

# THIS DOCUMENT IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. IF IN DOUBT, PLEASE SEEK PROFESSIONAL ADVICE

13 November 2017

Dear Shareholder,

## ABERDEEN GLOBAL

Your Board of Directors has decided to make changes to Aberdeen Global (the "Company"). The principal proposed changes are detailed in this letter. The Aberdeen Global prospectus (the "Prospectus") and relevant Key Investor Information Documents have also been updated accordingly.

Capitalised terms used in this letter shall have the same meaning ascribed to them in the latest version of the Prospectus of the Company unless the context otherwise requires.

#### CHANGES TO EXISTING FUNDS

## 1. Change to the articles of incorporation of the Company and appointment of two additional directors

The Board of Directors proposes to amend and restate the Company's articles of incorporation, to include new flexibilities introduced by the Law of 10 August 2016 modernising the Luxembourg Law of 10 August 1915 on commercial companies.

The restatement of the articles of incorporation of the Company needs to be approved by the Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders.

It is also proposed to appoint Ms Wendy Mayall and Mr Andrey Berzins as new members of the Board of Directors until the next annual general meeting of the Company to be held in 2018.

The Board of Directors therefore invites you to an Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders of the Company. The convening notice to Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders of the Company is attached hereto.

The draft articles of incorporation reflecting all the proposed changes, is available free of charge at the Company's registered office.

## 2. Changes to the Investor Profiles of various Funds

With effect from 18 December 2017 and following a strategical review in light of the entry into force of the Directive 2014/65/EU of 15 May 2014 on markets in financial instruments ("**MiFID**"), the Investor Profiles of the below Funds will be amended as further described below.

#### a. Risk level

The level of risk assigned to the Aberdeen Global – Asia Pacific Multi Asset Fund, Aberdeen Global – Multi Asset Growth Fund, Aberdeen Global – Multi Asset Income Fund, Aberdeen Global – Select Emerging Markets Bond Fund, Aberdeen Global – Select Emerging Markets Investment Grade Bond Fund, Aberdeen Global – Select Global Credit Bond Fund, Aberdeen Global – Select Global Investment Grade Credit Bond Fund and Aberdeen Global – World Credit Bond Fund, has been reduced from "high" to "medium".

## b. Recommended holding period

The recommended holding period of the Aberdeen Global – Asian Local Currency Short Duration Bond Fund has changed from "long term" to "medium term".

Conversely, the recommended holding period of the Aberdeen Global – Multi Asset Growth Fund has changed from "medium term" to "long term".

## 3. Changes to Share Classes

### a) New Share Class names

To improve investor understanding, the offering of Share Classes has been reorganised and restructured into a simpler regime. Going forward, the 28 existing Share Classes (each of which is issued in a single currency) will be replaced by 13 new Share Classes, which will be offered in any currency as per the provisions contained in the Prospectus. For the avoidance of any doubt, this change only refers to the Share Class names and existing shareholders will remain invested in the same Share Class with the same features (i.e. eligible investors, denomination currency, dividend policy, applicable management fees, etc.). Appendix 1 contains a comparison between the existing and the new Share Class names.

## b) Hedged Share Classes

The existing Base Currency Exposure Share Classes, which seek to offer amended currency risk by selling the Fund's Base Currency and buying the currency of the Base Currency Exposure Share Class (the currency in which a Shareholder invests), have been renamed to "Hedged Share Classes". As a consequence, the categorisation of Base Currency Hedged, Partial Base Currency Short and Base Currency Short Share Class will no longer be used in the prospectus. In addition, any specific minimum Investment Amount applicable to Base Currency Exposure Share Classes has been removed.

The currency hedging process for Hedged Share Classes will operate in the same way as for existing Base Currency Exposure Share Classes. The currency hedging strategy of the existing Base Currency Exposure Share Classes as well as any other features of these Share Classes (i.e.\_eligible investors, denomination currency, dividend policy, applicable management fees, etc.) will remain unchanged.

