

3Q 2023

Nomura Asset Management U.K. Limited Nomura Asset Management Co., Ltd. Nomura Asset Management Singapore Limited Nomura Asset Management Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. Nomura Islamic Asset Management Malaysia Sdn. Bhd.

Responsible Investing Report

## Introduction

Nomura Asset Management is committed to Responsible Investment, being a signatory to the United Nations Principles for Responsible Investment ("UNPRI") since 2011, and has a strong track record of acting in a manner that maximises both the experiences of our clients and the other stakeholders impacted by our investments.

Nomura Asset Management U.K. Limited ("NAM UK") has been integrating Environmental, Social and Governance ("ESG") research (both proprietary internal research and external data providers) into all individual global equity investment committee reviews since 2013. Our engagement activity and ESG research has been published publicly online since 2Q16 in an effort to promote transparency and increase the impact of our activity. Whereas, Nomura Asset Management Malaysia SDN BHD ("NAMM") and Nomura Islamic Asset Management SDN BHD ("NIAM"), as member entities within the NAM group in Malaysia, are also committed to standards encouraged by the UNPRI through its commitment to observe the Malaysian Code of Institutional Investors ("MCII"). Both NAMM and NIAM became signatories of the MCII on 25 April 2017.

The research and engagement processes of Nomura Asset Management Singapore Limited ("NAM SG") and Nomura Asset Management Malaysia SDN BHD ("NAMM") have been included within this report since 2Q19. Since 1Q20 the Responsible Investment team of Nomura Asset Management Co., Ltd ("NAM Tokyo") have also been contributing a selection of engagements with Japanese companies to the report. Through the collaboration of research efforts across offices and asset classes we believe we can maximise the impact of engagement activity and achieve the best outcomes for all stakeholders.

It is our view that Responsible Investment is best undertaken by taking into consideration the impact of a corporation's existence and the associated investment decisions on all stakeholders, not just ourselves as shareholders and/or bond investors. As responsible investors we must take into account the broader impact of our investment decisions and it is our duty to engage with the businesses we own and/or lend to, and even those we don't, to push for better practices where necessary. Targets for engagement are identified through our ongoing ESG research programme, which takes into consideration the ESG risks within our client portfolios and ongoing evaluation of the impact that our investee companies have on all stakeholders. An assessment is made as to the severity of the engagement topic and the engagement itself is carried out at the appropriate level. Where we feel our engagement activity is not having the desired effect we will escalate our concerns to more senior management or directly to the board. We are proactive with regards to proxy voting as a means to express our views and we actively seek to collaborate with other investors to maximise the impact of our activity.

"NAM Group" "NAM"	These references relate to the whole Nomura Asset Management organisation and will generally be used when referring to matters such as investment philosophy, style, company structure and other policies, which are consistent across the Group.
"Nomura Asset Management Co., Ltd" "NAM Tokyo"	This refers to Nomura Asset Management Co., Ltd., the Head Office of the NAM Group based in Tokyo, Japan.
"NAM UK"	This refers to Nomura Asset Management U.K. Limited, the UK based subsidiary of NAM Tokyo. NAM UK will typically be appointed as investment manager and will retain responsibility for the management, control and servicing of the client portfolio and relationship.
"NAM Singapore" "NAM SG"	This refers to Nomura Asset Management Singapore Limited.
"NAM Malaysia" "NAMM"	This refers to Nomura Asset Management Malaysia SDN BHD.
"NIAM"	This refers to Nomura Islamic Asset Management Malaysia SDN BHD.
"Our" "We"	This refers to the efforts and practices undertaken within the NAM UK, NAM Singapore and NAM Malaysia offices.



