# State Street IUT Catholic Values Global Equity Fund Website disclosure for an Article 8 fund



## A. Summary

The investment objective of the State Street IUT Catholic Values Global Equity Fund ("**Fund**") is to seek to outperform the performance of the MSCI World Index ("**Index**") over the long term while screening out securities based on an assessment of their adherence to catholic values and ESG criteria.

The Fund promotes environmental or social characteristics and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will seek to invest a minimum of 25% of its portfolio in sustainable investments under article 2(17) of SFDR using the Investment Manager's proprietary assessment methodology.

The Fund promotes environmental characteristics related to reduction of environmental footprint and adverse social impacts by excluding investments in companies that are involved in thermal coal, arctic oil & gas exploration, shale energy exploration, oil & gas exploration, oil sands extraction, severe ESG controversies, as well as the companies which violate United Nations Global Compact ("UNGC") principles (the "UNGC Principles") relating to the environment (principles 7 to 9).

The Fund promotes social characteristics related to: (a) reduction of the availability of weapons by excluding investment in companies associated with controversial weapons, civilian firearms and military contracting, (b) reduction of adverse health impacts by excluding investment in companies associated with tobacco, (c) support for human rights, labour standards and anti-corruption by excluding investment in companies which violate UNGC Principles relating to human rights (Principles 1 and 2), labour (principles 3 to 6) and anti-corruption (principle 10) as well as companies associated with adult entertainment and severe ESG controversies.

The Fund also promotes the following environmental and social characteristics related to the reduction of carbon emissions by seeking to invest in companies such that the Fund's portfolio overall exhibits lower carbon emissions than the Index as measured using Weighted Average Carbon Intensity ("WACI").

The Investment Manager employs a binding ESG methodology which aims to build a portfolio where at least 90% of the Fund's assets are invested in securities which are aligned with environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Fund. The remaining portion (<10%) of the portfolio, consisting of cash as well as cash equivalents, including financial derivative instruments employed for efficient portfolio management or hedging purposes, held at the Investment Manager's discretion, will not be aligned with the promoted environmental and social characteristics. To the extent that the Fund may use financial derivative instruments, these will not be used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Fund.

The Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments within the meaning of the Taxonomy Regulation.

The attainment of the environmental characteristics is measured through achieving a higher exposure of the Fund's portfolio to companies such that the Fund's overall portfolio exhibits lower carbon emissions (relative to the Index as measured using WACI). A further attainment of the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the fund is measured through the % of the portfolio invested in securities that are included in the negative and norms based screen.

In order to attain the environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Fund, the Investment Manager implements the Fundamental Value Equity Strategy to build a concentrated portfolio of 30-40 securities for the Fund while evaluating an investee company's carbon emissions. In addition, the Investment Manager also applies a negative and norms-based ESG screen prior to the construction of the portfolio and on an ongoing basis screening out the following: controversial weapons, UNGC Violations, thermal coal, Arctic drilling, oil and tar sands, shale energy, oil & gas, severe ESG controversies, civilian firearms, tobacco, adult entertainment.

The Fund uses the following data sources:

- 1. MSCI for WACI Metric
- 2. MSCI and Sustainalytics for ESG screens

SSGA implements an ongoing due diligence process in relation to ESG data providers resulting in regular data quality reports and may engage with the relevant data providers in relation to any data issues identified by the SSGA teams.

ESG data may be based on certain assumptions, forecasts, projections, views and opinions which may be based on current market trends or anticipated future events. Given the developing and innovative nature of data models, methodologies and assumptions and the inherent uncertainty in predicting forward-looking events, it cannot be guaranteed that the ESG data is always accurate or correct or that the ESG data will satisfy the aims or requirements of any specific client or investor. Furthermore, there may be data that cannot be sourced due to the lack of availability of data sources.

SSGA's engagement policies are not directly embedded into the Fund's investment strategy. However, SSGA's Asset Stewardship programme consolidates all voting and engagement activities across asset classes, irrespective of investment strategy or geographic region, including for the Fund.

For further information and details please refer to the relevant sections below, the Prospectus and Relevant Supplement.



## B. No sustainable investment objective

The Fund promotes environmental or social characteristics and while it does not have as its objective a sustainable investment, it will seek to invest a minimum of 25% of its portfolio in sustainable investments under article 2(17) of SFDR using the Investment Manager's proprietary assessment methodology.

