

# ABN AMRO Robeco Global Consumer Trends Equities

Website Product Disclosure



**ABN·AMRO** Investment Solutions

# Summary

#### No Sustainable Investment Objective

This financial product promotes environmental or social characteristics but does not have as its objective sustainable investment.

#### Environmental/Social characteristics of the financial product

The analysis of ESG factors is systematically integrated into the investment decision making process of ABN AMRO Robeco Global Consumer Trends Equities (the "Sub-Fund"). The external investment manager defines ESG integration as the process of recognising the financial materiality (or significance) of environmental, social, and corporate governance factors as part of the investment process. The Sub-Fund will use a selection of securities complying with ABN AMRO Investment Solutions (the "Management Company") ESG responsibility criteria. The External Investment Manager must comply with the Management Company's standards of quality and go through a qualitative selection process before being retained. This process involves an in-depth analysis of the External Investment Manager's corporate social responsibility policy as well as its overall sustainability strengths going from the analysis of ESG professionals, philosophy, and investment process. Under the ESG responsibility criteria of the Management Company, the External Investment Manager is committed to conducting both negative and positive screenings as well as taking engagement actions when necessary.

The Sub-Fund promotes both environmental and social characteristics. On the environmental front, the Sub-Fund promotes climate risk management. The social characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund focus on global human rights and labour standards as well as diversity, equity, and inclusion.

#### **Investment Strategy**

The Sub-Fund seeks to invest in companies which benefit from the expected increase in consumer spending while identifying ESG material issues. The External Investment Manager integrates ESG analysis on a continuous basis as part of the stock selection process.

The strategy aims to search for secular trends in consumer spending and capture multiple trends to ensure a proper diversification of the portfolio. It focuses on three major long-term trends:

- Digital consumer
- Emerging consumer
- Health & Wellbeing

The investment managers scrutinize short-listed companies fundamentally using input from their rigorous qualitative analysis. Environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) factors are also taken into account. The selection process of the External Investment Manager consists of a three steps approach as explained below:

- 1. identification and focus on the most material ESG issues using a proprietary materiality framework analysis
- 2. analysis of potential red flags and impact of material factors on the company business model
- determination of the impact of these ESG factors on the key value drivers. This third and final step will
  conduct the External Investment Manager to an investment conviction level and therefore to the
  portfolio weight assigned to the stock.

The investment managers have access to extensive ESG data, some of which will be helpful in their assessments, and additional data will be needed in particular to conducts assessments on the substantial contribution to ESG objectives.

#### Proportion of Investment

The Sub-Fund plans to invest at least 90% of its net assets in assets that have been determined as "eligible" as per the ESG process in place (hence in investments that are aligned with the promoted environmental and social characteristics). Consequently, up to 10% of the investments may not be aligned with these characteristics.

#### Monitoring of the Environmental/Social characteristics

When the Management Company delegates part of the management of the Sub-Fund to External Investment Managers, controls are performed at two levels. With respect to pre-trade controls, the External Investment Managers perform controls using their own frameworks as well as including the guidelines given by the Management Company. With respect to post-trade controls, these are performed at both the External Investment Managers' and the Management Company's level, each using their own frameworks. The External Investment Manager is coding the exclusions in the Trading & Compliance module. The External Investment Manager's Financial Risk Management will monitor that all holdings with an elevated sustainability risk rating are substantiated. The second line of defence (Risk Management) monitors the weighted average ESG score of the portfolio versus the reference index daily and facilitates pre-trade compliance. The Management Company, through its Business Control & Oversight team, performs periodic ex-post controls to ensure that the portfolio complies with the commitments made. If a "non-compliant matter" is detected by the Management Company, its Business Control & Oversight team will first analyse it and engage in dialogue with the External Investment Manager if necessary. Depending on the nature of the non-compliance, the Management Company's ESG team may decide to monitor it using its proprietary "ESG Watchlist". If the noncompliance persists over time, an escalation process is put in place by the Management Company to ensure a timely remediation plan in the best interest of shareholders.

#### Data sources and processing

The Management Company monitors the attainment of the environmental and/or social characteristics of the Sub-Fund using its own data providers. The Management Company uses three external data providers as its main sources. Once collected from these sources, the data is integrated and stored in the internal front-to-back tool and/or available in the Management Company's dedicated data management system (which directly and continuously obtains data from the providers). Information is also available via dedicated portals developed by external data providers, access to which is limited to specific users of the Management Company.