## Summary

Over the period, 43 companies were reviewed and assigned ESG ratings. Of these, 11 were awarded a rating of 'N' (No Issues), 22 a rating of 'II' (Issues but Improving), 10 a rating of 'INI' (Issues, Not Improving). No companies were deemed Uninvestible. In addition, 32 further companies were engaged with, supplementary to full company reviews, to discuss ESG related queries that arose over the period. In total, we engaged with 69 companies to discuss ESG concerns. Of these engagements, 12% were focused on Business Strategy, 20% on Social Impact, 23% on Environment, 16% on Governance, 11% on Financial Strategy and 18% on Dialogue/Disclosure. Of the companies we engaged with, 20 were based in North America, 12 in Europe and 20 in Asia ex Japan, 17 in Japan. Responses were received from 62 companies (89.9% response ratio).

#### Companies reviewed

**Engagements** 

No Issues	11
Issues (improving)	22
Issues (Not improving)	10
Uninvestable	0
Total	43

#### **Engagements by Region**

Europe	12
North America	20
APAC ex Japan	20
Africa	0
Japan	17
Total	69

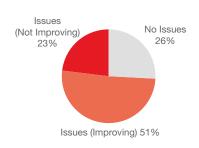
Number of contacts	69
Engaged & responded	62
Engaged with no response	7
Response Ratio	89.9%

#### **Engagements by Subject**

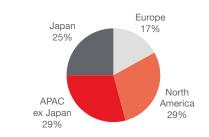
Business Strategy	20
Financial Strategy	18
Governance	27
Environment	39
Social	33
Dialogue/Disclosure	30

Please note 'Engagement by Subject' does not add up to total number of engagements as company engagements can typically include the covering of multiple topics.

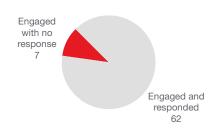
#### **Ratings Assigned Over the Period**



#### **Engagement by Region**



#### **Engagement Over the Period**



#### **Engagement by Type**



#### **Engagements by Country**

ingagomonto by ocurring	
Australia	2
Belgium	0
Britain	5
Canada	2
China	4
Denmark	0
-rance	2
Germany	0
Hong Kong	0
ndia	3
ndonesia	2
reland	0
taly	1
Japan	17
Kenya	0
Vacau	0
Vlalaysia	3
Vetherlands	0
Norway	0
Portugal	2
Singapore	3
South Korea	0
Spain	0
Sweden	0
Switzerland	2
Taiwan	1
Thailand	2
United States	18
Total	69



## Notes from our Responsible Investing Research

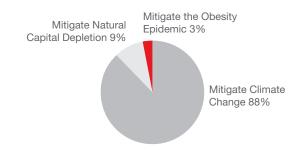
#### Nomura Asset Management's 6 Impact Goals

In 3Q23 we continued to work on progressing towards our 6 Impact Goals focused around the most pressing issues facing our world and where we as investors believe we can have the greatest positive impact. The impact goals are closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), and NAM's Global ESG Statement.

As part of our commitment to deeply integrate our 6 Impact Goals into our processes we strive to further increase our engagements with companies on the selected goals and work together towards achieving progress. In 3Q23, 29 of our total engagements were directly aligned to our Mitigate Climate Change goal, while 3 were aligned with Mitigate Natural Capital Depletion goal. Furthermore, the team continued to support our Mitigate the Obesity Epidemic impact goal by engaging with one company held in the Global Sustainable Equity strategy to assess access to obesity medications and treatments of the condition.

#### **Engagements by NAM Impact Goals**

Mitigate Climate Change	29
Mitigate Natural Capital Depletion	3
Eliminate Communicable Disease	0
Mitigate the Obesity Epidemic	1
Global Access to Basic Financial Services	0
Global Access to Clean Drinking Water	0
Total	33