Sustainable investments that the financial product partially intends to make should not cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective. In this respect, the Investment Manager considers the mandatory principal adverse indicators ("PAIs") on sustainability factors by combining the incorporation of the SASB materiality framework in the Investment Manager's proprietary ESG Score and the application of the negative and norms-based screens to the sustainable investments included in the Fund's portfolio. By investing in securities classified as "Leaders or Outperformers" in accordance with the Investment Manager's proprietary ESG Score and applying the relevant negative and norms-based screens, the Investment Manager deems the Fund's sustainable investments not to cause significant harm to any environmental or social sustainable investment objective.

The Fund pursues a reduction of negative externalities caused by the underlying investments and in that context considers PAIs on sustainability factors as part of the consideration of sustainable investments in selecting the securities for the Fund and by applying the negative and norms-based ESG screen prior to the construction of the portfolio. Specifically, the Fund considers:

- Exposure to companies active in the fossil fuel sector
- Violations of UNGC Principles
- Exposure to controversial weapons.

The Fund excludes companies that the Investment Manager has deemed to violate UNGC Principles as part of the negative screening utilised by the Fund. The OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are considered as part of the UNGC Principles assessment.



## C. Environmental or social characteristics of the financial product

The Fund promotes environmental characteristics related to reduction of environmental footprint and adverse social impacts by excluding investments in companies that are involved in thermal coal, arctic oil & gas exploration, shale energy exploration, oil & gas exploration, oil sands extraction, severe ESG controversies, as well as the companies which violate UNGC Principles relating to the environment (principles 7 to 9).

The Fund promotes social characteristics related to: (a) reduction of the availability of weapons by excluding investment in companies associated with controversial weapons, civilian firearms and military contracting, (b) reduction of adverse health impacts by excluding investment in companies associated with tobacco, (c) support for human rights, labour standards and anti-corruption by excluding investment in companies which violate UNGC Principles relating to human rights (Principles 1 and 2), labour (principles 3 to 6) and anti-corruption (principle 10) as well as companies associated with adult entertainment and severe ESG controversies.

The UNGC Principles is the world largest corporate sustainability initiative aimed at companies to align their strategies and operations with universal principles on human rights, labour, environment and anti-corruption, and take actions that advance societal goals.

Business involvement in relation to each activity set out above is determined using the Investment Manager's proprietary methodology by way of considering the revenue a company generates from such business activity that exceeds a percentage of revenue or a defined total revenue threshold, or any exposure to the activity regardless of the amount of revenue generated.

The specific list of applicable exclusions may evolve and may be amended from time to time at the Investment Manager's absolute discretion. Such change may be implemented without notice to the Shareholders if deemed aligned with the screen criteria described in this section.

The Fund also promotes the following environmental and social characteristics related to the reduction of carbon emissions by seeking to invest in companies such that the Fund's portfolio overall exhibits lower carbon emissions than the Index as measured using WACI.

The Fund allocates minimum 25% of the Fund's portfolio to sustainable investments. In order for the security to qualify as a sustainable investment for the Fund, it must be classified as a "Leader" or "Outperformer" as determined by the Investment Manager using the ESG score generated by its proprietary ESG scoring process (the "**ESG Score**").

For further details of the exclusions applied by the Investment Manager at any time please refer to Section G below.



## D. Investment Strategy

The Investment Manager, on behalf of the Fund, will invest actively using the Fundamental Value Equity Strategy as further described "Investment Strategies" section of the Prospectus. This strategy uses a proprietary fundamentally driven and bottom up research process to identify companies with a dislocation between the intrinsic value of the company and the price of its equity security while evaluating an investee company carbon emissions..

In implementing this strategy, the Investment Manager applies the negative and norms-based ESG screen prior to the construction of the portfolio of the Fund and on an ongoing basis. The fund will screen out securities of issuers that fail to comply with UNGC Principles relating to environmental protection, human rights, labour standards and anti-corruption or are associated with severe ESG controversies, controversial weapons, civilian firearms, tobacco, thermal coal, arctic oil & gas exploration, shale energy exploration, oil & gas exploration, oil sands extraction, military contracting, adult entertainment.

The Fund may use additional ESG screens from time to time in order to exclude securities of issuers based on their involvement with an activity that is deemed non-compliant with one or more of such ESG criteria referred to.