The External Investment Manager uses the following data sources:

- The exclusion process uses several data sources such as Sustainalytics, RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil), World Bank, and Freedom House, Fund for Peace and International Sanctions.
- The enhanced engagement program uses data derived from the internal process.
- The fund's evaluation of sustainability risk is based on Sustainalytics data.

#### **Due Diligence**

The Management Company carries out due diligences for the selection of delegated strategies as well as for open-ended investment funds. The Management Due Diligence analysts team (MDD) identifies and selects high quality investment strategies and monitors the universe of approved strategies. The MDD team focuses on all investment and sustainability-related elements of an investment strategy. The Management Company's indepth analysis is based on a "5-P approach": Parent, People, Process, Portfolio and Performance. Each of the previously outlined aspects is evaluated and ultimately leads to a final rating of the strategy. As part of the monitoring process, the MDD team periodically reviews the performance of the strategy to ensure that it remains aligned with the investment style of the portfolio. The ESG team supports the MDD team in reviewing the process and methodologies implemented by the external asset managers when considering ESG and sustainability issues. The ESG team provides qualitative feedback during the selection phase and supports the MDD team throughout its analysis process, using the "5-P approach" aforementioned. In addition, during the monitoring phase, the ESG team will monitor the Sub-Fund's characteristics and performance related to the environmental and/or social characteristics defined (including the review of underlying investments).



# No sustainable investment objective

This financial product promotes environmental or social characteristics but does not have as its objective sustainable investment.



# Environmental/social characteristics of the financial product

The analysis of ESG factors is systematically integrated into the investment decision making process of ABN AMRO Robeco Global Consumer Trends Equities (the "Sub-Fund"). The external investment manager defines ESG integration as the process of recognising the financial materiality (or significance) of environmental, social, and corporate governance factors as part of the investment process. The Sub-Fund will use a selection of securities complying with ABN AMRO Investment Solutions (the "Management Company") ESG responsibility criteria. The External Investment Manager must comply with the Management Company's standards of quality and go through a qualitative selection process before being retained. This process involves an in-depth analysis of the External Investment Manager's corporate social responsibility policy as well as its overall sustainability strengths going from the analysis of ESG professionals, philosophy, and investment process. Under the ESG responsibility criteria of the Management Company, the External Investment Manager is committed to conducting both negative and positive screenings as well as taking engagement actions when necessary.

The Sub-Fund promotes both environmental and social characteristics. On the environmental front, the Sub-Fund promotes climate risk management. The social characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund focus on global human rights and labour standards as well as diversity, equity, and inclusion.

No reference benchmark has been designated for the purpose of attaining the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund.



# **Investment Strategy**

# Description of the strategy

The Sub-Fund seeks to invest in companies which benefit from the expected increase in consumer spending while identifying ESG material issues. The External Investment Manager integrates ESG analysis on a continuous basis as part of the stock selection process.

The strategy aims to search for secular trends in consumer spending and capture multiple trends to ensure a proper diversification of the portfolio. It focuses on three major long-term trends:

- Digital consumer
- Emerging consumer
- Health & Wellbeing

The investment managers scrutinize short-listed companies fundamentally using input from their rigorous qualitative analysis. Environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) factors are also taken into

account. The selection process of the External Investment Manager consists of a three steps approach as explained below:

- identification and focus on the most material ESG issues using a proprietary materiality framework analysis
- 2. analysis of potential red flags and impact of material factors on the company business model
- 3. determination of the impact of these ESG factors on the key value drivers. This third and final step will conduct the External Investment Manager to an investment conviction level and therefore to the portfolio weight assigned to the stock.

The investment managers have access to extensive ESG data, some of which will be helpful in their assessments, and additional data will be needed in particular to conducts assessments on the substantial contribution to ESG objectives.

#### Good governance practices

As part of its "Good Governance Policy," the Management Company of the Sub-Fund determines if a company does not follow good governance practices. Companies that do not follow good governance practices are excluded from the initial investment universe of the Sub-Fund. The data source used for all below mentioned criteria and to define the pass/fail good governance test of the Management Company is Sustainalytics.

