

# State Street Multi-Factor Global ESG Equity Fund

## Informations publiées sur le site Internet pour un fonds visé à l'Article 8



### A. Résumé

La politique d'investissement du Compartiment State Street Multi-Factor Global ESG Equity Fund (le « **Compartiment** ») consiste à générer un rendement supérieur à la performance de l'indice MSCI World Index (l'« **Indice** ») sur le moyen et long terme tout en excluant des titres sur la base d'une évaluation de leur adhésion aux critères ESG, à savoir les normes internationales concernant la protection environnementale, les droits de l'homme, les normes de travail, la lutte anti-corruption et les armes controversées.

Le Compartiment promeut des caractéristiques environnementales ou sociales, mais n'a pas l'investissement durable pour objectif.

Les caractéristiques environnementales et sociales promues par le Compartiment correspondent à l'utilisation des notations ESG et autres mesures de données ESG pour orienter la composition du portefeuille vers des titres assortis d'expositions favorables aux critères ESG concernés. En outre, d'autres caractéristiques environnementales ou sociales sont promues au moyen d'un filtre négatif et basé sur des normes, appliqué au portefeuille du Compartiment pour éliminer les titres sur la base d'une évaluation de leur adhésion aux critères ESG, à savoir les normes internationales concernant la protection environnementale, les droits de l'homme, les normes de travail, la lutte anti-corruption et les armes controversées.

Le Gestionnaire financier investira activement, pour le compte du Compartiment, au moyen de la Stratégie multifactorielle en actions décrite plus en détail sous la section 8.1 du Prospectus, dans le Supplément correspondant et sous la Section J ci-dessous. Cette stratégie utilise des modèles quantitatifs de sélection des titres et multifactoriels, pour évaluer les actions sur la base de leur exposition à certains facteurs identifiés par le Gestionnaire financier comme générant des rendements excédentaires de la manière la plus constante.

Le Gestionnaire financier emploie une méthodologie ESG contraignante qui vise à construire un portefeuille pour lequel au minimum 90 % des actifs du Compartiment sont investis dans des titres alignés sur les caractéristiques environnementales et sociales qu'il promeut. La partie restante (<10 %) du portefeuille, composée de trésorerie ainsi que d'équivalents de trésorerie existants détenus à la discrétion du Gestionnaire financier, ne sera pas alignée sur les caractéristiques environnementales et sociales promues. Si tant est que le Compartiment recoure à des instruments financiers dérivés, ceux-ci ne sauraient être utilisés pour atteindre les caractéristiques environnementales ou sociales qu'il promeut.

Le Compartiment ne s'engage pas à réaliser des investissements durables au sens du SFDR ou du Règlement Taxinomie.

La réalisation des caractéristiques environnementales et sociales est mesurée à l'aide du score des notations ESG du portefeuille et du pourcentage du portefeuille investi en titres qui sont inclus dans le filtre négatif et basé sur des normes.

La politique d'investissement du Compartiment consiste à générer un rendement supérieur à la

performance de l'Indice sur le moyen et long terme tout en excluant des titres sur la base d'une évaluation de leur adhésion aux critères ESG, à savoir les normes internationales concernant la protection environnementale, les droits de l'homme, les normes de travail, la lutte anti-corruption et les armes controversées.

Plus précisément, un score ESG est attribué à chaque action de l'univers éligible à l'aide de R-Factor™, le système propriétaire de notation ESG de State Street Global Advisors, et ce score ESG est utilisé dans la construction du portefeuille du Compartiment pour introduire dans la composition du portefeuille correspondant un biais en faveur de titres assortis d'expositions favorables aux facteurs correspondants ainsi qu'aux critères ESG.

En outre, un filtre négatif et basé sur des normes est appliqué au portefeuille du Compartiment selon les critères d'exclusion suivants :

- armes controversées ;
- violations du Pacte mondial des Nations Unies (le « **PMNU** ») ;
- charbon thermique ;
- forage en Arctique ;
- pétrole et sables bitumineux ;
- graves controverses ESG ; et
- exclusions du Conseil d'éthique suédois.