The assessment of good governance practices is considered by the Investment Manager as part of the assessment of potential investments when implementing the Investment Objective and Policy of the Fund. The Investment Manager deploys a proprietary governance assessment framework that includes a governance scorecard and a qualitative assessment. The framework considers factors such as board independence, diversity and experience as well as the configuration of executive

compensation and accounting and tax compliance. The assessment of good governance practices is further implemented through the negative screening utilised by the Fund. Companies deemed by the Investment Manager to not violate UNGC Principles are considered to exhibit good governance. The Investment Manager will only invest in companies that they deem to follow good governance practices.



## E. Proportion of investments

The Investment Manager employs a binding ESG methodology which aims to build a portfolio where at least 90% of the Fund's assets are invested in securities which are aligned with environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Fund. It is intended that, within such portion of the portfolio, at least 25% of the Fund's assets are invested in securities which are sustainable investments with environmental and / or social objectives. The remaining portion (<10%) of the portfolio, consisting of cash as well as cash equivalents, including financial derivative instruments employed for efficient portfolio management or hedging purposes, in place held at the Investment Manager's discretion, will not be aligned with the promoted environmental and social characteristics.

To the extent that the Fund may use financial derivative instruments, these will not be used to attain the environmental or social characteristics promoted by the Fund.

The Fund does not commit to making sustainable investments within the meaning of the Taxonomy Regulation.



## F. Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics

The attainment of the environmental characteristics is measured through achieving a higher exposure of the Fund's portfolio to companies such that the Fund's overall portfolio exhibits lower carbon emissions (relative to the Index) as measured using WACI.

A further attainment of the environmental characteristics promoted by the fund is measured through:

 % of the portfolio invested in securities that are included in the negative and norms based screen specifically related to environmental characteristics, namely companies violating UNGC Principles in regards to the environment and which are active in thermal coal, arctic oil & gas exploration, and oil sands extraction

The attainment of the social characteristics promoted by the Fund is measured through:

 % of the portfolio invested in securities that are included in the negative and norms based screen specifically related to social characteristics, namely companies violating UNGC Principles and companies associated with controversial weapons, civilian firearms, military contracting, severe ESG controversies, adult entertainment, tobacco.

The environmental and social characteristics are embedded in the investment policy of the Fund and the associated sustainability indicators are monitored by the Investment Manager through its

investment oversight program including pre and post-trade compliance monitoring for ESG screens and regular reviews by a sub-committee of the Investment Manager.



## G. Methodologies

The investment objective of the Fund is to seek to outperform the performance of the Index over the long term.

#### **ESG Screens**

The ESG screens applied to the Fund include the following:

- 1. Controversial Weapons
- 2. UNGC Violations
- 3. Thermal Coal
- 4. Arctic Drilling
- 5. Oil and Tar Sands
- 6. Severe ESG Controversies
- 7. Tobacco
- 8. Civilian Firearms
- 9. Adult Entertainment
- 10. Shale Energy
- 11. Oil & Gas

Further details on the methodologies used for the ESG screens is as follows:

**1. Controversial Weapons:** Companies with focused involvement in the following controversial weapons are excluded.

Landmines Landmines are explosives that are designed to detonate at the presence, proximity or contact of a person or vehicle. After being planted, antipersonnel mines can remain undetonated for years, posing a serious risk to civilians after a conflict has ended.

Biological and chemical weapons Biological or chemical weapons are munitions that utilize pathogens such as viruses, bacteria, and disease-causing biological agents, toxins, or chemical substances that have toxic properties, to inflict death or harm. Either type can be dispersed in gas, liquid, or solid forms. As these munitions are based on organisms or chemicals, civilians are often unintended victims since the impact zone is constrained only by how far the particles can disperse. For biological weapons, person-to-person transmission of the illness can further exacerbate the civilian impact.

Cluster weapons Cluster weapons are air-dropped

explosives: bombs, missiles, rockets, or shells that carry sub munitions and disperse them over an area. The sub munitions have a wide impact zone, and often remain undetonated on the ground. These munitions can remain dangerous for years after the conflict has ended, posing a serious risk to civilians.

**Depleted Uranium** Depleted Uranium (DU) munitions are projectiles (bullets, rockets, etc.) that have been equipped with the radioactive chemical substance DU, a byproduct of the uranium enrichment process used to make nuclear weapons and nuclear-reactor fuel. Because of its high density, DU is often used as a penetrator in ammunition to help pierce armor. However, areas where depleted uranium munitions have been used are exposed to its radioactive qualities, causing people living in the area to be more prone to cancers, congenital birth defects, and other illnesses.