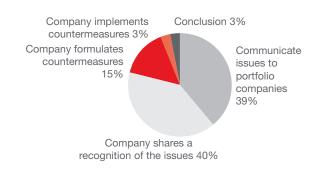


#### **Engagements Milestone Progress tracking**

Within the area of engagement, we are shifting more of our focus from what we have done to what we have actually achieved, hence why as part of our process we classify our engagement work as either one-off or ongoing. For all the engagements that the teams across the different offices initiate and classify as ongoing, we establish a milestone goal and track the progress of over time. In 3Q23, 60 of the engagements carried out were classified as milestone engagements. Of these, we are happy to report that 2 (3.3%) successfully reached conclusion, or otherwise said achieved the goal as was set out at the time the engagement was initiated. Furthermore, on another 2 occasions (3.3%), the engaged companies implemented counter measures, 9 (15%) of the companies started formulating countermeasures and in 24 cases (40%) they shared a recognition of the issues. In addition, there were 23 companies (38.3%) we communicated identified issues to, however we either have not received a response yet or the company did not adequately address the issues in its response. During the quarter, we haven't concluded any engagements due to lack of success.

#### **Engagements by Milestone Progress**

Company shares a recognition of the issues  Company formulates countermeasures	23
Company formulates countermeasures	24
	9
Company implements countermeasures	2
Conclusion	2
Not successful & closed	0
Total	60





## Responsible Investment Case Studies

#### PRI Advance project (Human Rights)

Nomura Asset Management is the only Japanese financial institution to become an advisory committee member of Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI) collaborative initiative 'Advance' taking action on human rights and social issues, which started in 2022, and is playing a leading role in building frameworks for collaborative efforts and dialogue with target companies. This initiative is one of the largest in the world, with 255 participating institutional investors, of which 111 are actively engaging with companies. At phase 1, the initiative began working with 40 companies in the metals and mining sector and the renewable energy sector, which have high human rights risks and are expected to expand as needed with the transition to clean energy.

The Advance initiative has set three key expectations for the focus companies:

- 1. Implement the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs) on Business and Human Rights the guardrail of corporate conduct on human rights.
- 2. Align their political engagement with their responsibility to respect human rights.
- 3. Deepen progress on the most severe human rights issues in their operations and across their value chains.

Nomura Asset Management is acting as a co-lead investor in an engagement with a major Japanese steel company. In June 2023 together with other asset managers, we drafted a letter to the company in question, conveying the importance of considering human rights in corporate practices and the Advance initiative's expectations of engaged companies. In August 2023, we held our first engagement meeting, where we received a detailed explanation from the company about its business overview and future growth strategy, and exchanged opinions on the contents of the letter we had sent in June. The investor group conveyed the importance of human rights risk management, including in the supply chain, and the status of the global regulatory environment regarding human rights. It was agreed that specific matters, such as setting priority goals, would be discussed in subsequent meetings.

Human rights are one of the important ESG issues common to many companies, and are the foundation of a sustainable society. In October 2023, our ESG specialist will participate in a panel discussion at PRI in Person 2023 and discuss the implementation of human rights due diligence by investors. We will continue to actively engage in efforts to eradicate human rights violations.



## Responsible Investment Case Studies

#### Treating unions fairly (Governance)

In August of 2023 we engaged with a leading US e-commerce retailer and leading Asian semiconductor maker on how they treat unions.

The US e-commerce retailer has been in the press for discouraging employees working at their fulfilment centres from joining unions. The leaders of the unionisation movement have held general votes amongst the workers to determine whether to form a union or not. Some regional fulfilment centres have been successful in establishing unions whilst some have not. The organisers are demanding fair wage, better treatment of workers, safer working conditions among others. The company's response was that they respect an employee's right to join a labour union and do not impede that right in any way. They maintain that they pay competitive wages with an average wage of over US\$19 an hour in the US with leading benefits, including 401k, up to 20 weeks family leave for birth parents, and health insurance, which includes medical, prescription drug, dental, and vision coverage. The company added that they offer upskilling programs such as pre-paid tuition programs and workplace health and safety initiatives.