SFDR Component	Indicator	Exclusion Criteria	Description
Sound Management Structure	UN Global Compact - Principle 10	Watchlist and Non- Compliant status	Principle 10 of the UN Global Compact is related to anti- bribery and corruption and states businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.
	Governance controversy assessment	High & Severe Levels (equivalent to levels 4/5 and 5/5)	As part of the controversy assessment, the following topics are included: accounting irregularities, bribery and corruption, anti-competitive practices, sanctions as well as board composition.
Employee Relations	UN Global Compact – Principles 3, 4, 5 and 6	Watchlist and Non- Compliant status	Principle 3, 4, 5 and 6 of the UN Global Compact are related to labour conditions. The principles state that businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining; the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour; the effective abolition of child labour; and the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.
	Social Controversy Assessment	High & Severe Levels (equivalent to levels 4/5 and 5/5)	As part of the controversy assessment, the following topics are included: freedom of association, child/forced labour, health and safety, community relations, respect of human rights, labour standards, discrimination, and harassment.
Tax Compliance	Governance Controversy Assessment	High & Severe Levels (equivalent to levels 4/5 and 5/5)	As part of the controversy assessment, taxes avoidance and evasion are taken into consideration.
Remuneration of Staff	Governance Controversy Assessment	High & Severe Levels (equivalent to levels 4/5 and 5/5)	As part of the controversy assessment, remuneration is taken into consideration.



# **Proportion of investments**

The Sub-Fund invests at least 90% of its net assets in assets that have been determined as "eligible" as per the ESG process in place (hence in investments that are aligned with the promoted environmental and social characteristics (#1 Aligned with E/S characteristics).

Up to 10% of the investments are not aligned with these characteristics (#2 Other). "#2 Other" includes derivatives, bank deposits at sight, including cash held in current accounts with a bank accessible at any time. These are used for investment, hedging and efficient management portfolio purposes. There are no minimum environmental or social safeguards associated with these investments. A more detailed description of the specific asset allocation of this Sub-Fund can be found in the prospectus.



#### #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.



# Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics

When the Management Company delegates part of the management of the Sub-Fund to External Investment Managers, controls are performed at two levels. With respect to pre-trade controls, the External Investment Managers perform controls using their own frameworks as well as including the guidelines given by the Management Company. With respect to post-trade controls, these are performed at both the External Investment Managers' and the Management Company's level, each using their own frameworks.

- The External Investment Manager: All exclusions are coded by the External Investment Manager in the Trading & Compliance module. The External Investment Manager's Financial Risk Management will monitor that all holdings with an elevated sustainability risk rating are substantiated. Every quarter, all holdings with elevated sustainability risk will be reviewed by the Controversy Committee and the committee can ask the portfolio manager for an update of the valuation case. The second line of defence (Risk Management) monitors the weighted average ESG score of the portfolio versus the reference index daily and facilitates pre-trade compliance. Engagement results are periodically assessed by an internal and external audit. Unsuccessful engagement might lead to exclusion.
- Management Company: The monitoring of environmental or social characteristics of the investment product is ensured through a dedicated control framework. The Management Company, through its

Business Control & Oversight team, performs periodic ex-post controls to ensure that the portfolio complies with the commitments made. If a "non-compliant matter" is detected by the Management Company, its Business Control & Oversight team will first analyse it and engage in dialogue with the External Investment Manager if necessary. Depending on the nature of the non-compliance, the Management Company's ESG team may decide to monitor it using its proprietary "ESG Watchlist". If the non-compliance persists over time, an escalation process is put in place by the Management Company to ensure a timely remediation plan in the best interest of shareholders.



### **Methodologies**

ESG analysis is systematically integrated into the investment decision making process. As part of its ESG framework, the Management Company uses the following sustainability indicators to measure the achievement of each of the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Sub-Fund:

- Absence of companies that do not meet the criteria defined in the Management Company's Exclusion List and that are deemed incompatible with the E/S promotion (e.g., tobacco, controversial weapons).
- Controversy Level Assessment Controversy involvement is a key measure of ESG performance.
   Controversy level assessment reflects a company's level of involvement in issues and how it manages those issues.
- Compliance with the UN Global Compact The United Nations Global Compact is the world largest corporate sustainability initiative aimed at encouraging businesses and firms worldwide to adopt sustainable and socially responsible policies, and to report on their implementation. The UN Global Compact is a principle-based framework for businesses, stating ten principles in the areas of human rights, labour, the environment, and anti-corruption. The Ten Principles of the United Nations Global Compact are derived from: the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Labour Organization's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and the United Nations Convention Against Corruption.
- ESG Risk Scores ESG risk scores measure a company's exposure to material industry-specific ESG
  risks and how the company manages those risks. This multi-dimensional way of measuring ESG risk
  combines the concepts of management and exposure to arrive at an absolute assessment of ESG risk.
- Scope 1 GHG Emissions- Scope 1 emissions emanate from a company's internal operations, including on-site energy production, vehicle fleets, manufacturing operations, and waste.
- Scope 2 GHG emissions- Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions generated by the production of energy used by the company.



