +352 46 40 10 820**

**UK +44 1224 425 255**

**Asia +65 6395 2700**

Your Board of Directors believes that the changes are fair and reasonable and are in the best interests of Shareholders.

Yours faithfully,  
Hugh Young



For and on behalf of  
the Board of Directors – Aberdeen Standard SICAV I

