**SFDR ANNEX DATED 1 JULY 2024**

**Template pre-contractual disclosure for the financial products referred to in Article 8, paragraphs 1, 2 and 2a, of Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 and Article 6, first paragraph, of Regulation (EU) 2020/852**

**Product name:** Neuberger Berman Short Duration Emerging Market Debt Fund (the "**Portfolio**")
**Legal entity identifier:** 549300J30SXW5866TW70

**Sustainable investment** means an investment in an economic activity that contributes to an environmental or social objective, provided that the investment does not significantly harm any environmental or social objective and that the investee companies follow good governance practices.

The **EU Taxonomy** is a classification system laid down in Regulation (EU) 2020/852, establishing a list of **environmentally sustainable economic activities**. That Regulation does not lay down a list of socially sustainable economic activities. Sustainable investments with an environmental objective might be aligned with the Taxonomy or not.

# Environmental and/or social characteristics

**Does this financial product have a sustainable investment objective?**

| ☐ **Yes** | ☒ **No** |
|---|---|
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with an environmental objective:** ___% | ☒ It **promotes Environmental/Social (E/S) characteristics** and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment**, it will have a minimum proportion of 10% of sustainable investments** |
| ☐ in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☐ with an environmental objective in economic activities that qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| ☐ in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy | ☒ with an environmental objective in economic activities that do not qualify as environmentally sustainable under the EU Taxonomy |
| | ☒ with a social objective |
| ☐ It will make a minimum of **sustainable investments with a social objective:** ___% | ☐ It promotes E/S characteristics, but **will not make any sustainable investments** |

**What environmental and/or social characteristics are promoted by this financial product?**

As part of the investment process, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager promote a variety of environmental and social characteristics, as detailed below. These environmental and social characteristics are considered using a proprietary Neuberger Berman ESG rating system (the "**NB ESG Quotient**"). The NB ESG Quotient is built around the concept of sector specific ESG risk and opportunity and produces an overall ESG rating for issuers by assessing them against certain ESG metrics.

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager use the NB ESG Quotient to promote the environmental and social characteristics listed below by prioritising investment in securities issued by issuers with a relatively favourable and/or an improving NB ESG Quotient rating. Pursuant to this, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager will exclude issuers with the poorest NB ESG Quotient ratings unless there is a reasonable expectation that the NB ESG Quotient rating will improve over time.

The following environmental and social characteristics are promoted, as part of the NB ESG Quotient rating for sovereign issuers:

- ***Environmental Characteristics***: sovereign energy efficiency; climate change adaptation; deforestation; GHG emissions; air and household pollution; and unsafe sanitation.

- ***Social Characteristics***: progress towards SDGs health and education levels; regulatory quality; political stability and freedoms; gender equality; and research & development.

The following environmental and social characteristics are promoted, where relevant to the specific industry and issuer, as part of the NB ESG Quotient rating for corporate issuers:

- ***Environmental Characteristics:*** biodiversity and land usage; carbon emissions; opportunities in clean technologies; water stress; toxic emissions & waste; financing environmental impact; product carbon footprint; environmental policy; environmental management system; GHG reduction programme; green procurement policy; and non-GHG air emissions programmes.

- ***Social Characteristics***: health & safety; human capital development; labour management; privacy & data security; product safety & quality; financial products safety; discrimination policy; community involvement programmes; diversity programmes; and human rights policy.

Performance in relation to these environmental and social characteristics will be measured through the NB ESG Quotient, and will be reported in aggregate in the Portfolio's mandatory periodic report template (as per the requirements of Article 11 of SFDR).

The NB ESG Quotient methodology will evolve over time and all ESG characteristics included therein are reviewed regularly and are subject to annual review to ensure that the most pertinent ESG characteristics are captured. Accordingly, the environmental and social characteristics considered as part of the NB ESG Quotient are subject to change. For the avoidance of doubt, if the environmental or social characteristics considered as part of the NB ESG Quotient change, this pre-contractual disclosure document will be updated accordingly.

Exclusions are also applied (as further set out below) as part of the construction and ongoing monitoring of the Portfolio. These represent additional environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio.

A reference benchmark has not been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio.

**Sustainability indicators** measure how the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product are attained.

***What sustainability indicators are used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

As part of the investment process, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager consider a variety of sustainability indicators to measure the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio. These are listed below:

I. The NB ESG Quotient:

The NB ESG Quotient (as explained above) is used to measure the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio.

