

# Sustainability Report

Global Equities Ethical Q4 2023



# Sustainable Philosophy

#### **Core Beliefs**

Our active approach to the stewardship of investments ensures sustainability commitments

We emphasize active ownership to influence positive change and progress

The integration of sustainability factors is key to our long-term investment research process

Prioritising pro-active engagement rather than excluding and divesting

Investing responsibly is aligned with superior risk-adjusted long-term returns

#### **Our actions**

Engaging directly with and voting on investee companies

Researching sustainability factors is fully integrated into our overall investment approach

Materiality ensures that we prioritise what matters most

Extensive screening to ensure norm-based alignment

# C WorldWide Global Equities Ethical

#### **Quarterly Comments**

#### **Balancing Corporate Profits with Social Responsibility**

Many investors are increasingly seeing the need to navigate the complex intersection between financial objectives, investment returns and societal impact.

There are multiple global initiatives addressing these trends. One example is the Just Transition's fundamental framework which believes that the move towards a lower-carbon economy should be characterised by inclusivity and fairness. Their belief is that energy transition should not only be guided by economic and environmental factors but also by social justice, job creation, and the development of community resilience. Although we agree with their ambitions, the transition will look and be applied differently depending on respective country or regional starting point.

Asset managers such as us are also confronted with the challenge of navigating policy and regulatory uncertainties in the rapidly evolving landscape of environmental policies. This is embedded in our on-going thematic work categorized under "Big Government". This demands ongoing awareness and monitoring of governmental initiatives, a precondition to making well-informed and long-term investment decisions. The reason is that the regulatory environment significantly shapes the feasibility and success of investments in environmentally conscious sectors. How governments shift from policy support to policy headwind, depending on opinion polls, thereby adding another layer of complexity.

Our investment approach is to strike the right balance between financial returns and social responsibility demands, a holistic approach. Our investment objectives remain unchanged, and we continue to prioritize financially driven return outcomes.

During the final quarter of 2023, we focused on finalising the integration of our stewardship risk tool, LISA (Long-term Investments in Sustainable Assets), which includes, but is not limited to, the analysis of the mandatory principal adverse impact indicators (PAI). These are also factors that are part of other frameworks, like Just Transition, that include social equity, economic stability, and environmental sustainability. For example:

- An evaluation of the potential impact on employment where companies can be assessed on their implications on job markets, especially within industries undergoing significant transformations.
- An evaluation of skill development and training programs. Companies
  can be assessed on how they facilitate the transition of workers from
  declining industries to emerging, sustainable sectors, promoting retraining and upskilling for a more inclusive and equitable transition.



## **Investment Screenings**

#### **Sanctions Screenings**

All investments are screened against Refinitiv World-Check sanctions-screening covering all known sanction bodies

#### Norms-Based Global Standards Screenings

Convention Breach screenings, compliance with UN Global Compact Principles, OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights

### Investment Exclusions

None of the companies within the portfolio exceeds a certain level of involvement in the activities specified

- o% Controversial Weap-
- 5% Military Contracting
- o% Small Arms
- 5% Adult Entertainment
- 5% Alcoholic Beverages
- 5% Gambling
- 5% Tobacco Products
- 10% Oil & Gas
- 5% Thermal Coal
- o% Oil Sands
- o% Shale Energy

• An evaluation of any potential environmental impact. The ecological consequences of investments must be thoroughly examined, focusing on reducing carbon emissions, promoting sustainable resource use, and aligning with broader environmental conservation objectives.

#### **Portfolio Changes**

During the last quarter of 2023, no portfolio changes were made.

#### **Direct Engagements**

#### Aon

Aon is a leading global professional- and insurance services firm that provides a broad range of risk, retirement, and health solutions. The Company has a strong commitment to sustainability, which is integrated into its operations and strategy. Aon follows the Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) for its Scope 1 and 2 emissions and engages with its suppliers to have them commit to SBTi as well. Aon aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030 and supports its clients in accelerating their climate response and managing their environmental risks.

We recently engaged with Aon representatives to discuss topics related to sustainability and general business, operations, and strategy. Some of the main takeaways were:

- Environmental sustainability: Aon considers environmental topics as a
  "tick-the-box" exercise, as they are not material to its operations. However, Aon recognises the importance of environmental sustainability
  for its clients, especially in the re-insurance and property insurance
  sectors, where climate change poses significant risks. Aon uses advanced catastrophe models and risk capital to help its clients mitigate
  and transfer their environmental risks.
- Cyber security: Aon considers cyber security as one of the main risks
  for its business and has made it a board-level responsibility. Aon follows a holistic approach to cyber security, looking at different types of
  risks with different lenses. Aon also has annual compliance requirements for its employees and suppliers to ensure data protection and
  prevent data breaches.
- Selling practices and misselling: Aon does not see this as a big risk for
  its business, as it operates mostly in the B<sub>2</sub>B segment, where the buyers
  are sophisticated corporate entities. Aon also acts as a middleman between the buyers and the sellers and does not have direct control over
  the products or services offered. Aon tries to avoid conflicts of interest
  by being transparent and ethical in its dealings.
- Executive remuneration and ESG performance: Aon links its executive remuneration to ESG performance and culture-metrics. Aon believes that culture is the most important driver of ESG performance, and therefore focuses on fostering a culture of inclusion, diversity, engagement, promotion, and hiring. Aon allocates 20% of its incentives to culture-related goals and measures them using various indicators.



#### **Proxy Voting**

As Q4 unfolded, proxy voting activity continued at a subdued pace, in line with the trend from the previous quarter. Limited to only a few companies conducting their AGMs within the portfolio, the conclusion of the quarter signified a period of modest engagement in proxy voting as the year drew to a close.