**Nuclear Weapons** A nuclear weapon is a device that is capable of releasing nuclear energy in an uncontrolled manner, due to fusion and/or fission reactions, making it a highly destructive explosive. The indiscriminate and disproportionate impact on civilians makes nuclear weapons a controversial weapon.

White Phosphorus White phosphorus (WP) is an allotrope of the chemical element phosphorus, which burns fiercely when exposed to oxygen. A WP munition is any projectile (eg flares, grenades, or mortars) that is equipped with WP, in order to act as a smoke-producing agent, or as tracer, illumination, or incendiary munition.

**2. UNGC Principles:** Companies directly complicit in violations of core international norms and conventions, as described in the UNGC Principles are excluded.

The UNGC is the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative with 13,000 participants from 170 countries. It consists of a set of internationally recognized principles that encompass important issues, such as human rights, labour, the environment, and anti-corruption practices. The 10 principles are as follows:

## **Human Rights**

**Principle 1:** Businesses should support and respect the protection of internationally proclaimed human rights; and

**Principle 2:** make sure that they are not complicit in human rights abuses.

#### Labour

**Principle 3:** Businesses should uphold the freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;

**Principle 4:** the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

Principle 5: the effective abolition of child labour; and

**Principle 6:** the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

#### **Environment**

**Principle 7:** Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

**Principle 8:** undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

**Principle 9:** encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies.

#### **Anti-Corruption**

**Principle 10:** Businesses should work against corruption in all its forms, including extortion and bribery.

- **3.** Thermal Coal: Companies involved in the extraction or power generation of thermal coal are excluded.
- **4. Arctic Drilling:** Companies involved in oil and gas exploration in the Arctic regions are excluded.
- 5. Oil and Tar Sands: Companies for whom a meaningful portion of their average daily production comes from oil sands are excluded.
- **6. Severe ESG Controversies:** Companies involved in incidents/events that may pose business or reputational risk due to the potential impact on stakeholders, the environment, or the company's operations are excluded.
- **7. Civilian Firearms**: Companies involved in the manufacturing and/or retailing of small arms and associated ammunition/components for civilian use are excluded.
- **8. Tobacco**: Companies that are involved in the production and manufacturing of tobacco-related products are excluded.
- **9. Adult Entertainment:** Companies that are involved in the production of adult entertainment are excluded.
- **10. Shale Energy:** Companies that are involved in the extraction and/or production of oil and/or gas shale energy are excluded.

**11. Oil & Gas:** Companies that are involved in the extraction or power generation of oil & gas are excluded

The exclusion list generated by the ESG screening process is updated once per quarter.

The ESG screen methodology and screening criteria applied to the Fund are subject to SSGA's governance approval process.



## H. Data sources and processing

The Fund utilises the following data sources

MSCI for WACI metric

The Fund utilises the following data sources to derive the ESG screens:

**Controversial Weapons** State Street Global Advisors receives universe-level data from two ESG screening data providers: Sustainalytics and MSCI. A screen is then applied to the data to generate lists from each data provider of excluded securities for this category. State Street Global Advisors determines the parameters that define the screen which are then approved by the firm's Investment Committee. Companies are excluded if they appear on either or both of the lists from the two data providers.

**UNGC Violations** Data is sourced from Sustainalytics. A screen is then applied to the data to generate a list of excluded securities for this category. State Street Global Advisors determines the parameters that define the screen which are then approved by the firm's Investment Committee

**Thermal Coal** Data is sourced from Sustainalytics. A screen is then applied to the data to generate a list of excluded securities for this category.

**Arctic Drilling** Data is sourced from Sustainalytics. A screen is then applied to the data to generate a list of excluded securities for this category.

**Oil and Tar Sands** Data is sourced from Sustainalytics. A screen is then applied to the data to generate a list of excluded securities for this category.

**Shale Energy** Data is sourced from Sustainalytics. A screen is then applied to the data to generate a list of excluded securities for this category

**Oil & Gas** Data is sourced from Sustainalytics. A screen is then applied to the data to generate a list of excluded securities for this category.