The NB ESG Quotient assigns weightings to environmental, social and governance factors for countries and for corporate sectors to derive the NB ESG Quotient rating. While the NB ESG Quotient rating of issuers is considered as part of the investment process, there is no minimum NB ESG Quotient rating to be attained by an issuer prior to investment. Issuers with a favourable and/or an improving NB ESG Quotient rating have a higher chance of being included in the Portfolio. Issuers with a poor NB ESG Quotient rating, especially where a poor NB ESG Quotient rating is not being addressed by an issuer, will be excluded from the Portfolio. In addition, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager will seek to prioritise constructive engagement with issuers which have high impact controversies (such as corporate issuers placed on the Neuberger Berman Global Standards Policy's Watch List (as further detailed in the policy itself)), or which have a poor NB ESG Quotient rating, in order to assess whether those ESG controversies or what the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager deem as weak ESG efforts, are being addressed adequately. The success of both the Manager's and the Sub-Investment Manager's constructive engagement efforts with issuers will depend on each of the issuer's receptiveness and responsiveness to such engagement.

II. ESG exclusion policies:

To ensure that the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio can be attained, the Portfolio will not invest in securities issued by issuers whose activities breach, or are not consistent with, the Neuberger Berman Controversial Weapons Policy and the Neuberger Berman Thermal Coal Involvement Policy. In addition, the Portfolio is phasing out its exposure to thermal coal and currently prohibits investment in securities issued by issuers that derive more than 10% of revenue from thermal coal mining or are expanding new thermal coal power generation, as determined by internal screens. The Portfolio also prohibits investments in issuers in the power generation industry that use thermal coal as an energy source for more than 95% of their installed power generation capacity, are expanding into new thermal coal power generation, or whose expansionary capital expenditure budgets do not include a minimum threshold for non-coal investments, as determined by internal screens. The Portfolio will also exclude issuers from the investment universe that manufacture incendiary weapons using white phosphorus or that have an industry tie to nuclear weapons. The Portfolio will exclude securities issued by issuers that derive 5% or more of revenue from the production of adult entertainment materials; or the production of conventional weapons. The Portfolio will not invest in securities issued by issuers whose activities have been identified as breaching, or are not consistent with, the Neuberger Berman Global Standards Policy which excludes identified violators of the following international standards: (i) the UNGC Principles, (ii) the OECD Guidelines, (iii) the UNGPs and (iv) the ILO Standards. In addition, the Portfolio excludes securities issued by issuers which derive 5% or more of revenues from the manufacture of tobacco products. Issuers which are involved in direct child labour and issuers that derive more than 10% of revenue from oil sands extraction are also excluded. Further details on these ESG exclusion policies are set out in the "*Sustainable Investment Criteria*" section of the Prospectus.

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager will track and report on the performance of the above sustainability indicators namely, (i) the NB ESG Quotient; and (ii) the adherence to the ESG exclusion lists applied to the Portfolio. These sustainability indicators will be used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio and will be included in the Portfolio's mandatory periodic report (as per the requirements of Article 11 of SFDR).

- ***What are the objectives of the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make and how does the sustainable investment contribute to such objectives?***

While the Portfolio promotes environmental and social characteristics, this Portfolio does not have a sustainable investment objective. However, the Portfolio will hold sustainable investments which will aim to promote the environmental & social characteristics listed above.

Performance in relation to these environmental and social characteristics will be measured through the NB ESG Quotient. Both the sustainable and non-sustainable investments held by the Portfolio will apply the NB ESG Quotient, as detailed above.

The consideration of investments made by the Portfolio as sustainable investments is determined by reference to the NB sustainable investment framework. This framework includes an assessment as to (i) whether the investment contributes to an environmental and/or social objective, (ii) whether the investment causes significant harm to those objectives as described below, and (iii) an assessment of an issuer's overall governance score to determine whether the issuer passes a good governance assessment.

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager screens issuers for controversies, significant harm and violations of minimum safeguards. If the issuers pass this screen, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager then proceeds to measure the issuers' environmental or social economic contribution.

For corporate issuers, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager measure this in three ways:

- Revenue alignment to the EU taxonomy (if any);
- Revenue alignment to the SDGs; and
- Corporate issuers in high impact sectors transitioning to a net-zero pathway based on the NB Net-Zero Alignment Indicator.

