

Sustainability-related disclosures for Private Suite - Blackrock Balanced ESG

This document provides you with a summary of sustainability-related information available on our website about this financial product. It is prepared in relation to Article 10 of the Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation (EU) 2019/2088. The information disclosed is required by law to help you understand the sustainability characteristics and/or objectives and risks of this financial product.

Date of Publication: 13 December 2023

Legal entity identifier 549300LHXET85GOJIL67

<p>Summary</p>	<p>This Sub-fund promotes environmental or social characteristics. The Investment Manager identifies the sustainable investments according to SFDR on the basis of UN SDGs as described in more detail below in the section "Methodologies". No reference benchmark has been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Sub-fund. The indicators used to measure the attainment of each of the environmental or social characteristic promoted by the Sub-fund are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the absence of investments in securities that are on the exclusion list as result of the application of the exclusion policy. The Investment Manager excludes investment in sectors which deems to be harmful from an SRI/ESG perspective or which do not follow good governance practices. The Sub-fund complies with an exclusions policy which refers to: i) the production, maintenance, sales and storage of weapons of mass destruction (WMD); and ii) the extractive activities, production and distribution of electricity connected with thermal coal, the energy source among fuels which represents the highest contributor in terms of carbon dioxide emissions; therefore, issuers deriving at least 25% of their revenues from these activities are excluded. The exclusion is extended to those issuers in breach of the Principles of the UN Global Compact which include principles relating to human rights, labour conditions, environmental issues and anti-corruption practices; • the ESG rating of the portfolio. <p>To undertake the ESG rating analysis, sustainable characteristics of the underlying investments are defined by reference to a combination of data generated internally by the Investment Manager's proprietary models and data provided by external ESG research providers. The assessment of the good governance practices is a central pillar of the investment process adopted by the Investment Manager and it consists on the assurance that the governance of each investee company is based on rules of conduct aligned to international best practices and inspired by the consideration of all stakeholder's interests also by means of a remuneration policy. The good governance assessment takes into account sound management structures, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance.</p> <p>In order to guarantee compliance with the strategies adopted to promote environmental and social characteristics, the Investment Manager relies on external info-providers. The Investment Manager's approach includes the adoption of strategies in line with the Principles for Responsible Investing. These strategies can be integrated into different steps of the investment process and they are based on exclusion criteria (for Issuers operating in non-socially responsible sectors or exposed to ESG risk) and in the integration of ESG factors into the analysis, selection and composition of managed portfolios with flexible approaches with regards to asset class typology and product investment strategy. In accordance with the binding element of the investment strategy adopted for promoting the environmental and social characteristics, the minimum proportion of the investments that meet the ESG criteria (in terms of ESG rating coverage) should be at least 50% of the portfolio (box #1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).</p> <p>The remaining proportion (50% corresponding to the box #2 Other) of the investments (not included in the investments for promoting environmental or social characteristics) should be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cash and cash equivalent instruments which may be held as ancillary liquidity or for risk balancing purposes; • derivatives which may be held for risk balancing purposes and efficient portfolio management but not for promoting environmental and social characteristic; • securities for which relevant data is not available.
<p>No sustainable investment objective</p>	<p>This Sub-fund promotes environmental or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective sustainable investments.</p>
<p>Environmental or social characteristics of the financial product</p>	<p>The main environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Sub-fund through the Investment Manager's ESG methodology are the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental: climate change prevention (in terms for example of reduction of carbon emission, carbon footprint, climate change vulnerability), pollution & waste prevention (with reference to toxic emissions & waste, packaging material & waste, electronic waste), environmental opportunities (in clean tech, in renewable energy); • Social: human capital (labor management, health & safety, human capital development, supply chain labor standards), product liability (product safety & quality, chemical safety, consumer financial protection, privacy & data security, responsible investment, health & demographic risk), social opportunities (access to communications, access to finance, access to health care, opportunities in nutrition & health), stakeholder opposition (controversial sourcing, community relations). <p>No reference benchmark has been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Sub-fund.</p>
<p>Investment strategy</p>	<p>The Investment Manager's approach includes the adoption of strategies in line with the Principles for Responsible Investing. These strategies can be integrated into different steps of the investment process and they are based on exclusion criteria (for Issuers operating in non-socially responsible sectors or exposed to ESG risk) and in the integration of ESG factors into the analysis, selection and composition of managed portfolios with flexible approaches with regards to asset class typology and product investment strategy.</p> <p>BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Manager, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound</p>