# **Data sources and processing**

The Management Company monitors the attainment of the environmental and/or social characteristics of the Sub-Fund using its own data providers.

The Management Company uses three external data providers as its main sources:

• The Management Company assesses the environmental and/or social characteristics of the Sub-Fund's constituents using the external data provider Sustainalytics. The Management Company uses Sustainalytics for ESG risk scores, controversies, product involvement as well as alignment with global standards (e.g., OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises).

- The Management Company uses Morningstar to analyse the Sub-Fund's peer group, as well as for various ESG data calculations at portfolio level.
- The Management Company uses the data provider ISS for climate and impact data. The Management Company also uses ISS as a proxy voting solution.

Once collected from these sources, the data is integrated and stored in the internal front-to-back tool and/or available in the Management Company's dedicated data management system (which directly and continuously obtains data from the providers). Information is also available via dedicated portals developed by external data providers, access to which is limited to specific users of the Management Company. The Management Company verifies that the data is available, reported (or calculated), and dependable over time. On a case-by-case basis (e.g., if an ESG score is missing), the Management Company may use other sources of information to form its own opinion regarding the ESG suitability of any investment opportunity with the Sub-Fund's strategy.

The External Investment Manager uses the following data sources:

- The exclusion process uses several data sources such as Sustainalytics, RSPO (Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil), World Bank, and Freedom House, Fund for Peace and International Sanctions.
- The enhanced engagement program uses data derived from the internal process.
- The fund's evaluation of sustainability risk is based on Sustainalytics data.

The investment managers scrutinise the data quality of each provider during due diligence assessments, that includes reviewing the data model, performing statistical checks, and evaluating coverage. Data processing takes places in different forms, the preference is always to have data acquisition as automated as possible to avoid any operational risks or unnecessary human intervention.



## Limitations to methodologies and data

The methodologies and data used have the following limitations:

- Data quality: the approach followed includes qualitative analysis of a company's ESG credentials. The
  methodology is subject to limitations, including reliance on the quality of data provided by investee
  companies or third-party research providers, as well as quantification of qualitative data.
- Coverage: the overall team of ESG analysts in charge of the analysis of the Sub-Fund may not be staffed to cover the entire investment universe and methodological limitations that exist. In addition, with respect to external data providers, although the number of companies covered by data providers has increased significantly over time, and continues to increase, there may be instances where a specific company is not assessed by them. This is because either the data provider does not cover the company in question, or the company has not provided the data necessary for a proper assessment by the data provider.
- Discrepancy in ratings: the data used for the analysis of the Sub-Fund is obtained from different data
  providers, which have different methodologies for assessing ESG performance. The result of their
  assessment is to some extent subjective and inconsistent. Moreover, the difference in data sources
  and processing methods used by the Management Company and the asset managers of open-ended
  investments funds may further add to this discrepancy in ratings.
- Estimated data: Not all data points are reported data and some of the data used are estimated. For example, in the case of carbon data or ESG ratings, some technical calculations may be based on estimated data (i.e., by reference to a peer group average).

# Due diligence

The External Investment Manager's portfolio managers and analysts are primarily responsible for conducting investment due diligence on their strategies daily. They are supported by independent monitoring, performed by the Financial Risk Management and Investment Restrictions departments. Internal tools used are the External Investment Manager's Quantitative Stock Ranking Model, Value Dynamic Framework, and Sustainability analysis.