The Manager and Sub-Investment Manager may develop the NB sustainable investment framework further to include other methods of measuring environmental or social economic contribution, in particular, where further guidance is issued in relation to same.

Sustainable investments are more likely to have product/service revenue aligned with the SDGs.

For sovereign issuers, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager measure this in the following ways:

- Advancement in climate change adaptation and mitigation; and
- Advancement in achieving the SDGs, with emphasis on life expectancy and education.

While the sustainable investments may have a social or an environmental objective, the sustainable investments will not qualify as environmentally sustainable investments (or Taxonomy aligned investments) as defined under the EU Taxonomy.

***How do the sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make, not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective?***

As part of the NB sustainable investment framework, investments that cause significant harm to environmental or social objectives are excluded. To determine whether an investment causes significant harm, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager consider significant harm with reference to certain principal adverse impact indicators (with respect to this see the "*How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account*?" below) and violations of minimum safeguards (with respect to which see "*How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*?" below).

**Principal adverse impacts** are the most significant negative impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors relating to environmental, social and employee matters, respect for human rights, anti-corruption and anti-bribery matters.

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager also applies the ESG exclusion policies referenced above.

The combination of all of these factors generates a quantitative validation for "sustainability" which can be used to ensure the sustainable investments that the Portfolio intends to make, do not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective of the Portfolio's sustainable investments.

*How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account?*

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager will take into account the principal adverse impacts indicators outlined in the below table (the "**PAIs**") and the principal adverse impacts for sovereign issuers (as outlined in Part 2 of the table set out in the "*Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors*?" section below) (the "**Sovereign PAIs**") when determining whether the sustainable investments that the Portfolio intends to make, do not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective:

| **PAIs** | |
|---|---|
| **Theme** | **Adverse sustainability indicator** |
| *Greenhouse gas emissions* | PAI 1 - GHG emissions<br><br>PAI 2 - Carbon footprint<br><br>PAI 3 - GHG intensity of investee companies<br><br>PAI 4 - Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector<br><br>PAI 5 - Share of non-renewable energy consumption and production<br><br>PAI 6 - Energy consumption intensity per high impact climate sector |
| *Biodiversity* | PAI 7 - Activities negatively affecting biodiversity-sensitive areas |
| *Water* | PAI 8 - Emissions to water |

| | |
|---|---|
| *Waste* | PAI 9 - Hazardous waste and radioactive waste ratio |
| *Social and employee matters* | PAI 10 - Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises<br><br>PAI 11 - Lack of processes and compliance mechanisms to monitor compliance with UN Global Compact principles and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises<br><br>PAI 12 - Unadjusted gender pay gap<br><br>PAI 13 - Board gender diversity<br><br>PAI 14 - Exposure to controversial weapons (anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons) |

Consideration of the above PAIs is limited by the availability of adequate, reliable and verifiable data coverage for such indicators (in the Manager's and the Sub-Investment Manager's subjective view) in respect of the sustainable investments of the Portfolio but this may evolve with improving data quality and availability. The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager will utilise third-party data and proxy data along with internal research to take into account the PAIs and Sovereign PAIs.

Additionally, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager have conducted a letter campaign where they have written to select corporate issuers asking for direct disclosure on the PAIs in order to offer high-quality disclosures to investors.

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager will continue to work with issuers to encourage disclosure and envisage that the letter campaign will result in wider and more granular data coverage on the PAIs.

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager, when determining whether the sustainable investments that the Portfolio intends to make, do not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective of the Portfolio's sustainable investments, will take account of the PAIs through a combination of:

- Monitoring issuers which fall below the quantitative and qualitative tolerance thresholds set for a PAI or Sovereign PAI;

- Setting engagement objectives where the Portfolio falls below the quantitative and qualitative tolerance thresholds set for a PAI or Sovereign PAIs; and

- Application of the NB ESG exclusion policies detailed above, which includes taking into account several of the PAIs.

*How are the sustainable investments aligned with the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights? Details:*

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager will not invest in issuers whose activities have been identified as breaching, or are not consistent with, the Neuberger Berman Global Standards Policy which excludes identified violators of the following international standards: (i) the UNGC Principles, (ii) the OECD Guidelines, (iii) the UNGPs and (iv) the ILO Standards.