	<p>management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Manager agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Manager is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Manager's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Manager may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.</p> <p>BlackRock is monitoring compliance of the Portfolio on an ongoing daily basis by the using Aladdin.</p>
Proportion of investments	<p>In accordance with the binding element of the investment strategy adopted for promoting the environmental and social characteristics, the minimum proportion of the investments that meet the ESG criteria (in terms of ESG rating coverage) should be at least 50% of the portfolio (box #1 Aligned with E/S characteristics). The remaining proportion (50% corresponding to the box #2 Other) of the investments (not included in the investments for promoting environmental or social characteristics) should be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • cash and cash equivalent instruments which may be held as ancillary liquidity or for risk balancing purposes; • derivatives which may be held for risk balancing purposes and efficient portfolio management but not for promoting environmental and social characteristic; • securities for which relevant data is not available.
Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics	<p>BlackRock assesses good governance practices of the investee companies by combining proprietary insights and shareholder engagement by the Investment Manager, with data from external ESG research providers. BlackRock uses data from external ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to sound management structure, employee relations, remuneration of staff and tax compliance. Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Manager agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Manager is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Manager's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Manager may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers.</p> <p>BlackRock is monitoring compliance of the Portfolio on an ongoing daily basis by the using Aladdin.</p>
Methodologies	<p>BlackRock has adopted the following methodologies in respect of this Portfolio:</p> <p>Sustainable Investments Methodology BlackRock has developed a proprietary methodology for determining Sustainable Investments which is broken down into a four-part assessment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Economic activity contribution to environmental and/or social objectives; Do no significant harm; Meets minimum safeguards; and Good governance (where relevant). <p>It is necessary for an investment to meet all four limbs of this test to be considered a Sustainable Investment. Sustainable Investments are subject to a robust oversight process to ensure that regulatory standards are met.</p> <p>(i) Economic activity contribution to environmental and/or social objectives Environmental and social objectives The Portfolio invests in Sustainable Investments which contribute to a range of environmental and / or social objectives which may include but are not limited to alternative and renewable energy, energy efficiency, pollution prevention or mitigation, reuse and recycling, health, nutrition, sanitation and education and the UN Sustainable Development Goals ("Environmental and Social Objectives"). Economic activity assessment: An investment will be a Sustainable Investment (subject to it satisfying the other three limbs):</p> <p>Business activity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where more than 20% of its revenue attributable to products and/or services is systematically mapped as contributing to Environmental and/or Social Objectives using third-party vendor data. Fundamental analysis may also be used to assess a company where there is no third-party vendor data or where an analyst determines that the data is inaccurate or that there is a more appropriate materiality metric than revenue for identifying a company's contribution such as capital expenditure or recycled inputs. <p>Business practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where the issuer has set a de-carbonization target in accordance with the Science Based Targets initiatives as validated by third-party vendor data or by way of fundamental assessment. • Demonstrable leadership attribute that evidences a company's critical role as an enabler of sustainable practices. <p>Fixed income securities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A use-of-proceeds bond will be a Sustainable Investment where the use of proceeds substantially contributes to an Environmental and/or Social Objective as determined by fundamental assessment • Other fixed income securities will be a Sustainable Investment where the security is aligned with Environmental and/or Social Objectives as determined by fundamental assessment such as environmental and/or social asset-backed and mortgage-backed securities issued by supranational entities committed to the promotion of UN SDGs. <p>(ii) Do no significant harm (DNSH) Sustainable Investments meet the DNSH requirements, as defined by applicable law and regulation. BlackRock has developed a set of criteria across all Sustainable Investments to assess whether an investment does significant harm which consider both third party data points as well as fundamental insights. Investments are screened against these criteria using system-based controls and any which are considered to be causing</p>

significant harm do not qualify as Sustainable Investments. BlackRock assesses the indicators for adverse impacts on sustainability factors for each type of investment as defined by the regulation. Criteria for adverse impacts are assessed using third-party vendor data regarding an investment's business involvement (in specific activities identified as having negative environmental or social impacts) or environmental or social controversies to exclude investments which BlackRock has determined are harmful to sustainability indicators subject to limited exceptions, for example, where the data is determined to be inaccurate or not up to date.