The Asian semiconductor maker is building new fabrication plants (fabs) in the United States. The US government is encouraging foreign companies to build fabs in the US to diversify the semiconductor supply chain geographically for geopolitical reasons. The local construction unions building the fabs claim that the semiconductor maker is sending construction experts from Asia to the US and that takes away American jobs. The company's response was that due to the long term offshoring of semiconductor manufacturing to Asia for supply chain efficiency, there is now a skill shortage in the US, as advanced semiconductor fabs require a special skillset. The company is sending fab construction experts that have experience in building leading edge fabs to train the US workers. These experts will be in the US only for a temporary period and will return to Asia once the US workers build up expertise. The company added that they have already hired hundreds of local employees and these local employees will be responsible for running the fabs in the long term.

We will continue to monitor any new developments and re-engage if necessary.



# ISS Climate Impact Assessment – Aggregate Global Equities Holdings

Nomura Asset Management has contracted Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS) to provide climate related analysis of our portfolios, based on the stock holdings. This section provides key elements of the analysis done on the aggregated holdings of the portfolios managed by the Global Equity team. It is based on a 99.38% coverage of the underlying holdings by ISS. As of 3Q21, we started using ISS's Fixed Income/Multi Asset model to better align our approach to climate reporting internally, as well as to reflect a more comprehensive carbon emissions ownership structure that incorporates both equity and debt stakeholders.

#### **Portfolio Overview**

Comparison of aggregate Global Equity holdings Climate performance relative to the MSCI All Country World Index benchmark as defined by the ISS Climate Impact Assessment.

	losure er/Weight	Emission tC0		Rela tCO <sub>2</sub> e/Invested	ntive Emission Exp tCO <sub>2</sub> e/	os <b>ure</b> Revenue	Climate Performance Weighted Avg
	Share of Disclosing Holdings	Scope 1&2	Incl. Scope 3	Relative Carbon Footprint	Carbon Intensity	Weighted Avg Carbon Intensity	Carbon Risk Rating <sup>1</sup>
Portfolio	94.6% / 97.8%	136,975	1,703,231	25.98	86.49	89.11	63
Benchmark	75% / 95.2%	288,556	2,556,560	54.72	156.99	141.09	58
Net Performance	19.6 p.p. / 2.6 p.p.	52.5%	33.4%	52.5%	44.9%	36.8%	_

Source: ISS ESG. Note: 1. Carbon Risk Rating data is current as of the date of report generation.

#### Climate Scenario Analysis

The climate transition will require companies to align themselves with international climate goals and progress on those in the future. The International Energy Agency's (IEA) Sustainable Development Scenario (SDS) is Paris Agreement-aligned and uses 1.8°C with a 66% probability, 1.65°C with a 50% probability and no reliance on global net-negative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Currently our aggregate portfolio's holdings are aligned with a SDS budget until 2036. To improve the climate profile of our holdings is a key objective for our engagement programme, hence why we included "Mitigate Climate Change" as one of our six Impact Goals and a focus area for ongoing engagement.

#### Porfolio and Benchmark Comparison to SDS Budget (Red=Overshoot)

	2023	2030	2040	2050
Portfolio	-36.07%	-21.03%	+27.54%	+145.57%
Benchmark	-1.81%	+22.65%	+108.51%	+293.63%

Source: ISS ESG

2036 2.1°C

The portfolio exceeds its SDS budget in 2036.

The portfolio is associated with a potential temperature increase of 2.1°C by 2050.

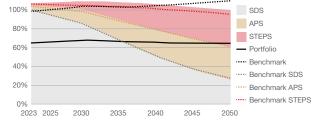
#### Climate Targets Assessment (% Portfolio Weight)

Currently 95% of our aggregate holdings are committed to align with international climate goals versus 87% for MSCI All Country World Index. Out of our holdings 46% have Approved Science Based Targets (SBT), 17% have Committed SBTs, 21% have set ambitious targets, while the remaining 17% have either non-ambitious or no targets at all.

#### Climate Targets Assessment (% Portfolio Weight)



Portfolio Emission Pathway vs. Climate Scenarios Budgets



Source: ISS ESG

The scenario alignment analysis shows the percentage of assigned budget used by the portfolio and benchmark and compares GHG emissions with the carbon budgets for the IEA's Sustainable Development Scenario (SDS), the Stated Policies Scenario (STEPS) and the Current Policies Scenario (CPS).