*The EU Taxonomy sets out a "do not significant harm" principle by which Taxonomy-aligned investments should not significantly harm EU Taxonomy objectives and is accompanied by specific EU criteria.*

The "do no significant harm" principle applies only to those investments underlying the financial product that take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities. The investments underlying the remaining portion of this financial product do not take into account the EU criteria for environmentally sustainable economic activities.

*Any other sustainable investments must also not significantly harm any environmental or social objectives.*

N/A – this Portfolio does not commit to holding Taxonomy-aligned investments.

**Does this financial product consider principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors?**

✖ Yes, please see below

☐ No

Yes. The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager consider PAIs in two ways:

1. All PAIs and Sovereign PAIs are taken into account when determining whether sustainable investments that the Portfolio intends to make do not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective as explained in "*How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account*?" above.

2. The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager will consider the principal adverse impacts outlined in Part 1 of the below table for corporate issuers (the "**Corporate Issuer PAIs**") and will consider the Sovereign PAIs as outlined in Part 2 below for sovereign issuers when considering the principal adverse impacts on sustainability factors (together the "**Product Level PAIs**"):

| **Part 1 – Product Level PAIs** | |
|---|---|
| **Theme** | **Adverse sustainability indicator** |
| *Greenhouse gas emissions* | PAI 1 - GHG emissions<br>PAI 2 - Carbon footprint<br>PAI 3 - GHG intensity of investee companies<br>PAI 4 - Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector |
| *Social and employee matters* | PAI 10 - Violations of UN Global Compact principles and Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises<br>PAI 13 - Board gender diversity<br>PAI 14 - Exposure to controversial weapons (anti-personnel mines, cluster munitions, chemical weapons and biological weapons) |
| **Part 2 – Sovereign PAIs** | |
| *Environmental* | PAI 15 - GHG intensity |
| *Social* | PAI 16 - Investee countries subject to social violations |

See "*How have the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors been taken into account*?" above for more details on how the PAIs are taken into account with respect to sustainable investments.

With respect to the Product Level PAIs, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager utilise third-party data and proxy data along with internal research to consider them.

Additionally, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager have conducted a letter campaign where they have written to select corporate issuers asking for direct disclosure on the PAIs in order to offer high-quality disclosures to investors. The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager will continue to work with issuers to encourage disclosure and envisage that the letter campaign will result in wider and more granular data coverage on the PAIs.

The Product Level PAIs that are taken into consideration are subject to there being adequate, reliable and verifiable data coverage for such indicators (in the Manager's and the Sub-Investment Manager's subjective view), and may evolve with improving data quality and availability. Where such data is not available the relevant Product Level PAI will not be considered until such time as the data becomes available. The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager will keep the list of Product Level PAIs they consider under active review, as and when data availability and quality improves.

Consideration of the Product Level PAIs by the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager will be through a combination of:

- Monitoring the Portfolio, in particular where it falls below the quantitative and qualitative tolerance thresholds set for each Product Level PAI by the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager;

- Setting engagement objectives where the Portfolio falls below the quantitative and qualitative tolerance thresholds set for a Product Level PAI; and

- Application of the ESG exclusion policies referenced above, which includes consideration of several of the Product Level PAIs.

Reporting on consideration of Product Level PAIs will be available in an annex to the annual report of the Portfolio.

**What investment strategy does this financial product follow?**

The investment objective of the Portfolio is to achieve a target average return of 3% over cash (The ICE BofA US 3-Month Treasury Bill Index, Total Return, USD), before fees over a market cycle (typically 3 years) by investing in a diversified selection of Hard Currency-denominated short duration sovereign and corporate debt issued in Emerging Market Countries.

**The investment strategy** guides investment decisions based on factors such as investment objectives and risk tolerance.

The Portfolio will invest primarily in short duration debt securities and money market instruments issued by public or corporate issuers which have their head office, or exercise an overriding part of their economic activity, in Emerging Market Countries and which are denominated in Hard Currency. For the purposes of the Portfolio, Hard Currency is defined as US Dollar, Euro, Sterling, Japanese Yen and Swiss Franc. Investors should also note that corporate issuers that are, either directly or indirectly, 100% government-owned are considered to be public issuers.

With the exception of permitted investments in transferable securities and money market instruments which are unlisted, all securities invested in by the Portfolio will be listed, dealt or traded on Recognised Markets globally, without any particular focus on any one industrial sector or region.