R-Factor™ s'appuie sur les données de plusieurs fournisseurs de données ESG et se sert du cadre de matérialité transparent et largement accepté du Sustainable Accounting Standards Board (le « **SASB** ») ainsi que du score de gouvernance d'entreprise, pour générer le score R-factor utilisé dans le processus d'investissement. Par ailleurs, le Compartiment utilise des données de MSCI et Sustainalytics pour les filtres ESG. SSGA applique un processus de due diligence continu aux fournisseurs de données ESG, qui génère des rapports réguliers sur la qualité des données, et peut coopérer avec les fournisseurs de données concernées au sujet de tout problème lié aux données repéré par les équipes de SSGA.

Les données ESG peuvent être basées sur certaines hypothèses, prévisions, projections, perspectives et opinions, lesquelles s'appuient le cas échéant sur les tendances actuelles du marché ou sur les événements futurs anticipés. Étant donné la nature évolutive et innovante des modèles de données, des méthodologies et des hypothèses, ainsi que l'incertitude inhérente à la prédiction d'événements prospectifs, il ne peut être garanti que les données ESG sont toujours exactes ou correctes ni que les données ESG répondront aux objectifs ou aux exigences de quelque client ou investisseur donné que ce soit. De plus, il se peut que certaines données ne puissent être obtenues en raison du manque de disponibilité des sources de données.

Les politiques d'engagement de SSGA ne sont pas directement intégrées dans la stratégie d'investissement du Compartiment. Cependant, le programme d'intendance des actifs de SSGA consolide l'ensemble des activités actionnariales de vote et d'engagement, toutes classes d'actifs confondues, indépendamment de la stratégie d'investissement ou de la région géographique, y compris pour le Compartiment.

**Pour plus d'informations détaillées, veuillez vous référer aux sections pertinentes ci-dessous, au Prospectus et au Supplément correspondant.**

**B. No sustainable investment objective**

The Fund promotes environmental or social characteristics, but does not have as its objective a sustainable investment.

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

The environmental and social characteristics promoted by the Fund is the use of ESG ratings and other ESG data metrics to tilt the composition of the portfolio towards securities with favourable exposures to the relevant ESG criteria. In addition to this, further environmental or social characteristics are promoted by a negative and norms-based screen applied to the portfolio of the Fund to screen out securities based on an assessment of their adherence to ESG criteria, i.e. international norms in relation to environmental protection, human rights, labour standards, anti-corruption and controversial weapons. The Fund may use additional ESG screens from time to time in order to exclude securities based on their involvement with an activity that is deemed non-compliant with one or more of such ESG criteria.

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 Multi-Factor Equity Strategy as further described in section 8.1 of the Prospectus and the Relevant Supplement and in Section J below. This strategy uses quantitative stock selection and multi-factor models to evaluate stocks based on their exposure to certain factors that the Investment Manager has evaluated to be the most persistent in driving excess returns.

In implementing this strategy, the Investment Manager will tilt the composition of the portfolio towards securities with favourable exposure to the relevant factors considered in the investment process including the ESG Ratings of individual securities.. The securities in the Fund are selected primarily from the constituents of the Index and 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.

Application of the ESG screens results in the exclusion of any securities from the portfolio based on an assessment of their adherence to certain ESG criteria defined by the Investment Manager. The Fund will screen out securities of issuers identified as being non-compliant with UN Global Compact Principles relating to environmental protection, human rights, labour standards and anti-corruption, as well as controversial weapons. 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.

The assessment of good governance practices is 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.



## **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. The remaining portion (<10%) of the portfolio, consisting of cash as well as cash equivalents 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 SFDR or the Taxonomy Regulation.



## **F. Monitoring of environmental or social characteristics**

The attainment of the environmental and social characteristics is measured through the ESG ratings score of the portfolio.

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.

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 policy of the Fund is to generate a return in excess of the performance of the Index over the medium to long term while screening out securities based on an assessment of their adherence to ESG criteria (i.e. international norms in relation to environmental protection, human rights, labour standards, anti-corruption and controversial weapons).

To implement this investment policy, the Investment Manager uses quantitative stock selection and multi-factor models to evaluate stocks based on their exposure to certain factors that have been evaluated to be the most persistent in driving excess returns. In addition to factor exposures, this model also considers the ESG characteristics of individual securities using ESG ratings and other ESG data metrics.