Where no data is available, or it is substantially incomplete, fundamental analysis will be undertaken using reasonable efforts to identify impacts which BlackRock determines to be harmful to the sustainability indicators.

(iii) Meet minimum safeguards
Sustainable Investments are assessed using third party data provider information to consider compliance with international standards of the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including the principles and rights set out in the eight fundamental conventions identified in the Declaration of the International Labour Organisation on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work and the International Bill of Human Rights. Issuers deemed to have violated these conventions are not considered as Sustainable Investments.

(iv) Good Governance
In respect of its good governance assessment BlackRock uses data from external third-party ESG research providers to initially identify issuers which may not have satisfactory governance practices in relation to key performance indicators (KPIs) related to the criteria outlined above. Where issuers are identified as potentially having issues with regards to good governance, the issuers are reviewed to ensure that, where the Investment Advisor/Manager agrees with this external assessment, the Investment Advisor/Manager is satisfied that the issuer has either taken remediation actions or will take remedial actions within a reasonable time frame based on the Investment Advisor's/Manager's direct engagement with the issuer. The Investment Advisor/Manager may also decide to reduce exposure to such issuers. Portfolios indirect exposures to issuers with good governance failings are limited to de minimis levels by internal controls and are also monitored on a periodic basis to ensure that this indirect exposure remains at de minimis levels

Other methodologies
In addition, the following methodologies are used to measure how the social or environmental characteristics promoted by the Portfolio are met:

1. The Portfolio uses MSCI ESG scoring as a means of assessing issuers' exposure to and management of environmental and social risks and opportunities. Further details on the MSCI ESG scoring methodology are available at: <https://www.msci.com/our-solutions/esg-investing/esg-ratings>
2. The Portfolio measures the greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the portfolio. Further details on the methodology for calculating greenhouse gas emissions intensity are set out in 'Section C – Environmental or social characteristics' above.
3. The Portfolio applies the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens. Further details on the BlackRock EMEA Baseline Screens methodology are available at: <https://www.blackrock.com/corporate/literature/publication/blackrock-baseline-screens-in-europe-middleeast-and-africa.pdf>.
4. The Portfolio applies a set of exclusionary screens.

Data sources and processing

Data Sources
BlackRock's Portfolio Managers have access to research, data, tools, and analytics to integrate ESG insights into their investment process. Aladdin is the operating system that connects the data, people, and technology necessary to manage portfolios in real time, as well as the engine behind BlackRock's ESG analytics and reporting capabilities. BlackRock's Portfolio Managers use Aladdin to make investment decisions, monitor portfolios and to access material ESG insights that can inform the investment process to attain ESG characteristics of the Portfolio. ESG datasets are sourced from external third-party data providers, including but not limited to MSCI, Sustainalytics, Refinitiv, S&P and Clarity AI. These datasets may include headline ESG scores, carbon emissions data, business involvement metrics or controversies and have been incorporated into Aladdin tools that are available to Portfolio Managers and employed in BlackRock investment strategies. Such tools support the full investment process, from research, to portfolio construction and modelling, to reporting.

Measures taken to ensure Data Quality
BlackRock applies a comprehensive due diligence process to evaluate provider offerings with highly targeted methodology reviews and coverage assessments based on the sustainable investment strategy (and the environmental and social characteristics or sustainable objective) of the product. Our process entails both qualitative and quantitative analysis to assess the suitability of data products in line with regulatory standards as applicable.

