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# Invesco Emerging Market Flexible Bond Fund

## (the “Fund”)

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Sustainability-related disclosures

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# Summary

At Invesco we have looked to put in place minimum safeguards across multiple sub-funds of Invesco Funds to allow them to meet Article 8 requirements of the Regulation (EU) 2019/2088 on sustainability – related disclosures in the financial services sector (SFDR). To be classified as an Article 8 product, the sub-funds need to promote, among other things, environmental and/or social characteristics while also ensuring that investee companies follow good governance practices.

In order to meet such requirements, it was determined that we would look to exclude certain activities based on certain thresholds. The activities excluded from the Fund include:

- Level of involvement in Coal extraction and production;
- Level of involvement in Unconventional Oil and Gas such as Arctic oil and gas exploration, oil sands extraction and Shale energy extraction;
- Level of involvement in Tobacco production and tobacco-related products;
- Level of involvement with recreational cannabis;
- Companies involved in the manufacture of nuclear warheads or whole nuclear missiles outside of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In order to assess companies around the above activities, Invesco uses a combination of Sustainalytics and ISS (Institutional Shareholder Services) to assess compliance. However, this can be supplemented with other service providers where appropriate.

While there is broad coverage across the various systems, there is no one system that has complete coverage of the entire investment universe. As a result, investment teams will be responsible for conducting an assessment of companies for which data is not available, under the appropriate supervision and oversight of our investment compliance and ESG teams. This self-certification process ensures that the coverage of the Fund's investible universe is 100%.

## No sustainable investment objective

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

## Environmental or social characteristics of the financial product

The Fund applies, in addition to the regulatory mandated exclusions with regards to controversial weapons (please also refer to Section 7.5 I. (5) of the Prospectus) and sovereign debt sanctions, additional exclusions based on the following factors, which may be periodically updated:

- Level of involvement in Coal extraction and production;
- Level of involvement in Unconventional Oil and Gas such as Arctic oil and gas exploration, oil sands extraction and Shale energy extraction;
- Level of involvement in Tobacco production and tobacco-related products;
- Level of involvement with recreational cannabis;
- Companies involved in the manufacture of nuclear warheads or whole nuclear missiles outside of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

In addition, companies will be excluded if they are assessed as being in violation of any of the UN Global Compact's principles, based on third-party data and the Investment Manager's proprietary analysis and research. Exclusions apply on a continuous basis during the life of the Fund.

## Investment strategy

The list of activities and their appropriate thresholds to define the exclusion are articulated below:

UN Global Compact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Non-compliant</li></ul>
International sanctions <sup>1</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sanctioned investments are prohibited</li></ul>
Controversial weapons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 0%, including companies involved in the manufacture of nuclear warheads or whole nuclear missiles outside of the NPT</li></ul>
Coal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Thermal Coal extraction: <math>\geq 5\%</math> of revenue</li><li>• Thermal Coal power generation: <math>\geq 10\%</math> of revenue</li></ul>
Unconventional oil & gas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <math>\geq 5\%</math> of revenue on each of the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>– Arctic oil &amp; gas exploration;</li><li>– Oil sands extraction;</li><li>– Shale energy extraction;</li></ul></li></ul>
Tobacco	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tobacco Products production: <math>\geq 5\%</math> of revenue</li><li>• Tobacco-related products and services: <math>\geq 5\%</math> of revenue</li></ul>
Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Recreational cannabis: <math>\geq 5\%</math> of revenue</li></ul>

<sup>1</sup> At Invesco we continuously monitor any applicable sanctions, including those imposed by the UN, US, EU and UK. These sanctions may preclude investments in the securities of various governments/regimes/entities and as such will be included in our compliance guidelines and workflows designed to ensure compliance with such sanctions. The wording of international sanctions is something that we pay particular attention to as there are occasions where sanctions can exist in limited form, for example allowing investments in the secondary market.

Entities are assessed on a range of good governance principles that may vary due to differing business profiles or operating jurisdictions. Investment teams may utilise both qualitative and quantitative measures with appropriate action taken where material concerns around governance exist. These assessments take into account various metrics such as board composition, executive compensation, committee structure, board frameworks and operating model, and legal and regulatory compliance.

As a result of the exclusion framework, it is expected that between 5% – 10% of the issuers will be excluded from the initial investment universe of the Fund.

## Proportion of investments

The exclusions will be screened to the full investment universe. The expected asset allocation is 90% minimum of investments will be aligned with the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Fund. However, currencies and money market instruments that are held for cash management/liquidity purposes may not be assessed for compliance within the exclusion framework.

## Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics

In order to assess companies around the above activities, Invesco uses a combination of Sustainalytics and ISS (Institutional Shareholder Services) to assess compliance. However, this can be supplemented with other service providers where appropriate. This data is used in order to place trade restrictions on issuers that breach the defined thresholds.

While there is broad coverage across the various systems, there is no one system that has complete coverage of the entire investment universe. As a result, investment teams will be responsible for conducting an assessment of companies for which data is not available, under the appropriate supervision and oversight of our investment compliance and ESG teams.