### **ESG Ratings**

An ESG score for each stock in the eligible universe of the Fund is generated using R-Factor™, State Street Global Advisors' proprietary ESG scoring system and this ESG score is used in the construction of the Fund's portfolio to tilt its composition towards securities with favourable exposures to the relevant factors, as well as ESG criteria.

R-Factor™ is an ESG scoring system developed by State Street Global Advisors that leverages multiple data sources and aligns them to widely accepted, transparent materiality frameworks to generate a unique ESG score for listed companies. R-Factor™ measures the performance of a company's business operations and governance as it relates to financially material ESG challenges facing the company's industry. It is designed to provide companies a roadmap to improve ESG practices and disclosure, and to help create sustainable capital markets.

The R-Factor™ score is comprised of a company's ESG score and Corporate Governance scores, and allows for a global comparison of companies' ESG performance within a sector or industry.

### **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. Swedish Ethical Council exclusions

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. **Swedish Ethical Council:** All companies on the recommended exclusion list by the Council on Ethics, Swedish National Pension Funds, are excluded. The Ethical Council is a body operated jointly by four Swedish national pension funds — AP1, AP2, AP3 and AP4 (known as the AP funds). The Council seeks to drive positive change in foreign companies implicated in violating international environmental and human rights conventions, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations treaties and the International Labour Organization's Core Conventions. Excluded companies from their investment universe are directly involved in the production or marketing of anti-personnel landmines and cluster munitions. Companies can also be divested if they violate the UNGC and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and where dialogue with the companies has not led to improvements.

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

The ESG screen methodology (with the exception of the Swedish Ethical Council list which, as described above, is generated by the Council of Ethics, Swedish National Pension Funds) and screening criteria applied to the Fund are subject to SSGA's governance approval process. A description of the Swedish Ethical Council list can be found detailed above.



## H. Data sources and processing

The Fund utilises State Street Global Advisors' proprietary R-Factor™ score as the ESG ratings utilised in the portfolio construction process. R-Factor™ draws on data from multiple ESG data providers and leverages the Sustainable Accounting Standards Board's ("SASB") widely accepted, transparent materiality framework, as well as a corporate governance score, to generate the unique score that measures the performance of a company's business operations and governance as it relates to industry-specific ESG Factors.

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. State Street Global Advisors determines the parameters that define the screen which are then approved by the firm's Investment Committee.

**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. State Street Global Advisors determines the parameters that define the screen which are then approved by the firm's Investment Committee.

**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. State Street Global Advisors determines the parameters that define the screen which are then approved by the firm's Investment Committee.

**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.

**Swedish Ethical Council** The exclusion list of the Swedish Ethical Council is determined by the Swedish Ethical Council and provided by Sustainalytics to State Street Global Advisors.

SSGA leverages multisource data architecture for the ESG analysis and to generate R-Factor scores, where applicable. SSGA receives ESG data from a wide variety of data providers covering various themes including, but not limited to, climate, controversies and governance.

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 Multi-Factor Equity Strategy as further described in section 8.1 of the Prospectus and the Relevant Supplement.

This strategy uses quantitative stock selection and multi-factor models to evaluate stocks based on their exposure to certain factors that the Investment Manager has evaluated to be the most persistent in driving excess returns. In addition to factor exposures, this model also considers the ESG characteristics of individual securities using ESG ratings and other ESG data metrics. In following this strategy, the Investment Manager will tilt the composition of the relevant portfolio towards securities with favourable exposures to the relevant factors, as well as ESG criteria. The Multi-Factor Strategy involves a limited use of derivatives and direct investment in a portfolio of equity securities that may differ from that of the Index. The securities in the portfolios are selected primarily from the securities in the Index. Non-Index securities may be held in the portfolios. The Investment Manager has limited discretion regarding deviation from the Index and thus any deviation from the performance of the Index is expected to be limited under normal market conditions as the portfolios incorporate defined risk parameters that include limits on country, sector and security weights on an absolute basis and relative to the Index. The Investment Manager employs a negative and norms-based screen prior to the construction of the portfolio and on an ongoing basis.



## 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.