The maximum fees payable by a Hedged Share Class to the relevant Investment Adviser for providing currency hedging services will be reduced from 0.10% to 0.04% of the net asset value.

Hedged Share Classes will be renamed and will include "Hedged" and the relevant currency in their name (e.g. A SInc Hedged EUR).

Investors should refer to www.aberdeen-asset.com for more details on Hedged Share Classes.

### c) Dividend Policy

For simplification purposes and to improve investor understanding, the Dividend Policy section has been reorganised, as further explained below. In addition, new income distribution capabilities have been introduced.

The denomination of the Share Classes will no longer include references to 1, 2, 3 or 4 depending of their dividend policy but will be renamed and categorised as follows:

#### **Accumulation Shares**

The Board of Directors does not intend to declare any dividends in respect of these Classes of Shares. Accordingly, the investment income attributable to these Classes of Shares will be accumulated in their respective Net Asset Values.

## **Income Shares**

- **Monthly Income Shares**: They will be denoted by adding "MInc" next to the Class (e.g. A MInc). Dividends will be declared as at the first Business Day of each month with the appropriate distributions or allocations made within one month of these dates.
- **Quarterly Income Shares**: They will be denoted by adding "QInc" next to the Class (e.g. A QInc). Dividends will be declared as at 1 January, 1 April, 1 July and 1 October with the appropriate distributions or allocations made within two months of these dates.
- **Semi-annual Income Shares**: They will be denoted by adding "SInc" next to the Class (e.g. A SInc). Dividends will be declared as at 1 April and 1 October with the appropriate distributions or allocations made within two months of these dates.
- **Annual Income Shares**: They will be denoted by adding "AInc" next to the Class (e.g. A AInc). Dividends will be declared as at 1 October with the appropriate distributions or allocations made within two months of this date.

The following alternative distribution features are also offered for the Income Shares:

#### **Accelerated Income Shares**

Dividends of Income Shares (regardless of their dividend distribution frequency) may be declared on an accelerated basis at the discretion of Aberdeen Global with the appropriate distributions made in less than one month of the relevant declaration date. These Accelerated Income Shares will be denoted by adding "A" next to the Class (e.g. A MIncA).

#### **Gross Income Shares**

Dividends of Gross Income Shares will include all income generated by the relevant Shares, with any costs taken directly from the capital of such Share. These Gross Income Shares will be denoted by adding "Gross" next to the Class (e.g. A Gross MInc).

#### **Fixed Distribution Shares**

Fixed Distribution Shares will declare and distribute a fixed amount per annum (which will be pro-rated accordingly depending on the relevant distribution frequency as indicated above), regardless of the performance of the relevant Fund. These Fixed Distribution Shares will be denoted by adding "Fixed" next to the Class (e.g. A Fixed AInc).

## **German Tax Exempt Shares**

German Tax Exempt Shares are available only to eligible investors under GITA who can provide certification of their tax privileged status. Such investors are entitled to receive the proceeds of sale of German equities without being subject to withholding tax. These German Tax Exempt Shares will be denoted by adding "GTE" next to the Class (e.g. A GTE MInc).

For the avoidance of any doubt, existing shareholders will remain invested in the same Share Class with the same dividend policy. Please refer to the enclosed table showing the current name and the new name of each Share Class within Aberdeen Global.

d) X Share Class

With effect from 3 January 2018, the definition of the X Share Class will be amended to bring it in line with the provisions of MiFID.

4. Appointment of Aberdeen Asset Management Asia Limited as Investment Manager of Aberdeen Global – Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund

With effect from 18 December 2017, Aberdeen Asset Management Asia Limited will be appointed as Investment Manager of Aberdeen Global – Emerging Markets Local Currency Bond Fund in relation to the Asian Assets only, as determined by the Investment Manager from time to time. Aberdeen Asset Management Asia Limited is authorised and regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore.