We assess ESG providers and data across five core areas outlined below:

1. Data Collection: this includes but is not limited to assessing the data providers underlying data sources, technology used to capture data, process to identify misinformation and use of machine learning or human data collection approaches. We will also consider planned improvements
2. Data Coverage: our assessment includes but is not limited to the extent to which a data package provides coverage across our investible universe of issuers and asset classes. This will include consideration of the treatment of parent companies and their subsidiaries as well as use of estimated data or reported data
3. Methodology: our assessment includes but is not limited to consideration of the third-party providers methodologies employed, including considering the collection and calculation approaches, alignment to industry or regulatory standards or frameworks, materiality thresholds and their approach to data gaps.
4. Data Verification: our assessment will include but is not limited to the third party providers' approaches to verification of data collected and quality assurance processes including their engagement with issuers
5. Operations: we will assess a variety of aspects of a data vendors operations, including but not limited to their policies and procedures (including consideration of any conflicts of interest) the size and experience of their data research teams, their training programs, and their use of third-party outsourcers.

	<p>Additionally, BlackRock, actively participates in relevant provider consultations regarding proposed changes to methodologies as they pertain to third party data sets or index methodologies and submits considered feedback and recommendations to data provider technical teams. BlackRock often has ongoing engagement with ESG data providers including index providers to keep abreast of industry developments.</p> <p>How data is processed At BlackRock, our internal processes are focused on delivering high-quality standardized and consistent data to be used by investment professionals and for transparency and reporting purposes. Data, including ESG data, received through our existing interfaces, and then processed through a series of quality control and completeness checks which seeks to ensure that data is of a high-quality before being made available for use downstream within BlackRock systems and applications, such as Aladdin. BlackRock's integrated technology enables us to compile data about issuers and investments across a variety of environmental, social and governance metrics and a variety of data providers and make those available to investment teams and other support and control functions such as risk management.</p> <p>Use of Estimated Data BlackRock strives to capture as much reported data from companies via third party data providers as practicable, however, industry standards around disclosure frameworks are still evolving, particularly with respect to forward looking indicators. As a result, in certain cases we rely on estimated or proxy measures from data providers to cover our broad investible universe of issuers. Due to current challenges in the data landscape, while BlackRock relies on material amount of estimated data across our investible universe, the levels of which may vary from data set to data set, we seek to ensure that use of estimates is in line with regulatory guidance and that we have necessary documentation and transparency from data providers on their methodologies. BlackRock recognizes the importance in improving its data quality and data coverage and continues to evolve the data sets available to its investment professionals and other teams.</p>
<p>Limitations to methodologies and data</p>	<p>Limitations to Methodology Sustainable investing is an evolving space, both in terms of industry understanding but also the regulatory frameworks on both a regional and global basis. BlackRock continues to monitor developments in the EU's ongoing implementation of its framework for sustainable investing and is seeking to evolve its investment methodologies to ensure alignment as the regulatory environment changes. As a result, BlackRock may update these disclosures, and the methodologies and sources of data used, at any time in the future as market practice evolves or further regulatory guidance becomes available. The UN Sustainable Development Goals and sub-targets are used by BlackRock as a list of environmental and/or social objectives. Any assessment will be undertaken strictly in accordance with the methodology set out in the Prospectus. Assumptions associated with the conventional use of the SDGs are not considered as part of the assessment including but not limited to applicable geographical limitations and those commitments that may be limited by time or scope, such as goals that may be applicable only to governments. Limitations in relation to the data sources are noted below.</p> <p>Limitations to Data ESG data sets are constantly changing and improving as disclosure standards, regulatory frameworks and industry practice evolve. BlackRock continues to work with a broad range of market participants to improve data quality. Whilst each ESG metric may come with its own individual limitations, data limitations may broadly be considered to include, but not be limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of availability of certain ESG metrics due to differing reporting and disclosure standards impacting issuers, geographies or sectors • Nascent statutory corporate reporting standards regarding sustainability leading to differences in the extent to which companies themselves can report against regulatory criteria and therefore some metric coverage levels may be low • Inconsistent use and levels of reported vs estimated ESG data across different data providers, taken at varied time periods which makes comparability a challenge. • Estimated data by its nature may vary from realized figures due to the assumptions or hypothesis employed by data providers. • Differing views or assessments of issuers due to differing provider methodologies or use of subjective criteria • Most corporate ESG reporting and disclosure takes place on an annual basis and takes significant time to produce meaning that this data is produced on a lag relative to financial data. There may also be inconsistent data refresh frequencies across different data providers incorporating such data into their data sets. • Coverage and applicability of data across asset classes and indicators may vary • Forward looking data, such as climate related targets may vary significantly from historic and current point in time metrics. <p>Sustainable Investments and Environmental and Social criteria Sustainable investing and understanding of sustainability is evolving along with the data environment. Industry participants face challenges in identifying a single metric or set of standardized metrics to provide a complete view on a company or an investment. BlackRock has therefore established a framework to identify sustainable investments, taking into account the regulatory requirements. BlackRock uses third-party vendor data in assessing whether investments cause significant harm and have good governance practices. There may be some circumstances where data is unavailable, incomplete, or inaccurate, in which case fundamental assessments may be undertaken, taking a proportionate approach and using reasonable efforts, to identify issues likely to have a significant impact. Despite reasonable efforts, information may not always be available in which case a subjective assessment will be made based on BlackRock's knowledge of the investment or industry. In certain cases, data may reflect actions that issuers may have taken only after the fact, and do not reflect all potential instances of significant harm.</p>