The Management Company carries out due diligences for the selection of delegated strategies as well as for open-ended investment funds:

- The MDD team identifies and selects high quality investment strategies and monitors the universe of approved strategies. The MDD analysts team focuses on all investment and sustainability-related elements of an investment strategy, such as organization, team, investment, portfolio construction, process, track record, etc. MDD's research reports include a thorough sustainability due diligence and a separate sustainability rating. For all strategies, MDD analysts assess the asset management company in charge of the strategy on its commitment to and transparency on ESG investing. They also assess to what extent, and at what stages, ESG criteria are integrated into the investment strategies and effectively considered in the investment process and the portfolio. This analysis is carried out by means of a questionnaire sent via the Management Company's proprietary platform, Deeligenz, as well as during meetings with the professionals involved in the strategy (e.g., portfolio managers, financial analysts, ESG analysts, management team, etc.). The Management Company's in-depth analysis is based on a "5-P approach": Parent, People, Process, Portfolio and Performance. Each of the previously outlined aspects is evaluated and ultimately leads to a final rating of the strategy. As part of the monitoring process, the MDD team periodically reviews the performance of the strategy to ensure that it remains aligned with the investment style of the portfolio. The MDD team provides transparency and regular monitoring of the strategy's portfolio. ESG ratings and other sustainable characteristics of the portfolio's underlying assets are also monitored regularly. In addition, MDD analysts meet periodically with portfolio managers to discuss recent performance as well as recent transactions to monitor alignment with promoted environmental and/or social characteristics. To prepare for the meeting, MDD analysts send out a monitoring questionnaire using the Management Company's proprietary platform, Deeligenz, with questions related to the portfolio, performance, and ESG factors. During the calls, portfolio managers clarify if there were any changes in the team and processes. Analysts and investment managers also discuss recent engagements and milestones during the period. In addition, MDD analysts monitor any significant events that may affect the portfolio, e.g., with respect to their investments, financial and ESG analysts, investment process, engagement capacity. Each change may affect the strategy's 5-P based rating, which may result in a change in the strategy's ratings, including the sustainability rating.
- The ESG team supports the MDD team in reviewing the process and methodologies implemented by the external asset managers when considering ESG and sustainability issues. The ESG team provides qualitative feedback during the selection phase and supports the MDD team throughout its analysis process, using the "5-P approach" aforementioned. In addition, during the monitoring phase, the ESG team will monitor the Sub-Fund's characteristics and performance related to the environmental and/or social characteristics defined. The ESG team will also monitor the Sub-Fund's underlying investments against the overall environmental and/or social characteristics, as well as the ESG indicators for all the Sub-Fund's holdings. If a holding is identified as not meeting the environmental and/or social characteristics of the Sub-Fund, the ESG team will further investigate the issue through an internal analysis. In addition, the ESG team is responsible for periodically reviewing the exclusion lists, assessing the relevance of the latest ESG information regarding restricted companies and updating the lists, accordingly, thereby adjusting the portfolios. The ESG team also ensures the proper understanding and implementation of regulatory requirements on green finance, such as SFDR, RTS or Taxonomy, throughout the entire product range. Lastly, the ESG team is responsible for the sustainable labelling of the Management Company's product range. Overall, the ESG team plays a very transversal role in the Management Company's organization, as ESG is at the heart of its investment strategy.



# **Engagement policies**

Active monitoring of investee companies is an integral part of the External Investment Manager's Sustainable Investing approach and strategy. Both the investment teams and the Active Ownership team are monitoring investee companies. The holdings of the fund are subject to the External Investment Manager's enhanced engagement program, that is focused on companies who are severely breaching minimum standards (e.g. corporate behaviour, climate, and biodiversity). In evaluating corporate behaviour, the investment manager expects companies to comply with internationally accepted codes of conduct for corporate governance, social responsibility, the environment, and transparency such as the UN Global Compact and OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises.

The External Investment Manager carries out three different types of corporate engagement with companies in which they invest: value engagement, enhanced engagement, and SDG engagement. In all these types, it aims to improve a company's behaviour on environmental, social, and corporate governance (ESG) issues.

Value engagement is a proactive approach focusing on long-term, financially material ESG opportunities and risks that can affect companies' valuation and ability to create value to improve sustainability conduct and corporate governance. Although this type of engagement is not directly related to the environmental or social investment strategy of the fund, it can be that adverse sustainability impacts are addressed via the value engagement program.

Enhanced engagement focuses on companies that severely and structurally breach minimum behavioural norms in areas such as human rights, labour, environment, and anti-corruption. The primary objective of enhanced engagement is to address reported shortfalls against internationally accepted codes of conduct for corporate governance, social responsibility, the environment, and transparency.

The objective of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Engagement is to drive a clear and measurable improvement in a company's SDG contribution over three to five years of engagement.



# **Designated reference benchmark**

No specific ESG-related index has been designated for this Sub-Fund.