**Severe ESG Controversies** Data is sourced from Sustainalytics. A screen is then applied to the data to generate a list of excluded securities for this category. State Street Global Advisors determines the parameters that define the screen which are then approved by the firm's Investment Committee

**Civilian Firearms** Data is sourced from Sustainalytics. A screen is then applied to the data to generate a list of excluded securities for this category. State Street Global Advisors determines the parameters that define the screen which are then approved by the firm's Investment Committee.

**Tobacco** State Street Global Advisors receives universe-level data from two ESG screening data providers: Sustainalytics and MSCI. A screen is then applied to the data to generate lists from each data provider of excluded securities for this category. State Street Global Advisors determines the parameters that define the screen which are then approved by the firm's Investment Committee. Companies are excluded if they appear on either or both of the lists from the two data providers.

**Adult Entertainment** State Street Global Advisors receives universe-level data from two ESG screening data providers: Sustainalytics and MSCI. A screen is then applied to the data to generate lists from each data provider of excluded securities for this category. State Street Global Advisors determines the parameters that define the screen which are then approved by the firm's Investment Committee. Companies are excluded if they appear on either or both of the lists from the two data providers.

SSGA receives ESG data from a wide variety of data providers covering various themes including, but not limited to, climate, controversies and governance and leverages multisource data architecture for the analysis and dissemination of ESG data.

SSGA implements an ongoing due diligence process in relation to ESG data providers resulting in regular data quality reports. Such process tracks correlation and coverage dimensions of key ESG and climate metrics and scores between a selection of data providers over time for the covered universe. SSGA may engage with the relevant data providers in relation to any data issues identified by the SSGA teams.



## I. Limitations to methodologies and data

ESG data may be based on certain assumptions, forecasts, projections, views and opinions which may be based on current market trends or anticipated future events. To assess company involvement in different activities and to estimate revenue shares as accurately as possible, data providers strive to obtain information directly from companies and issuers. Sources of data include annual reports, regulatory filings, sustainability reports, press releases, investor presentations, company websites, and other company disclosures. Given the developing and innovative nature of data models, methodologies and assumptions and the inherent uncertainty in predicting forward-looking events, it cannot be guaranteed that the ESG data is always accurate or correct or that the ESG data will satisfy the aims or requirements of any specific client or investor. Furthermore, there may be data that cannot be sourced due to the lack of availability of data sources.



### J. Due diligence

The Investment Manager, on behalf of the Fund, will invest actively using the Fundamental Value Equity Strategy as further described "Investment Strategies" section of the Prospectus. This strategy uses a proprietary fundamentally driven and bottom up research process to identify companies with a dislocation between the intrinsic value of the company and the price of its equity security while evaluating an investee company carbon emissions.

This actively managed strategy uses a proprietary fundamentally driven and bottom-up research process to identify companies with a dislocation between the estimate of intrinsic value of the company and the price of its equity security. The Strategy seeks to exploit valuation anomalies in the belief that in the long-term share prices should ultimately reflect a company's intrinsic value. The securities in the portfolios are primarily selected from the securities in the respective Index. Nonindex securities may be held in the portfolios. Each portfolio's weighting to securities will be usually set without taking into account the weightings of securities in the respective Index. The Investment Manager may consider certain ESG criteria in its investment process as described in the section "ESG Investing" of the prospectus.



## K. Engagement policies

#### Is engagement part of the environmental or social investment strategy?

☐ Yes

⊠ No

While SSGA engagement policies are not directly embedded into the Fund's investment strategy, for SSGA the informed exercise of voting rights coupled with targeted and value-driven engagement is the most effective mechanism of creating value and managing Sustainability Risk for the investors. SSGA's Asset Stewardship programme consolidates all voting and engagement activities across asset classes, irrespective of investment strategy or geographic region. The engagement strategy is built on SSGA's ability to prioritise and allocate resources to companies and issues that have the greatest potential impact. SSGA's Asset Stewardship programme is underpinned by 3 separate pillars, that is, (i) providing information and guidance to investee companies on the development of ESG practices across key issues, (ii) engaging with portfolio companies to encourage transparent, accountable, high performing boards and companies, and (iii) by exercising voting rights in a manner that reflects long term investment objectives for the purpose of influencing the activity or behaviour of the issuers. To support this process, SSGA has developed proprietary in-house tools to help identify companies for active engagement based on various financial and ESG indicators.



#### L. Reference benchmark

Has a reference benchmark been designated for the purpose of attaining these characteristics promoted by the Fund?
□ Yes
⊠ No

The MSCI World Index is a trademark of MSCI Inc.