## Proxy Voting Record 3Q23

NAM seeks to act in a manner most likely to enhance the economic value of the underlying companies owned on our clients' behalf. We engage with companies based on our "Ideal Form of Business Management of Investee Companies" in order to enhance our mutual understanding and to seek changes in their company practices. NAM employs the services of Institutional Shareholder Services (ISS) to efficiently apply our proxy voting policy to individual proposals. ISS are provided with comprehensive and proprietary guidelines set out in our proxy voting policy. NAM will closely consider the voting agenda of a company that meets certain conditions (including, but not limited to, the violation of any applicable laws, inadequate board composition, and financial strategies that are not deemed to be in the best interests of shareholders and other stakeholders). Where we believe that a specific agenda item is not in the best interests of shareholders, NAM will decide either to vote against or to abstain from voting on the item. Please see the Nomura Asset Management Proxy Voting Policy for full details.

## Voting Data

Over the quarter NAM UK, NAMM and NAM SG voted on 1,086 proposals across 61 shareholder meetings and 75 ballots. In total 33.8% of proposals were director related, with a further 20.5% in relation to 'Routine Business' and 10.4% 'Capitalisation'. In total NAM UK, NAMM and NAM SG voted 'With' management on 989 (91.1%) proposals and 'Against' management (or 'Withheld' our vote) on 97 (8.9%) proposals.

During the quarter, we did not come across any situations where we felt the need to vote against management, or to withhold. This is quite a rare outcome in our voting practices.

#### Proposals Voted on in 3Q23

10.000		
Proposal subject	Count	Proportion of Total Votes
Non Salary Comp	0	0.0%
Capitalisation	113	10.4%
Directorships	367	33.8%
Compensation	277	25.5%
Reorg/M&A	0	0.0%
Routine Business	223	20.5%
Health/Environment/Social	4	0.4%
Other	102	9.4%
Total	1086	100.0%

#### Voting Record vs. Management in 3Q23

	With	Against
Votes	989	97
Proportion	91.1%	8.9%

#### Proposals Voted 'Against' Management in 3Q23

Proposal subject	Count	Proportion of Total Votes
Non Salary Comp	0	0.0%
Capitalisation	0	0.0%
Directorships	31	32.0%
Compensation	60	61.9%
Reorg/M&A	0	0.0%
Routine Business	2	2.1%
Health/Environment/Social	0	0.0%
Other	4	4.1%
Total	97	100.0%

#### Voting Record vs. ISS in 3Q23

	With	Against
Votes	1082	4
Proportion	99.6%	0.4%

Note: "(Nomura Asset Management U.K Ltd., Nomura Asset Management Malaysia SDN BHD and Nomura Asset Management Singapore Ltd.).

# Proxy Voting & Engagement Data – Interactive Dashboards

Nomura Asset Management believes in full transparency in its Responsible Investment activities, hence why from 1Q21 we started reporting all proxy voting and engagements data on our website, and no longer in the appendices section of this report. The interactive dashboards on our website allow for flexible analysis of the work we have done across time and by geography, industry, category, UN SDG, our own ESG goals and more.

The full record of Proxy Voting entries can be found here: https://www.nomura-asset.co.uk/responsible-investment/ proxy-voting/ For historical Engagement entries, please refer to: https://www.nomura-asset.co.uk/responsible-investment/engagement/





## Glossary

AML Anti Money Laundering
BOC Board of Commissioners

BOD Board of Directors
CB Convertible bonds
COGS Cost of Goods Sold
COI Conflict of Interests