<p>Due diligence</p>	<p>BlackRock applies a high standard of due diligence in the selection and ongoing monitoring of investments made by the Portfolio for the purpose of compliance with the investment, liquidity and risk guidelines of the Portfolio, as well as the sustainability risk and ESG criteria and general performance. Portfolio Managers are subject to pre and post trade controls within the investment platform where the funds promote environmental or social characteristics, integrate sustainability into the investment process in a binding manner or have a sustainable investment objective. The Investment Oversight team conducts due diligence engagement with the Portfolio Managers and oversees internal restrictions that may expand upon requirements set out in the Portfolio's investment management agreement. The Portfolio Managers also comply with related EMEA policies, including Investment Due Diligence policies which have been updated to integrate sustainability risk. Legal and Compliance have implemented a framework to ensure that the relevant policies and procedures are adopted and complied with by all employees, including Portfolio Managers.</p> <p>The Investment Manager integrates sustainability risks into the investment due diligence process of the Portfolio. The Portfolio Managers of the Portfolio are primarily responsible for considering sustainability risks. They are subject to an oversight framework within the Investment Manager and BlackRock's risk management function, RQA group also provides independent reviews of sustainability risks and the Compliance team provides further oversight and monitors the ESG requirements relevant to each fund and the investment restrictions for each fund. RQA, serves as the second line of defence in BlackRock's risk management framework. RQA is responsible for BlackRock's Investment and Enterprise risk management framework which includes oversight of sustainability-related investment risks. RQA Investment Risk conducts regular reviews with Portfolio Managers to ensure investment teams are advised of relevant sustainability risks, complementing the first-line monitoring and oversight of sustainability considerations across our investment platform. RQA also has a dedicated Sustainability Risk Team that partners with risk managers and businesses to reinforce this constructive engagement. RQA collaborates with working groups throughout the Investments Platform and with Aladdin Sustainability Lab to advance the firm's sustainability toolkit through consultation on firmwide data, modelling, methodologies, and analytics. In addition, BlackRock makes data relating to principal adverse impacts available to all Portfolio Managers and BlackRock integrates consideration of the principle adverse impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors in the investment due diligence process.</p>
<p>Engagement policies</p>	<p>With the aim of preventing, containing and managing the main adverse impacts of investment decisions on sustainability factors, the Management Company conducts engagement actions - both individual and collective with other investors - and exercises its voting rights on the issuers in its portfolio, in order to create awareness and orient the issuers' behaviors towards specific sustainability issues, according to the times and methods formalized in its "Engagement Policy" and in the "Strategy for the exercise of the attendance and voting rights attached to the financial instruments held by the UCITS under management".</p> <p>In this case, the Company informs the issuer about the identified criticalities, directing its decisions towards their immediate reduction. If these actions are not addressed in an effective and timely manner by the issuer, the Company evaluates to initiate specific reduction or disposal initiatives, even of a progressive nature, of the investment in these issuers.</p> <p>The initiatives carried out and the decisions taken regarding these activities are reported and formalized in order to guarantee a thorough traceability of the decision-making processes and outcomes</p>
<p>Designated reference benchmark</p>	<p>No reference benchmark has been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Sub-fund .</p>