For the avoidance of doubt, the investment objective and policy as well as the current portfolio and strategy of the Funds impacted by the changes mentioned under 2., 3 and 4. above will remain unchanged. Equally, the operation and/or manner in which the Funds are being managed will be unaffected.

## 5. Merger of Aberdeen Global Indian Equity Limited into Aberdeen Global – Indian Equity Fund

As stated under Appendix F of the Prospectus, the Aberdeen Global – Indian Equity Fund (the "**Sub-Fund**") currently invests into Indian securities through its wholly-owned subsidiary Aberdeen Global Indian Equity Limited (the "**Subsidiary**").

The Prospectus states that if it is no longer commercially beneficial to invest through the Subsidiary, Aberdeen Global may elect to invest directly in India or through another suitable vehicle in any jurisdiction.

The Board of Directors has come to the conclusion that a transition to a direct investment model in terms of investment in Indian securities would be to the benefit of investors in terms of cost and risk reduction. By transitioning to a direct investment model and removing the subsidiary structure, the complexity of the investment structure is reduced and cost reduction can be achieved.

It has therefore been decided to propose to all Shareholders of Aberdeen Global to merge the Subsidiary into the Sub-Fund by contributing all assets and liabilities of the Subsidiary to the Sub-Fund in accordance with the Companies Act 2001 of Mauritius as amended or re-enacted from time to time and the Luxembourg law of 10 August 1915 concerning commercial companies, as amended (the "Merger").

An extraordinary general meeting of the Shareholders of Aberdeen Global will have to decide on the Merger. The convening notice to the Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders is attached hereto.

The Articles of Merger, which have been drawn up by the board of directors of the Subsidiary and the Board of Aberdeen Global, were published in the RESA on 3 November 2017 and in accordance with Luxembourg Law, the following documents will be available for inspection by Shareholders at the registered office of Aberdeen Global until the date of the Extraordinary General Meeting:

- the Articles of Merger, including Appendix 1;
- the annual accounts and the report (including the reports of the management bodies) of Aberdeen Global and the Subsidiary for the last three financial years, with an opinion and report of an auditor, if such opinion and report were prepared;
- the interim accounts as at 30 September 2017; and
- the reports of the board of directors of the Subsidiary and the Board of Aberdeen Global.

Investors should note that all costs related to the Merger will be paid out of the assets of the Sub-Fund as extraordinary expenses. However, investors should also note that the Merger will result in a revised effective rate of Operating, Administrative and Servicing Expenses applicable to each Share Class of the Sub-Fund due to cost savings achieved by the simplification of the investment structure as referred to above.

Shareholders affected by the Merger who feel that their investment requirements are no longer met may request redemption or switching of their shares, free of any applicable redemption and/or subscription charges, prior of the effective date of the Merger.

#### **ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES**

Following the merger of the ultimate holding company of the Management Company, Aberdeen Asset Management PLC, and Standard Life plc, various sections of the Prospectus have been updated, such as the directors' biographical information, the Aberdeen Organisation (now renamed as Standard Life Aberdeen Organisation) or the Management Company's Remuneration Policy.

The Sub-Data Processing Agents have changed their names from International Financial Data Services (UK) and International Financial Data Services Limited to DST Financial Services Europe Limited and DST Financial Services International Limited, respectively.

In view of the entry into force of MiFID, certain sections of the Prospectus have been revised. Among these changes, it has been clarified within the Charges and Expenses section that no cost or expense related to the investment research will be paid out of the assets of the Company or its Funds, as these will be borne by the Standard Life Aberdeen Group.

Certain sections of the Prospectus will be updated, subject to prior approval at the Extraordinary General Meeting of Shareholders, to reflect the latest developments of the amended law of 10 August 1915 on Commercial Companies.

On Appendix E, the management fees of certain Funds and Classes of Shares have been reduced.