**CSR** Corporate Social Responsibility

**DTA** Deferred Tax Asset

**EBIT** Earnings Before Interest and Tax

**EBITDA** Earnings Before Interest, Tax, Depreciation and Amortization

EM Emerging MarketsEPS Earnings Per Share

**ESG** Environmental, Social, Governance

FCF Free Cash Flow

GSE Global Sustainable Equity Fund

KPI Key Performance Indicator

LTIP Long Term Incentive Plan

ND Net Debt

Opex Operating Expense

PSP Performance Share Plan
PSU Performance Share Unit
R&D Research and Development

**RoA** Return on Assets

ROCE Return on Capital Employed
ROIC Return on Invested Capital

**RSU** Restricted Share Unit

**SAR** Stock Appreciation Rights

SH Shareholder

SOE State owned Enterprise
STIP Short Term Incentive Plan
TSR Total Shareholder Return

**UNSDG** UN Sustainable Development Goals

WC Working capital

### About Nomura Asset Management

The Nomura Asset Management Group is a leading global investment. Headquartered in Tokyo, Nomura has additional investment offices throughout the world including London, Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Taipei, Frankfurt and New York. Today Nomura Asset Management provides its clients with a wide range of innovative investment strategies including global, regional and single country equities, high yield bonds, alternative investments and global fixed income strategies.

US\$490bn

1,366

**231** 

assets under management globally

staff employed across 14 offices

portfolio managers located strategically around the world

**126** 

1959

30 years

dedicated professionals committed to fundamental and quantitative research

Our investment management capability was established in Japan over 50 years ago

Operating in Europe for over 30 years

Source: Nomura Asset Management as at 30th September 2023

#### DISCLOSURES

SDN BHD (NAMM) and Nomura Islamic Asset Management SDN BHD (NIAM) from sources reasonably believed to be accurate. This document is for information purposes only on the general environment of investment conditions and should not be considered as investment advice or a recommendation of any particular security, strategy or investment product. This report may not be relied upon by any person in any jurisdiction where unlawful or unauthorised.

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#### NAM UK

#### Nomura Asset Management Co., Ltd. (NAM Tokyo)

Nomura Asset Management Co., Ltd. is regulated by Financial Services Agency.

Membership: The Investment Trusts Association, Japan/ Japan Investment Advisers Association/ Type II Financial Instruments Firms Association

#### NAM Singapore

NAM Singapore is regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS).

NAM Singapore provided services only to accredited investors and institutional investors as defined under the Securities and Futures Act, Chapter 289 of Singapore (the "SFA") and are not Advisers Act, Chapter 110 of Singapore (the "FAA") and the relevant FAA regulations, notices and guidelines, as well as certain requirements under the SFA and the relevant SFA regulations, notices and guidelines issued by the MAS in respect of the regulated activities which we may provide to you, as you are classified as a certain class of investor under the laws and regulations in Singapore.

#### NAM Malaysia (NAMM), Nomura Islamic Asset Management (NIAM)

NAMM and NIAM are regulated by the Securities Commission Malaysia.

Both NAMM and NIAM are signatories of the Malaysian Code of Institutional Investors (MCII), which was jointly launched by the Securities Commission Malaysia and the Minority Shareholders Watch Group on 27 June 2014

- 1. NAMM: https://www.nomura-asset.com.my/nomura-asset-management-malaysia/namm-s-investment-solutions/responsible-investment-malaysia/namm-s-investment-solutions/responsible-investment-malaysia/namm-s-investment-solutions/responsible-investment-malaysia/namm-s-investment-solutions/responsible-investment-malaysia/namm-s-investment-solutions/responsible-investment-malaysia/namm-s-investment-solutions/responsible-investment-malaysia/namm-s-investment-solutions/responsible-investment-malaysia/namm-s-investment-solutions/responsible-investment-malaysia/namm-s-investment-solutions/responsible-investm
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#### SFDR Disclosure

The EU Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation ("SFDR") requires investment firms to formalise how sustainability is integrated into their business and processes, and to make new public and client-facing disclosures on sustainability matters. The aforementioned disclosures relating to Nomura Asset Management U.K. Limited are published on our website at https://www.nomuraasset.co.uk/responsible-investment/esg-sustainable-investment/.

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