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager will construct and manage the Portfolio with the goal of combining a search for yield with limited volatility, while aiming to reduce downside risk and the risk of default by the issuers of the securities invested in through the use of fundamental analysis. The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager implement a systematic and disciplined framework for analysing sovereign and corporate Hard Currency debt securities. The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager will conduct fundamental analysis on the issuers that they track to seek to identify undervalued and overvalued securities and exploit investment opportunities primarily by taking long positions in respect of undervalued securities.

The fundamental analysis used for the selection of governments or government-related issuers incorporates quantitative macroeconomic data and qualitative aspects such as political stability, structural reforms and other ESG characteristics. The fundamental analysis used for the selection of corporates incorporates assessments of the issuer’s financial performance such as revenue/earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortisation ("**EBITDA**") growth, cash flow growth, capital expenditures, leverage trends and liquidity profile. Qualitative factors aim to complement the evaluation of corporate credit worthiness by including such factors as corporate governance, quality of earnings and debt structure.

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager consider and evaluate ESG characteristics, as an important component of their credit analysis discipline, when making investment decisions. The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager utilise the NB ESG Quotient criteria as part of the Portfolio construction and investment management process. As noted above, NB ESG Quotient assigns weightings to environmental, social and governance characteristics to derive the NB ESG Quotient rating. Issuers with a favourable and/or an improving NB ESG Quotient rating have a higher chance of ending up in the Portfolio. Issuers with a poor NB ESG Quotient rating especially where these are not being addressed by that issuer, will be excluded from the Portfolio.

The ESG analysis is performed internally, with the support of third-party data, and is not outsourced.

- ***What are the binding elements of the investment strategy used to select the investments to attain each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by this financial product?***

ESG characteristics are promoted at three different levels:

I. Integrating proprietary ESG analysis:

The NB ESG Quotient ratings are generated for issuers in the Portfolio. The NB ESG Quotient rating for issuers is utilised to help to better identify risks and opportunities in the overall credit and value assessment.

The NB ESG Quotient is a key component of the internal credit ratings and can help to identify business risks (including ESG risks), which would cause deterioration in an issuer's credit profile. Internal credit ratings can be notched up or down based on the NB ESG Quotient rating, and this is monitored by the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager as an important component of the investment process for the Portfolio.

By integrating the investment team's proprietary ESG analysis (the NB ESG Quotient) into their internal credit ratings, there is a direct link between their analysis of material ESG characteristics and portfolio construction activities across their strategy.

Issuers with a favourable and/or an improving NB ESG Quotient rating have a higher chance of ending up in the Portfolio. Issuers with a poor NB ESG Quotient rating especially where these are not being addressed by that issuer, will be excluded from the Portfolio.

II. Engagement:

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager engage directly with management teams of issuers through a robust ESG engagement program.

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager may also engage with sovereign issuers in developed and Emerging Market Countries. Where the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager seek to engage with sovereigns, such engagement efforts may include speaking regularly to government officials, policy makers and international financial organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund, World Bank and Asian Development Bank, with onsite visits whenever possible, and utilise such meetings to engage with sovereign issuers on ESG topics, where the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager see scope for improvement for the relevant country.

The sovereign engagement process tends to focus on the various areas relating to SDGs under the UNGC Principles and the UNGPs. In addition, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager monitor and engage with countries on reducing GHG emissions and improving policies towards net-zero alignment. Sovereign engagement is also carried out with countries to improve fiscal transparency, tackle corruption and comply with Financial Action Task Force ("**FATF**") recommendations to address strategic deficiencies in counter money laundering, terrorist financing and proliferation financing. Progress on sovereign engagement is tracked centrally in the Manager's and the Sub-Investment Manager's engagement log.

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager view this direct engagement with issuers, as an important part of its investment process (including the investment selection process). Issuers that are not receptive to engagement are less likely to be held (or to continue to be held) by the Portfolio.

This program is focused on in-person meetings, email and conference calls to understand ESG risks, opportunities, and assess good corporate governance practices of issuers. As part of the direct engagement process, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager may set objectives for the issuers to attain. These objectives as well as the issuers' progress with respect to same are monitored and tracked by the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager through an internal Neuberger Berman ("**NB**") engagement tracker.