Invesco has also implemented a challenge process where if there is disagreement between a data vendor's analysis of a company and the portfolio manager's analysis of the company in relation to the above exclusionary criteria, the portfolio manager is able to request a review of the data leading to the restriction. This data review is done independently of the portfolio manager and of the compliance team, and is handled by the ESG research team. If the ESG research team determines that the restriction should not be applied to a particular issuer, then the trade restriction is lifted.

## Methodologies for environmental or social characteristics

In order to assess companies around the above activities, Invesco uses a combination of Sustainalytics and ISS (Institutional Shareholder Services) to assess compliance. However, this can be supplemented with other service providers where appropriate.

### Counterparty Selection

While some counterparties may be excluded as investable entities under the above exclusion framework due to failure on one or more screens, it is felt that restricting their use as counterparties would impose an undue burden on the Fund and would impair our ability to ensure best execution.

### Companies with clear transition plans

While the purpose of the framework is to exclude companies that operate primarily in certain industries, we recognise that some companies may be on a transition path and an immediate exclusion may not be in the best interests of shareholders. Investment teams along with the ESG team at Invesco have developed a framework to assess such companies based on objective and evidence-based criteria, ensuring that any company where the hard data is overwritten can be justified.

### Data overwrite

It is recognised that some service provider methodologies may be backward-looking on their data and company assessment. As a result, to ensure that we are not wholly reliant on data vendors, a process has been established to allow investment managers to challenge the data. Any scenario where the data vendor assessment is overruled will go through a comprehensive review process, with any reasons being clearly documented.

### Securities Lending

To the extent the Fund engages in securities lending, the Fund will reserve the right to recall securities in advance of an important vote. In addition, the investment manager will ensure that any collateral received is aligned with this website disclosure.

### Disinvestment period

Where a previously eligible company subsequently fails an appropriate screen, subject to secondary validation the investment teams will ensure disinvestment within a period of 60 days, subject to liquidity/regulatory and other factors. At all times the best interests of shareholders will be taken into consideration.

## Data sources and processing

In order to assess companies around the above activities, Invesco uses a combination of Sustainalytics and ISS (Institutional Shareholder Services) to assess compliance. However, this can be supplemented with other service providers where appropriate.

While there is broad coverage across the various systems, there is no one system that has complete coverage of the entire investment universe. As a result, the investment team will be responsible for conducting an assessment of companies for which data is not available, under the appropriate supervision and oversight of our investment compliance and ESG teams.

The Fund's investment universe will be covered and assessed against the exclusion framework with the only exception of asset classes (including cash management and index derivatives) that are not aligned with the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Fund and are further explained below.

## Limitations to methodologies and data

As mentioned above in "Data sources and processing", except for the below, the Fund's investment universe will be covered and assessed against the exclusion framework.

### Cash Management

Currencies, cash and money market instruments that are held for cash management/liquidity purposes may not be assessed for compliance within the above framework. Where cash equivalents are held for investment purposes, they will be compliant with the framework.

### Derivatives

Index derivatives will not be assessed on a look-through basis, unless such an index has a significant allocation to prohibited activities.

### Green bonds from ineligible entities

Bonds such as green bonds, climate bonds, social bonds as well as sustainability-linked bonds from companies that would ordinarily be ineligible may be eligible for inclusion by the sub-funds, subject to appropriate discussions between the investment and ESG teams.

### Government Debt

Government debt (with the exceptions of sanctions investments as mentioned above) are not covered by the policy, however, quasi-sovereign debt will be treated as corporate debt and therefore assessed against the framework.

## Due diligence

There are multiple levels of controls in place to ensure that the Fund does not invest in securities issued by issuers that violate or breach the aforementioned exclusionary criteria. The first step in this due diligence process is a review of the data received from ESG data vendors to ensure that each update file is as complete as possible before ingestion into internal systems. This includes an analysis of the changes between the current data file and previous data files, highlighting significant changes and potentially requesting confirmation of these changes.

Issuers that breach the exclusionary criteria and thresholds are then restricted from being purchased by the compliance team. Where there is a security that a portfolio manager wishes to include in the Fund but that is not covered by an ESG data vendor, that portfolio manager will do primary research on the issuer and determine if the issuer should pass or fail based on the exclusionary criteria. This initial review is then cross-checked by Invesco's dedicated ESG research team. If the ESG research team agrees with the portfolio manager's assessment, the security is allowed. If the ESG team disagrees with the portfolio manager's assessment, the review will be escalated to the chief investment officer overseeing the Fund for a final determination. A similar process is in place for data challenges where the portfolio manager believes there is a factual error in the ESG vendor's data.

Any changes to the ESG criteria of the fund must be reviewed and approved by Invesco's ESG client strategies team. This team is composed of ESG professionals with experience working with both clients and portfolio managers in the creation of ESG-labelled or related products. This process ensures that the criteria selected represent industry best practices for ESG-related products.

## Engagement policies

Please click [here](#) to access our engagement and proxy voting policy.

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<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Details of change</b>
1.0	16 December 2022	Creation of the document