Finally, Appendix G of the Prospectus has been updated to take into account updates to relevant country specific details. In particular, the "Additional Information for Investors in Germany" section has been updated to reflect the provisions of the German Investment Tax Reform Act ("GITA") which will come into force on 1 January 2018. The GITA will introduce certain partial exemptions on the investment income received by a Fund insofar as it is considered an "Equity Fund" as defined by the GITA.

#### **Prospectus**

The changes detailed in this letter are reflected in a new Prospectus of Aberdeen Global to be dated December 2017.

Your Board of Directors accepts responsibility for the accuracy of the information contained in this letter. To the best of the knowledge and belief of your Board of Directors (who have taken reasonable care to ensure this is the case) the information contained in this letter is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the importance of such information.

If you have any questions or would like any further information please contact us at our registered office or, alternatively, call one of the following Shareholder Service Centre helplines:

Europe (excluding UK) and rest of the world +352 46 40 10 820

UK +44 (0)1224 425 255

Asia +852 2103 4700

Your Board of Directors believes that the changes are fair and reasonable and are in the best interests of Shareholders.

Yours faithfully,

Soraya Hashimzai For and on behalf of

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the Board of Directors – Aberdeen Global

## **APPENDIX 1**

Existing Share Class Name until 17 December 2017	New Share Class Name with effect from 18 December 2017
Class A	Class A [Currency]
Class E	Class A EUR
Class D	Class A GBP
Class U	Class A USD
Class O	Class A CHF
Class L	Class A SGD
Class Q	Class A HUF
Class X	Class X [Currency]
Class Y	Class X EUR
Class R	Class X GBP
Class V	Class X USD
Class P	Class X CHF
Class M	Class X SGD

Dividend Policy	Existing Share Class Name until 17 December 2017	New Share Class Name with effect from 18 December 2017
Accumulation	[] – 2	[] Acc
Income (monthly)	[] – 1 or [] - 4	[] MInc
Income (quarterly)	[] – 1 or [] – 4	[] QInc
Income (semi- annual)	[] – 1 or [] – 4	[] SInc
Income (annual)	[] – 1 or [] – 4	[] Alnc
Accelerated Income (Monthly)	[] – 3	[] MIncA
Accelerated Income (Quarterly)	[] – 3	[] QIncA
Accelerated Income (Semi- Annual)	[] – 3	[] SIncA
Accelerated Income (Annual)	[] – 3	[] AlncA
Gross Income (Monthly)	N/A	[] Gross MInc
Gross Income (Quarterly)	N/A	[] Gross QInc
Gross Income (Semi-Annual)	N/A	[] Gross SInc
Gross Income	N/A	[] Gross Alnc

Class I	Class I [Currency]	
Class H	Class I EUR	
Class T	Class I AUD	
Class Z	Class Z [Currency]	
Class B	Class B [Currency]	
Class BA	Class BA [Currency]	
Class BB	Class BB [Currency]	
Class C	Class C [Currency]	
Class F	Class F [Currency]	
Class S	Class S [Currency]	
Class W	Class W [Currency]	
Class G	Class G [Currency]	
Class J	Class G EUR	
Class K	Class G GBP	
Class N	Class N JPY	

(Annual)		
Fixed Income	N/A	[] Fixed MInc
(Monthly)		
Fixed Income	N/A	[] Fixed QInc
(Quarterly)		[] Fixed Qilic
Fixed Income	N/A	[] Fixed Class
(Semi-Annual)		[] Fixed SInc
Fixed Income	N/A	[] Fixed Alnc
(Annual)		[] Fixed Airic

Existing Base Currency Exposure Share Class Name until 17 December 2017	New Hedged Share Class Name with effect from 18 December 2017
Class A [Currency]	Class A Hedged [Currency]

A complete list of the existing and the new Share Classes can be found on <a href="https://www.aberdeen">www.aberdeen</a> asset.com.