In addition, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager will seek to prioritise constructive engagement with corporate issuers which have high impact controversies (such as corporate issuers placed on the Neuberger Berman Global Standards Policy's Watch List (as further detailed in the policy itself)), or which have a poor NB ESG Quotient rating, in order to assess whether those ESG controversies or what the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager deem as weak ESG efforts, are being addressed adequately.

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager believe this consistent engagement with issuers can help reduce credit risk and promote positive sustainable corporate change. It is an important tool to identify and better understand an issuer's risk factors and performance. The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager also use it to promote change, when necessary, which they believe will result in positive outcomes for creditors and broader stakeholders. Direct engagement when paired with other inputs, creates a feedback loop that allows analysts in the investment team to evolve their ESG scoring process and prioritise risks that are most relevant to a sector.

III. ESG sectoral exclusion policies:

To ensure that the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio can be attained, the Portfolio will apply the ESG exclusion policies referenced above, which places limitations on the investable universe.

**Good governance** practices include sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.

- ***What is the committed minimum rate to reduce the scope of the investments considered prior to the application of that investment strategy?***

N/A

- ***What is the policy to assess good governance practices of the investee companies?***

The governance factors that the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager track for corporate and quasi-sovereign issuers may include: (i) senior management experience and sector expertise; (ii) ownership/board experience and alignment of incentives; (iii) corporate strategy and balance sheet strategy; (iv) financial and accounting strategy & disclosure; and (v) regulatory / legal track record.

Engagement with management is an important component of the Portfolio’s investment process, and the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager engage directly with management teams of issuers through a robust ESG engagement program. This program is focused on in-person meetings, email and conference calls to understand risks, opportunities and assess good corporate governance practices of corporate issuers. The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager view this direct engagement with issuers, as an important part of its investment process.

The timing of the engagement may be reactionary in certain cases, opportunistic in cases of industry events or pre-planned meetings, or proactive where time allows and without undue restrictions such as during quiet periods or M&A events that may prevent outreach actions. Ultimately, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager aim to prioritise engagement that is expected, based on the Manager’s and the Sub-Investment Manager's subjective analysis, to have a high impact on the protection of and improvement to the value of the Portfolio, be it through the advancement of actionable disclosure, understanding of risks and risk management at an issuer, or through influence and action to mitigate risks (including sustainability risks) and take advantage of investment opportunities.

Additionally, the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager also track governance factors for Emerging Market Countries such as: (i) the political sphere of the relevant country, (ii) the adherence to the rule of law, (iii) control of corruption, political uncertainty related to upcoming elections and (iv) a focus of the quality of economic governance, namely the government’s role as an effective regulator and support of the private sector through responsible financial, macroeconomic and international trade policies.

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager may take into account other governance factors as appropriate from time to time.

As described above, the Portfolio will only invest in securities issued by issuers whose activities do not breach the Neuberger Berman Global Standards Policy which identifies violators of the following international standards: (i) the UNGC Principles, (ii) the OECD Guidelines, (iii) the UNGPs and (iv) the ILO Standards.

**What is the asset allocation planned for this financial product?**

The Portfolio aims to hold a minimum of 80% investments that are aligned with the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio. The Portfolio commits to holding a minimum of 10% sustainable investments. The Portfolio aims to hold a maximum of 20% investments that are not aligned with the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio and are not sustainable investments, and which fall into the “*Other*” section of the Portfolio.

**Asset allocation** describes the share of investments in specific assets.

The *Other*" section in the Portfolio is held for a number of reasons that the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager feel will be beneficial to the Portfolio, such as, but not limited to, achieving risk management, and/or to ensure adequate liquidity, hedging and collateral cover. The "Other" section may also include investments or asset classes for which the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager do not have sufficient data to confirm that they are aligned with the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio. Further details on the "Other" section are set out below.

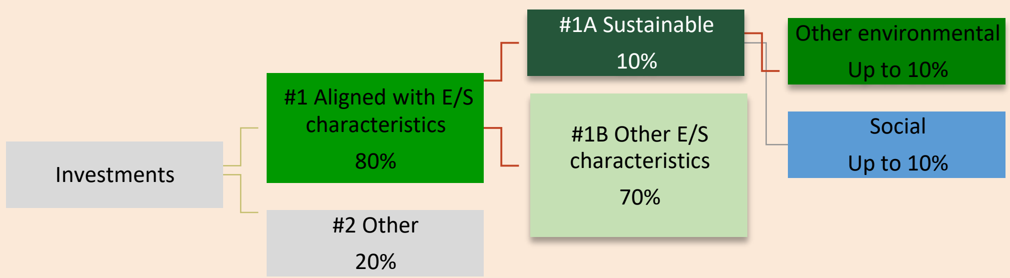
Please note that while the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager aim to achieve the asset allocation targets outlined above, these figures may fluctuate during the investment period and ultimately, as with any investment target, may not be attained.