#### **Microsoft Corporation**

We voted against Glass Lewis on three proposals this quarter:

We voted with management for the election of Hugh F. Johnston, thereby going against Glass Lewis. He joined Microsoft's Board of Directors in September 2017 and joined the Audit committee at the same time. Although he has only been the Chair of the audit committee during the term, he has substantial experience as PepsiCo's Vice Chairman and CFO, a director at HCA Healthcare, and his CFO role at Walt Disney on December 4th, 2023. We do not consider Hugh F. Johnston as overcommitted despite these engagements.

Against Glass Lewis's recommendations, we voted against the advisory vote on executive compensation. The rationale is that the minimum vesting period for awards granted under the plan is too short.

We voted against the shareholder proposal regarding risks of developing military weapons, and thereby against Glass Lewis recommendations. In the past we deemed Microsoft's disclosure on Risks of Developing Military Weapons to be sufficient.

#### Procter & Gamble Co.

We voted against management on three proposals this quarter:

We voted in favour of the shareholder proposal regarding shareholder approval of advance notice provisions, and thus voted against management. Shareholders should approve provisions that could potentially limit their rights.

Against management and Glass Lewis recommendations, we voted against the advisory vote on executive compensation as the grants under the long-term incentive plan are not sufficiently performance- based.

We voted against the election of Jon R. Moeller and thereby against management and Glass Lewis recommendations. The nominee serves as both Chairman and CEO, which we deem inadequate.

#### Ferguson Plc.

We voted against the proposed election of Thomas Schmitt and thus voted against management due to concerns regarding potential conflicts of interest. Thomas Schmitt's involvement as an Affiliate/Insider on the compensation committee, related party transactions, and participation on the nominating/governance committee raised doubts about impartial decision-making.

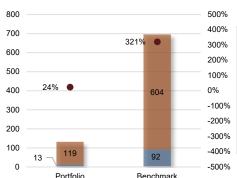
A full list of all meetings voted is available upon request or can be retrieved directly from the C WorldWide website.

### C WORLDWIDE GLOBAL EQUITIES ETHICAL

#### Sustainalytics Portfolio Risk Rating: Low

Benchmark: MSCI All Country World Index

#### Emissions Exposure & SDS (tCO2e) 800



■ Scope 1 & 2 ■ Scope 3 ● 2050 Target Paris Aligned (RHS)

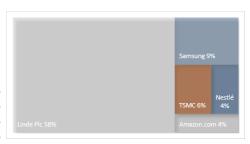
The above graph summarises the portfolio's carbon foot-

print compared with the benchmark. The Sustainability Development Scenario (SDS) pathway on the right-hand

side of the graph is fully aligned with the Paris Agreement. The graph indicates whether the portfolio and benchmark are expected to over-/undershoot

against the allocated carbon budget until 2050.

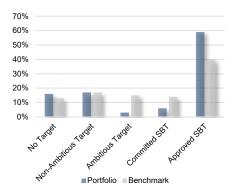
#### **Top 5 Contributors to Portfolio Emissions**



Carbon Intensity (tCO2e/mill. USD revenue)



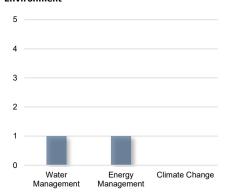
Climate Target Assessment



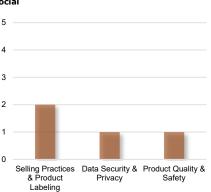
The above graph shows how many of the companies in the portfolio have set climate targets and how ambitious these are. Having ambitious targets, being committed to Science-Based Targets (SBT) or having approved SBT shows close alignment with the Paris Agreement.

Source: ISS Data Desk (Climate Assessment). Based on a portfolio Value of 1,000,000 USD. Portfolio as of 31st of December 2023

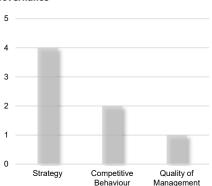
#### **Direct Engagement Topics Environment**



#### Social



#### Governance



#### Total direct company engagements for the portfolio: 5

Throughout the quarter, we conducted several direct engagements with the portfolio companies. Our ESG engagements have most often incorporated an aspect of each subject E, S, and G. The above graphs show the top three engagement topics within environmental, social and governance aspects. There are several sub-topics within each category that can overlap within one engagement.

#### **Collective Engagement**



The above graph illustrates our collective engagements with Sustainalytics. The companies are shown within what milestone they have reached thus far and rated according to their communication in relation to the specific engagement topic.

**Drovy Voting** 

| Proxy voting                                       |      |               |
|--|------|---------------|
| Meetings Voted                                     | 100% | 3             |
| Proposals Voted                                    | 100% | 66            |
| Meetings with at least one vote against management | 21%  |               |
|  | 56%  | Board Related |
| Proposal Categories (Top 3)                        | 14%  | Social        |
|  | 11%  | Compensation  |

We utilise proxy voting to emphasise the topics discussed with the investee companies in our ongoing engagement with them and to vote on key issues important to the governance of the investee companies. The table above shows key topics and how votes have been cast during the quarter

Source: Sustainalytics. Portfolio as of 31st of December 2023

Source: Glass Lewis Proxy Voting. Portfolio as of 31st of December 2023

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C WorldWide Asset Management Fondsmaeglerselskab A/S is a focused asset manager. Our objective is to deliver consistent, long term capital growth for clients through active investments in listed equities on global stock exchanges.

Our clients are primarily institutional investors and external distribution channels. Our product range includes discretionary asset management services and commingled fund products.

The combination of a unique investment philosophy based on careful stock picking and long-term global trends coupled with a stable team of experienced portfolio managers, has since 1986 resulted in world-class investment performance.

Please find more of our Sustainability Reports on cworldwide.com

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