The exact asset allocation of this Portfolio will be reported in the Portfolio's mandatory periodic report SFDR template, for the relevant reference period. This will be calculated based on the average of the four quarter ends.

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager have calculated the proportion of investments aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio: i) that hold either an NB ESG Quotient rating or a third-party equivalent ESG rating that is used as part of the portfolio construction and investment management process of the Portfolio; and/or ii) with whom the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager have engaged directly. The calculation is based on a mark-to-market assessment of the Portfolio and may rely on incomplete or inaccurate issuer or third-party data.

Taxonomy-aligned activities are expressed as a share of:

- **turnover** reflecting the share of revenue from green activities of investee companies
- **capital expenditure** (CapEx) showing the green investments made by investee companies, e.g. for a transition to a green economy.
- **operational expenditure** (OpEx) reflecting green operational activities of investee companies.




**#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** includes the investments of the financial product used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product.

**#2 Other** includes the remaining investments of the financial product which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The category **#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics** covers:

- The sub-category **#1A Sustainable** covers sustainable investments with environmental or social objectives.

- The sub-category **#1B Other E/S characteristics** covers investments aligned with the environmental or social characteristics that do not qualify as sustainable investments.

***How does the use of derivatives attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

While the Portfolio may use derivatives to hedge against currency risk, it will not use derivatives to promote environmental or social characteristics.

To comply with the EU Taxonomy, the criteria for **fossil gas i**nclude limitations on emissions and switching to renewable power or low-carbon fuels by the end of 2035. For **nuclear energy**, the criteria include comprehensive safety and waste management rules.

**Enabling activities** directly enable other activities to make a substantial contribution to an environmental objective.

**Transitional activities are** activities for which low-carbon alternatives are not yet available and among others have greenhouse gas emission levels corresponding to the best performance.

**To what minimum extent are sustainable investments with an environmental objective aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

The analysis and disclosure requirements introduced by the EU Taxonomy are very detailed and compliance with them requires the availability of multiple, specific data points in respect of each investment which the Portfolio makes. The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager cannot commit that the Portfolio will invest in investments that qualify as environmentally sustainable for the purposes of the Taxonomy Regulation. It cannot be excluded that some of the Portfolio's holdings qualify as Taxonomy-aligned investments. Disclosures and reporting on Taxonomy alignment will develop as the EU framework evolves and data is made available by issuers. The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager will keep the extent to which sustainable investments with an environmental objective are aligned with the EU Taxonomy under active review as data availability and quality improves.

The disclosure contained in this SFDR Annex will be updated if the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager amend the minimum Taxonomy alignment of the Portfolio.

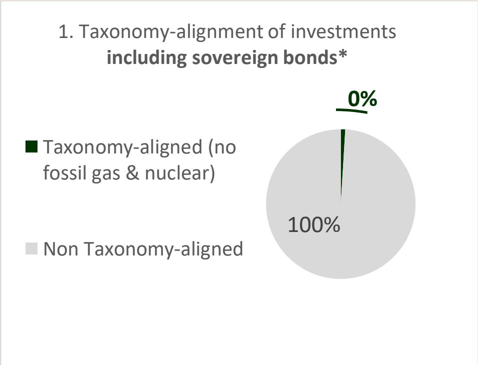
***Does the financial product invest in fossil gas and/or nuclear energy related activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy*[1]**

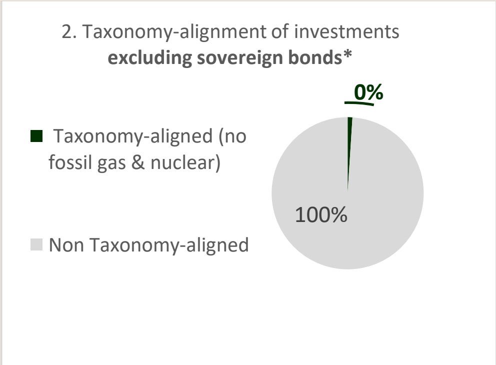
☐ Yes:

☐ In fossil gas ☐ In nuclear energy

☒ No

***The two graphs below show in green the minimum percentage of investments that are aligned with the EU Taxonomy. As there is no appropriate methodology to determine the Taxonomy-alignment of sovereign bonds*, the first graph shows the Taxonomy alignment in relation to all the investments of the financial product including sovereign bonds, while the second graph shows the Taxonomy alignment only in relation to the investments of the financial product other than sovereign bonds.***




* *For the purpose of these graphs, 'sovereign bonds' consist of all sovereign exposures.*

***What is the minimum share of investments in transitional and enabling activities?***

N/A – the Portfolio does not commit to holding Taxonomy-aligned investments.

[1] Fossil gas and/or nuclear related activities will only comply with the EU Taxonomy where they contribute to limiting climate change ("climate change mitigation") and do not significantly harm any EU Taxonomy objective – see explanatory note in the left hand margin. The full criteria for fossil gas and nuclear energy economic activities that comply with the EU Taxonomy are laid down in Commission Delegated Regulations (EU) 2022/1214.

**What is the minimum share of sustainable investments with an environmental objective that are not aligned with the EU Taxonomy?**

are sustainable investments with an environmental objective that **do not take into account the criteria** for environmentally sustainable economic activities under the EU Taxonomy.

The Portfolio's sustainable investments will have an environmental objective and/or a social objective. This means that at any specific point in time, all of the Portfolio's sustainable investments could have social objectives (which means that 0% of the Portfolio's sustainable investments would have environmental objectives); or all of the Portfolio's sustainable investments could have environmental objectives (which means that 0% of the Portfolio's sustainable investments would have social objectives).

While the Portfolio may invest in sustainable investments with an environmental objective, such sustainable investments may not be in Taxonomy-aligned investments as they may not satisfy the criteria for same.

**What is the minimum share of socially sustainable investments?**

The Portfolio's sustainable investments will have an environmental objective and/or a social objective. This means that at any specific point in time, all of the Portfolio's sustainable investments could have social objectives (which means that 0% of the Portfolio's sustainable investments would have environmental objectives); or all of the Portfolio's sustainable investments could have environmental objectives (which means that 0% of the Portfolio's sustainable investments would have social objectives).

**What investments are included under "#2 Other", what is their purpose and are there any minimum environmental or social safeguards?**

"Other" includes the remaining investments of the Portfolio (including but not limited to any derivatives or any security collateralized by a pool of similar assets or receivables listed in the Supplement for the Portfolio above) which are neither aligned with the environmental or social characteristics, nor are qualified as sustainable investments.

The "Other" section in the Portfolio is held for a number of reasons that the Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager feel will be beneficial to the Portfolio, such as, but not limited to, achieving risk management, and/or to ensure adequate liquidity, hedging and collateral cover.

As noted above, the Portfolio will be invested in compliance with ESG exclusion policies, on a continuous basis. This ensures that investments made by the Portfolio seek to align with international environmental and social safeguards such as the UNGC Principles, the UNGPs, the OECD Guidelines and the ILO Standards.

The Manager and the Sub-Investment Manager believe that these policies prevent investment in issuers that most egregiously violate environmental and/or social minimum standards and ensures that the Portfolio can successfully promote its environmental and social characteristics.

The above steps ensure that robust environmental and social safeguards are in place.

**Is a specific index designated as a reference benchmark to determine whether this financial product is aligned with the environmental and/or social characteristics that it promotes?**

**Reference benchmarks** are indexes to measure whether the financial product attains the environmental or social characteristics that they promote.

N/A - The Portfolio's benchmark has not been designated as a reference benchmark. Therefore, it is not consistent with the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Portfolio.

- ***How is the reference benchmark continuously aligned with each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the financial product?***

N/A

- ***How is the alignment of the investment strategy with the methodology of the index ensured on a continuous basis?***

N/A

- ***How does the designated index differ from a relevant broad market index?***

N/A

***Where can the methodology used for the calculation of the designated index be found?***

N/A

**Where can I find more product specific information online?**

Product overviews, factsheets, Key Investor Information Documents and other literature can be found on the NB website, in our dedicated 'Investment Strategies' section at www.nb.com.

**More product-specific information can be found on the website:**

https://www.nb.com/en/gb/esg/reporting-policies-and-disclosures#0A63D195342B424C8C1F115547F2784A